

Sizewell C – Nuclear Power Station, Suffolk



Fig 1: Proposed Sizewell C Nuclear Power Station Site.

Site Context

The Sizewell C nuclear power station development is located in the small fishing hamlet of Sizewell, Suffolk, England, IP16 4UR (Figure 1).

The site consists of a number of undeveloped agricultural fields and the wider setting is predominantly rural and agricultural.

The site is bounded to the north and west by undeveloped agricultural fields and some areas of dense woodland, to the east the site is bounded by the coastline and to the south by the existing Sizewell B nuclear power station.

There are two constructed power stations bounding the proposed site to the south, Sizewell A and Sizewell B.

The nearest settlement is Sizewell, a small hamlet, located approx. 1km to the south. Other nearby settlements include the town of Leiston, 2.8km to the west, and the village of Aldringham 3.4km southwest of the site.

Site Constraints

Flood Risk

The site is predominantly in Flood Zone 3, indicating a high probability of flooding (refer to Figure 2). The immediate area surrounding the site to the north and west of the site are also within Flood Zone 3. However, the existing Sizewell A and Sizewell B power plants are located in Flood Zone 1.

A statutory main river, of which is a tributary of the Minsmere Old River, runs south-westerly and is located to the north and west of the development site. Although, the area is currently identified as being at very low risk of flooding from rivers, the sea and surface water.

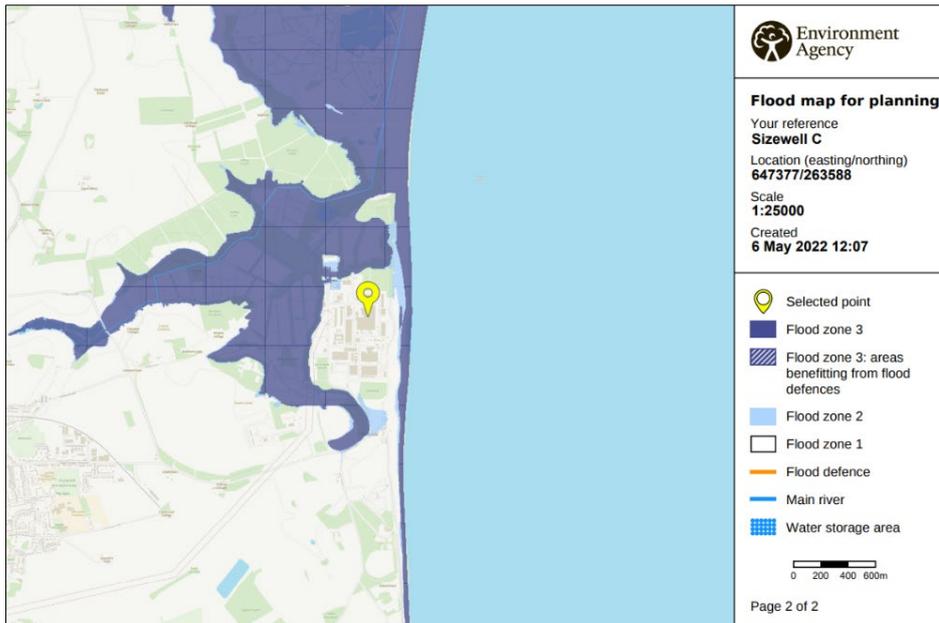


Fig 2: Sizewell C Flood Map for Planning

Sea Level Rise

From a desktop review of the site, the coastline to the east of the site is projected to be at threat of being below the annual flood level from 2030 onwards. Figure 3, taken from the Climate Central Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flood Map shows this located as below annual flood level in 2030.

