

101272727
SZC-EWG-MM-02-D
Revision 01

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Meeting:	Ecology Working Group
Date:	22 nd February 2024 2:00-3:15
Location:	MS Teams
Chair:	James Meyer (ESC)
Attendees:	James Meyer (ESC), Steve Mannings (SZC), Nick Stayt (AECOM), Andrew Murray-Wood (SCC), Ayden Hassan (Environment Agency), Sean Mahoney (Natural England), Adam Rowlands (RSPB), Chris Strachan (EA).
Apologies:	Ben McFarland (SWT).

Meeting Notes:

1 SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

NS discussed the updated Terms of Reference (ToR) the changes were discussed. AR noted a number of further observations and edits were made.

Action – NS to agree minor amendment of bullet point 5 of the ‘Purpose and Scope’ section with AR prior to finalisation

It was agreed that the EWG members present were satisfied with the updates that had been made and these represented a final version, subject to the agreement of the text with the action noted above.

Action – Sizewell C Limited to seek SWT agreement of updated ToR.

Action – Sizewell C Limited to share finalised ToR Agreed by Ecology Working Group for Environment Review Group

2 PRE COMMENCEMENT DELIVERABLES

JM and SMan noted that the intention was not to discuss these deliverables in full but was an opportunity to raise any key observations. SMan noted that there were required separate discussions on these workstream could be arranged going forward. SMan asked if there were any key comments or headline issues that would help frame future meetings on these issues. NS noted that there are further methods, such as the recreation monitoring, that need to be agreed with members of the Ecology Working Group that fall outside of the Terrestrial Ecological Monitoring and Mitigation Plan summary provided in advance of the meeting (as discussed under Agenda item 3).

AR noted that RSPB were unsure on the scope of review when the documents were provided so the clarity provided was welcomed. AR stated that this adds further to points raised earlier on how the Ecology Working Group and sub forums function as this meeting is a top level meeting with other groups to operate beneath this forum. AR identified that the RSPB do have input but agree it is more appropriate to discuss in a separate workshop. Based on this, AR raised a query relating to how the working group will function, with particular reference to the need for consultation on draft deliverables in the future.

SMan confirmed workshops will be required in this forum (the Ecology Working Group) or other forums to hold the right level of engagement. The protocol remains the same as before regarding reviews and NS confirmed adequate timescales will be provided.

AR queried if it is explicit on the terms of references or captured elsewhere to ensure that the working group in the future is clear on this?

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SMan suggested it is already captured in the ToR and other elements of the DCO. SMan suggested that if on reflection in 6 months, the EWG is not operating as envisaged, edits can be made to the ToR. AMW clarified that the escalation process exists on this basis. AR agreed that a regular review of approach would be sensible.

AR questioned if the SWT have provide comment.

NS confirmed that comments and queries were welcomed by email on the reports provided.

Action – Sizewell C Limited to seek confirmation from SWT that there a no comments on the deliverables provided. Other EWG Members to provide comments in writing.

Action – Sizewell C Limited to arrange a meeting by end of March on Recreational Displacement

SMan noted the next steps with regard to the MMP Implementation Plan. JM confirmed Suffolk Coastal RAMS implementation manager starting in mid to late March 2024. SMan noted that the Lead Warden is in the process on being onboarded. The lead warden will be the primary contact with the landowners.

3 TERESTRIAL ECOLOGICAL MONITOING AND MITIGATION PLAN

NS presnted a summary of the purpose, need and aims of the proposed updated to the Terrestrial Ecological Monitoring and Mitigation Plan. This included a summary of the content shared in advance of the meeting for review as well as further explanation on timescales. This included details on where survey methods were to be provided to the Ecology Working Group for approval and for information only.

AR sought clarity on the need to ensure that were previous survey methods are to be used going forward that appropriate evidence is provided to check that appropriate information has been collected to date. AR identified that this review would ensure the monitoring proposed is adequate.

CS suggest that there would be a need to review the methods each year.

CS queried wider monitoring across the site in case of presence in areas that would not be monitored. NS and SMan confirmed that this is covered by measures in place across the Project but also within the Methodologies as appropriate.

AR raised a query relating to the Coastal Processes Mitigation and Monitoring Plan interface with the Terrestrial Ecological Monitoring and Mitigation Plan. This led to queries around interfaces with other governance groups. SMan stated that this group needs to be satisfied with the monitoring of the standing vegetation captures within the Coastal Processes Mitigation and Monitoring Plan and the ecological interpretation is in this group not the Marine Technical Forum. AR raised concerns about how this is to be document and known if members of the group change over time. SMan noted this concern and suggest the following action.

