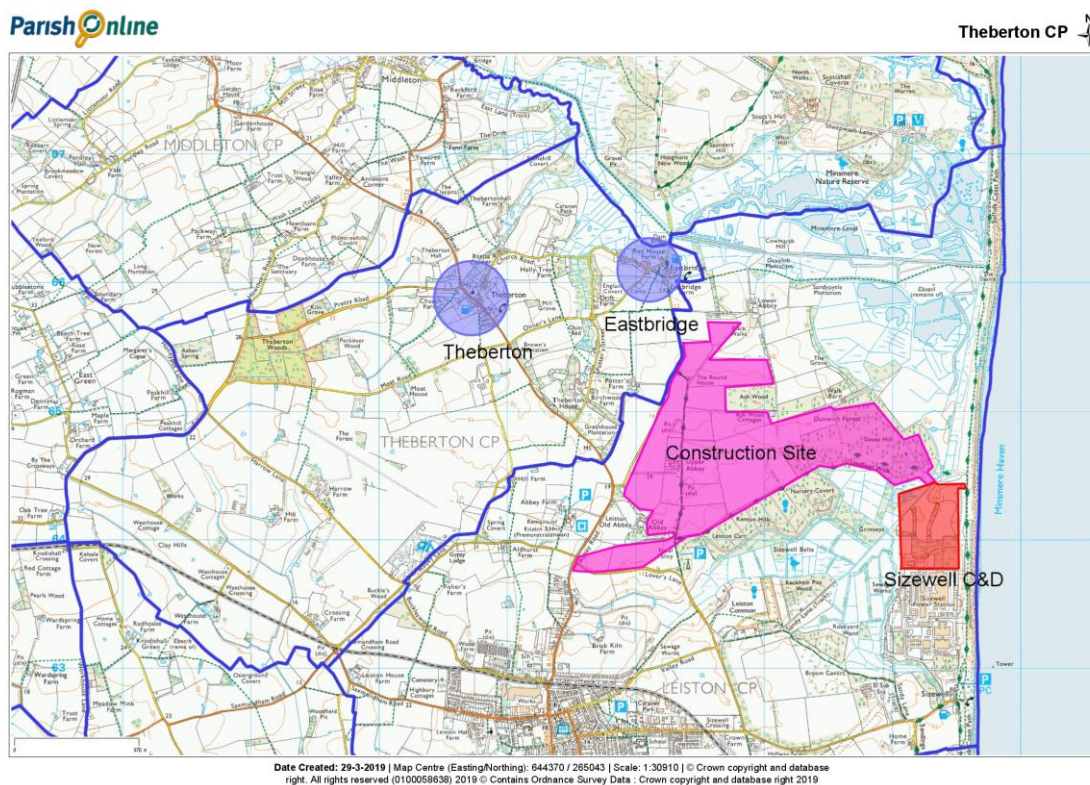


EDF ENERGY - SIZEWELL C – DESALINATION CONSULTATION

RESPONSE FROM THEBERTON AND EASTBRIDGE PARISH COUNCIL (TEPC), MINSMERE LEVELS STAKEHOLDERS GROUP AND STOP SIZEWELL C

Introduction



Theberton

Theberton is a small village of approximately 170 people and 90 houses mostly straddling the B1122. It is about 4 miles north of the proposed Sizewell C (SZC) large twin reactor site. The proposed entrance to the main site will be approximately 1 mile from the village entrance sign. Within the village of Theberton there is St Peters Church, a Grade I listed thatched roof church with an unusual round tower, a Grade II listed public house, a village hall, two working farms, a cattery, a small business selling wild bird and other animal feeds, a small caravan park and other places to stay for visitors to enjoy the peace and quiet of the countryside. The successful village hall offers many activities and classes to the community and surrounding areas.

Eastbridge

Eastbridge is a tranquil hamlet of around 70 people and 40 houses nestled in a rural landscape with no street signs or speed limits. It borders the Minsmere River which cuts through an area of important wetland known as the Minsmere Levels forming part of the Minsmere - Walberswick Heaths and Marshes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), which is also the location of RSPB Minsmere Reserve. Within Eastbridge there is a public house, the Eels Foot Inn, a working farm, a certified and a basic campsite, for visitors to enjoy the peace and quiet of the countryside. Many local people and visitors enjoy the circular walk from Eastbridge to the Minsmere sluice to reach the Suffolk Heritage Coast and the sea returning through RSPB Minsmere or via National Trust's Dunwich Coastguards Cottages.

Both villages are chiefly agricultural, and people live there historically or by choice for the tranquility, dark skies, and the proximity to the Suffolk Heritage Coast. The two villages are linked by single track lanes with walks in the countryside characterised by open skies, arable and livestock farms, pheasants, partridge, owls, marsh harriers, buzzards, bittern, deer, bats and other wildlife. Residents and visitors enjoy the close proximity to RSPB's flagship nature reserve at Minsmere with the Leiston Long Shop Museum, National Trust Dunwich Heath, Aldeburgh, Walberswick and Southwold within easy reach.

