

# Our Heritage 2040

A NEW ENERGY FOR THE SUFFOLK COAST



Edited by Matthew Gwyther  
with support from Becky Holloway and Rebecca Perrin  
Jericho Chambers  
Autumn 2020

Illustrations by Agnieszka Grabowicz, None is the Number  
[hello@noneisthenumber.com](mailto:hello@noneisthenumber.com)

© Jericho Chambers  
All rights reserved. Except for the quotation of  
short passages for the purpose of criticism or  
review, no part of this publication may  
be reproduced, stored in a retrievable system, or transmitted,  
in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical,  
photocopying, recording or otherwise, without  
the prior permission of Jericho Chambers.

[www.jericho-chambers.com](http://www.jericho-chambers.com)

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

NO 1

—  
Together, We Can Build Back Better  
Dr Andy Wood & Robert Phillips

A moment of reflection in 2020; pivot towards innovation and a Net Zero future.

NO 2

—  
The China Syndrome  
Julia Pyke

Why nuclear is here to stay and shouldn't lead to an emotional or atomic meltdown.

NO 3

—  
Joe Chamberlain 6.0  
Derek Wyatt

What a 21st century, digital coastal Suffolk could learn from 19th century Birmingham.

NO 4

—  
Sizewell Island – Stewardship and Grandchildren  
Mark Goyder

Our heritage/your legacy – the importance of stewardship, localism and devolved authority.

NO 5

—  
Right here, right now  
James Alexander

Naturally better living. Making Suffolk the most naturally vibrant and healthy county in the UK.

NO 6

—  
Suffolk: The All Energy Coast?  
Peter Aldous MP

The all-energy coast is a compelling idea but not at any cost

NO 7

—  
East Anglia – leading the way for Clean Growth  
Jonathan Reynolds

What we can expect to have happened to power generation in UK by 2040. What it will take to accelerate towards a Net Zero Carbon future.

NO 8

—  
East Anglia and the hydrogen vanguard  
Nigel Cornwall

Long the poor relation when it comes to energy alternatives, Hydrogen's case is gaining momentum.

NO 9

—  
The future is slow  
Charlie Burgess

Slow food, tourism, agriculture, fishing. But maybe faster buses and the odd train.

NO 10

—  
A coming cultural Suffolk High Tide  
Suba Das

Culture provides one route for revitalisation and levelling-up.

NO 11

—  
A 21st Century Crystal Palace Across East Anglia  
Lord Chris Holmes

Let a thousand flowers - plus fruit and veg - bloom along a new path to production.

NO 12

—  
Suffolk's "energy coast" – a meaningful economic legacy?  
Michael Mahony

Suffolk does not need this unprecedented scale of industrialisation.

# Introduction

## An open mic publication

Matthew Gwyther, Editor

To ensure the heritage coast reaches 2040 in good shape for our successors will require a new energy, commitment and imagination. The disruptive force from the myriad upheavals of these times - COVID, climate change, Brexit - have given us all the chance to step back and effect change.

These essays have one unifying factor: their authors care deeply about the future of the Suffolk heritage coast and its hinterland. Their opinions about “What Needs To Be Done” are very diverse and we make no excuse for that - it’s an open mic publication with contributions from a varied cast of performers.

Their themes are rich in challenges and future vision and address important social, economic and investment needs as well as celebrating heritage and culture. From hydrogen as a new green power source, through the coming staging of Benjamin Britten’s diaries to the future of Suffolk’s Spoonbills, Bittern and Cranes moving feather-footed through the plashy fen.

The organising thought, with which few can disagree, is that we must all work together for a Net Zero Carbon future – aligning and protecting the heritage and unique nature of the region with the worldwide imperative of carbon reduction and sustainable energy supply. It’s thinking local to act global. And thinking global to act local.





NO 1

—

# Together, We Can Build Back Better

Dr. Andy Wood, Chief Executive, Adnams plc.

Robert Phillips, Founder, Jericho Chambers and Convenor of the  
Sizewell Community Working Group.



It is, of course, easy to romanticise the exquisite beauty of the Suffolk Heritage Coast: from the Edwardian splendour of Felixstowe's pleasure gardens to the genteel seaside swagger of Southwold; Britten's overtures radiating from Aldeburgh and Snape; marsh reeds swaying across the county; birdsong everywhere. And that's not forgetting the romantic delight of long and thoughtful estuary, cliff and beachside walks; the odd pint of Broadside or Ghost Ship in one of many quintessentially English pubs along the way. From Sutton to Slaughden, the Deben to Dunwich, ours is a coastline rich in folklore – villages and towns, smart buildings and remote barns holding secrets of history and Suffolk people.

But despite the wonder and occasional media pastiche, Suffolk remains a complex and sometimes troubled county. Many fail to see the shocking gaps in literacy and life expectancy between wards across the region; real challenges of rural unemployment, in-work and fuel poverty. The 2019 End Child Poverty report catalogues over 50,000 children living in poverty in Suffolk. This is a harsh reality – a long way from picture-postcard idylls of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. There is no beauty in an unseen underbelly.

Brexit was always going to bring new challenges to the Heritage Coast – from jobs and farming to tourism. It raised the question: what sort of place do we really want to be? Encroaching talk of “The Energy Coast” muddied waters further still – a rush to opportunity that seemed wilfully blind to the fact that the coastline and area did not need re-branding. The Heritage Coast seemed fine before, as it should now.

The COVID-19 crisis, of course, changes everything. It's true that the impact will not be known for some time yet. Uncertainty will linger. Some have used the lockdown period to reflect on what kind of society we really want: how we hope to live and work; what is important to friends and family; our present and future legacy. How we can build back better – from jobs and infrastructure, travel and tourism, to energy and the environment?

The latter is, for us, of critical importance. Locally, the Heritage Coast is already a vulnerable coast: threats of erosion and flooding, intensified by climate change, are well-evidenced. Globally, the climate emergency was very real before the pandemic struck and is just as acute now. Better thinking and concrete actions are needed to move

faster towards a Net Zero Carbon future. A Net Zero world by 2050 is a noble ambition but there is scant evidence we will get there. Consequences of climate change, assuming current trajectories, start to accelerate from 2030 – we need to reflect on the great fires of Australia and floods of Indonesia that seem a lifetime away now but were, in fact, dominating the news channels only months ago. We need changes in lifestyles, not just changes in policy on fossil fuels.

## **“The better society re-set of COVID-19 should be an opportunity, not a threat.”**

The better society re-set of COVID-19 should be an opportunity, not a threat. It's our hope that the Heritage Coast leads the way in positive lifestyle changes and net-zero thinking. Hence this publication, which captures what is best about the Heritage Coast – its history and delight – and explores big ideas for a shared future. It is co-authored by a mix of expert specialists, campaigners, business leaders, policy-makers and local residents.

There is a piece on energy innovation, which signals how we might think differently and invest to rise to the challenges of the climate crisis, together with a deeper dive on how we can, together, make the idea of a Net Zero Heritage Coast real – in transport and travel; tourism; agriculture, food and drink. How can we green our energy supply, towards a Net Zero future? How can we create jobs at scale that support greener thinking and environment-friendly outcomes? And how can we harness the power of “local”, politically and commercially, to make it all happen with the Heritage Coast at the forefront of national, perhaps global, thinking?

We are framing this in terms of Future Heritage and Our Heritage as a region. It is because it is our heritage that we invite you to contribute to the journey ahead.

*Dr. Andy Wood, Chief Executive, Adnams plc  
andy.wood@adnams.co.uk*

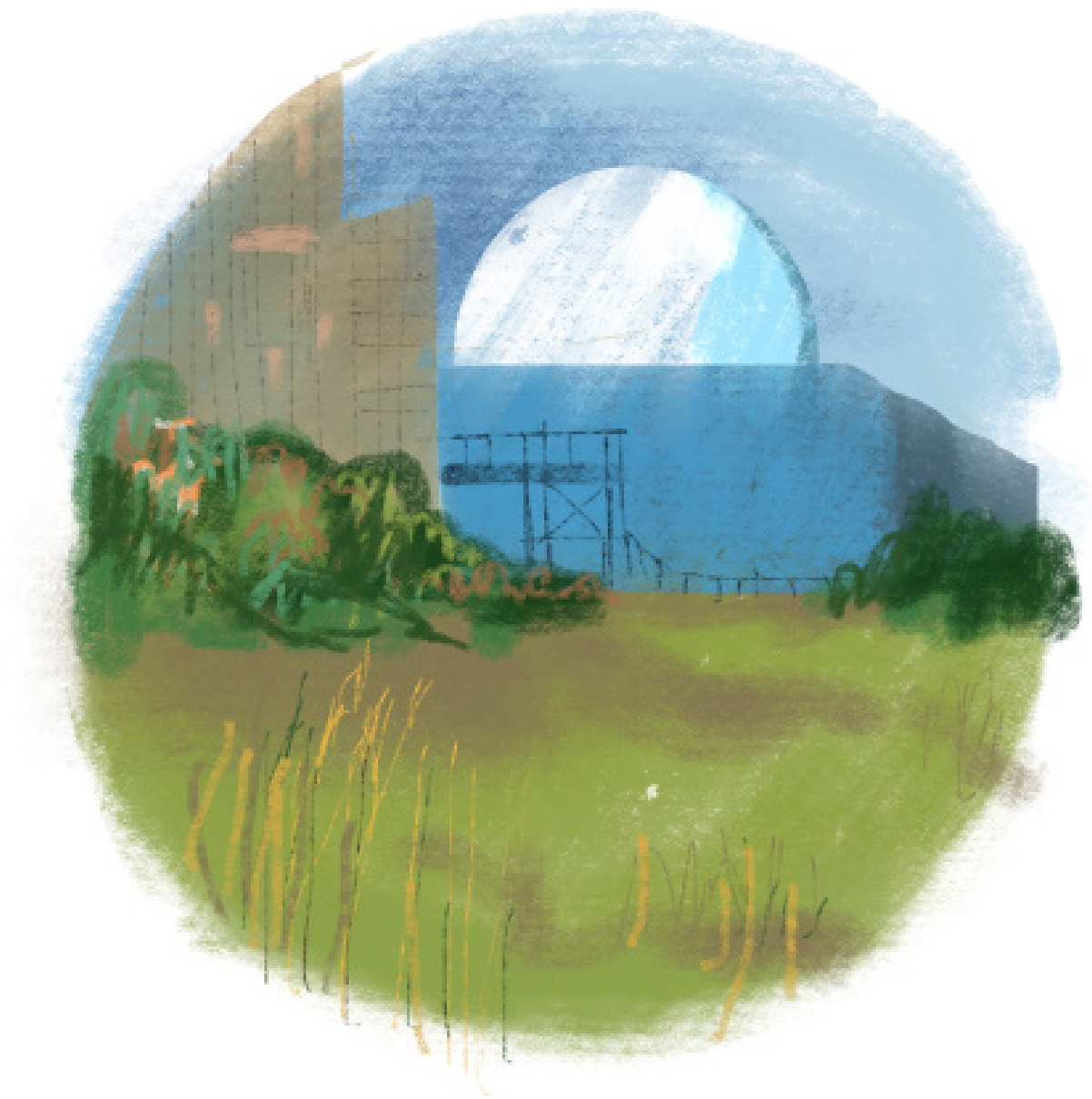
*Robert Phillips, Founder, Jericho Chambers  
robert.phillips@jerichochambers.com*

NO 2

—

# The China Syndrome

Julia Pyke, Director, Sizewell C.



