

PROTECTIVE MARKING

ENVIRONMENT REVIEW GROUP

Meeting Type:	DoO Governance Group Meeting
Date:	17 th December 2025
Venue:	MS Teams
Meeting Chair:	Mark Kemp (ESC)
Attendees:	SZC: Luke Stevens (LS), Nick Stayt (NS) – (Observer), ESC: Mark Kemp (MK), Bethany Rance (BR) – (Observer), Rebecca Brooks (RB) – (Observer) EA: Simon Barlow (SB) NE: Sean Mahoney (SM) NL: Simon Amstutz (SA) –substitute for Paula Bartholemew (PB)
Apologies:	SZC: Steve Mannings SCC: Tim De-Keyzer NL: Paula Bartholemew
Meeting Record produced by:	Nick Stayt
Next Meeting Date:	17 th December 2025

Summary / Key Discussion

Meeting Notes:

Actions raised during the previous meeting:

Date Raised	Ref.	Description
17/06/2025	1	The review of the Free Dog Waste Bags trial will encompass all aspects of user behaviour and the outcomes on-site. A comprehensive review will be conducted before making a decision to expand or conclude the trial
17/06/2025	2	NEAP to outline the annual report's structure, format, and content, and to seek the EnvRGs approval
17/06/2025	3	TDK to check whether SCC offices are available for December 17th EnvRG meeting

Review of Previous Actions

- Action 1: Review to be shared with EnvRG following end of trial and collation of all data
- Action 2: the panel will review this as part of the February 2026 agenda
- Action 3: closed but to retain conversation for next EnvRG meeting.

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Project Update

- LS provided an overview of the progress for works as the Associated Development sites and the Main Development Site (MDS) supported by graphics. The AD sites are primarily still in earth works phases whole activities are progressing well on the MDS, noting the concrete batching plant and 5m acoustic fence on the temporary construction area.
- NS provided a summary of the works in the marine environment undertaken across 2025 and provided a look ahead for 2026. Activities in 2025 were focussed on survey investigations as well as the installation of a crew-transfer pontoon at the Port of Lowestoft.
- Marine activities in 2026 will be related to head placements for the Combined Drainage Outfall and the desalination plant and further survey works. The Temporary Marine Bulk Import Facility construction will also commence.
- SA Comment

Summary of Business of Other Working Groups

- NS noted that SZC were appointing a new resource solely dedicated to supporting the Deed of Obligation governance functions in a full-time capacity. The timescales for minutes identified within the protocol document should be fully achievable and consistent.

Ecology Working Group (EWG)

- Core Group
 - NS noted that the key focus of the core EWG was on the following matters
 - Validation of the Biodiversity Net Gain calculations and reconsideration of assigned habitat connectivity which would increase the Project's overall net gain.
 - The Natural England executive team visit and the feedback received along with the proposed follow up session. SA if a subsequent visit was to be planned if the invite could be extended to the NL team.
 - Updates relating to the noise and light monitoring associated with the Project's bat licence.
 - Updates on the Winter Lighting Plan for 25/26
 - Proposed amendments to the TEMMP, and the process to be followed prior to seeking a formal discharge of Revision 3 from ESC. SB queried if approvals would be escalated EnvRG. NS suggested that EnvRG approval would only be required if the EWG cannot unanimously agree on matters. **ACTION – Sizewell C to confirm**
 - Proposed management activities for 2026
 - NS provided a high level summary of the survey reports to be issued to the EWG and summarised the ecological activities planned for 2026, such as the Natterjack Toad pond creation
- Subgroup
 - NS provided an overview of the monitoring undertaken this year, including progress with the installation of the Automated People Counters.
 - SA queried if consideration had been given to Wildlife Wise and coordination with their wardens. NS and LS stated that these discussions had been held and noted the Suffolk Coastal RAMS team have been involved in discussions to date.
 - NS noted that an application under the Quick Access fund has been prepared by RSPB and was currently with the quorate members for approval
 - NS and LS provided an update on the Warden Resource

