

**Date:**

24 June 2020

**Enquirers:**

Various Enquiries

**Query:**

The following persons sent representation to the Planning Inspectorate with concerns about the adequacy of consultation, impact of public health restrictions during the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, and merits of the application during the Acceptance stage: Bill Parker, David Robertson, Amy Gaunt, Tracey Salmon, Mark O'Hare, Sally Barley, F. Jones, Kelly Shand-Jones, Anthony Middleditch, Stuart Drabble, Terry Jeffrey, Joanne Brooks-Nevin, Jo Clifford, Paul Chandler, Doreen Sillett, Lesley Woolf, Christopher and Rosemary Keeble, Sarah Morgan, Gwen Erskine-Hill, Nicholas Ward, Jane Tregoning, Dave Painter, Evonne Pratt, Mark Mills, Sian New, Alfie Carpenter, Andrew Jones, Rebecca Reynolds, Sue Baugh, Ken Baugh, Sue Andrews, Susan Morrice, Ralph Petts, Sally Barley, Rachel O'Leary, Sally Evans, Suzy Mills, Stormme Moorcroft, Stu Precious, D Saward-Arav, Joanna Rollo, Catherine Arlidge, Krissy Elvin, Louise Wishon, Sarah Cameron, Laura, Belle and Blaise Bonnett, Suzi Cooper, Philip Bradley, Jean Hatt, Mary Waite, Steve Waite, Mary Dollard, Liz Carlton, Steve Betteridge, Elizabeth Moore, Judith Chestnutt, Andrew Pitts, Alice Hegarty, Alison Stannard, Sarah Mattison, Graham Coulter, Topsy Arlidge, Bill Walton, Ellen Ellis, John Richmond, Samantha Drewett, Pete Croft, Liz Jones, Kathie Murray-Lacey, Sheilagh Beresford-West, Amanda Taylor, Carolyn Howell, Maggie Frith, Val Sherwen, Mike Taylor, Rachel Smith-Lyte, Paul Taylor, Charlie Zakss, James Rocarols, Otto Rocarols, Michael Freeston, Meraylah Allwood, Susan Kodicek, Nigel Robson, Andrew Burtenshaw, Zoe Readhead, Josephine Bassinette, Juliet Bullimore, Sandra Cameron, Annabel Ward, David Bear, Catriona Hopkins, Gillian Kirby, Dorte Simpson, Nail Macaulay, Bron Lipkin, Rob Green, Jenny Mckee, India Bacon, Martin Ryan, Andrew Eastaugh, Piers Ward, Margaret Morris, Ruth Ascroft, Mark Kenward, Jasmin Key, Laura Inoue, Alan Collett, Dinah Morley, David Madel, Amanda Kusmidrowicz, Mandy Beaumont, Steve Thorpe, Dawn Lacey, Jane Bennett, Ivor and Jean Murrell, Irene Beager, June Smith, Stephen Flowitt-Hill, Nigel Smith, Marilyn Hands, Graham K. Lacey, Anne Lonsdale, Julia Brown, David Gordon, Judith Sharp, Ben Horwood, Karen Whitney, Ruth Watson and David Watson, Fiona Judge, Nick Malkin, Alison Shirreff, Michael Purkiss, Wendy and Martin Cooper, Bobby Rusack, Laurence Moss, Charles and Kate Comins, Michal Pritt, Ann Edwards, Claus Fortmann, Peter Etheridge, Richard Fordham, Mary Corin, Mike Marshall, Clare Preston, Diane Humphrey, Sarah Hanson, David Humphrey, Paul Offiler, Tracy Rogers, Celia and Paul Whitelock, Simon Bridge, John Rea Price, Angela Fitzgerald O'Connor, Christine Collett, John Parsons, Brenda Fowler, Clare Rizzo, Elizabeth McCausland, Clare Hermans, Karen Russell, P and S Dorcey,