The big screen's treatment of the nuclear industry has rarely been positive. The 1979 film noir *The China Syndrome* starring Jane Fonda, Jack Lemmon and Michael Douglas was an unexpected hit. "China syndrome" is an expression — not meant to be taken literally — that describes a fictional result of a nuclear meltdown, where reactor components melt through their containment structures and into the underlying earth, "all the way to China." In common with the subject matter in films from *Harry Potter* to the *Wizard of Oz*, these events did not and could never occur.

The small screen followed big with *Chernobyl*, a gripping drama of Soviet-era managerial dysfunction and Stalinist blame-allocation which leads this year's BAFTA nominations. And there was a *Fukushima* movie starring Ken Watanabe which hasn't yet involved a theatrical release in the UK.

Current concerns about Chinese involvement in Hinkley and Sizewell C are dominating current headlines, but this could be the time to cool it a little and think rationally. Not least because the Chinese are investors and are not directly involved in their construction. There will be no ability to switch these reactors on or off in Beijing. Neither, for that matter, will there be a switch in Westminster.

Between Zoom calls over the last few months, and as I pull my children off TikTok and YouTube to have supper, I realise what we need to return to is the real Big Story, a theme that will still be there post-COVID — global thermal warming. After I'm gone, this will remain the major challenge of their generation, as it indeed already is that of my generation. There's a time to do The Right Thing and it's now.

**"We live in a time when we need to follow facts and listen to experts."**

We live in a time when we need to follow facts and listen to experts. Countless among their number have stated that nuclear power — combined with sustainable sources such as wind farms — are going

to form a vital component of reducing our carbon emissions across the world and avoiding a disaster not just for our species but most other species on the planet.

Sure, as concrete is poured to create a nuclear reactor CO<sub>2</sub> will be emitted. The lorries will burn diesel. But once Sizewell C is up and running it will put the fact that the German government — which has just given the go ahead to a new coal-fired power station — into an even harsher spotlight. And possibly change its mind. Nuclear reactors emit no carbon.

Indeed, we can go one better than that: Nuclear power stations produce heat, and in the UK the heat traditionally has been used only to make electricity. Sizewell C is being designed to allow heat to be taken out of the power station and used to make hydrogen, clean fuels, heat industrial processes and for district heating. As well as making electricity. This could be a fantastic contribution to decarbonising heat, industry and transport — whether the future of clean transport is electric or liquid clean fuel. Nuclear can work with the renewables industry — processes such as electrolysis are more efficient with a constant power load — to take intermittent 'excess' power on windy/sunny days and make hydrogen or other forms of storage which develop.

Second, nuclear power plants operate at much higher capacity factors than renewable energy sources or fossil fuels. Capacity factor is a measure of what percentage of the time a power plant actually produces energy. It's a problem for all intermittent energy sources but nuclear doesn't waste that time. The sun doesn't always shine, nor the wind always blow.

To read some of the media reaction one might think that thousands of technicians, engineers and construction workers from China, are heading to the UK to build the new plants. This isn't true. More than 2500 British businesses are working on Hinkley and hope to work on Sizewell, including British engineers from firms like Jacobs and Atkins. They will be heavily involved in the construction process and Atkins themselves have written in a submission to the Secretary of State:



“We are heavily involved in the Hinkley Point C programme and see first-hand the impact such projects have in terms of skills development and jobs both at local and national levels as well as across the full skills spectrum. There is sometimes a misconception that because those reactors are of foreign technology, most of the high-end work is carried out abroad. This is simply not the case and we can vouch that most of the engineering is done in the United Kingdom by companies such as ourselves”.

“This is clearly critical in allowing us to maintain and develop high skill high pay employment but our involvement in those projects is also creating important export revenue streams.”

We are going to need high quality, well-paid jobs aplenty after COVID if we are to avoid 1930s levels of unemployment and Sizewell will offer them in abundance. Nuclear power is not the only answer to the ominous threat of global warming. Renewables have their place; so, at least for the time being levelling the flow of electricity when renewables vary, does natural gas. But nuclear deserves better than the anti-nuclear prejudices and fears that have plagued it (partly as a consequence of the industry’s own historically poor PR). It’s a valuable, even an irreplaceable, part of the solution to the greatest energy threat in the history of humankind.

A certain reset is taking place among Western nations and their relations with China. This is understandable. But when geo-politics are put aside, the critical challenge of global warming will remain.

*Julia Pyke, Director, Sizewell C.  
julia.pyke@sizewellc.com*

NO 3

—

## Joe Chamberlain 6.0

Derek Wyatt, Founder, the Oxford Internet Institute and Former MP.



It's been a while but it has taken a pandemic to put digital right in the centre of all that we do. My guess would be that most of us have upped our game by ordering stuff online since the lockdown, certainly shopping online has been the only way some of us could receive our weekly shop (if we could find a slot). Now, Cambridge University has announced it will give its lectures online and only its tutorials in person. In the workplace, Deloitte's seems keen to allow their personnel especially their contracted staff to work from home. Change is in the air.

The speed of change may have taken us all by surprise. Few of us would have heard of Zoom before mid-March happy to play with Skype or those newbies on the block Hangout Meet (Google) or Teams (Microsoft) – remembering the latter bought Skype in 2011 for \$8.5b. In December, Zoom was attracting 10m users, by the end of April this had risen to 300m whilst its share price had gone up 200%! You suspect that Google, Microsoft, Apple or Facebook are all busy-busy putting their offers on the table for this upstart.

Even fewer of us may have heard of Joe Chamberlain. We might possibly have heard of his sons, Austen and Neville. The latter, as Prime Minister, came back from a meeting with Adolf Hitler, in 1938 with frankly, not very much.

Joe was cut from a different cloth. He was born in Camberwell in 1836 and named after his father who was a successful shoe manufacturer. He attended University College School but never went to university. He moved to Birmingham at 18 to work with an uncle who made screws. At one point they were screwing, sorry, making two-thirds of all screws in the UK. Anyway, the profits were such that he retired aged 38 and won a seat in Parliament a year later. But it was as mayor of Birmingham that he will be remembered for even though later he messed with both the Liberal and the Unionist parties and badly misread the tea leaves over the First Boer War (when Secretary of State for the Colonies) where, if you can recall, we came second.

It was his time in Birmingham which I think has lessons for us in Suffolk as we edge towards the 2030s. Mayor Chamberlain modernised Birmingham then the workshop of the world: it made just about everything. He was passionate about educational reform, slum clearance, local housing and critically the municipalisation of

public utilities especially water and gas. His success in creating these entities won him the name of the 'Municipal Socialist'. I think he had a point.

We have had the rawest deal in Suffolk Coastal. We might have been screwed too. We were the very last to receive a decent mobile signal, maybe you remember those days of trying to find one on the beach twenty years ago and fast copper broadband let alone fibre has only been with us a few years. (This notwithstanding BT's research centre is at Martlesham).

If we were versions of Chamberlain today, we would have put our collective heads together and created our own version of his municipal socialism and persuaded, if not our council, enough 'others' to come together to create our own not-for-profit company to provide these services. It's not too late.

**“If we want to put ultra-fast digital at the heart of what we do in Suffolk Coastal over the next decade we must own the process as a cooperative.”**

If we want to put ultra-fast digital at the heart of what we do in Suffolk Coastal over the next decade we must own the process as a cooperative. The lesson to be learned is to look at some of the cities in the world who have already achieved amazing success through digital. Unfortunately, not one of these is British. Take a look at Barcelona.

I don't want to bore you too much but if you go to [www.barcelona.cat](http://www.barcelona.cat) or [ajuntament.barcelona.cat](http://ajuntament.barcelona.cat) you will see the most vibrant of web sites. On the latter you can find sections on: Ethical Digital Standards, Cities for Digital Rights and BITHabitat-i.lab as well as really helpful information on Digital Transformation, Digital Innovation and Digital Empowerment. There is nothing like this anywhere in the UK. There's even an Ethical Standards Open Source Toolkit which any government, city, county or parish council can use for free. Imagine, if the NHS had had this system, we'd have had track and trace up months and months ago.

There are two things which impressed me the most. The first was that Barcelona has had a Director of Digital for some considerable time, a wonderful woman, called Francesca Bria (she may be taking a break shortly). And the other is that when they put their online services out to a world tender, which Microsoft won, they stipulated the data would be owned by the city (you and me) not the software company. Hooray.

There is absolutely no reason why Suffolk Coastal could not be this smart. It just takes a little imagination and some skill at raising funds.

And if we were to do it, we would need to establish a new type of technical college – perhaps, based in Leiston, in association with maybe the University of Cambridge – which would act as our digital version of a ‘city’.

It’s really time for Joseph Chamberlain 6.0.

*Derek Wyatt, Founder, Oxford Internet Institute and  
former MP  
derek.wyatt@me.com*



An abstract painting of a sunset over water. The sky is filled with vibrant, textured brushstrokes in shades of purple, blue, and orange. A small, solid orange circle represents the sun. The horizon is a dark, silhouetted line with some vertical shapes on the left and a bridge-like structure on the right. The water in the foreground is a mix of teal, blue, and brown, with dark, brushstroke-like shapes scattered throughout, suggesting birds or reflections.

NO 4

—  
Sizewell Island –  
Stewardship and Grandchildren

Mark Goyder, Founder, Tomorrow's Company



We do not inherit the world from our ancestors. We borrow it from our grandchildren. This native American saying captures the essence of stewardship. And it is stewardship principles which should guide us as we make decisions that will shape our children's world in 2040 and beyond.

In Tomorrow's Company, the organisation I founded 25 years ago, we have worked with companies and investment institutions and other stakeholders to develop four key principles which can inform the way we invest our money, run our organisations and make decisions that will stand the test of time.

