



Sizewell A & B Site Stakeholder Group (SSG)

11 March 2026

Sizewell Sports & Social Club

Attendees:

Members:

Marianne Fellowes	Chair
Jenny Kirtley	Vice Chair
Mike Taylor	Co-opted member
Cllr Lesley Hill	Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council
Cllr Bill Searle	Aldringham-cum-Thorpe Parish Council
Pat Hogan	Sizewell resident
Trevor Branton	Co-opted member
Janet Fendley	Co-opted member – Friends of the Earth
Peter Langford	Suffolk County Council
Katy Graham	East Suffolk Council

Operators and Officers:

Alan Walker	NRS, SZA
Kayleigh Ridley	NRS, SZA
Robert Gunn	EDF, SZB
Niki Rousseau	EDF, SZB
Richard Parlone	EDF, SZB
Rebecca Harry	EDF, SZB
Sean Verrall	EDF, SZB
James Heavingham	Environment Agency (via MS Teams)
Aidan Kelly	Environment Agency (via MS Teams)
Paul Mounford-Lister	Environment Agency (via MS Teams)
John McNamara	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Pip Hatt	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
Cara Webb	NRS, SZA

Members of the Public:

Allan Warner	Member of the public
David Bailey	Member of the public

Visiting NGO Group:

Paul Hetherington	NGO Group
Rita Holmes	NGO Group
Allan Jeffrey	NGO Group
Tor Justad	NGO Group
Samantha King	NGO Group
Dr Bill Otto	NGO Group
Richard Outram	NGO Group
Ian Ralls	NGO Group
Bethany Sherry	NGO Group

**Apologies for Absence:**

David Prescott	ONR, Sizewell B
Cllr Tom Daly	East Suffolk Council
Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Conrad Burgess	Suffolk County Council
Cllr Nicky Corbett	Leiston-cum-Sizewell Town Council
Joan Girling	Co-Opted Member
John Carey	NRS, Sizewell A, Staff Representative

[4971] 1. Welcome and Introduction – Marianne Fellowes

- Attendees were welcomed, and safety and welfare announcements given.
- John McNamara (NDA) thanked the SSG for inviting the visiting NGO representatives, highlighting the importance of transparency and open engagement.
- It was advised that NGO visitors would depart part-way through the meeting to continue with their visit.

[4972] 2. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

[4973] 3. Sizewell A site report – Alan Walker (NRS, Site Director)**Key Updates**

- Strong safety performance continues, with zero TRIR and DACR.
- A security demonstration exercise held on 4 March 2026 received an adequate rating.
- The Environmental Monitoring Programme has been fully reviewed and reissued.
- Turbine Hall demolition works have been completed and contractors demobilised.
- Reconfiguration of the Active Effluent Treatment Plant (AETP) remains ongoing; unexpected material identified in the plant is under investigation. No discharges will occur until resolved.
- Recruitment currently exceeds leavers following the Mutually Agreed Voluntary Exit (MAVE) scheme.
- A refreshed Human Performance safety campaign will run for 12 months.
- Ponds deplanting is 61% complete, with 91% of waste diverted from LLW.
- Fuel skip characterisation continues with offsite analysis.
- A new Waste Inventory Management System (WIMS) is being introduced.
- A volunteering programme is being established for 2025/26, including activities at Dunwich Heath and Minsmere.
- Community funding awarded to:
 - Enhanced Youth Employment Service (£95,000)
 - Long Shop Museum (£25,400)
 - Leiston Youth Football Club
 - Tunstall Juniors Netball Club
- Pat Hogan noted that communication with residents continues to be good with regular engagement from both Sizewell A and B, which has acted as a stabilising factor during periods of change.



Questions Raised

- Q: Tor Justad sought clarification on the purpose of the offshore structure.
- *Response:* The structure was used to enable total dewatering of the cooling water tunnels, if necessary, during generation. It will be decommissioned in the future, subject to environmental constraints including kittiwake nesting.

