

SPS Bulletin

February and March 2019

The following summarises the key areas of work that the SPS professional staff has been focussed upon. All our representations can be read, in full, on the [SPS website](#).

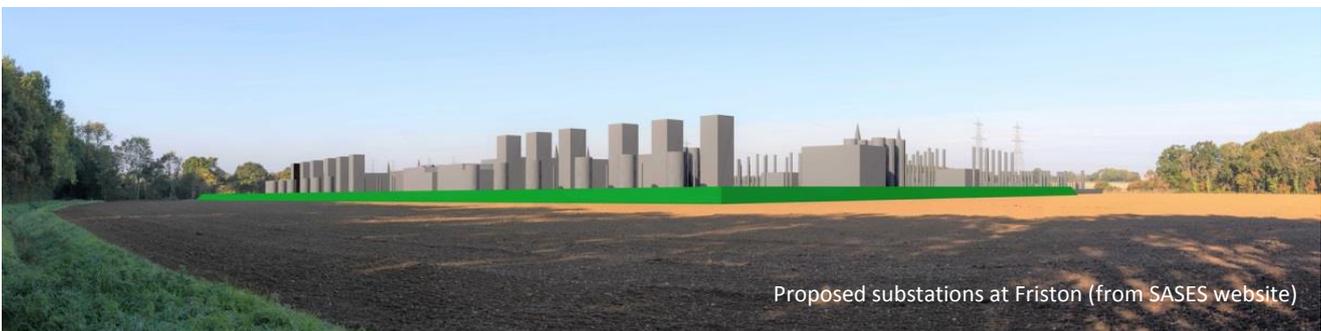
Key involvements:

[Sizewell C](#) – EDF stage 3 consultation



SPS has responded to the EDF stage 3 consultation on the proposed new nuclear reactor at Sizewell. We raised a strong objections to the lack of analysis of the cumulative landscape and heritage impacts of Sizewell C with the Scottish Power Renewables EA1(N) and EA2 windfarms and National Grid infrastructure. With respect to the Sizewell C proposals we have objected to: the abandonment of the marine led strategy in favour of the rail and/or road options; the scale and location of the accommodation campus; the lack of information on the landscape and heritage impacts of the highways alterations and new roads; the permanent development outside the main site at Goose Hill, the generic design of the plant, including chimney stacks and pylons within the AONB. SPS also called for an environmental fund to mitigate the environmental harm which would result from the scheme.

[East Anglia One \(North\)](#) and [East Anglia Two](#) Offshore Windfarms –



SPS has responded to the latest round of consultation from Scottish Power Renewables on the two proposed offshore windfarms and the onshore supporting infrastructure. We have called for an offshore ringmain to provide a long term, sustainable solution to the delivery of electricity from the North Sea zone to the National Grid and remove the need for onshore substations. SPS objected to: the inadequate information about the impacts of offshore and onshore elements on the heritage and landscape including the heritage coastline and the AONB; the choice of Friston for the onshore

substations which will harm the landscape and designated and undesignated heritage assets; the absence of trial trenching in areas of known archaeological sensitivity. We also called for analysis of the cumulative landscape and heritage impacts of the windfarms with the National Grid substation and Sizewell C as well as clarification on the impacts on the AONB, and the impact of HGV and other vehicular movements during the construction phase of the offshore and onshore infrastructure.

[Sproughton](#) – SPS was contacted by a resident regarding outline plans for a development of 114 houses in Sproughton which would involve alterations to the crossroads in the centre of the village and a new village green. We have responded calling for greater public engagement and objecting to the disproportionate scale of the proposals which fail to reflect the special character and morphology of the village and its rural landscape setting.

[Glemsford](#) – SPS has again objected to a proposal for development of this site for housing and retirement properties due to the harmful impact that would result on historic landscape views and the character of the setting of highly graded heritage assets including the grade I listed parish church. The number of units has been modified since the first submission but we continue to raise strong objections to the scheme.

[Stowmarket](#) – amended proposals have been submitted to develop a site at Poplar Hill following the refusal of a previous application. The amended application was for a reduced number of dwellings from 160 to 138 but SPS has again objected as the site is elevated, of a high scenic value and makes a significant contribution to the setting of St Mary's Church, a grade I listed building. Furthermore, the site forms a strategic gap between Stowmarket and the village of Combs and its development would give rise to coalescence of these two quite distinct settlements.



Outcomes:

[Thurston, 250 dwellings, west of Ixworth Road](#) – contrary to officer recommendation, MSDC planning committee is minded to refuse a reserved matters application from Persimmon for a site which already has outline planning permission. SPS had strongly objected on issues including access and street design, parking, landscaping, townscape and architecture, privacy and overlooking, and affordable housing. Persimmon is now required to consider amendments and improvements to its scheme.

[Debenham – outline application for 295 dwellings](#) – SPS has objected to this Taylor Wimpey application due to concerns around the landscape impact and also the impact of a significant increase of traffic on a narrow street in the historic core of the village and listed buildings. Moreover the draft Debenham Neighbourhood Plan clearly indicated that the community favoured alternative sites in the village. Despite recommendation for approval from MSDC officers the application was refused at committee. Since the refusal, the Debenham Neighbourhood Plan has been adopted.

[Waldringfield](#) – SPS had urged for a reduced scale and revisions to the roofline of a replacement dwelling which is in a remote location within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB and adjacent to grade II* listed All Saints Church. This application has been withdrawn.

[Stowmarket, Cedars Hotel](#) – SPS, along with Historic England and the Stowmarket Society, had called for further revisions to plans to provide additional accommodation at the grade II* listed hotel. We considered that the extensions would resemble a budget hotel and tower above the highly graded listed building and urged for improvements to the design. However due to the economic benefit of the scheme to the hotel business and the local area the harm to the listed building was deemed acceptable and the application has been approved without further improvements.

Neighbourhood Plans – Debenham and Stradbroke Neighbourhood Plans have been adopted following public referenda and now form part of the local plan.

Other Involvements:

- SPS met with **Scottish Power Renewables** at Little Hall to discuss our views on the Preliminary Environmental Impact Report as part of the phase 4 public consultation
- **Heritage Training** – SPS organised a training morning at Lavenham Village Hall for parish councils, neighbourhood planning groups and amenity societies. The training was delivered by Bob Kindred and was the fourth year the session has been run.
- The Chairman met with **Therese Coffey MP** to discuss the impact of the national energy projects proposed for the Suffolk coast.

Media:

EADT February – Director’s monthly column: The impacts of the Sizewell C proposals

EADT March – Director’s monthly column: The SPS photographic competition on modern design