### Four Principles of Stewardship

The first principle is clarity. Be clear about our purpose, about our values – that is, how we will and will not behave – and our accountability.

The second is about performance and efficiency. Make sure that whatever we are doing we do it effectively, and continually improve our performance.

The third principle is about sensitivity, listening and anticipation. Look around us. Sense how the landscape is changing. Seize opportunities and anticipate risks.

The fourth is about time. Balance today with tomorrow. Pay attention to immediate rewards but think through the future implications of today's decisions and their sometimes unexpected consequences. [i]

### Resilience and Wellbeing

With these principles in mind, I started looking at Suffolk County Council's statements about its ambitions for the County. These were drafted before the COVID crisis and it shows. Pre-COVID, it might seem sensible to have separate policy statements on the economy, transport, safety, health and wellbeing, nature, flood risk and so on.

Today this approach seems disjointed and wrong-headed. In the old days we thought we had to start with economic growth because that's what paid for the NHS and all the services that we wanted. Now we have learned that it's the other way around. We need to take seriously those seemingly improbable but catastrophic risks. We

need resilient communities, well equipped to care for themselves and their neighbourhoods. We need a health service, not just an illness service. Wellbeing starts here on our doorstep.

**“In the old days we thought we had to start with economic growth because that's what paid for the NHS and all the services that we wanted. Now we have learned that it's the other way around.”**

A great example is the dementia-friendly sensory garden which was initiated by the Aldeburgh community around its Cottage Hospital to help patients recover quicker and return to their homes. Better health – on which our economy depends – flows in turn from drawing together the threads of housing, education, transport and planning policy into a common fabric.

East Suffolk District Council made a planning decision in April 2020 which showed exactly how not to do this. For four years, the local people in Westleton had worked on a plan to provide suitable housing to accommodate older citizens within the village. Villagers had raised funds and developed a plan, with the blessing of the Church of England, to develop 20 bungalows and use the now-redundant vicarage building itself as a social hub for future residents. One might expect a caring council to be a supportive partner in such a community-led development, and, if any problems existed, to co-operate with the community groups to overcome these. Not a bit of it. East Suffolk's planners turned the proposal down flat. Why? The planners cited harm to the 'historical significance of St Peter's Church nearby', ignoring the obvious point that housing the elderly and using the vicarage to combat loneliness might be entirely in tune with the best historical traditions of the church.

### Citizen Stewards of Suffolk

Beware of policy that is concocted by remote specialists in their narrow compartments, insensitive to the needs of human beings now and in future generations. Beware too of mega-projects, brutal in their implementation but claiming 'economic benefits'.

How are we, as citizens and stewards of the Suffolk Coast, to view our stewardship responsibility? We start with a fragile landscape which risks, in time, being overwhelmed by the sea, as has happened to Dunwich or Slaughden. This reminds us that many assets which our predecessors hoped to pass on have long since sunk beneath the waves. And it makes the work of organisations like the Alde and Ore Association and the Alde and Ore Estuary Trust crucial to our future.

## **“How are we, as citizens and stewards of the Suffolk Coast, to view our stewardship responsibility?”**

By 2050, says the International Panel on Climate Change, extreme sea events will be happening every year. Before the end of the century Sizewell power station may have become Sizewell Island. The best-laid plans for 200-year storage of nuclear waste may be looking less robust. [ii]

Economic planners may still limit their thinking to attracting investment and jobs. In the late seventeenth century, Slaughden boasted warehouses and a soap factory. No doubt our predecessors were exploring how they might attract more inward investment. Post-COVID good stewardship requires us to think harder about the resilience of our community here, and about the geological capital on which we all draw. And there are other kinds of capital.

In 2017, tourism provided over 40,000 jobs and £2bn annually to Suffolk. Back in 1947, no planner could have predicted that the most important inward investment of the year would be the decision by a classical music composer to get some friends together to make music in what became the world-famous Aldeburgh Festival.

Benjamin Britten didn't start with some economic goal in mind. Yet the economic dividend from his decision has grown in value ever since. Economic value is rarely best created by taking the direct route. It is more often generated when people pursue their dreams and their creative impulses.

### **Hardware and Heartware**

Look at the Suffolk Coast. The economic potential of a place is not simply to be found by looking at

hardware and employment and turnover and productivity statistics, but by its heartware – by its character and by the quality of inspiration that it offers. Longer term, it is those intangibles that will be the foundation for future success and wellbeing.

Businesses which propose invasive mega-developments always promise to restore the landscape and the ecology after the decades of construction are over. The reality is rarely like that. That is what worries the RSPB at Minsmere. The mining company Rio Tinto promised ‘Net Positive Impact’ when developing a mine in Madagascar, but abandoned its plans in the face of falling commodity prices. And that was a company whose ownership had some continuity.[iii] Nobody knows who will be in charge at Sizewell C once it is built, beyond the likelihood of a 20% stake by a Chinese company

In dialogue with EDF, I was shocked to learn that the company did not expect to continue its controlling ownership of the site once it was operating. It was proposing the project; financing it, albeit through a dependence on government price guarantees, and making plans for its future operation. Yet in due course it expected to sell it on, in part, if not in whole, to other owners. It could not tell us who those owners might be. This breaches the fourth principle of stewardship.

### **Ownership, Accountability, Continuity**

Local citizens have a right to expect that those taking decisions at Sizewell will be heavily invested not only in the plant but in the place, and its ecology, its harmony and its balance.

## **“Local citizens have a right to expect that those taking decisions at Sizewell will be heavily invested not only in the plant but in the place, and its ecology, its harmony and its balance.”**

By contrast EDF is, though it would not admit this, in the same position as a speculative property developer which has access to a lucrative site and, hopes that it might, if negotiations go well, yield a significant profit if it gains planning permission.

Before Sizewell C could ever be approved, the ownership question would have to be answered by EDF. What organisation would be the majority owner? What are its values and its track record? How would that owner balance short term profit considerations with long term obligations to the local community? What ownership stake might that community have? What accountability would the new mega-enterprise have to the current community, and through their representatives, to future generations?

*Mark Goyder, Founder, Tomorrow's Company*  
*markgoyderbiz@gmail.com*

*References:*

*[i] For a full description of these principles see pp 97-109 of Entrusted: stewardship for responsible wealth creation – by Ong Boon Hwee and Mark Goyder (publisher World Scientific) 2020*

*[ii] <https://www.eadt.co.uk/business/professor-sue-roaf-warns-sizewell-c-faces-danger-due-to-climate-change-1-6458142> East Anglian Daily Times 10 January 2020.*

*[iii] <https://news.mongabay.com/2019/06/the-mine-that-promised-to-protect-the-environment-a-cautionary-tale/>*

*[iv] <https://www.world-nuclear.org/information-library/nuclear-fuel-cycle/nuclear-power-reactors/small-nuclear-power-reactors.aspx>*





NO 5

—  
Right here, right now

James Alexander, Director, Future Agenda; Co-founder,  
#VoiceForThePlanet; Trustee, Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Scientists tell us that we are currently living in and presiding over the Earth's sixth mass extinction event, a period defined as a loss of 75% of species. This mass extinction is caused by humans – the others have all been by volcanoes and meteors. In the last 50 years, the abundance of nature on our planet has declined by 68%. In human terms, this is the equivalent of every human dying in North America, South America, Africa, Europe, China and Oceania. So far, most of this devastation has been caused by habitat loss and degradation from poor land use (e.g. cutting down forests, intensive agriculture), over-exploitation (e.g. taking too many fish) and invasive species and disease (e.g. ash die back). Add to this climate change and our planet and its people face a catastrophe that will make COVID19 look like a walk in the park.

**“The UK is now one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. We come in 189<sup>th</sup> place out of 218 countries.”**

Well, these are global issues, nothing to do with the UK, surely? Wrong. The UK is now one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. We come in 189th place out of 218 countries. In the UK, 41% of all monitored species in the UK – that's across birds, bugs, bees, butterflies, frogs – are in decline and 15% are at risk of extinction from the UK. And these statistics exclude the footprint we choose to export elsewhere. When you eat a biscuit, it likely contains palm oil. Unwittingly you may have just helped kill an Orang Utan. And when you next have bacon for breakfast, spare a thought for the Amazon, as your UK reared pig may well have been fed on imported soy grown on what used to be pristine rainforest.

Well, these are national issues, surely not in Suffolk? Again, wrong. When did you last hear a Cuckoo herald spring? Or a Turtle Dove purring? Or see a Hedgehog in your garden? Words like Acorn, Adder, Bluebell and Kingfisher have been removed from the Children's Oxford English Dictionary and replaced with gems such as chatroom and selfie. If we don't know the name of something, if we have become disconnected from it – we are hardly likely to protect it.

Yes, of course, we have won battles here in Suffolk, such as saving the ancient Bradfield Woods or bringing both Avocet and Marsh Harrier back from the brink of extinction in the UK, but the truth is that, despite the best efforts of many, we have been losing the war. Or as the Stanford ecologist Paul Ehrlich simply puts it: “In pushing other species to extinction, humanity is busy sawing off the limb on which it perches.”

### **Me, you, all of us together**

Excitingly scientists and conservationists know how to solve both nature loss and reverse climate change. But we cannot point at, or leave it to, politicians, business, others. Change starts with me, with you, with us. Together in Suffolk, we can build something magical.

Doing so is not only good for nature's sake, it is good for us. A healthy planet and a healthy Suffolk provide us with a beautiful, nourishing place to call home. Being in nature dramatically improves our mental health and wellbeing. Nature gives us free services such as pollination, flood defence from rising seas, clean air to breathe and water to drink. Put another way: a healthy planet underpins a healthy society; and, a healthy society is a prerequisite for a healthy economy. Nature adds to Suffolk's health and wealth.

### **Suffolk 2030 – Naturally Better Living**

We could make Suffolk the most naturally vibrant and healthy county in the UK. We already have a beautiful, stunning county and so this is within our grasp. We can be a beacon of hope, showing the way forward for others, of naturally better living.

### **Imagine:**

- Our heritage coast, from Felixstowe to Lowestoft, joined end to end as a new National Park, by footpath and cycleway, thronging with nature, both onshore and offshore. Marine Conservation Zones supporting sustainable populations of fish, enabling a vibrant port and fish market in Lowestoft. Carlton Marshes, the Gateway to the Southern Broads holding breeding Spoonbill, Bittern and Crane and joining Minsmere in attracting >100,000 visitors per year to witness the spectacles of nature, open skies and sense of place that epitomise Suffolk.