- Q: Marianne Fellowes queried where the estimated eight waste consignments would be sent.
- *Response:* They will all be managed through approved waste routes through Nuclear Waste Services (NWS).

- Q: Marianne Fellowes asked what measures can be taken to support the mental and physical health of the SZA workforce during fluctuating activity levels.
- *Response:* The intention is to match the right resources to the right demands. Workforce motivation is supported by a long-term business plan, giving staff visibility, enabling informed personal choices, and providing stability.

- Q: Mike Taylor raised concerns regarding groundwater following Turbine Hall demolition.
- *Response:* No issues observed; Sizewell A sits at a higher ground level and no accumulation has been detected.

- Q: Janet Fendley asked whether ponds waste is High Level Waste (HLW).
- *Response:* Ponds waste consists of Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) and Low Level Waste (LLW) with no High Level Waste.

- Q: Janet Fendley asked what the volunteering activities at Minsmere and Dunwich Heath involved.
- *Response:* Activities may include painting, gardening and general volunteer labour.

- Q: Marianne Fellowes Expressed concern regarding the Sizewell A programme timeline, noting a significant increase in activity projected for 2029-2031, alongside the added pressure from the Sizewell B outage and ongoing employment demand from Sizewell C.
- *Response:* Confirmed that this was a valid concern and reassured that each project includes a mobilisation phase. Current analysis indicates workloads will not overlap to an extent that causes major resourcing issues. The Boiler House project represents the most substantial project, and planning will be key to effective delivery. Learning and experience from earlier projects will help reduce risk and the site will continue to monitor impacts closely.

- Q: Marianne Fellowes asked whether plant and equipment used for Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) processing could be mobile rather than permanent, enabling reuse at other sites.
- *Response:* Confirmed that some Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) processing equipment could potentially be mobile however, several elements must be



load bearing, particularly components supporting the 30-tonne overhead crane.

- Q: Marianne Fellowes enquired as to how Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) packages are transported.
- *Response:* Confirmed that at Dungeness packages are transported via both rail and road. At Sizewell A transport is more likely to be road-based. Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) packages have very low dose rates owing to shielding. Forecasting currently indicates around 12 packages, with impact expected to be minimal.
- Q: Marianne Fellowes asked where the Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) will have come from.
- *Response:* Primarily from the Active Effluent Treatment Plant (AETP) filtration media (sand and gravel) and filter backwashes which generate sludge.
- Q: Marianne Fellowes asked about the source of the unexpected material recently found in the Active Effluent Treatment Plant (AETP).
- *Response:* Confirmed that an investigation was ongoing and samples were being analysed. When liquid remains static due to infrequent discharge, biological growth can occur, which may explain some of the material. Further analysis will confirm the origin and whether it poses any concern.
- Q: Mike Taylor asked whether Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) processing remains reliant on the future Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).
- *Response:* Ultimately a GDF will be required. Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) will first be packaged and placed in the Bradwell store which has sufficient capacity for Sizewell A waste (excluding the Reactors), before eventual transfer to the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).
- Q: Mike Taylor highlighted changes to Essex & Suffolk water supply routes, noting modifications to the Saxmundham water tower and additional supply from the Fennel water tower. Considering this, it was asked whether Sizewell A had a secure water supply for future needs.
- *Response:* Confirmed that there were no significant concerns as Sizewell A does not depend on water for any special operational function, plus the site has storage tanks and contingency plans for utilities. Safe operations can be sustained for a long period; welfare facilities would be the most affected area in the event of prolonged supply interruption.
- Q: Mike Taylor requested a review of support provided to local organisations, noting a recent visit to a food bank linked to Project 47.
- *Response:* Marianne Fellowes confirmed that she would contact Project 47 as it is believed that they may already be supported by Sizewell A and Sizewell B, and provide the relevant information if not. Kayleigh Ridley noted she had contacted Project 47 previously but did not receive a response.
- Q: Trevor Branton asked whether the large projects underway at/around the site are causing problems with resourcing and staff retention.



