

101574206

Revision 01

ECOLOGY WORKING GROUP

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Meeting:	21 May 2025, 13:30 – 15:15
Location:	MS Teams
Chair:	James Meyer
Attendees:	<p>Sizewell C Limited (SZC): Steve Mannings (SMan), Natalie Clifton (NC), Nick Stayt (NS), Caitlin Murphy (CM), Nelson (NR)</p> <p>East Suffolk Council (ESC): James Meyer (JMe), Sam Kench (SK)</p> <p>Suffolk County Council (SCC): Andrew Murray -Wood (AMW), Annette Robinson (ARob)</p> <p>Natural England (NE): Patrick Robinson (PR), David White (DW), Sean Mahoney (SM) – (Observer)</p> <p>Environment Agency (EA): Ayden Hassan (AH)</p> <p>RSPB: Adam Rowlands (ARow)</p> <p>National Trust (NT): Neda Asadfalsafizadeh (NA)</p> <p>Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT): Ben McFarland (BMcF)</p>
Apologies:	EA : Chris Strachan (CS)

Meeting Notes:

Welcome

- JMe welcomed the EWG to the meeting
- NS provided an overview of the Agenda

TEMMP Update

- NS confirmed the TEMMP was discharged by ESC in April 2025. Noting the agreed mechanism for minor updates to the plan to be recorded in the minutes of the EWG.
- NS presented a correction to Table 5.3 on the years for the reptile population survey.
- Vote - it was agreed that the dates of the Reptile population survey within Table 5.3 of the TEMMP would be updated to 2026 and 2029 from 2025 and 2028.
- NS also noted that SZC are in discussion with Natural England to separate ties between the licences and the TEMMP

2025 Survey Update

- NS provided a graphical overview of the 2025 survey schedule as outline in the TEMMP and summarised indicative reporting timescales.
- NS also provided an overview of the provision of reporting and feedback. The key note is that the reports are to be shared prior to meetings where possible with the aim to discussing feedback if any within the EWG meetings. Summaries of findings will be presented in the meetings to accord with recent meetings.

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- NS presented a summary of the rationalisation of Bat Static locations (reduction from 40 to 27) to reflect the status of the site comparative to the baseline. SMan, noted that this is non-licensable and this is required under the TEMMP and in accordance with the text within the discharged TEMMP. **Action – a paper will be distributed on the justification for the locations retained and those remove.** SMan welcomed immediate feedback. BMcF noted that it would be useful to highlight areas of connectivity on the static location plan. BMcF also provided feedback on the importance of zero values within ecological monitoring and this needs to be considered in the interpretation. SMan recognised this but noted the physical obstructions that are preventing the use of monitors in these locations. It was acknowledged that representative locations deemed as being of importance pre-construction would be carried forward as assumed zero passes in future analysis if monitors couldn't reasonably be installed.

Non-breeding Bird 2024/2025 Survey Results

- NS presented a summary of the findings of the non-breeding water bird survey results from surveys between November 2024 and March 2025.
- Minsmere South levels numbers were slightly lower than five year average for gadwall but over the 5 year average for gadwall.
- Sizewell Marshes SSSI numbers were considerably higher than the 5 year averages for both gadwall and shoveler. NS noted that the justification for this is considered to be change in conditions and water levels within the Sizewell Marshes. It was noted that this is not a trend and considered likely to return to trend next year. BMcF noted it would be helpful to have a combined total between both areas.

Noise Update

- SMan presented an update on a discussion between Sizewell C, RSPB and SWT held in the weeks prior to this meeting. This included an update on installation of the acoustic fence.
- SMan noted that the RSPB recorded a number of notable audible construction activities within the Minsmere reserve. They were not recorded to have resulted in wildlife disturbance. **Action – Sizewell C to provide a plan to identify the types of piling being applied within specific areas of the site and includes details of when piling operations are likely.**
- SMan noted that there is ecological noise monitoring within the bat licence, but there is not other noise monitoring. SMan clarified that there is noise monitoring required under the Code of Construction Practice in relation to people and that this is in place in accordance with discharged requirements.

Natural Environment Improvement Fund

- NS provided an update on the fund, noting the upcoming meeting on the 5th June and are stepping toward launch in Summer 2025.

East Suffolk Trust (EaST)

- SMan provided and overview of EaST, including the fund, timelines, the trustees and the objects.

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Next meeting dates

- 3rd September

AOB

- AMW noted the presence of deer. SMan noted that conversations continue between Sizewell C and RSPB.

Actions Log:

Date Raised	Ref.	Description	Lead	Date Due	Status
21/05/2025	May-01	A paper will be distributed on the justification the locations of the rationalised bat static detectors.	SZC	June	Open
21/05/2025	May-02	Sizewell C to provide a plan to identify the types of piling being applied within specific areas of the site and includes details of when piling operations are likely	SZC	July	Open

Author: Nick Stayt (SZC/AECOM)