- Our great river valleys, the Alde, Deben, Stour, Blyth and Waveney, nourishing our water meadows and replenishing our clean seas. Ospreys and Beavers, once again breeding in the wild in Suffolk. Glorious footpaths through alder, poplar and willow, enabling picnics, lazy lolling afternoons and skinny-dips for the brave or effervescent.
- Our ancient woodland and heaths, such as the unique Bradfield Woods with its incredible stands of coppiced ash and butterfly glades, or Rendlesham Forest – home to the Dartford Warbler and perhaps even UFO's, to Knettleshall Heath or the more evocative Captains and Pin Mill Wood's. Imagine these areas now joined by woodland corridors and wilded landscapes and wildflower meadows, enabling both nature as well as people to traverse our county freely.

## **“Private and public landowners will reap the benefits of investing for a return on nature”**

- Private and public landowners will reap the benefits of investing for a return on nature – financial returns and nature's reward, supported by the government's new subsidy regime to support environmental outputs – the living proof of public subsidy for the public good.
- Our county, the first to declare energy independence, only allowing sustainable energy supply and the first to ban all petrol and diesel cars at the 'border' – replaced by a shared mobility fleet that enables public transport for all.
- Suffolk as THE destination of choice within the UK for a truly sustainable holiday or weekend break. Suffolk as the county of choice to bring up the next generation experiencing how the world could and will be, with termly access to forest school education embedded in nature. Moth snowstorms on a summer evening will cloud bike rides home, the Aldeburgh Food Fayre will continue to dazzle and point the way to homegrown sustainable produce – and a new series of concerts

'Outside at Snape' will reconnect us all to the vitality and joy of our place in nature. The First Light and Latitude Festivals show what sustainable entertainment can really provide.

- The people of Suffolk will become pioneers and leaders of the newly established National Nature Service, working hand in glove with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, RSPB and National Trust as well as local Parish and County Council's – re-establishing ponds, expanding and improving road verges and field margins.

And how do we get there? By the people of Suffolk demanding it from leaders, from business and from each other. By people and organisations coming together and making it so: farmers, landowners, Suffolk Wildlife Trust, RSPB, National Trust, county and local council, our local businesses and tourist board.

Nature in Suffolk will recover and thrive. And so will its people.

*James Alexander, Director, Future Agenda; Co-founder, #VoiceForThePlanet; Trustee, Suffolk Wildlife Trust*

*James.Alexander@FutureAgenda.org*

NO 6

—

## Suffolk: The All Energy Coast?

Peter Aldous, Member of Parliament for Waveney





The UK has quite rightly committed to reaching Net Zero by 2050. The clock is ticking, and we now need to put into practice those policies which are needed to secure this goal. East Suffolk has a key role to play and it is important that we secure lasting benefits for local people, whilst protecting and enhancing those features which make East Suffolk such a special place.

### **The challenge of decarbonisation is immense**

As we decarbonise our energy, transport and heating systems, there will be a dramatic increase in demand for electricity which should be met through a wide range of technologies, ranging from local community initiatives to those large schemes that will power our major cities. This supply system will be underpinned by an alliance of big gigawatt nuclear and large-scale offshore wind. The two complement each other well, with the former providing dependable base-load electricity to cover those periods when the wind is not blowing.

The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the UK's Committee on Climate Change and the Energy Systems Catapult all conclude that we need nuclear to get to Net Zero, as it brings down those rising emissions that are fuelling climate change.

**“It is important that we secure lasting benefits for local people, whilst protecting and enhancing those features which make East Suffolk such a special place.”**

East Suffolk is strategically placed to play a pivotal and a lead role in the transition to a low carbon economy, both with the largest array of offshore wind farms in the world being developed off our coast and with EDF's plans for Sizewell C that will generate electricity for over six million homes, whilst avoiding nine million tonnes of carbon emissions a year.

There is also the opportunity to produce hydrogen, when electricity is not needed by the Grid. In a Net Zero future there is likely to be a need for a lot of hydrogen and low carbon heat for both industrial processors and heating buildings.

Suffolk thus has the opportunity to be the 'All Energy Coast', bringing significant benefits to the whole of the UK, ensuring that we control our own energy supply. However, this must not be at a net cost to our area and we must ensure we harness the full benefits for local people and local businesses.

It is vital that EDF's proposals are rigorously scrutinised at the forthcoming 'Examination in Public', that a sustainable transport strategy is put in place and appropriate mitigating measures are provided to address the environmental impact.

### **Suffolk: A County in Transition**

While Suffolk as a whole is generally perceived as a reasonably prosperous county, there are local pockets of deprivation, including those in Lowestoft, where average income is 17% lower than in East Anglia as a whole. This is largely attributable to the decline of traditional industries such as manufacturing and fishing which has taken place over the past 40 years, though the foundations are now being laid for an exciting future including the construction of the Energy Skills Centre at East Coast College; the redevelopment of Cefas' offices and laboratories at Pakefield; and the opening of Scottish Power Renewables' £25 Million Operations and Maintenance Base in the Hamilton Dock.

Further investment will take place in the next five years with the building of the Third Crossing over Lake Lothing, the construction of full flood defences and a £25 million investment in the town centre. There are also exciting plans for the regeneration of the East Anglian fishing industry.

The transition to a low carbon economy presents a once in a lifetime opportunity to bring a lasting legacy to our area, not just in Lowestoft but across East Suffolk. It is important that we grasp this, but we must not do so at any cost. We must strive for lasting change.

**“The transition to a low carbon economy presents a once in a lifetime opportunity to bring a lasting legacy to our area, not just in Lowestoft but across East Suffolk. It is important that we grasp this, but we must not do so at any cost. We must strive for lasting change.”**

### **Future Generations: Opportunities and Skills**

East Anglia is already a major generator of power, with over the half of the UK’s operational fleet of offshore wind farms powering more than 12% of UK homes; the Bacton gas terminal providing around 30% of the UK’s gas needs; and the Sizewell B power station providing power to around 8% of UK homes in 2018 alone.

We must seize the opportunity to broaden the skills base in the area, so that people who work on the construction of Sizewell C, can work there once it has been commissioned and can also transfer their skills to other sectors.

There is the opportunity to upskill different generations, especially young people, as the ten-year construction period means that there will be three apprenticeship cycles, during which it is estimated that there will be 1,000 apprenticeship opportunities.

East Coast College are well placed to ensure that we provide this enduring legacy of skills, which in due course will make the area an attractive location in which to set up and grow businesses. It is important to have in mind that these opportunities reach out beyond the immediate Sizewell area and that people will be drawn to work there from a wide catchment area that is likely to extend to a 90-minute commute.

We must ensure that as many people as possible in this wider area have the opportunity to work on a project that will last for 9-12 years and where it is estimated that at the peak of construction will

have a workforce of approximately 7,900 people. This will help give the local economy a boost as we emerge from the devastating impact of Covid-19.

### **Environmental Protection – Connected Thinking**

These opportunities must not come at the expense of the environment. There will be significant challenges during construction, but the necessary mitigating measures must be put in place and the local countryside, which is so important from a tourism perspective, must remain “open for business”.

We must protect the environment and the open countryside that surrounds our towns and villages, linking up and promoting the attractive and unique landscapes along the Suffolk Coast and then running West from Lowestoft to Beccles and Bungay along the Suffolk Broads.

We must also ensure that we upgrade our transport network, in particular the East Suffolk Railway Line, which connects Lowestoft and Ipswich and which is an important community and economic asset, though at an average speed of 34mph is one of the slowest lines in the UK.

In the short term, along with barge transfer, the railway can play an important role in reducing HGV traffic on the roads to the construction site. In the longer term, if the journey time can be reduced, it can help get traffic off the roads and can improve accessibility for businesses, including those in the leisure and tourism industry.

**“Tackling climate change and transforming the way in which we generate electricity means that Suffolk has the opportunity to play a leading role on the national stage. This does not come without difficulties, which in some ways are intimidating and at times appear insurmountable.”**

Tackling climate change and transforming the way in which we generate electricity means that Suffolk has the opportunity to play a leading role on the national stage. This does not come without difficulties, which in some ways are intimidating and at times appear insurmountable. But if we rise to the challenge, we can bring significant benefits to the area and great opportunities for local people.

*Peter Aldous, Member of Parliament for Waveney*

*[peter.aldous.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:peter.aldous.mp@parliament.uk)  
[www.peteraldous.com](http://www.peteraldous.com)*

## Infographic: local deprivation and the need for change

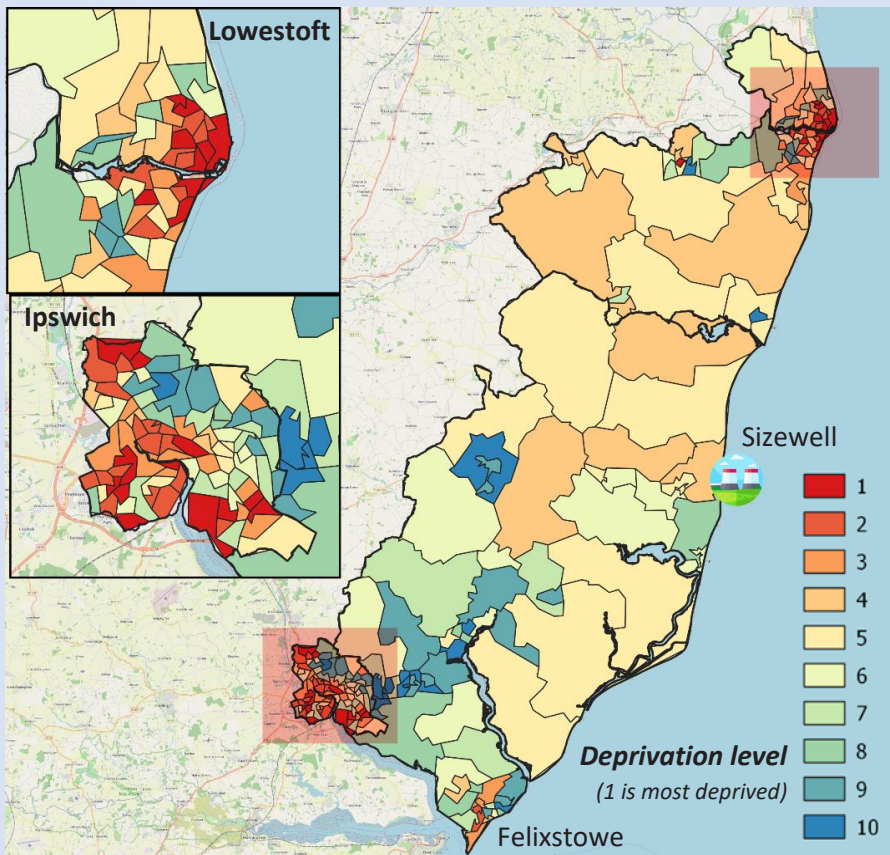
Simetrica-Jacobs is a research consultancy specialising in social impact measurement, policy evaluation and wellbeing analysis. It provides cutting-edge research and advice of the highest levels of scientific rigour to governments, international organisations, and the private and not-for-profit sectors covering some of the most important and pressing areas of policy.