- *Response:* Alan Walker confirmed that recruitment for technical roles was becoming harder, as seen by a reduction in applicant numbers and less interest in Sizewell A vacancies. The site is exploring a range of alternative approaches.

Actions

1. Marianne Fellowes suggested an update at the next meeting to report on outcomes and participation from volunteering activities.
2. Marianne Fellowes and Kayleigh Ridley to reach out to Project 47 to ensure available support is being provided if not in place already.

[4974] 4. ONR Report (SZA) – David Prescott

- There has been no inspection on site since the last meeting. Any questions will be forwarded for response.

[4975] 5. Environment Agency - James Heavingham (SZA) via MS Teams

Key Updates

- James Heavingham confirmed the Environment Agency continues to have a positive and constructive working relationship with the Sizewell A site.
- Regular meetings are held to discuss ongoing projects and any issues that may affect environmental compliance.
- Recent inspections focused on gaseous discharges, including monitoring, sampling, reporting, and compliance arrangements.
- The Environment Agency found robust processes in place, with areas of good practice identified and only minor improvements noted.
- Quarterly discharge reports for Q4 2025 (October-December) confirmed:
 - No aqueous discharges from Sizewell A
 - Low gaseous emissions, all within permitted limits
- It was confirmed that no aqueous discharges will resume until the issue relating to unexpected material in the Active Effluent Treatment Plant (AETP) has been fully resolved.
- The latest Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) monitoring data has been published on GOV.UK, with results showing no emerging trends or areas of concern.

Questions Raised

- Q: Mike Taylor raised concerns about PFAS (per- and poly fluoroalkyl substances) contamination in UK water supplies and asked what is being done to investigate PFAS sources, given some historic reliance on PFAS containing materials.
- *Response:* James Heavingham responded, confirming that PFAS (per- and poly fluoroalkyl substances) is an emerging national issue. Historically, the primary source in the nuclear sector has been firefighting foams. NRS has completed an assessment across all sites, including Sizewell A to identify PFAS risks. It was confirmed that for SZA and SZB firefighting foams had been removed from site, but historic use means some PFAS contamination is possible, as is the case on many industrial and nuclear sites.



- Q: Mike Taylor asked whether PFAS (per-and poly fluoroalkyl substances) could remain in plant or equipment.
- *Response:* It was confirmed by representatives from both sites this was not the case.
- Q: Concerns were raised by Marianne Fellowes and Mike Taylor about regional water supply and management associated with major construction activity, including Sizewell C. These included the use of desalination, water retention in attenuation ponds, reuse of water for activities such as spray suppression, and the potential for unpermitted water reuse or migration beyond site boundaries. Clarification was sought on the long-term environmental impact and which regulatory body has oversight and responsibility for regulation.
- *Response:* Paul Mountford-Lister suggested that where worker exposure could occur (e.g. spray suppressant use), matters may fall under the Health and Safety at Work Act, with potential oversight by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). Noting that companies should be conducting appropriate risk assessments.

Actions

- Determine which regulator has oversight for water retention, reuse, and spray operations on Sizewell construction sites.

[4976] 6. Sizewell B Report – Robert Gunn (EDF)

Key Updates

- Sizewell B achieved 10.39 TWh generation in the last business year, its second-highest output in 30 years.
- Strong safety performance with no recordable injuries, nuclear events or environmental incidents.
- EDF remains committed to extending Sizewell B's operating life to 2055.
- Planned refuelling outage scheduled for 22 May 2026, lasting approximately 55 days.
- Measures are in place to minimise traffic and community impact during the outage.
- Amenity & Accessibility Fund awarded £27,480 to 12 local projects.

Questions Raised

- Q: Lesley Hill raised concerns about ongoing coastal erosion at Thorpeness.
- *Response:* Robert Gunn confirmed that coastal reviews are conducted regularly, with major reviews every 10 years. Despite geographical proximity the Sizewell coastline behaves differently from Thorpeness due to varying environmental conditions.
- Q: Mike Taylor raised concerns about a proposed underpass structure at Sizewell C linked to a flood permit application and queried whether Sizewell B was aware. He highlighted the potential for unintended consequences on coastal dynamics.
- *Response:* Robert Gunn confirmed that Sizewell B was not familiar with any underpass proposal. He also confirmed that no notifications, permit changes or design modifications affecting Sizewell B had been received. Robert Gunn



assured that if any Sizewell C coastal works had potential impact on Sizewell B then EDF would be informed.

