

Meeting Note

Main Development Forum

Meeting Type: Main Development Forum

Meeting held on: Wednesday 2 July 2025

Chair:

Christine Abraham

Sizewell C Attendees:

Marjorie Barnes, Head of READ
Darren Benford-Brown, Community Safety Officer
Richard Bull, Head of Planning
Stephen Keighley, SZC Rail Lead
Richard Knight, Senior Community Relations
Steve Merry, SCC Highway
David Peacop, Site Operations Director
Jez Porter, Stakeholder and External Roads Lead
David Seal, Offsite Delivery Manager
Rick Watler, Site Delivery Lead

External Attendees:

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Suffolk Country Council
Cllr Tom Daly, East Suffolk Council
Cllr Maureen Jones, Aldringham-Cum-Thorpe Parish Council
Cllr Charles McDowell, Middleton-cum-Fordley Parish Council
Cllr Marianne Fellowes, Aldeburgh Town Council
Cllr Stephen Brett, Theberton and Eastbridge Parish Council
Cllr Sara Fox, Aldeburgh Town Council
Pat Hogan, Sizewell Residents Association

Apologies and Substitutions:

Cllr Katie Graham was present as substitute for Cllr Sarah Whitelock
Cllr Lesley Hill was present as substitute for Cllr Nicky Corbett

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Meeting notes and matters arising from Main Development Site Forum (2 April 2025)
3. Corporate and Community Relations
4. Main Site Update
5. Rail Update
6. Questions Regarding Presentations
7. Roadworks and Diversions
8. Traffic and Transport
9. Q&A – via Town and Parish Council Representative
10. Date of Next Meeting

DRAFT Meeting Note – 02/07/2025

Minute Ref	Actions/Comments	Who	By when
1	Welcome and Introduction		
1.01	Christine Abraham welcomed the attendees.		
2	Meeting notes and matters arising from Main Development Site Forum (2 April 2025)		
2.01	2.03 – Marianne Fellowes had requested an FAQ, which was on the website.		
2.02	2.08 – Aldringham Parish Council would meet on Friday to determine whether to proceed with the request for Dr Stephen Roast to attend.		

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2.03	2.10 – There had been a request for coastal erosion monitoring to extend to Thorpeness, but there was no update. Dr Stephen Roast would be invited to another MDF.		
2.04	7.03 – Maureen Jones had requested walking guides, which had been provided.		
2.05	7.05 – There had been a request for clarification about travel figures. All the workforce would be included in the data collection.		
2.06	7.07 – Charles McDowell had requested an update on the Mill Lane signal, which would appear in the presentation.		
2.07	11.02 – There had been a request for vehicle details. The team was waiting for the information.		
2.08	11.03 – Nicky Corbett had requested the use of public car parks. The workforce was expected to act responsibly. Any issues could be raised with the team.		
2.09	11.04 – TJ Haworth-Culf had requested collaboration with the East Suffolk Water Management Board and Estuary Partnership for donations of clean waste soil. Once the waste contractor was appointed, there would be a conversation.		
2.10	The notes and actions of the previous meeting were approved.		
3	Corporate and Community Relations		
3.01	Marjorie Barnes reported that government had provided approval for the project on 10 June. The Chancellor had announced that £14.2 billion of investment would be allocated to the project.		
3.02	Regarding the community fund, a new round of funding had taken place with over £550,000 awarded. The Suffolk Community Foundation was conducting outreach.		
3.03	Regarding college on the coast, there had been board approval for significant investment in further education for Leiston and the surrounding area. There would be an apprenticeship and training hub.		
3.04	Regarding Sizewell Creative, First Light Festival had been attended, and the next session would be at Aldeburgh Carnival. There had been an event at Old Valley Academy for The Big Sing.		
3.05	The archaeology outreach programme continued.		
4	Main Site Update		
4.01	Rick Watler reported that Units 1 and 2 were open at Orwell. Possession of Units 3 and 4 was expected by Q4. Archaeology around the southern park and ride was substantially complete, and partial operation was expected for Q4. For the two village bypass, archaeology work was ongoing, and final negotiations with the main contractor were underway. The contract for the Friday Street roundabout had been agreed. Site establishment was underway at Yoxford roundabout.		