For more information, please visit <https://www.simetrica.co.uk/> or get in touch directly by contacting [information@simetrica.co.uk](mailto:information@simetrica.co.uk).

# Local deprivation and the need for change

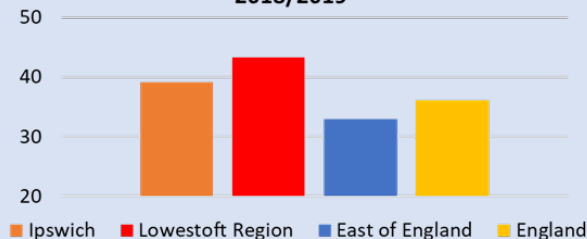
1

Whilst the East Suffolk and Ipswich area *as a whole* is nationally average in terms of deprivation, this masks inequality & deprivation at a more *local level*



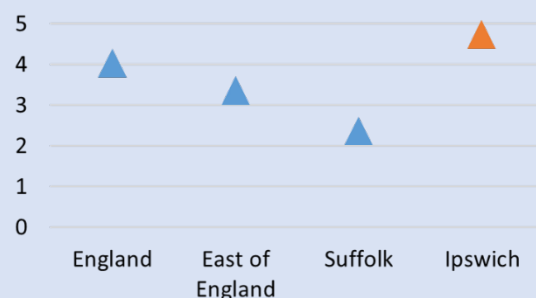
Average **anxiety levels** are higher in Ipswich and the Lowestoft region than England as a whole

% of people reporting poor or fair levels of anxiety 2018/2019



The **unemployment rate** in Ipswich is around double that of Suffolk as a whole

Unemployment Rate March 2020 (%)



2

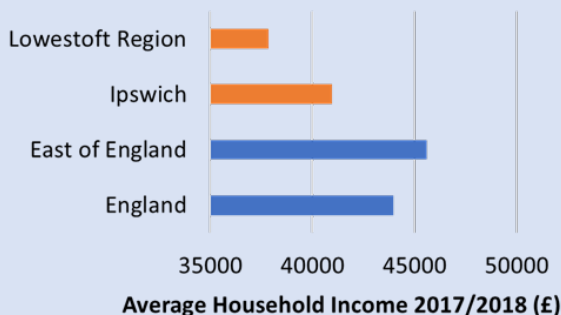
In particular, Ipswich and Lowestoft have some very deprived areas, with some deprivation also in Felixstowe and rural East Suffolk

3

Ipswich and the Lowestoft region perform poorly in terms of income, unemployment, education and overall wellbeing



Average **income** in the Lowestoft region\* is 17% lower than in the East of England as a whole



Lower than average levels of **education, skills & training** are a key driver of deprivation locally

73%

of East Suffolk and Ipswich is below the national average for Education, Skills and Training

This includes Leiston, the nearest town to Sizewell, which is in the bottom

30%

of localities nationally



NO 7

—

## East Anglia – Leading the way for Clean Growth

Johnathan Reynolds, Managing Director, Opergy Ltd.



**A**mid 2020's pandemic it's easy to forget that the UK announced a climate emergency last year with legally binding targets to become a 'net-zero carbon' society by 2050, if not sooner. Suffolk's local government bodies also declared climate emergencies, with the county precariously on the front line as the UK's driest and one of the most vulnerable regions to the impacts of climate change.

With the mounting economic crisis due to COVID-19, together with impacts caused by Brexit, there are growing calls from governments and wider society to focus on a cleaner economic recovery, creating the kind of clean growth and environment that by 2040 we might even call part of our 'zero carbon heritage'.

Our region, and in particular Suffolk, is leading the way in responding to these challenges thanks to natural geographic assets that have enabled the development of one of Europe's most diverse clean energy clusters.

### **Challenge or Opportunity? It's a matter of perspective**

Without energy we go nowhere and achieve very little. We use it in transport to move goods, services and people; to generate the heat that we use in homes and businesses; and to power our lights, appliances, and the technology we all use every day. Where would your Smartphone be without a socket into which to plug it?

Increasingly we are learning how to use low carbon and renewable sources of energy such as sunlight, water, wind and crops to meet these needs. In late June 2020 clean energy was providing around 50% of the UK's electricity needs, provided from wind, solar, and nuclear, with fossil fuels still providing the remaining balance. We have almost entirely turned our back on coal which is a very good thing.

Suffolk (and Norfolk) have been at the heart of the UK's energy system for more than 50 years since natural gas was first discovered off our coast in the 1960s, and Sizewell A was built, coming online in 1966. Since those early days of offshore gas exploration, and nuclear power generation, the region has become a global hub for energy activity by building and maintaining a strong workforce, infrastructure and supply chain which is in demand around the world.

East Anglia has become a rich and diverse 'energy powerhouse', and with almost all forms of power generation either on or immediately off its coastline. We have a wide range of innovative businesses pushing the boundaries of new research into hydrogen, energy storage, capturing and storing CO<sub>2</sub>, and investing in novel clean energy solutions.

Research compiled by Opergy Limited, the consultancy group I lead, sets out the opportunity for new major energy and engineering projects across the region. This shows a staggering £59.4 billion forecast to be invested over the next 20 years.

It's a significant opportunity with over half of that figure, around £30bn, to be invested in new offshore wind projects off the region's coast, bringing a vast array of new contract opportunities for regional businesses.

**"We also have Sizewell C – a game-changer for the region and the country, with potential to provide 7% of the UK's electricity needs"**

And we also have Sizewell C – a game-changer for the region and the country, with potential to provide 7% of the UK's electricity needs, and which will bring an enormous boost to the local economy providing highly skilled employment and contracts for a wide variety of local businesses.

Such growth and development of large-scale energy infrastructure projects are not without their challenges. We have seen concerns raised with grid connectivity, cable routes and substations for offshore wind farms, opposition to new nuclear power stations, and similar disagreements for solar, onshore wind, and battery storage projects.

However, the role of the energy sector is one of the most crucial for our future generations. It will enable the shift to net zero; underpin our economic recovery; and support our modern way of life. That is a grand statement, but it's true. We need the stable power of technologies such as nuclear and large-scale storage to balance the intermittency of renewables.

## At the heart of the sector

East Anglia is already a major generator of power, with over the half of the UK's operational fleet of offshore wind farms powering more than 12% of UK homes; the Bacton gas terminal providing around 30% of the UK's gas needs; and the Sizewell B power station providing power to around 8% of UK homes in 2018 alone.

Suffolk and Norfolk are quite literally powering Britain. We provide power to the 'Northern Powerhouse'; and fuel to drive the 'Midlands Engine'; and we have the potential in future to provide enough power equivalent to 58% of the UK's homes.

But this is only where the opportunity begins.

East Anglia is a region rich with talent and innovation. Our people and businesses are developing novel technologies and solutions across food production, digital platforms, and clean energy systems that directly address the challenge of net zero emissions.

Whether it is sustainable materials for new housing and construction; heat-pumps and battery storage solutions for retrofitting residential and commercial properties; rolling out ultra-low emission and electric transport solutions with rapid charging infrastructure; or using large-scale offshore renewables combined with reusing parts of the gas pipeline network to produce fresh water or hydrogen, supporting sustainable agriculture and food production for the future.

**“What is missing, in my view, is an integrated and joined-up ‘whole systems approach’ to energy infrastructure”**

What is missing, in my view, is an integrated and joined-up ‘whole systems approach’ to energy infrastructure, joining up the transmission and distribution systems, effectively connecting nationally significant and locally important projects which directly support local communities.

In Leiston, we have an opportunity to be at the forefront of this integrated vision, building on the ‘Sizewell Clean Energy Hub’ concept.

A Clean Energy Hub could see novel and local uses for power and heat from Sizewell to produce green hydrogen for local buses, HGVs, and cars. Charging battery storage infrastructure to support electric vehicles. Powering a low-carbon data hub for the future digital and tech sectors, potentially joining up with Adastral Park a few miles away, and delivering both sustainable power and heat to the local community.

What about an offshore ring main? Well, connecting future offshore projects to grid still requires some innovative thinking and likely changes in national legislation and regulation. There could be options to explore collaborative infrastructure as part of a wider energy hub, providing flexible outputs for power, heating, transport, and clean water.

## The last word...

It's pretty clear that clean energy provides opportunities for businesses and organisations of all sizes and in every industry, but also significant opportunities for communities.

Energy – both its generation and its use – is arguably one of the most important industries in helping to drive down emissions, delivering more clean power, which will impact on every person, every home, and every business, and it is on us all to take action.

As the Greek philosopher, Heraclitus said, “Change is the only constant in life”.

*Johnathan Reynolds, Managing Director, Opergy Ltd.  
johnathan.reynolds@opergy.co.uk*



NO 8

---

# East Anglia and the hydrogen vanguard

Nigel Cornwall,  
Director and Co-founder,  
Hydrogen East

Significant momentum is building around hydrogen as a keystone technology for the transition to a NetZero economy. While it was formerly considered as a niche option for the “hard to reach” sectors, the last 18 months have seen it brought to the forefront of the decarbonisation agenda. And East Anglia and the Heritage Coast is ideally situated to be at the vanguard of this exciting shift in energy production and use.

Its versatility is key, with the potential to provide viable solutions across the heat, transport, energy storage and power generation sectors. It also represents an essential complementary technology to renewable electricity generation, acting as a productive offtaker of surplus power in times of over-supply.

**“East Anglia is well-placed to lead the charge as a ‘Clean Energy Region’... and the Heritage Coast could be at the heart of this transformation.”**

National Grid’s latest Future Energy Scenarios issued early summer expect hydrogen projects to emerge from pioneering regional clusters, and East Anglia is well-placed to lead the charge as a ‘Clean Energy Region’. Geographic conditions, existing energy infrastructure and local expertise all lend themselves to a thriving net zero economy in the region. And the Heritage Coast could be at the heart of this transformation.