- Q: Mike Taylor asked whether the Amenity and Accessibility Fund now include villages outside the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty boundary.
- *Response:* Niki Rousseau confirmed the answer to this was no and that the eligibility geography has not changed. Robert Gunn added that project outside the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty may still be eligible if they deliver clear benefit to the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty itself.

- Q: Mike Taylor raised concerns about silt levels and the future Sizewell C desalination plant, questioning the impact on water quality and usage.
- *Response:* Robert Gunn confirmed that silt is not unusual though levels vary seasonally. Current conditions simply mean more silt than usual, requiring increased operational management.

- Q: Trevor Branton asked whether the upcoming outage works would result in a performance uplift or efficiency improvements.
- *Response:* Robert Gunn confirmed that all works are like-for-like replacements and will not increase electrical output. Rebecca Harry added that equipment is being replaced due to running hours, with each rotor having different operational limits.

- Q: Pat Hogan thanked the sites for recent community meetings and asked whether global geopolitical tensions have led to increased security measures.
- *Response:* Robert Gunn confirmed that Sizewell B is already operating at the second-highest security level, with continuous monitoring in place and robust standards.

- Q: Janet Fendley requested an update on the seal currently in the Sizewell B forebay.
- *Response:* Robert Gunn confirmed that six seals entered the forebay and one seal remains, with circa £100,000 spent on safe removal efforts. Niki Rousseau added that monitoring is being supported by the Marine and Wildlife Rescue.

- Q: Jenny Kirtley asked whether Sizewell B would use Sizewell C electric buses during the outage.
- *Response:* Rebecca Harry confirmed this is not planned. Robert Gunn noted it may be reviewed for future outages, but there is no firm plan at present.

- Q: Mike Taylor asked about apprentice training locations and whether apprentices still attend HMS Sultan.
- *Response:* Robert Gunn confirmed apprentices train in Somerset, National College for Nuclear for the first two years, with plans to increase use of local colleges to strengthen the local skills pipeline. He acknowledged that the new College on the Coast will help support local participation.



Actions

1. MF to look into issue regarding silt levels and Sizewell C desalination impacts to be raised at the Sizewell C forum.

[4977] 7. **ONR Report (SZB) – David Prescott**

- There has been no inspection on site since the last meeting. Any questions will be forwarded for response.

[4978] 8. **Environment Agency – Paul Mounford-Lister (SZB) via MS Teams**

Key Updates

- Paul Mounford-Lister delivered the report on behalf of Themis Kantara and noted positive experience with virtual attendance.
- Inspections continue to be planned and largely announced, with routine audits and regulatory reviews ongoing.
- Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCARs) are published on the public register and shared regularly with the SSG.
- AROSSE review for Sizewell B was held on 8 December 2025, covering performance and future regulatory expectations.
- A long-running gaseous waste duct corrosion issue was reviewed; radiological impact was low, but fleet-wide learning has been implemented.
- EDF is proposing a change to primary circuit water chemistry (zinc acetate injection); EA assessment of the BAT submission is ongoing.
- No enforcement actions were taken during the last quarter.
- A partial permit transfer application between Sizewell B and Sizewell C is under determination.
- Discharges remain within permitted limits; carbon discharge at 72% of annual limit and RIFE data confirms doses well within national norms and ALARA.