1. Response

- 1.1 **This Desalination Consultation response should be seen as an extension to all our previous consultation responses, Relevant Representation and Written Representations. Where previous responses reference, reject or support proposals/options presented by EDF and additional options are presented in this consultation, our support or otherwise for the newly presented options do not negate our prior support for previous options or change our view that in many cases, insufficient assessment and justifications have been provided by EDF for the progression of their preferred option or proposal.**
- 1.2 TEPC is, once again, disappointed that EDF have submitted this extremely late consultation and that it is for less than 28 days during a holiday period giving scant time for Parish and Town Councils to react, respond and approve any response to this consultation.
- 1.3 It is even more concerning that the subject of provision of potable water supplies to the project has been an area of concern ever since the first pre-application consultation over 10 years ago and regularly resurrected as a concern at all subsequent consultations.
- 1.4 It beggars' belief that we now find ourselves in a situation where Northumbrian Water submit a holding objection to the DCO examination with serious concerns that it will not be able to provide the required supply before 2026.
- 1.5 In the Statement of Common Ground with Minsmere Levels [REP2-091](#) EDF expressed confidence that a new supply from Barsham would be available to "to enhance capacity and security of supply to NWL's existing customers within the local distribution network near Sizewell". It appears that such optimism has fallen well short of reality and reflects the optimism that has been evidence throughout the entire consultation process where assurances were given that water supply was not an issue.
- 1.6 If the only problem were potable supplies of water, it is also the case that the needs and sources of non-potable water for dust suppression and other critical environmental operations are also vague and unclear despite the SZC DCO proposal being made in the driest area of the UK which is clearly subject to water supply stress at all levels.
- 1.7 In [AS-202](#) Water Supply Strategy Update, regarding desalination you state;

This option has been discounted in favour of alternative options, due to concerns with power consumption, sustainability, cost, and wastewater discharge. The desalination process is typically energy intensive, and the discharge of brine water as a result of desalination may not be suitable for discharge through the combined drainage outfall (CDO).
- 1.8 We note that the current consultation does not propose to use the CDO for discharging the brine back to the sea.
- 1.9 However, in Section 2.4 of the consultation document it would appear that concerns expressed in [AS-202](#) regarding various sustainability and environmental factors have suddenly become "not significant", are within already provided assessments in the Environmental Statement or will be subject to further H1 assessments which are unavailable at this consultation.
- 1.10 Once again, it would appear you are consulting without providing sufficient information to your consultees to be able to make an informed response. For instance;

- a. There is no information regarding the efficacy of mixing in the space between the beach and the inshore bank where the brine will be discharged. Brine being denser than the seawater, will tend to sink and potentially become trapped in this inshore area.
 - b. There is no information on a larger scale that examines whether the brine in this inshore space will slowly migrate to the space between the inshore banks and the Sizewell Dunwich Bank complex and then beyond the banks into the North Sea.
- 1.11 Diesel generators to run the plant for 3-4 years continuously will contribute to significant CO₂, Nitrogen Oxides, and PM 10s and 2.5s. Atmospheric Ozone will also increase as a result of the combination of NO_x and volatile organics (always present in building environments due to diesel machinery etc.). Effects can be particularly bad from late spring through early autumn when temperatures rise and sunlight is strongest. Ozone can cause the muscles in the airways to constrict, trapping air in the alveoli. This leads to wheezing and shortness of breath. Depending on the level of exposure, ozone can cause coughing and sore or scratchy throat. Such effects will be particularly bad for those who already have respiratory issues such as Asthma or COPD.
 - 1.12 A detailed breakdown for the early years of construction of the expected HDV and other traffic on the B1122 is awaited within the DCO Examination.
 - 1.13 We also await clarifications of how the proposed Sizewell Link Road (SLR) will be able to act as a “haul road” for 10,000 two way HGV journeys for backfill material transfer to site (from the Two Village Bypass, Yoxford Roundabout and SLR) whilst still being under construction, along with vehicle management proposals for HGVs exiting the SLR south of Theberton onto the B1122 en-route to the Main Development Site (MDS) entrance.
 - 1.14 We are not convinced that the assurances of “no need for change” in maximum limits for HDV numbers in the early years given the statement that up to 40 deliveries per day will be required to deliver the potable water requirement, during this time in the project.
 - 1.15 We are also unhappy that the eventual provision of a new piped source of potable water from Barsham is not being assessed within the Development Consent Order process along with its CO₂ and other environmental impacts that a new ~20km pipeline entails.
 - 1.16 To be raising this nineteenth change requirement now within what is supposed to be a front-loaded application process goes to show that insufficient efforts by EDF have been applied to the overall pre-planning process resulting in a project that lurches from one crisis to another with little coherence.
 - 1.17 As a result of the lack of detailed impacts as a result this proposal, we cannot support this given that there has been plenty of time over the past decade to properly arrange and source potable water supply along with the required infrastructure.