There is already a strong commitment from regional stakeholders in Norfolk and Suffolk becoming the UK’s clean growth region. The New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership’s driving objective embedded in the Local Industrial Strategy is for the region to be “a globally recognised, technology-driven, creative and inclusive economy which is leading the transition to a post-carbon economy through sustainable food production and sustainable energy generation”. Latterly this drive to achieve net zero has been supplemented by the need to “build back better” following the pandemic and to target a green recovery.

## Hydrogen and the Heritage Coast

A major advantage in East Anglia – and the primary reason why it is seeking to be GB’s clean energy region - is the availability of growing volumes of offshore wind generation. Over 50% of the UK’s operational offshore wind fleet is off the coast of East Anglia, and as it grows, so too will the periods of surplus supply over demand. This provides an important impetus for diverting this surplus generation to an efficient use, rather than curtailing it. Transforming water into hydrogen using fuel cells is an ideal outlet for this power and has the added benefit of improving the security of demand; helping to stimulate further offshore wind deployment going forward.

As well as being at the centre of the world’s largest market for offshore wind, East Anglia is home to the UK’s gas capital in the Southern North Sea. Bacton gas terminal and the associated interconnectors supply 30% of the UK’s natural gas. An integrated energy hub development programme focussed on the existing Bacton site could, in addition to providing renewable power and hydrogen to the East Anglian economy, enable a significant volume of Southern North Sea hydrocarbon assets to be progressively decarbonised, abate large volumes of CO<sub>2</sub> and secure existing and replacement jobs and enabling preservation of a highly skilled workforce under threat from UKCS decommissioning.

Beyond the development of hydrogen infrastructure itself, and the benefits to the regional economy, there is also a unique opportunity to leverage the knowledge and expertise that will emerge from local projects in other national and international markets.

## Hydrogen East

In light of this potential for hydrogen innovation, production and use in East Anglia, Hydrogen East was formed in Summer 2020 to analyse the potential pathways for development of a regional hydrogen economy that will support delivery of other regional economic and clean growth priorities.

Hydrogen East’s first programme of work is seeking to identify key regional projects and priorities, focusing initially on three potential ‘energy hub’ configurations.



These projects will take a cross-sector approach and look at how existing, repurposed and new assets can be deployed in mutually-supportive, innovative and efficient solutions, and ultimately act as templates for how multi-energy systems can be applied to meet national decarbonisation targets.

At a high-level, these three projects are:

- a project investigating how offshore wind resource and the Bacton gas terminal can be adapted to work together to achieve a leading site for hydrogen production and transportation as well as exploring carbon storage options
- a second project will consider how the development of Sizewell can be used to stimulate local net zero infrastructure, including exploring low-carbon heat networks, desalination opportunities and hydrogen electrolysis, among others. It will also interact with existing low-carbon innovation schemes in the area, and
- a third project aimed at decarbonising transport. This is the largest sector for greenhouse gas emissions in the UK but with enormous potential for electrification or conversion to hydrogen, This project will allow us to explore application of hydrogen production and use across a range of transport markets, including buses and heavy goods vehicles, initially targeting the major growth locations across East Anglia.

As the initial energy hub work progresses, Hydrogen East will consider how the hydrogen developments in East Anglia can inspire, inform, and integrate with developments across the national and European energy landscape.

Nigel is a director and co-founder of Hydrogen East. He has many years of involvement in reforming energy markets and promoting new entrants, technologies and non-traditional business models.

*Nigel Cornwall, Director and Co-founder,  
Hydrogen East  
nigel.cornwall@newangliaenergy.uk*

NO 9

—

# The Future is Slow

Charlie Burgess, Media Adviser



**H**ugh Thomson is an award-winning documentary maker, explorer and travel writer. He has been around the world in search of places and stories. His descriptions of his road trip as a teenager through Mexico, in his book *Tequila Oil*, is a joy. The idea was that he would drive a battered Oldsmobile gas guzzler from El Paso down to Belize and sell it for a fat profit. The car, it turned out, was worthless. He was told the best thing would be to take the car to the beach, pour gas over it and torch it and claim the insurance. "There is no insurance," said Hugh. "In that case you're fucked. Have another margarita."

Last year Thomson went on a gentler trip on roads a bit more familiar to us – those of the Suffolk coast. This time it was fuelled by the occasional pint of Adnams and he stayed in their pubs in Aldeburgh, Walberswick and Southwold.

It had been 50 years since he had been on schoolboy holidays on this coast. He remembered a quiet place of green lanes and wide estuaries. He was wary of returning because it might spoil the wonderful memory. People kept telling him it had changed for the worse; it had gentrified.

He need not have worried. In a lovely lyrical piece in *The Guardian* he revisited the memories of his childhood and concluded: "There is a constant trope in travel writing: that places once had a golden age that has now been lost. All my life people have been telling me this about many of the places I love around the world – Machu Picchu, Deià in Mallorca, the Greek islands. They then always add, 'Of course, when I went there it was unspoiled and perfect.'

He continued: "It is all too easy to burnish the past with a glow. However, I think I prefer Suffolk now to the way it was 50 years ago. Some of the simpler pleasures may have vanished. But there is nothing wrong with having 20 varieties of ice-cream to choose from. I like my life and my television in colour. And back then, I would never have been allowed to sleep in a pub."

Many of us who live or holiday on the Suffolk coast may worry what the next 50 years will bring and many dread 'change'. But I think we are in a great position to embrace many of the changes coming our way – how we work, how we eat, where we play, how we communicate and travel. And what energy fuels this activity.

**"I think we are in a great position to embrace many of the changes coming our way – how we work, how we eat, where we play, how we communicate and travel. And what energy fuels this activity."**

Some of Suffolk is still a "postcode lottery" when it comes to broadband, but speeds are improving all the time and this may encourage more people to make the county their permanent home in the knowledge that it can also be their office. That is a good thing for thriving communities. And the area is still comparatively empty, leaving room for carefully considered new developments of the type seen in Snape and Aldringham.

Suffolk Coastal, as we used to call it, has become a centre for foodies with great restaurants and pubs with food. The Lighthouse in Aldeburgh has been my favourite British restaurant for years. Adnams may have a near monopoly on beer but it is a proper brewery producing proper ales. Locally produced food is becoming more sought after and farmers are responding with variety, quality and a growing number of farmshops.

We are blessed with a beautiful coast and hinterland, laced with footpaths and lanes, which even with increased traffic, remain for the most part empty. Cycling, which brought me here for the first time 22 years ago, is still a joy. My unspoiled and perfect memory is of a stoat stopping to look at me as I cycled down the road from Thorpeness to the higgledy-piggledy rooftops of Aldeburgh. I saw one of its relatives on the same road this year. Walking, especially with binoculars for bird watching, is a lovely way to slow down. What we have is what many people want now.

You will note that what I'm talking about preserving and enhancing is now known as slow living – a movement to encourage a gentler life – which, ironically, is gaining pace (although I remember being enthused by many of the same ideas in Charles Reich's *The Greening of America*, some fifty years ago.)

**“You will note that what I’m talking about preserving and enhancing is now known as slow living – a movement to encourage a gentler life – which, ironically, is gaining pace.”**

Now it is the greening of our energy supply which is causing much angst, with more wind farms due to appear on our coastal horizon. It is less the wind farms than the threat of Sizewell C nuclear power station exercising those who see its construction blighting their homes, clogging roads and ruining some countryside. It’s been over fifty years since nuclear power was first generated in Suffolk. We learnt to live with Sizewells A and B; and I’d like to think that in the years ahead we can find a way to continue our slow living – and keep the lights on. A Margarita anyone? No, make that a pint of Adnams.

*Charlie Burgess, Media Adviser  
charlie@charlieburgess.co.uk*



# Slow in Suffolk

Amazing to think the Slow Movement is now 34 years old. It's crawled at a tortoise rather than a hare's pace to get to the present day but remains fighting fit. Slow began with Carlo Petrini's protest against the opening of a McDonald's restaurant in Piazza di Spagna, Rome that sparked the creation of the slow food movement. Over time, this developed into a subculture in other areas, like the Cittaslow organisation for "slow cities." The "slow" epithet has subsequently been applied to a variety of activities and aspects of culture. You can even think slow - i.e methodically and carefully rather than blurting out the first thought that comes into your head.

Slow's bible was Carl Honore's book *In Praise of Slow* (2005) which tends to sit in the self-help section of most bookstores, along with *Who Moved My Cheese?* The gathering rebellion that it described is likely to grow in strength further in the West as a result not only of climate change and COVID but also in response of the ubiquity of digital devices and the always-on culture. We predict it will continue to have a profound effect on customer and staff behaviour for many businesses - not just those engaged in the production of fast food.

It has been described as the No Logo of its age, but it's far more compelling and intelligent than that, and a necessary addition to the reading list of marketing, HR and new product development departments.

We all know that the world moves faster and faster each year. Time and tide waits for no person. Technology makes things happen quicker and quicker: we find information via the broadband web in seconds that would have taken days 20 years ago; we make TV suppers in the microwave in two minutes flat; we make and lose millions in weeks, sometimes minutes. These days, you are quick or you are dead.

As Honore wrote: 'The clock is the operating system of modern capitalism, the thing that makes everything else possible - meetings, deadlines, contracts, manufacturing processes, schedules, transport, working shifts. And in the search for increased efficiency and therefore profit, everything has to be done faster.' Or does it?

Honore argues that speed is often at the expense of quality and high margins. A slow future for

Suffolk makes plenty of sense. The different pace of life is what attracts many Down From Londons but it does not have to be a life philosophy of interlopers - it's sustainable for all. Neither does it mean a future that lacks energy - just differently applied.

Slow was preceded by the horrors of Eric Schlosser's seminal *Fast Food Nation* and Honore reminded us that 200 years ago the average pig took five years to reach 130 pounds, whereas today it hits 220 pounds aged six months and is slaughtered before it loses its baby teeth.

How prescient was the legendary French gastronome Brillat-Savarin when he pronounced two centuries ago that 'the destiny of nations depends on the manner in which they feed themselves'.

In his chapter 'Mind/Body: Mens Sana in Corpore Sano', Honore, a North American now resident in Britain, is persuasive in questioning the way we have been conditioned to think in the workplace, where we are bombarded with mental stimulation: 'Reaction, rather than reflection, is the order of the day.' The true eureka moments come from Slow Thinking, which is woolly, intuitive and creative. There's little doubt that those economies that will survive and prosper in the 21st century are those with plenty of slower thinkers on board.