Questions Raised

- Q: Marianne Fellowes raised concerns about a monitoring shade being moved during Sizewell C construction. It was noted that the issue was identified by a member of the public, that the Environment Agency was initially unaware, and that contractors appeared not to understand the purpose of the equipment.
- *Response:* Paul Mounford-Lister and Aidan Kelly confirmed that appropriate alternative monitoring arrangements were put in place, with no data gaps or regulatory concerns regarding data quality or continuity. Aidan Kelly confirmed this was not related to -ringnet- monitoring.
- Q: Mike Taylor asked for the Environment Agency's view on the Fingleton Report, expressing concern that it could weaken Best Available Techniques (BAT) and nuclear regulatory standards.
- *Response:* Paul Mounford-Lister confirmed that a robust response had been submitted to the initial proposals. The Environment Agency is awaiting the Government's formal response and will provide an update to the SSG when permitted.
- Q: Mike Taylor raised concerns about flooding, drainage and water management, noting that traditional drainage and attenuation systems are



not being adequately maintained, leading to flooding and potential implications for emergency planning.

- *Response:* Paul Mounford-Lister explained that responsibility for water and drainage management can sit with different bodies depending on the asset, including local authorities, Internal Drainage Boards and the Environment Agency under Flood and Coastal Risk Management. Aidan Kelly advised that flooding or pollution concerns should be reported via the Environment Agency's 24-hour incident hotline (0800 80 70 60) so responsibility can be established. He also confirmed the EA regulates diffuse pollution and works closely with Internal Drainage Boards and landowners.

Actions

1. Paul Mounford-Lister confirmed the outstanding action relates to solid radioactive waste management and sits with the EDF corporate centre rather than Sizewell B site staff. The issue is being addressed through national regulatory oversight.

[4979] 9. NDA Report – John McNamara

- Nothing further to add to John McNamaras comments made at the top of the meeting.

[4980] 10. Matters arising and questions from Minutes of 27th November 2025 and Action Tracker (not already included in reports above)

- Nothing raised.

[4981] 11. Chair Report – Marianne Fellowes

- Marianne Fellowes noted that the SSG has been invited to visit the new Sizewell B visitors centre with a possibility of holding the September meeting there.
- Marianne Fellowes confirmed that going forward meetings would likely continue to be held at Leiston Town Athletic association and the possibility of holding the 20th anniversary celebrations there also.

SSG Constitution – Key Updates

- Draft amendments to the SSG constitution were circulated ahead of the meeting.
- Updates are intended to ensure continued best practice and effective SSG operation.
- Proposed changes cover:
 - Clarification of the SSG's role in consultation responses
 - Inclusion of education institutions as recognised members
 - Confirmation that the Code of Conduct applies to all members, including coopted members
 - Provision for virtual and hybrid meetings
 - Clarification of meeting frequency and NDA approval requirements
 - Shared responsibility for agenda development and meeting conduct
- The Chair sought approval to adopt the amendments on behalf of the SSG.
- **No objections were raised.**



[4982] 12. Co-option of Members and Confirmation of any new Members

- Marianne Fellowes confirmed there were no co-options or new members at this meeting.
- Advised that county council elections will take place on 7 May, which may affect membership and representation.
- Next meeting will occur after the elections, and new members will be welcomed.

[4983] 13. Any Other Business

- Concerns raised by Mike Taylor that the shortened style of minutes makes it difficult for non-attendees to understand discussions; request made for clearer, fuller context. Chair acknowledged the issue and agreed minutes should be readable as a standalone public record. Kayleigh Ridley stated the new format of minutes are to be processed by readers alongside reports, this avoids repetitiveness in the packs.
- Commitment made to work with Secretariat to improve clarity, accuracy and turnaround times. Delays to recent minutes were partly due to transcription software issues; improvements are now in place.
- Website usability improvements are ongoing.
- Kayleigh Ridley reminded members of a free virtual IT skills session taking place and to contact her for more information if interested.
- Annual residents and community meeting will continue.
- Future SSG meeting dates will be circulated and aligned with inspection schedules where possible.
- Members encouraged to continue providing feedback via email; thanks given to virtual attendees and council representatives.
- Meeting formally closed with thanks to all participants.

Date of Next Meeting

Thursday, 16 July 2026

Minutes prepared by Cara Webb (NRS) and compiled using meeting transcript and reference document data.