

I have attached the oral representation that I made at the open hearings on 20 may

I would like to make the following points having listened to the speakers at the OFH

- time and again, it came across that EDF have ignored local opinion, acted in an unacceptable way and that their proposals lack transparency and detail. Examples include the destruction of coronation wood, the treatment of landowners (eg as set out by Sally Watts re Pakenham) and the link road. The consequence is that local people do not trust EDF. This is a very serious situation should Sizewell C be given permission.

- Although EDF is the applicant, we do not know who the 'owner' will be. It could be commercial investors, it could be Chinese, it could be the British govt. This is of vital importance when it comes to enforcing commitments made by EDF re compensation etc. I consider that this must be resolved before a decision is taken to grant or refuse permission.

Sizewell enquiry

Good afternoon

My name is David Gordon. I live in Aldeburgh. I am in my eighties so I am speaking on behalf of future generations who will suffer the consequences of Sizewell C should it be given permission to proceed.

The world is currently in a biodiversity crisis. Over exploitation of the earth's resources by an ever increasing human population has destroyed vast areas of natural habitat with the result that the population of the majority of species of all kinds is in decline. This matters to humans because humans need the services of biodiversity to survive.

Governments around the world are now becoming increasingly alarmed at where we are heading and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity is meeting in China in October with the aim of adopting a strategy that all nations will be urged to adopt as a matter of urgency.

Our prime minister recognises this and has said that , with the natural world under threat, we must act now to protect our precious wildlife and biodiversity

Our own government has thus anticipated the outcome of this UN meeting. Just as the Open Floor hearings started on Tuesday, the Environment Secretary announced the establishment of an ambitious Nature Recovery Network. This includes the adoption of a strategy to give strict protection to 30% of both the land and sea area of the UK by 2030 in order to assist the recovery of biodiversity. Currently only 10% has protection so that is an ambitious target that emphasises the urgency.

The Sizewell C proposal impacts upon areas that already have protection. Not just the site itself but the adjoining areas of land and sea that will be impacted by noise, air and light pollution. The site is on the Heritage Coast. Most of the area is AONB. Parts are SSSI and internationally important conservation protected sites too.

How can it possibly make sense to permit EDF to ignore existing protections and destroy areas of AONB. How can it possibly make sense to permit EDF to ignore the just announced new governmental Nature Recovery Network that plans a big increase in protected areas? Indeed one would think that the government will write these protections into the legislation so that destroying or damaging a protected area will become a criminal offence.

An AONB is not just about beauty. It is a statutory designation to protect biodiversity. It should be unthinkable to even consider a major development that will damage an AONB

The RSPB reserve at Minsmere, immediately adjoining the proposed development site, is a prime example of the consequential damage that would be caused by Sizewell C. This is one of the most wildlife rich nature reserves in the UK with more than 6,000 species recorded. And it is a vital refuge for migrating birds that need stopping off points on their journey to rest and feed. Destruction of such sites around the world is already driving some species close to extinction. In the summer birds migrate north from Africa to breed at Minsmere. In the winter ducks and geese migrate south from their arctic breeding grounds to feed and rest at Minsmere. Other species pass through on migration, like the 300 sandwich terns I saw at Minsmere in April. For these species Minsmere is an essential refuelling stop.

But the construction work at Sizewell will cause light, air and noise pollution that will potentially drive these sensitive birds away. While damage to fish populations caused by Sizewell will impact on food resources both for the birds and humans.

As a nation and as a world we have a biodiversity crisis. Sizewell is quite simply not the right place for a development of this magnitude. In a crisis we must defend those places that are vital for biodiversity. To permit their destruction simply leads us further down the road to extinction

Sizewell C must be refused. Thankyou.