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- NS noted the planned Wild Aldhurst open day in spring 2026. SA asked if there would be an opportunity to promote the Natural Environment Improvement Fund and East Suffolk Trust at this event. LS stated that this would be considered.
- **ACTION – Sizewell C to explore opportunity for Natural Environment Improvement Fund and East Suffolk Trust to be promoted at the Wild Aldhurst Open Day**

Water Management Working Group

- NS noted that the groups are now meeting twice a year following unanimous agreement within the group.
- NS summarised activities of the group, highlight some changes to the monitoring locations included within the Water Monitoring and Mitigation Plan due to access limitations.
- 2024 Annual Report was distributed by SZC which concluded no impact on water levels or quality. This was supported by Natural England's specialists.
- A paper will be shared with the WMWG to detail the findings of a high-level assessment to consider the impacts of the proposed extension to the Environmental Barrier on hydrology.

Water Levels Management Group

- NS noted that the key focus of this group is to explore opportunities for efficiencies and collaboration between parties. Meetings will be used for member to highlight planned/upcoming activities.
- LS confirmed Sizewell C are preparing a 'long term' Flood Risk Activity Permit application to be submitted in Q2 2026 for the next 5 years of management operations.
- SA noted that the EA have made provision for additional members to join the WLMG and also have made some changes to internal structure on the review of permits.

Marine Technical Forum

- NS provided updates on the status of various conditions, with several plans approved, some in preparation, and others under review.
- NS also noted that Sizewell C have prepared a number of marine licence applications for activities associated with construction including:
 - investigation of potential unexploded ordnance in the intertidal Sizewell beach area;
 - installation of a pontoon at Port of Lowestoft to facilitate crew-transfers

Natural Environment Awards Panel

- NS noted that there have been a number of Natural Environment Awards Panel meetings in the lead in to the launch of the Natural Environment Improvement Fund on the 22nd October 2025.
- NS noted the coverage that was received on the launch
- NS confirmed that the panel had agreed to extend SA's role as chair of the Panel until December 2027.
- Noting the EnvRG action, SA noted that a draft had been shared with the Panel, however the focus has been on the launch material. SA stated that this would be included on the agenda of the February 2026 panel meeting.
- SA noted that he has held discussions with the EaST chief executive on how the two funds will work together.

Decision Making and Escalation

None

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Free Dog Waste Bags (Trial)

- NS and LS provided an update on the existing information relating to the trial of free dog waste bags with around 1000 being used up to December 2025.
- SB noted that an issue can be the lack of places to put dog waste bags and queried if there would be a roll out of additional disposal points. LA confirmed that bins are provided at all bag locations at Wild Aldhurst. SA that any additional disposal points would need to consider urbanisation in the context of the national landscape.

AoB

- SA noted that the National Landscape Conference will be in East Anglia in 2026. Would be keen to understand a visit to Wild Aldhurst. SA to liaise with LS on this.
- SB queried if the EA could present and update on regulatory activities undertaken by the agency in the given period. It was agreed this could be on the standard agenda.
- SB noted that currently the oversight partnership is missing a summary from the ERG of the working groups activity and key outputs. **Action – Sizewell C to review if support can be provided to the Oversight group**
- SB provided an overview of the EA's activities, including displaying a regulatory dashboard. In summary this explained that:
 - 32 permits and water resource licences have been issued
 - 2 Water Discharge A are in determination
 - 2 FRAPs are in determination
 - There are a number of planned compliance inspections in 2026
- SA noted that consideration will need to be given to the composition of the membership of the governance groups as a result of local government reorganisation.

Actions agreed in meeting:

Date Raised	Ref.	Description	Lead	Date Due
17/12/2025	4	Sizewell C to confirm if the ENvRG would be required to vote on changes to the TEMMP or if the only vote would be at the EWG level.	Sizewell C	February 2026
17/12/2025	5	Sizewell C to explore opportunity for Natural Environment Improvement Fund and East Suffolk Trust to be promoted at the Wild Aldhurst Open Day	Sizewell C	As relevant
17/12/2025	6	Sizewell C to review if support can be provided to the 'Oversight group'	Sizewell C	Next meeting
17/12/2025	7	EA report on regulatory activity to be included as a Standing Agenda item	EA	Next meeting