



## ***Respecting the past, shaping the future***

Press release from  
Suffolk Preservation Society  
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### **Sensitivity “essential” in future nuclear plans**

Environment campaigners have urged energy bosses to take full account of the special nature of one of Suffolk’s most treasured areas of outstanding natural beauty while developing plans for a new nuclear build at Sizewell.

Suffolk Preservation Society (SPS) says specific consideration should be given to keeping the impact of any new development to an absolute minimum to help protect the landscape’s distinct character.

The call comes after EDF Energy announced its intention to nominate the site to the Government as a possible home for two new reactors. After the window for nominations closes at the end of March, a month-long public consultation will be held before each proposal is measured against a set of criteria to rate its suitability.

Although not opposed to the proposal, SPS has asked for a number of assurances on how the development will be planned and integrated with its surroundings before the plans are taken further.

These include clear and joined up national policies on the future of energy production, a commitment to reduce the impact of power lines and pylons on the landscape and a pledge to keep the amount of land earmarked at Sizewell for energy consumption to an absolute minimum.

“At this stage, we are not against the principle of further development at Sizewell for nuclear power generation,” said Richard Ward, society director. “But careful consideration must be given to the site’s surroundings before any firm proposals are brought forward.

“Sizewell lies within a sensitive location and falls within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, so careful steps must be taken to minimise the impact of any new development. This includes careful design, as relying on strategic landscaping to hide the new reactors would be insufficient and unacceptable.

“We would wish to receive a number of assurances to support the need to protect the existing landscape before any scheme is taken forward, and would ideally like all of the parties involved to agree to this pledge and sign up to the shared objective right from the start.”

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The society said it was “critical” that joined up policies were drawn up on a national stage regarding the future of energy production – policies which also embrace an holistic approach to reducing consumption, CO<sub>2</sub> generation and managing demand.

Special consideration should also be given to how power generated by the additional reactors at Sizewell would be transferred to the national grid without adding scores of new lines and pylons which would cause undue harm to the area’s natural beauty, the society said.

“We are hugely concerned by the possibility of more pylons and power lines and the impact they would have on the special landscape of the area,” added Mr Ward. “We would want to see a commitment from the outset not to add any further lines or pylons along with a pledge to reduce the impact of those already in the area of outstanding natural beauty.

“Sympathetic management of this aspect of nuclear power generation at Sizewell has the potential to offset the adverse environmental consequences of further developing the site. While the costs might be significant, the environmental and public relations benefits could be immeasurable.”

### **Ends**

**Note to editors:** SPS, founded in 1929, originally worked to protect the county’s buildings and landscape. Today, the society has broadened its focus to help shape Suffolk’s future, largely campaigning for sensitive and appropriate development, more and better quality affordable homes and to ensure sustainable infrastructures are in place to support the county’s communities.

### **For more information please contact:**

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