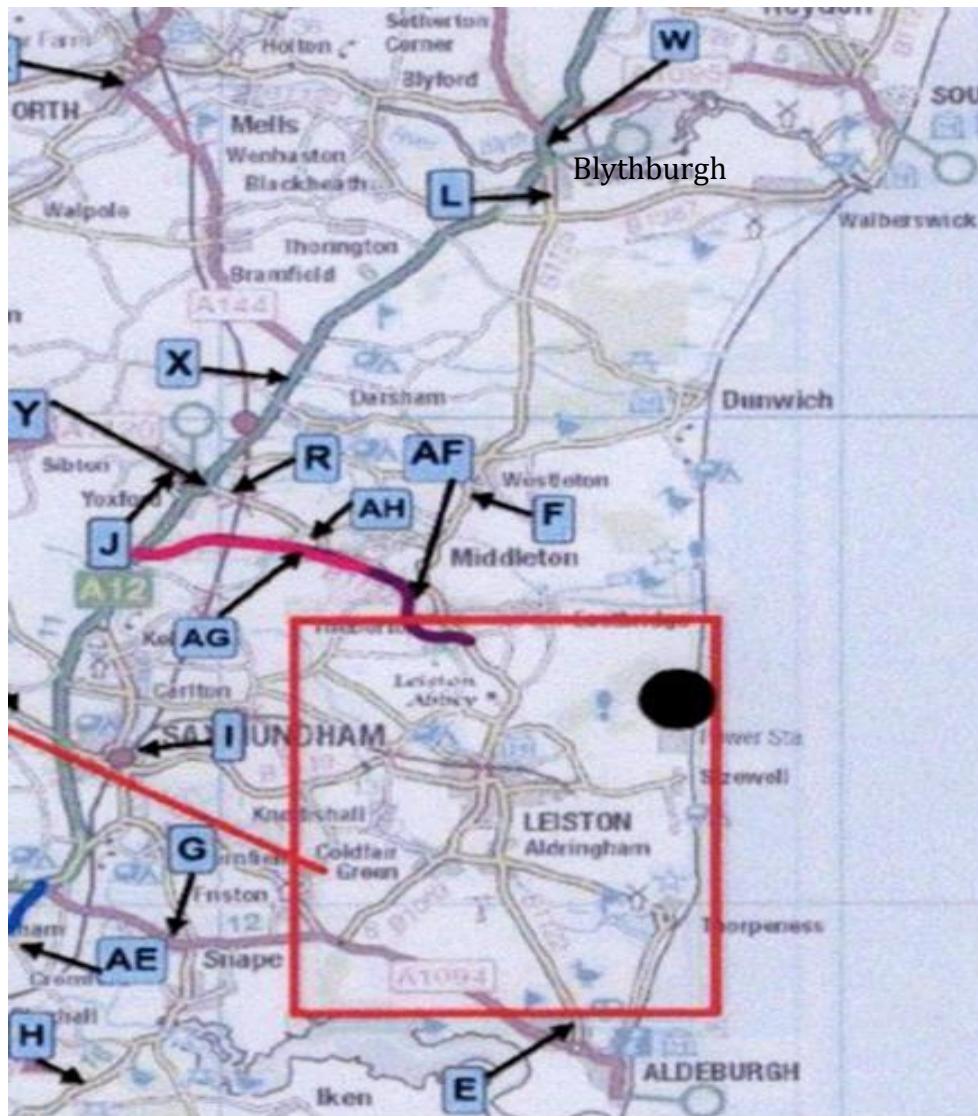


SIZEWELL C Proposed Nuclear Development
Supporting the “Relevant Representation” of
Blythburgh with Bulcamp and Hinton
Parish Council

SEPTEMBER 2020



1. BACKGROUND: CHARACTER AND LOCATION OF BLYTHBURGH

1.1 Blythburgh, with its hamlets of Bulcamp and Hinton, is a parish in northeast Suffolk, nine miles north of the Sizewell C site. Blythburgh's small village has grown up straddling a trunk road, now the A12, created in 1785. The parish has approximately 300 residents (see cover page map for the location of Blythburgh in relation to Sizewell).

1.2 Blythburgh is set in a landscape designated as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), with tidal river, marsh, heath, small woods, pasture and arable fields. AONBs have the highest level of protection in relation to landscape and scenic beauty (National Policy Statement for Energy (EN-1), section 5.9.9).

1.3 Blythburgh is a very historic part of Suffolk with nearly 1,400 years of recorded history. The village has a magnificent medieval church, which commands the valley of the river Blyth and acts as a beacon for travellers on the A12 trunk road that links London and Yarmouth. It also has other areas of special historical importance within the village, protected by a conservation area.

1.4 Blythburgh should be considered as, and protected as a heritage asset, in terms of NPS (EN-1), sections 5.8.2-4.

1.5 Blythburgh is a very popular tourist destination. Visitors keen to enjoy the cultural and recreational possibilities of the area increase the population of the village at various times of the year. The visitors include church lovers; artists; birdwatchers; music lovers and others who come seeking relaxation in a rural environment.

1.6 The attraction of the area to visitors highlights its equal importance to the residents and their desire to protect this amenity.

1.7 Blythburgh village is divided physically and mentally by the A12 trunk road and the B1125. The roads pass through the centre of the conservation area. Existing problems will be exacerbated by the Sizewell development: traffic density and speed; dangerous bottlenecks and junctions; the lack of safe crossing points for pedestrians; discontinuous footpaths, and the impact of rat-running vehicles on the B1125.

1.8 Equally, the demographics of Blythburgh are important to understand. The parish has an ageing population. Although this is not uncommon in Suffolk or other parts of the country, its significance in relation to the proposed development of Sizewell C is that many residents of Blythburgh will live through the negative impacts of the construction period, but are unlikely to enjoy any of the potential benefits. Blythburgh parish council therefore urges that this is taken into account in relation to mitigation and compensatory action and expenditure.

1.9 With its special history, its specific demographics, and its important link to tourism, it is vital that character of the area needs to be carefully considered and protected. Blythburgh parish council is therefore keen to ensure that any development of Sizewell C takes this into account.