Action – Sizewell C Limited to prepare a graphic to log the interfaces between the Ecology Working Group, Water Management Working Group, Marine Technical Forum and Rights of Way Access Group

AR also questioned if survey results will be provided to enable the survey methodologies to be confirmed as suitable. SMan noted that a number of these are continuation of surveys that have been undertaken for a number of years and these are being shared to formally sign off. There are others, such as aquatic invertebrates, where discussion where may be required where additional requirements have been introduced. SMan noted that going forward the results will need to be considered and changes can be made as appropriate. AR clarified that the query was primarily in relation to Tranche 2 Survey methodologies and the understanding of how the Marsh Harriers are using the site, stating it is not possible to agree methods without understanding what the surveys have shown to date.

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Action – Sizewell C Limited to review and justify what the survey proposal is in relation to Marsh Harrier Foraging activity in relation to the compensation areas (including results and survey reports to date). This is to be covered in a summary briefing to be arranged.

Action – group members to provide written confirmation of any other species survey data to be clarified to inform survey methodologies

NS distributed the presentation delivered during the call.

Action – Group members to provide any comments on TEMMP presentation by email

4 MATTERS ARISING

SMan noted activities that are upcoming with specific reference to DCO requirement 11 (Water Monitoring and Management Plan), and 21 (SSSI Method Statements). SMan noted that there will be further partial discharge of DCO Requirement 21(SSSI Method Statements) for the ditch diversion and SSSI crossing construction methods within the Sizewell C SSSI.

AH requested a copy of the presentation provided on the changes to the Water Monitoring and Management Plan. NS shared a copy with the contacts provided by AH.

5 REVIEW OF ACTIONS

Actions noted in the meeting were reviewed and a summary of these actions is provided at the end of these minutes.

Additional Action raised – Sizewell C Limited to consider preparing a brief of available ecological baseline data to provide a common understanding of the breadth and depth of baseline information that we are working from.

6 AOB

Decision log (Annex 2 of the ToR) to be updated to reflect agreement on the ToR following separate conversation with BMcF.

SMan noted that a workshop would be arranged to discuss the updated proposal for the natterjack toad pond creation and habitat creation.

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Next meeting to be scheduled in March 2024.

ACTION: Sizewell C Limited to coordinate date and time of next meeting and send invites to working group members.

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Actions raised during the meeting:

Date Raised	Ref.	Description	Lead	Date Due
22/02/2024	7	NS to agree minor amendment of bullet point 5 of the 'Purpose and Scope' section of the ToR with AR prior to finalisation	Sizewell C Limited	28/02/2024
22/02/2024	8	Sizewell C Limited to seek SWT agreement of updated ToR	Sizewell C Limited	28/02/2024
22/02/2024	9	Once confirmed SZC to share finalised ToR Agreed by Ecology Working Group for Environment Review Group approval	Sizewell C Limited	29/02/2024
22/02/2024	10	Sizewell C Limited to seek confirmation from SWT that there are no comments on the deliverables provided. Other EWG Members to provide comments in writing.	Sizewell C Limited	01/03/2024
22/02/2024	11	Sizewell C Limited to arrange a meeting by end of March on Recreational Displacement	Sizewell C Limited	29/03/2024
22/02/2024	12	Sizewell C Limited to prepare a graphic to log the interfaces between the Ecology Working Group, Water Management Working Group, Marine Technical Forum and Rights of Way Access Group	Sizewell C Limited	Q1 2024
22/02/2024	13	Sizewell C Limited to review and justify what the survey proposal is in relation to Marsh Harrier Foraging activity in relation to the compensation areas (including results and survey reports to date). This is to be covered in a summary briefing to be arranged.	Sizewell C Limited	08/03/2024
22/02/2024	14	Group members to provide written confirmation of any other species survey data to be clarified to inform survey methodologies	All members of EWG	01/03/2024
22/02/2024	15	Group members to provide any comments on TEMMP presentation by email	All members of EWG	01/03/2024
22/02/2024	16	Sizewell C Limited to consider preparing a brief of available ecological baseline data to provide a common understanding of the breadth and depth of baseline information that we are working from.	Sizewell C Limited	08/03/2024
22/02/2024	17	Sizewell C Limited to coordinate date and time of next meeting and send invites to working group members	Sizewell C Limited	08/03/2024

Author: Nick Stayt (AECOM)