

**Sizewell C: Stage 3 Pre-Application Consultation**  
**Response from Suffolk Coast Against Retreat (SCAR)**

*The aim of SCAR is to preserve and protect, for future generations, the Suffolk coastline, tidal rivers and surrounding land area.*

*SCAR is a strategic partnership of organisations and individuals of all political persuasions representing groups on the Suffolk coastline.*

The concerns the SCAR has about the plans for Sizewell C are:-

**Consultation Question 1. Sizewell C proposals: overall and Question 2 Main Development Site: Overall.**

Clearly, progress has been made since the Stage 2 consultation. However, SCAR still has serious concerns about various aspects of the proposal which are either subject to coastal forces or may affect natural coastal processes and adjoining areas of the Suffolk Coast.

- i. All data related to sea level is based on out of date information rather than the latest assessments of sea level rise and climate change. This is a fragile and dynamic coastline and the best data must be used to make confident predictions that can be relied on. Climate change is also expected to lead to more vigorous storms and more frequent exceptional events against which better and more robust defences are required to ensure against adverse effects and that natural processes are not hastened.
- ii. The main buildings are too close to the shore. Suffolk Coastal Partnership East engineers have demonstrated that the sea defence designs are incomplete and that the proposed defences are vulnerable to storm damage and direct wave action. This is unsatisfactory and dangerous. In order to survive up to 100 years it is necessary to move the main development 30-50 metres inland. The predictions of higher sea level rise and further climate change make this an even more serious concern.
- iii. Sizewell C will be operational for over 60 years and the buildings may remain for up to 100 years. The Suffolk coastline is dynamic and in various locations large losses of cliff and changes to beaches are common. It is a serious concern that the coast to the south may be altered adversely as a result of the development (referred to in Consultation document Vol 2A 2.14.47). It is therefore essential that a rigorous monitoring programme for the entire coast from north of the site to Orfordness be established with public reports made available. Funds should be made available to finance proper monitoring and mitigating action. Allocation of responsibilities should be made clear and proper supervision of the process should be funded.
- iv. The consultation documentation does make some assessment of the impact of the installations on coastal processes. However, the work is not complete, particularly in respect of the extended shore protection, the beach landing platform and the fish recovery and return system. This needs to be finalised using the latest data to ensure that there is no additional adverse impact to Thorpeness and Aldeburgh to the south.

- v. The proposals make provision for utilising dredged aggregate from elsewhere in the North Sea. More detail is required to ensure there is no adverse impact on the Suffolk Coast as a result of dredging operations.
  
- vi. It is unacceptable that all these issues remain outstanding with no further opportunity for public consultation prior to making application for development consent. The planning and approval process should be reviewed and amended to allow a further stage of public consultation. It is not sufficient nor acceptable to expect the public to deal with such fundamental matters during the final approval process or at public enquiry.