Fran Crowe, Rosemaire and John Smithson, Greg Walsh, David and Belinda Grant, Ann Mitchem, Matthew Tong, Joanne Steward, Eileen Whiting, Chris Ford, Ian Barber, Roger Holmes, Ian Haines on behalf of Westleton Parish Council, Stephanie Minns, Lorraine Carpenter, Jenny Lennon-Wood, Bridget Cousins, Brocks Barn Hedgehog Rescue, Alan Hatt, Eric Brindley, Sharon Smith on behalf of Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council, David Robertson, Ross Ashley, Eric Terry, Brenda Terry, Chris Rodgers, Christine Marion, Joshua Abbot, Laura Such, Sheila Hemingway, Heather Ballantine, Helen Isaac, Madeline Ward, Diane Taylor, Jack Pescod, Nick Burfield, Sophie Eastaugh, Susan Watts, Jonny Leach, Ian Issac, Paul Pengelley, Francesca Bartlett, Suzanne Strand, Carol and Ian Rose, Claire Buttle, Caroline Weatherby, Penny Hemphill, Marilyn Checkley, Hilary Hill, Joanna Bonnet, Ben Wardle, Jim Purkis, Stuart Checkley, Emma Dowley, Margaret Sims, Susan and Stephen Barrett, Robert, Helen and Colin Flindall, Bob Hoggar, Emily Weatherby, Justin Dowley, Lesley Powell, Anna Checkley, James Gatehouse, Joan Steel, Andrew Checkley, Michael D. Simons, Stuart and Lynn Marsling, Douglas G. Bone, Sally E. Bone, Warren Hubbard, Matt Steel, Brian Lowry, Christine and Peter Bryant, Francoise Cresson, A and J Holmes, Rebecca Steel, Joanna Deakin, Fania Weatherby, Stephen Beaumont, Jenny Goldie, William Kendall, Richard Gray, John Poll, Thomas Sweet, John and Amanda Sutherell, Joe Alexander, Julian Howell, Sonya Exton, Christine Redgrave, Susanne Nujeerallee, Jane Page on behalf of Hacheston Parish Council, Caroline Mason-Gordon, Paul Bongers De Rath on behalf of the Aldeburgh Society, David Watson, C.R. and C.E. Bilby, Carrie Chittock, Jane Haviland, Adrian C.F Nutbeem, Isobel and Stephen McDonnell, Eleanor Redgrave, Jeff Redgrave, Deborah Sage on behalf of the Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Councillors of East Suffolk, Paul Tillcock, G.I. and L.J. Bickers, Sue Osben, Julia Wheeler, Caroline Ogilvie, Nicola Pilkington, Vicky Arlidge, Derek Green and, Gail Lee.

## **Advice:**

### **The Acceptance Stage**

The application was submitted on 27 May 2020 and the decision about whether or not to accept the application must be taken on or before 24 June 2020. The decision will be published on the Project page of the National Infrastructure Planning website here:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/sizewell-c-new-nuclear-power-station/>

If the application is accepted for Examination, the following documents will also be published on the Project page:

- The application documents;
- any Adequacy of Consultation Representations submitted by relevant local authorities; and

- the Planning Inspectorate's acceptance checklist.

## **The Acceptance tests**

Section 55 of the Planning Act 2008 states that an application can be accepted provided:

- It is an application for an order granting development consent;
- that development consent is required for any of the development to which the application relates;
- that the applicant has, in relation to a proposed application that has become the application, complied with Chapter 2 of Part 5 (pre-application procedure); and
- that the application (including accompaniments) is of a standard that the Secretary of State considers satisfactory.

The Secretary of State must have regard to the following when making the decision:

- The Consultation Report received with the application;
- any Adequacy of Consultation Representations received by the Planning Inspectorate from a local authority consultee.
- The extent to which the Applicant has had regard to Government guidance.

If you have sent comments about the **Pre-application consultation**, these can be considered in addition to the statutorily required acceptance tests when making the decision about whether or not to accept the application. However, it will be for the decision maker (the Planning Inspectorate on behalf of the Secretary of State) to decide the weight to give to the views expressed based on the individual facts of the case.

If you have sent comments about the **merits of the Proposed Development** (eg setting out support for or objection to the principle of the Proposed Development) these cannot be considered at the Acceptance stage. If the application is accepted for Examination, in order to make comments about the merits of the Proposed Development to an appointed Examining Authority, you will need to register as an Interested Party by making a Relevant Representation at the appropriate time. For more information about how and when you can have your say, please see our Advice Note 8.2: How to register to participate in an Examination: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/legislation-and-advice/advice-notes/>

The Planning Inspectorate is mindful of the need to ensure both openness and fairness throughout all stages of the Development Consent Order (DCO) process. With regard to the current Coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and the arrangements for members of the public to access and view documents relating to the application and take part in the Examination if the application is accepted, please note the contents of the Government's [Written Ministerial Statement \(WMS\) of 13 May 2020](#) which provides updated guidelines regarding the use of digital events, such as virtual hearings, and digital documentation.

The WMS explains that online inspection of documents should be the default position and, recognising that there are sections of the community that may have limited or no access to the internet, that developers should take reasonable steps to ensure all members of the public are able to be involved. The Planning Inspectorate's published guidance has been updated and will continue to be updated as the situation develops:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-planning-inspectorate-guidance>