



## The Sizewell C Development Consent Order Application

**Interested Party: The Suffolk Coast Destination Management Organisation Ltd (TSC)**

**PINS Refs: 20026828**

**Planning Inspectorate Reference: EN010012**

**Date: 24<sup>th</sup> September 2021 for Deadline 8**

**Evidence from The Suffolk Coast Ltd Destination Management Organisation on Business Survey Results for Deadline 8 submission**

Dear Examiners

The Suffolk Coast Destination Management Organisation (TSC) is the official tourism organisation for East Suffolk. It conducted an independent survey of tourism businesses in 2019, to understand the impact of proposed energy projects on the industry, including Sizewell C new nuclear power station (SZC) and the two Scottish Power Renewables wind farms.

TSC submitted a response at Deadline 5 on 23<sup>rd</sup> July promising to report on the findings of the updated business survey.

The survey was repeated, but looking exclusively at the SZC project, to understand the current position on how the construction of this project could impact tourism businesses in the area and in turn, the visitor economy.

### Method

Invitations were sent to the DMO's current membership of 216 businesses, which span the Suffolk coast area from Felixstowe to Lowestoft, along with other non-member tourism businesses in the area, using Survey Monkey. This was an online survey conducted between 9-19th September 2021. Given the short lead in time, at the end of an exhausting season following on from the disruption of the pandemic, 91 responses were received (23% response rate). 47 (52%) of respondents were operating businesses within a 10-mile radius of the proposed Sizewell C site.

### **Survey headlines:**

- 63% of all respondents **are very/fairly worried/concerned** about the possible negative impact the construction of SZC will have on their business. This rises to 77% of respondents operating within a 10-mile radius of the project.
- 70% of all respondents think that while SZC is being constructed, visitors will be **a lot/a little less likely** to visit the Suffolk coast, 49% think they will be a lot less likely to visit. This rises to 84% of respondents operating within a 10-mile radius of the project, 64% of them think visitors will be a lot less likely to visit.

**The Suffolk Coast Limited – [www.thesuffolkcoast.co.uk](http://www.thesuffolkcoast.co.uk)**

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- 48% of all respondents think their annual turnover will decrease as a direct result of the development, this rises to 69% of respondents operating within a 10-mile radius of the site.
- 28% of all respondents think the project will have a negative impact on staffing levels within their business and are concerned that they will lose staff due to the project during the construction period. This rises to 45% of respondents within a 10-mile radius. 58% of all respondents don't expect staffing levels to be affected, this is 42% within a 10-mile radius.

### Conclusions

TSC is aware that negotiations between EDF Energy and East Suffolk Council on a Tourism Fund are at an advanced stage. However, the survey provides evidence that tourism businesses working in East Suffolk, and especially within ten miles of the development site, view the project as a significant threat and not an opportunity.