

Lessons from Hinkley Point

In August 2018 we met local residents and elected representatives from Stogursey (similar to Theberton) and Shurton (similar to Eastbridge) close to Hinkley Point, and from the town of Bridgwater.

Residents reported:

- Construction noise and light pollution.
- 24 hour workers' buses in villages.
- Main road congestion and rat-running.
- Blight and community break-up: almost 1 in 4 Shurton households have left.
- 18% increase in rental rates. (BBC)
- Broken promises: shifting the construction boundary and EDF failing to proactively address problems.
- Village traffic and fly-parking: unable to walk dogs locally.
- Local businesses affected as too difficult to park.
- Bridgwater businesses struggling.
- Village tensions as locals rent to multiple occupants.
- Workers generally behaving, but some rowdiness on bank holidays.



Is Sizewell different from Hinkley ?

- Sizewell C&D are 100% within an AONB.
- Geology, topography and construction area are very different.
- The Hinkley area does not depend on tourism unlike the Suffolk Coast.
- The access road to Hinkley has few houses on it, and no other main role.



Sizewell Supply Chain

- EDF has promised to save 20% at Sizewell on costs of building Hinkley.
- This depends on rapid planning consent but also moving the Hinkley supply chain to Sizewell.
- Suffolk Councils must challenge EDF on how this will affect local jobs.



Will the problems of Hinkley be repeated here?