Not everyone is convinced by the Slow Way. Doesn't capitalism, query sceptics, in practice depend on the Type A personality - that unholy soup of competitive urgency, impatience, restlessness and short attention span? What Honore would say is not that he's advocating doing everything at a snail's pace or a return to an idyllic pre-industrial age, but that it's all about balance, the tempo giusto, or right speed - 'Fast is busy, controlling, aggressive, hurried, analytical, stressed, superficial, impatient, active, quantity-over-quality,' he wrote. "Slow is the opposite: calm, careful, receptive, still, intuitive, unhurried, patient, reflective, quality-over-quantity.'

But his research is thorough and highly persuasive, and it's hard to dispute some of his conclusions. Who, for example, would dare disagree with a mind like Einstein's, when he declared: 'Computers are incredibly fast, accurate, and stupid. Human beings are incredibly slow, inaccurate and brilliant. Together, they are powerful beyond imagination.'

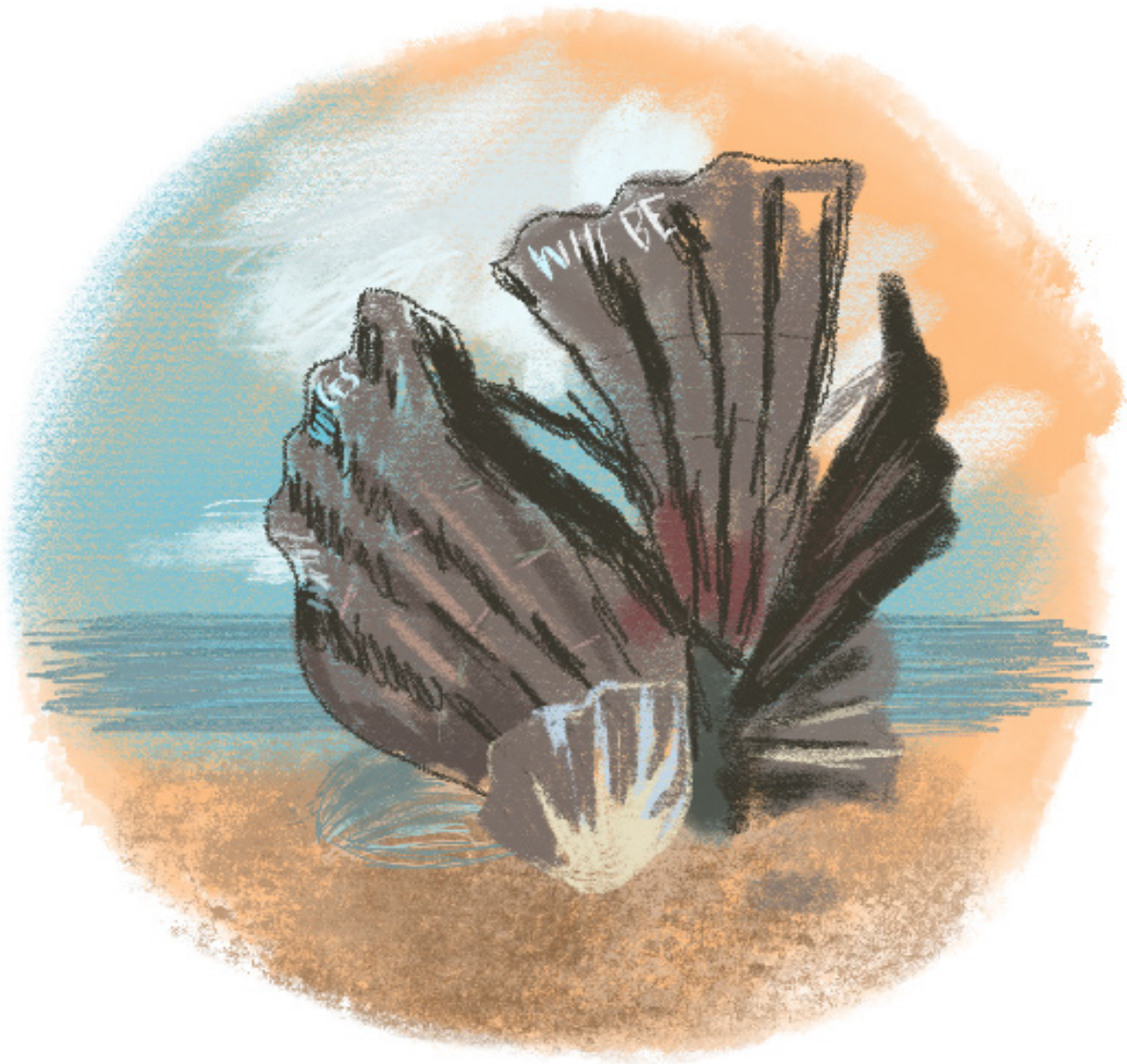
*Matthew Gwyther, Editor*

NO 10

—

# A Coming Cultural Suffolk HighTide

Suba Das, Artistic Director, HighTide



**“But that day, as I sat on the tranquil shore, it was possible to believe one was gazing into eternity.”**

So wrote WG Sebald in *The Rings Of Saturn*, as he walked the Suffolk coast. And indeed, the romance of our country’s most Easterly point, with all of the weight of our history and geographical mass behind it, has often captivated the imagination of the artist. It is a marginal place, literally on the edge of our country and what is known. And for the artist, the margin is the most interesting point as it is there, on the edge of experience that we find the best perspective, the best vantage point, the best opportunity to understand ourselves.

In 1913, in Lowestoft, as far east as you can get, it’s where Benjamin Britten was born, arguably the greatest British composer of the 20th Century and a man who knew a thing or two about living on the edge of society. A little down the road into Suffolk, Snape Maltings – Britten’s extraordinary concert hall gift to his home region – survives and thrives; a world-renowned crown jewel amongst Suffolk’s cultural assets which encompass everything from the Regency delight of Theatre Royal Bury St Edmunds (recently the centrepiece of Armando Iannucci’s brilliant *David Copperfield* film); through to the more contemporary charms of the world-famous Latitude Festival.

In Lowestoft itself though, the story has been a little different. Here unemployment is now much higher, educational attainment much lower than both county and national averages. A third of all children in Waveney are living in poverty. And while a local high school proudly bears Benjamin Britten’s name; with music education provision almost wholly removed from the state curriculum, it feels hard to imagine a new Britten might emerge in the town.

It’s a disparity mentioned elsewhere in this paper, and one which characterises the region as a whole, offering a microcosm of the growing global gulf between the haves-and-have-nots.

Last summer, I became Artistic Director of HighTide, one of the UK’s leading new writing theatre companies. Historically, we have

presented a programme of new work in an annual festival in Aldeburgh, our work then transferring onwards to major stages across the UK, such as the Royal Court, Soho Theatre and Manchester Royal Exchange. From our base amidst the most privileged echelons of Suffolk society, we have launched the careers of now household names such as playwright Jack Thorne (writer of the Harry Potter play in the West End, and wildly acclaimed series for Channel 4, Netflix and more) and director Michael Longhurst (now Artistic Director of the Donmar Warehouse). In Aldeburgh we have found a loyal, culturally literate and culturally curious audience, who have eagerly accompanied us on new journeys of theatrical innovation, helping us push the entire country’s theatre sector forwards.

And while my own career has seen me direct for the National, the Royal Opera House, the Young Vic and many more besides, it wasn’t the glorious welcome I have had from our longstanding patrons that most excited me to take on the challenge. Rather, it was what was waiting down the road in Lowestoft and the international significance that Suffolk holds. For if new ways can be found to bridge the divides across class and background here, new solutions to simmering social tensions, then models may be found that generate increasingly necessary cohesion, uniting communities and inspiring new generations.

**“Culture is necessary for us to level up.”**

Culture is necessary for us to level up – only by first imagining better worlds do we begin to make them a reality. And so we have seen at HighTide throughout this past summer where, instead of our usual festival, we instead rolled up our sleeves to use culture to support our communities, commissioning storytelling resources for 30 local primary schools struggling to support students navigating a mid-pandemic transition to secondary education; establishing a digital youth theatre with 4YP, the Health Service for Suffolk’s most vulnerable young people; and inviting six of the country’s most feted writers, with Olivier and BAFTA nominations to boot, to create short films about hope and love in lockdown. Our participants and audiences tell us our work has combatted loneliness, improved literacy and health, and generated pride in the community.

We're proud to be joined in our mission to widen cultural opportunity and find new ways of inspiring change in the East by a host of partners and colleagues, whether that be the local authority, where under the formidable eye of Arts Development Manager Jayne Knight, resources are continuously found to animate the region's heritage assets; the incredible team at Britten Pears Arts who take music into hospitals, care homes and more; the Suffolk Community Foundation who secure vital funding every day for a raft of charities and social enterprises. There is a rich, primed, proactive cultural network with the ambition to make great change. Now is the time to seize the opportunity. We can find the energy to create a new cultural hub, a new string of pearls – the potential is there. We just need to draw it all together.

**“A tide is most certainly turning. And if you had been in Lowestoft last summer, you would have seen some of the first green shoots of new cultural renaissance”**

A tide is most certainly turning. And if you had been in Lowestoft last summer, you would have seen some of the first green shoots of new cultural renaissance at the inaugural First Light Festival, a 24-hour free festival on the longest day, celebrating the light that shines on Lowestoft first and foremost and bringing 40,000 people to South Beach, generating almost a million pounds of economic activity as Talvin Singh, Gilles Peterson and more took to the stage. What further regeneration might be sparked with consistent cultural intervention?

In 2023, HighTide premieres a stage adaptation of Benjamin Britten's diaries, the first major theatre commission written by another of our discoveries, Ben Weatherill, whose fringe hit JELLYFISH, about a young woman with Down's Syndrome and her right to a romantic life transferred to the National Theatre; making Sarah Gordy the first-ever leading lady with a learning disability on the National stage. Ben will tell a tale of young Britten, discovering his genius in Lowestoft and we're delighted that major theatres across the world want to partner with us on bringing this show to

life. But before it reaches any other stage, we are most excited to present this show at Lowestoft's Marina Theatre, proudly standing and serving audiences, including Britten himself, since 1897.

We're most excited by the opportunity to invite the young people of the Britten High School to finally get to know the man behind the name above their door; to help them better understand what he was able to see, standing at the edge of the country; and to begin imaginative adventures of their own that will carry Lowestoft confidently into 2040.

*Suba Das, Artistic Director, HighTide*  
[suba@hightide.org.uk](mailto:suba@hightide.org.uk)



NO 11

—  
A 21st Century  
Crystal Palace  
Across East Anglia

Chris Holmes, Member of the House of Lords and  
Paralympic Gold Medallist



Covid has cruelly taken tens of thousands before their time, changed the lives of millions forever and brought our economy to its knees. My heart goes out to everyone so horrifically impacted by this invisible destroyer.