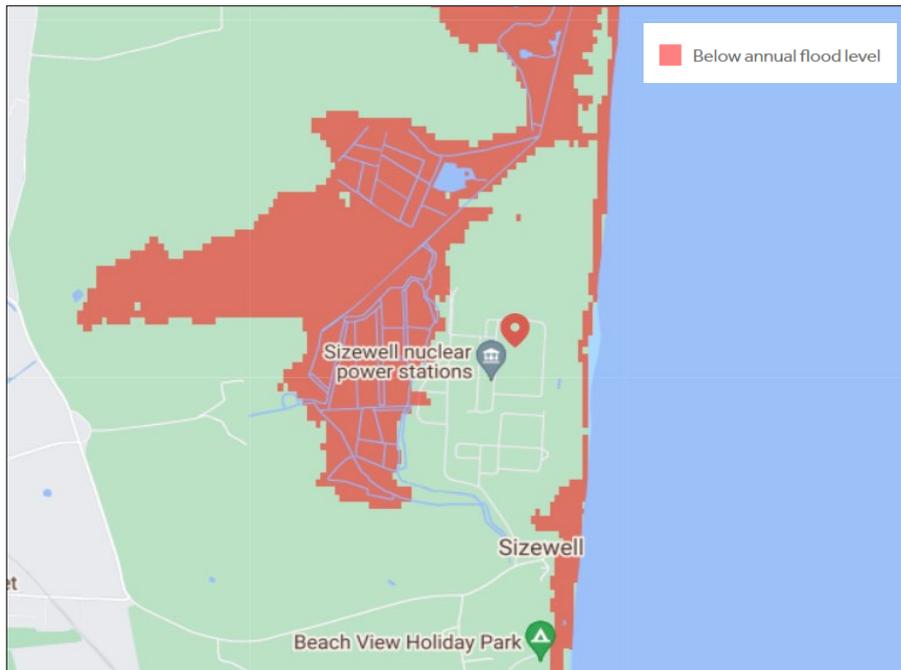


Fig 3: Sizewell C Site - Projected Annual Flood Level Map

Heritage

In regard to heritage assets, there are no listed buildings within the site, however there are 3 identified within close proximity:

- Upper Abbey Farmhouse (Grade II).
- Barn 40m north of Upper Abbey Farmhouse (Grade II).

- The Watch-House (Grade II) approx. 0.4km from Sizewell B.

The site does not contain any scheduled monuments, those closest to the development are:

- Leiston Abbey (first site) with later chapel and pill box approx. 2km north of the existing Sizewell B site.
- Leiston Abbey (second site) and moated site approx. 2.6km northwest of the existing Sizewell B site.

Public Rights of Way (PRoWs)

There is a well-connected public rights of way (PRoW) network surrounding the site, including:

- Footpath E-363 021/0#1 runs directly to the east of the site and spans the length of the coastline from Dunwhich Forest to the north of the site, and Thorpeness to the South.
- Bridleway E-363 019/0 runs to the west of the existing Sizewell A and B sites, and to the south west of the development site.

Landscape

The site is located on undeveloped land, approx. 0.3km from the Suffolk Coastline and is located within National Character Area 82: Suffolk Coast and Heaths. The NCA consists of a low lying coast with open beaches, and areas of low-lying flat land.

The site appears to benefit from a mature network of hedgerows and areas of dense woodland and tree cover to the west and north. The south of the site is bounded by the existing Sizewell A and B power stations, with further parcels of woodland screening the site from the nearby Beach View Holiday Park and other viewpoints. It can be anticipated that the development site would not be significantly visible from further afield.

The local landscape has demonstrated that power stations can be successfully integrated into the landscape.

More detailed landscape assessment work is required to better understand the potential landscape impacts.

Ecology

The site is located within the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

The site is in proximity to several nature conservation designations including Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar Sites. The closest and potentially affected by the development area:

- Sizewell Marshes (SSSI) –Sizewell A and B are located in front of this SSSI, Sizewell C is located within.
- Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths & Marshes (SAC) (SPA) (Ramsar) north of the site.

Conclusions – Key Points:

- There is evidence that nuclear power stations can be assimilated into the local landscape and surrounding area, as is evidenced by the existing Sizewell A and Sizewell B power stations, directly to the South of the site.
- The majority of the site is in Flood Zone 3, indicating a high risk of flooding.
- The site is located with an AONB.
- Land surrounding the site is projected to be below annual flood level from 2030 onwards.