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4.02	Regarding the northern park and ride, archaeology was ongoing and near completion. The contractor would begin the main park and ride works in the month, with partial operation in Q4.		
4.03	Substantial areas of archaeology across the Sizewell link road were complete. The main contractor would start on site in four to six weeks.		
4.04	For the ancillary office area, earth works were underway. The temporary construction area was progressing. The desalination contractor would commence work at the desalination plant in four to six weeks. The Civil Works Alliance was progressing with commencing the SSSI crossing.		
4.05	Utilities were being installed in the temporary construction area. Work would start in the coming months on the desalination shaft and the ground improvements. Across the SSSI, the environmental barrier would be installed. Sheet piling had commenced on the beach. David Peacop reported that there were buses running on timetables around the site. People were residing in Pakefield Village, and there was consideration of how to use the facility for the local neighbourhood.		
4.06	Average speed cameras had been installed and were functioning. There was work with Openreach to increase fibre connectivity in the area. The effects of national significant infrastructure projects (NSIPs) would be overlaid on the Sizewell works.		
5	Rail Update		
5.01	Stephen Keighley reported that construction of the storage areas was in the final stages. There had been extensive dust suppression activity. There had been significant deliveries of rail materials into the ancillary construction area.		
5.02	Finalisation of the programme of works was ongoing. The East Suffolk Line level crossing upgrades would continue through to Q1 2026. Melton Level Crossing would then be moved to, through to Q4 2026, and then Darsham. Track construction for the branch line would commence in the following week.		
6	Questions Regarding Presentations		
6.01	TJ Haworth-Culf asked how college on the coast would capture underserved children and mature students. Marjorie Barnes highlighted that the project had worked at engagement with difficult to reach groups. Partnerships had been formed with Inspire Suffolk and Access Community Trust.		
6.02	Sara Fox asked for regular updates on the desalination plant. Rick Watler confirmed slides could be included at the next forum.	RW	
6.03	Maureen Jones asked whether transport would be supplied for the college. Marjorie Barnes replied that the location had been chosen to address accessibility issues.		
6.04	Charles McDowell asked what speed the signs at the Fordley Road junction would be illuminated. Jez Porter replied that that could be calibrated. The speed band could be provided.	JP	

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6.05	Pat Hogan asked for improved communications about marine works. Rick Watler confirmed the issue would be taken away. Dr Stephen Roast could provide an update.	RW and MB	
6.06	Stephen Brett asked about the campus buildings. Rick Watler replied that the first foundations for the amenity building had been poured. Phase one also included four accommodation blocks with 600 bedrooms. David Peacop added that an approval process for the bedrooms was being undertaken. There would be an update for the next MDF.	DP	
6.07	Katie Graham asked about potential rat running in response to enforcement of the speed limit on the B1122. Steve Merry confirmed that was being monitored.		
7	Roadworks and Diversions		
7.01	David Seal reported that a coordinated plan for all closures was being developed. The Abbey Road closure would last a couple of nights. The Saxmundham level crossing would be closed for one night. The Valley Road closure would last two weeks in September. The Fordley Road closure would last from 14 July to 1 August. Pretty Road would be closed to enable works to start the bridge construction. Cadence[?] would be closed from 25 July to 1 August.		
7.02	For the MDS, road the levels were being raised for the green rail route. A new level crossing would be built on Abbey Road.		
7.03	David Peacop reported that incident management included local council members and police. There were attempts to ensure prompt discussions on diversion routes. The bearings of the Orwell Bridge had to be changed, and there were attempts to regulate the flow. Flows would be controlled around Latitude Festival.		
8	Traffic and Transport		
8.01	Richard Bull reported that the average daily HGV movement in Q1 was tracking below the cap. Q2 figures were being collated. The trend had been slightly above the 20% from the north expected under the DCO, due to local material supplies. Light vehicle movements were comparatively low.		
9	Q&A – via Town and Parish Council Representative		
9.01	Pat Hogan had submitted a question about improved signage for Sizewell Beach car park. Marjorie Barnes confirmed that most signage was in place. No overnight parking would be reiterated alongside the free parking notice. Pat Hogan had asked whether the old research lab on Lovers Lane had been acquired. David Peacop answered that it was and would remain a Sizewell B asset.		
9.02	Sara Fox had asked for regular updates on the desalination plant. David Peacop highlighted the action earlier in the meeting. Sara Fox had submitted a question on the proposed sea defences. Richard Bull replied that further updates would be provided at future forums. Sizewell C was required to submit designs and methodologies to East Suffolk Council.		
9.03	TJ Haworth-Culf had submitted a question regarding streamlining the grant application process. Marjorie Barnes replied that the timeframe was routinely advertised. The foundation provided support, and would review the application process.		

