



The impact of noise and artificial light from Sizewell C could have a devastating impact on Minsmere's wildlife.



“2019–2020 was a big year for the RSPB in England – and significant threats from badly-designed and sited infrastructure remain a key focus. Minsmere continues to face potentially catastrophic impacts from Sizewell C and we vocally came out in opposition to HS2, but we’ve also had a bumper year for bitterns and cranes. That gives us hope.”

Emma Marsh
Director, England

How we #LoveMinsmere

In May 2020, EDF Energy submitted their final proposals to build a twin nuclear reactor, Sizewell C, on the Suffolk coast. This would bring the Sizewell Estate right up to the border of RSPB Minsmere, one of our most wildlife-rich nature reserves. Our key concerns are the impact of noise and artificial light on rare wildlife and the potential erosion of Minsmere’s coastline.

The Government has already recognised in their National Policy Statement for Nuclear Power Generation (EN-6) that Sizewell C could have detrimental impacts on landscapes, habitats and species.

We asked for your help – to tell EDF what you think, and to protect this special landscape for the future. We launched our #LoveMinsmere campaign last year which saw 20,419 of you write to EDF stating why you love Minsmere and why the reserve must be protected. The campaign also has support from Chris Packham, Iolo Williams, Bill Turnbull and Diana Quick.

We called on EDF to make a public statement that Minsmere will be protected from any potential harm; to fully assess the impact that Sizewell C could have on Minsmere’s habitats and wildlife; and to publish a clear plan outlining how EDF will address any potential impacts.

We have not seen the evidence from EDF that Sizewell C can be built without detrimentally impacting habitats and species. Without this, we conclude that the build must not go ahead.

The Planning Inspectorate have now accepted EDF’s final plans application, which has now been made publicly available. We will put all we can into engaging with the application consideration examination process to achieve the best outcome for nature and continue to stand against harmful actions developments such as Sizewell C.

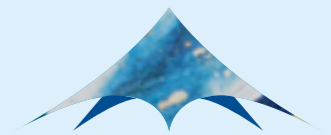
Best year yet for bitterns

Shy, but with an incredible booming voice, bitterns were at the brink of extinction by 1997 when numbers dropped to just 11 males.

This included two males at RSPB Minsmere in Suffolk, which has a long history of providing a last stronghold for reedbed species in the UK.

In 1997 we started a research programme to investigate the needs of this wetland bird. Due to strong partnerships between reedbed organisations and funding by two EU-Life projects, the research moved quickly to save this species from UK extinction.

This research meant we could give clear reedbed management recommendations that were implemented across many sites, and it worked: in 2019, we celebrated the bitterns’ best year since records began!



1,000
people at the #LoveMinsmere Festival.

11 male
bitterns.
A record number for Lakenheath Fen.



100+
booming bitterns on our UK nature reserves.