

Anne-Marie Robb Open Floor Hearing Statement May 2021

I am a passionate and proud resident of Eastbridge and I am afraid I can do nothing other than speak from the heart today.

In the garden my husband and I share in Eastbridge I have the luxury of peace and tranquillity, by day I watch Marsh Harriers overhead, hear Bitterns Booming from a kilometre away on the Minsmere reserve and in the twilight I can sit on my kitchen roof and watch the resident nesting pair of barn owls teach their chicks to fly and swoop silently across the marsh at the end of the garden.

We have dark skies and almost no noise or disruption. The area is so quiet that in the last weekend of July each year you can just hear music from the Latitude festival which takes place at Henham Hall approximately 10km away.

However, EDF describe this as a “perception of tranquillity” and in DCO paragraph 28.6.183 state

“Once operational, tangible environmental and social changes diminish, and local communities are familiar with operational activities, and the comprehensive systems in place to protect the environment and health. On this basis, potential impacts from stress and anxiety during operation are likely to be negligible.”

To paraphrase – we will get used to it and the impacts in EDF’s view don’t matter.

If Sizewell C is given permission to go ahead there will not be a chance of tranquility in Eastbridge, let alone even a perception of it.

As was clearly detailed by Graham Bickers in his submission yesterday our hamlet of 75 people will be swamped by the 15 year build life of the Sizewell C project should you give it the green light. It will decimate our local environment and severely impact the health

and wellbeing of people in our community. The extreme weight of HGV traffic on the B1122 and subsequently the poorly located Sizewell Link Road will make it almost impossible to exit the village quickly or safely to access medical services and food shops let alone local amenities. The only reliable access will become the private road which skirts Minsmere towards Westleton which is shut by gates at certain times of year.

It is clear that EDF views Eastbridge as a thorn in their side as we have not rolled over and accepted their proposals.

They have a total lack of respect for our community's way of life, the "perception of tranquillity" statement in the DCO acts as one of many examples of the contemptuous behaviour EDF has shown throughout their so called "consultation" process.

EDF's intent to downplay the impacts on Eastbridge are evident throughout the DCO as they consistently and conveniently cut Eastbridge off maps of the development site, out of their CGI mock ups of the accommodation campus and feel that we are not worthy of any projected views of the development site from Eastbridge being included in the DCO.

It very much feels like Eastbridge has been repeatedly punished by EDF for our objections to their plans which started with an accommodation campus being one of a number of sites being considered in the 2012 stage one consultation. Their plans have since ballooned into a 2400 bed campus, 2 storey car park, water storage reservoirs, 20 hectares of borrow pits created through heavy excavations and 23 hectares of 30metre high spoil heaps. All of these will be 1 kilometer as the crow flies from my home. EDF has the gall to describe itself as a "good neighbour", I am yet to see any evidence of this.

If this project goes ahead at the earliest it will start in 2023/24 so this spectre will be less than 1km away until at least 2038/39. Whilst for my husband and I this will be at the start of our retirement, for many members of the Eastbridge community this build duration will be for much of the rest of their natural lives.

To summarise, EDF's lack of recognition of the impacts of their proposed project are clear in DCO section 28.6.184 where they state *"On this basis, the magnitude of impact on quality of life and wellbeing would be very low. In the context of a uniformly high sensitivity receptor, the resultant effect is considered negligible adverse, which is not significant."*

I would also like to draw the inspectorate's attention to DCO Table 28.9: Chapter 28 Health and Wellbeing.

This table summarises Health pathways, residual effects after proposed "mitigation" and the significance of any impacts.

Of the 12 rows of the table relating to the main construction site which will border Eastbridge there is a consistent theme:

1. every row which links to impacts on health through, noise, dust, PM10 pollution, CHP emissions, traffic impacts, impact on local services of an influx of workers is quantified by EDF to have either LOW or VERY LOW impact, every residual effect quantified as adverse (either minor or negligible) is classified as "not significant"
2. The only item in those first 12 lines to be viewed as "significant" by EDF is impacts on health they perceive will come from employment and associated income generation which they view as "minor beneficial".

At the Leiston town hall EDF roadshow on the 23 July 2019 I specifically asked a question linked to this to two EDF

representatives whose work focussed on environmental mitigation and community impact.

I queried if they would be happy for a development of the nature and scale of Sizewell C to be located less than 1km from the homes of their elderly relatives. Their very clear answer was no and for the first time in our conversation they were clearly uncomfortable with the scenario I had posed to them. Clearly EDF's project staff recognise this is "significant" but choose not to be transparent about this in the DCO as it does not suit their narrative.