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	TJ Haworth-Culf had submitted a question about the volume of water brought to the site. David Peacop confirmed that there were two abstraction licences on the main site, which provided most of the water. Any potable water came in by tank from locations Anglian Water permitted. Water was disposed back to Anglian Water. TJ Haworth-Culf asked for a conversation about the water table.	DP	
9.04	Charles McDowell had submitted a question about police motorcycle escorts for abnormal indivisible loads (AILs). Darren Benford-Brown confirmed that the police AIL team had released a statement. AIL teams had various exemptions from the Road Traffic Act. Complaints could be submitted via the Suffolk Constabulary website. All AIL movements were displayed on the Sizewell C works tracker. Charles McDowell had submitted a question about new fibre connections. David Peacop replied that Openreach would be asked why Middleton and Theberton had not been connected.		
9.05	Lesley Hill had submitted a question about the number of houses in multiple occupation (HMO) licences being applied for. Marjorie Barnes confirmed that Sizewell was ensuring its own accommodation was opened for its workforce, and was in contact with various organisations to ensure it was updated on the situation. Lesley Hill highlighted the negative impact of the campus not being ready. Marjorie Barnes noted that the accommodation building schedule was aligned with the growth of the workforce. Lesley Hill had submitted a question about waste water. David Peacop confirmed that Leiston water treatment was not used.		
9.06	Maureen Jones had submitted a question about the impact on local NHS and dental services. Marjorie Barnes stated that there was an onsite healthcare team for the workforce. A dentistry provision was being explored. Maureen Jones had submitted a question about the difficulty of obtaining Sizewell C funding. Marjorie Barnes confirmed the incident in the question would be raised with the foundation.	MB	
9.07	TJ Haworth-Culf asked about communicating to residents that they had to contact their broadband provider to access fibre connections. David Peacop agreed that should be considered further. Openreach was issuing press releases.		
9.08	Sara Fox highlighted the radical impact of local towns losing accommodation. Marjorie Barnes confirmed she had checked with Bedfords Estate Agents in Aldborough, which had indicated no impacts were being felt so far. The issue would be monitored. Sara Fox emphasised that other agents only advertised serviced accommodation. Marjorie Barnes confirmed that various estate agents were contacted, and there was awareness that some were advertising to the Sizewell C workforce. Sara Fox warned the issue would become more severe as the workforce grew.		
9.09	Maureen Jones asked whether lists of road closures would be issued to town and parish clerks. David Seal stated that letters were issued, and there was a newsletter section on closures. Jez Porter added that various methods of communication were used.		
9.10	Charles McDowell recommended producing an SLR map, so people could see where construction would occur. David Seal confirmed that a map could be provided.	DS	



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9.11	Pat Hogan asked whether the Sizewell link road joined with the northern haulage road. Richard Knight replied that the road through the temporary construction area connected the SSSI bridge to the site. Traffic going to site would have its own road, once the SSSI bridge was open.		
9.12	Stephen Brett warned against diverting down Hawthorn Road and recommended Moat Road instead. David Seal confirmed that would be looked at.	DS	
9.13	Lesley Hill asked about the works for the Valley Road closure. Stephen Keighley explained that, to renew track over the bridge, a safety deck had to be built.		
9.14	Katie Graham asked whether the buses were hydrogen powered. David Peacop replied that there was a blended fleet of hydrogen. The level of bus use would be provided.	DP	
10	Date of Next Meeting		
10.1	The next meeting would be on 8 October 2025.		