

Carly Vince, Chief Planning Officer
EDF Energy – Sizewell C

Sent via email

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Dear Carly,

Independent review in relation to the submitted bat impact assessment in the DCO proposal

East Suffolk Council and Suffolk County Council, working closely with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, has commissioned an independent review of the bat impact assessment. We believe that this will benefit us all in finding the right solutions for bats. BSG Ecology has undertaken this review on our behalf.

We are pleased to share the findings with you and our officers look forward to continuing to work with you to improve your proposals for mitigation to ensure they will not have a significant adverse effect on bats. The report is attached for your review and will be published on our Sizewell C webpages at:

<https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/sizewell-nuclear-power-station/development-consent-order/>

and

<https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/major-infrastructure-projects/sizewell-c-nuclear-power-plant/>.

The report highlights several key areas of concern in relation to the assessment of the impacts of the construction and operation of the proposed Sizewell C nuclear power station on bats. These include:

- That the importance of existing habitats within the Sizewell Estate for bats, particularly the importance of Goose Hill for barbastelle at certain times of year, has not sufficiently been considered by EDF Energy;
- How the available data on Natterer's bats on the estate has been interpreted and how this has informed the Environmental Statement conclusions and the mitigation measures proposed;
- That the extent of important commuting routes within the Sizewell Estate and need for mitigation measures to address impacts on these routes has not been sufficiently considered;
- Insufficient mitigation measures during the construction period, particularly in relation to the protection of retained roosting and foraging habitats at Ash Wood and Nursery Covert, the retention of dark, quiet commuting routes through the site and consideration of the residual impacts identified in the Environmental Statement especially in relation to population level impacts on barbastelle and Natterer's bats;
- Insufficient consideration of the impacts of the Sizewell Link Road, both alone and in-combination with the main development area (particularly in relation to barbastelle bats);

- The need for a robust, adaptive monitoring and mitigation plan for the construction and operation phases of the development; and
- The need for post construction habitat restoration and creation across the estate to focus on the important bat populations present.

The above concerns must be adequately addressed prior to any approval of the DCO and the delivery of all necessary mitigation and monitoring should be appropriately secured via requirements. We are keen for our officers to work with your experts on addressing the issues raised in the report.

Yours sincerely



Cllr Richard Rout
Cabinet Member for the Environment,
Public Protection and Sizewell C
Suffolk County Council



Cllr Craig Rivett
Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for
Economic Development
East Suffolk Council