We owe it to all those affected to take the opportunity to think bigger, to think differently and to build back together.

**“I believe we have a once in several generations chance to change the way we approach agricultural production.”**

To this end I believe we have a once in several generations chance to change the way we approach agricultural production. I propose we combine new subsidized sustainable energy sources, including nuclear, to fuel significant and, at speed growth of our “under glass” agricultural and horticultural production.

You may be unaware of it but the Agriculture Bill, currently progressing through the House of Lords, provides the vehicle for this adventure; the most important piece of legislation, in this area, in at least fifty years.

We are facing a huge global challenge. If population growth reaches 10 billion by 2050 as predicted, but agricultural yield and costs in terms of water and fossil fuels are maintained at current levels more than a billion people could be facing starvation. To give as stark a context as possible; in the next four decades we will need to produce more food than has been produced in the preceding eight thousand years.

But with challenges come opportunities and I believe we have a chance, with this bill, to do something great not just for our own agricultural industry but far beyond our borders by demonstrating the benefits of high-tech sustainable farming.

I moved several amendments, focussing on how technology can be positively deployed to assist in this mission.

My “Crystal Palace” amendment:

“(c) subsidising sustainable energy for growing, under glass or other artificial covering— cut flowers; fruits; vegetables, and other produce as designated by the Secretary of State.”

I believe we can achieve two clear objectives with this one amendment. Namely, to further develop our sustainable energy expertise and commercial edge in that and through that “spark fund” our “under glass” producers to enable them to further grow, at speed. In sustainable, I very much include nuclear, particularly, small modular reactor (SMR) and advanced modular reactor [AMR] technology where the UK could play a leading role with the right incentives. This subsidised energy could then be utilised to turbo charge our “under glass” production, not least of the finest of produce set out in the amendment above.

For decades, the Dutch have shown us a clean pair of clogs when it comes to these methods. They took a strategic decision and stuck to it in terms of deploying, and subsidising, their energy resources to support their fruit, veg and flower producers. They are now the second largest exporter of food, not in Europe, but in the World. We bow down to them, it is such a success story. There was no magic, it is clear how they achieved it. In our bowing though, we might choose to take the opportunity to stare at our own shoes and wonder why we didn't take such steps.

It is no shame on our producers, we have some of the best in the world, not least our own Lord Taylor of Holbeach, by any other name, Lord Taylor of Daffodils (and Chelsea gold medal winning daffodils they are!) If we just consider that surname alone: Taylor's tea and coffee starts my day, Taylor's port is a fine way to end it. We have such fantastic plants women and men, Carol Klein, the epitome of excellence, engaging to all and when it comes to the very nature of nature, Monty- you are the Don.

We have outstanding producers but there was a missed opportunity by those in power at the time, when we had the power, flowing in at speed from the North Sea. Despite our oil and gas, we did not subsidise fuel for our East Anglian producers or create a sovereign wealth fund for our nation and now there is little of that national resource still around.

But, and rare this is in life, the chance has come right back to us, at this very moment in time. With this bill and beyond, we can develop our solar, off shore wind, heat exchange, and our SMR and AMR technology both for what this will bring to us all of itself and for what it can do to turbo charge a bold new future, eternal Springs and Summers for our producers.

This fits with what we would need at any time, but never more so than now. Business' can be built on the back of this approach, jobs created, local communities enabled, supply chains shortened, food and flower miles down, local sourcing, clarity in every element of the produce, regions levelled up, Co2 down.

In short, we have the opportunity to enable a 21st century crystal palace across East Anglia. And the exhibits in those glass palaces: the finest flowers, fruits, veg and other produce. This is in our hands. What do we need? A vision, a set of decisions and clear, consistent leadership as the Dutch showed all those decades ago. I'd be very interested to hear any views on this subject. Please do be in touch:

*Chris Holmes, Member of the House of Lords and  
Paralympic Gold Medallist*

*holmesc@parliament.uk  
Lordchrisholmes.com*

NO 12

—

## Suffolk's "energy coast" – a meaningful economic legacy?

Michael Mahony, Essayist & Campaigner





The Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and its rural hinterland has stealthily and unthinkingly been re-designated as an “energy coast” to promote the development of eight major onshore energy projects (to support offshore power generation) and two new nuclear reactors at Sizewell C.

This scale of industrialisation in designated sites and rural landscapes is unprecedented within the UK. It will irrevocably alter the character of the area with a detrimental effect on its environment and visitor led economy for generations. The international developers of these projects justify much of the environmental damage and damage to the existing economy by the local economic benefits of these projects. However, the long term economic benefits are insignificant, particularly when compared to the multi-billion-pound scale of the investment.

**“Based on past projects the overwhelming majority of that investment will not be spent locally. Indeed a large proportion will not even be spent within the UK.”**

Based on past projects the overwhelming majority of that investment will not be spent locally. Indeed a large proportion will not even be spent within the UK. This is the reality compared to the “spin” of the developers, which disappointingly local politicians are far too ready to accept.

An historic example is Sizewell B nuclear power station which started construction in 1988 and operation in 1995. No doubt local economic benefits were heavily trumpeted particularly for the nearby local town of Leiston. However, as a number of commentators have pointed out, if this nuclear development was to be so advantageous for the local economy why has not Leiston, which bravely struggles along, become an epicentre of a thriving and dynamic energy led economy?

A more recent example is the Scottish Power (owned by the Spanish energy giant Iberdrola)

development of the East Anglian One wind farm with its substantial onshore infrastructure connecting the power generated offshore to the National Grid. This was a £2.5 billion project. But how much of that money was invested in East Suffolk? The developers admit that the onshore infrastructure creates no long-term employment and precious little during construction.

So what about the offshore development, the high-value big-ticket items the turbines? Scottish Power granted contracts worth hundreds of millions of pounds to a company in the United Arab Emirates, a country dependent on low wage migrant labour with questionable employment practices, to build the jacket foundations for EA1 turbines. Meanwhile, the upper part of the turbines are provided by Siemens, the German engineering company.

So what does Suffolk receive? Supposedly some jobs and investment in Lowestoft. But what are the jobs and investment which are loudly trumpeted by the developers and accepted by local politicians without challenge? Scottish Power has built a small maintenance facility in Lowestoft which will support less than 100 jobs. This is part of an overall £25 million investment in Lowestoft. This is merely 1% of the overall investment in EA1. Further that investment is for a number of wind farms so as a percentage of the overall investments it is even less than 1%.

So what about the jobs? They are of course welcome but they are maintenance jobs and guess what, autonomous motherships and robot repair teams for offshore wind farms are on their way. So how many of these jobs will remain after ever-increasing amounts of automation? Aside from Scottish Power, Associated British Ports has invested £4.5 million in the Port of Lowestoft to support offshore wind farms. These figures are not impressive in themselves but are minuscule when compared to the multi-billion-pound investments being made much of which remember goes overseas let alone to the UK.

The level of desperation of the developers’ PR teams for good economic news is that they even publicise a tiny £250,000 investment in new refuelling facilities at Lowestoft. Even better a Scottish based provider of employee welfare facilities, otherwise known as mobile toilets, is to open a Norwich branch to support offshore wind projects. No puns please...

Enough of the negativity. What is needed is true leadership and a vision of a meaningful long term legacy for the local economy. A legacy which will offset the environmental and economic damage caused by these energy projects onshore. A legacy which involves the investment of hundreds of millions of pounds. A legacy which will provide long-term, high value, high skilled jobs for generations to come. And when it comes to long term remember wind power will be generated from the North Sea not just for decades but for centuries.

**“What is needed is true leadership and a vision of a meaningful long term legacy for the local economy. A legacy which will offset the environmental and economic damage caused by these energy projects onshore.”**

So what might such a legacy look like? A legacy which even local residents, despite their well founded and vociferous opposition to the onshore developments, would have to concede was meaningful. A possible example is in the City of Hull where Siemens the turbine makers have invested over £300 million in a state of the art turbine blade manufacturing and assembly facility which will provide 1000 skilled jobs. Imagine the impact of an investment like that in the town of Lowestoft particularly if it included an extended local supply chain, state of the art R&D facilities and the potential to make and supply high technology and high-value components not just for the North Sea or the UK, but the World. That would be a meaningful long-term economic legacy. It is time for our MPs and local politicians, the Local Enterprise Partnership and Chambers of Commerce to stand up and demand investment worth hundreds of millions of pounds to create truly long-term skilled jobs and not be satisfied with the scraps which the developers handout as if giving change to a homeless person in the street.

*Michael Mahony, Essayist & Campaigner*  
*mncmahony@btinternet.com*

Postscript

—

The Energy for Change:  
Understanding Leiston's  
Industrial Past and Nuclear  
Future

Tom McGarry, Sizewell C Project



'... in 1957, the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) were looking round for sites for nuclear power stations on the east coast. In response to an advert in a national paper the Town Council wrote to the CEGB to suggest they consider Sizewell. There was a growing problem with unemployment in the town as the Works downsized and this looked like a good way to increase employment opportunities.

With Sizewell becoming the chosen location, this saw the building of Sizewell 'A' nuclear power station. It took five years to build and provided employment to many. Some 45% of the staff were recruited from local sources so housing was required for many of the remaining new staff... Sizewell 'B' nuclear power station was built later (between 1987 and 1995) and started supplying electricity in 1995.'

- Leiston Neighbourhood Plan, March 2017

'It will fundamentally change the way of life in this region...'

- Together Against Sizewell C Petition, March 2019

It is not always a welcome revelation for some residents and is often a surprise to visitors that a local council actually asked for Sizewell to host a nuclear power station. However, this quote from the Leiston Neighbourhood Plan does not mark the start of industrialisation on Suffolk's Heritage Coast. That began nearly two hundred years earlier.

The history of Leiston and its surrounds is one of pioneering change and industry within a landscape of tranquillity. The 'Works' referred to above were Garrett & Son's, a manufacturer with roots stretching back to the late 1780s, when a blacksmith named Richard Garrett set up a forge in Leiston. From the heat of that hearth in the quiet agricultural east of 'sleepy Suffolk', a national giant of the industrial revolution awoke. By the middle of the next century, Garretts was producing steam and traction engines and Leiston was linked to the Ipswich-Lowestoft railway line. Hundreds of terraced houses were built for the growing workforce.

In 1851 Richard Garrett (the fourth of that name) sent his products and 300 employees to the Great Exhibition at the Crystal Palace. In the space of a lifetime, this small agricultural backwater had grown into a name synonymous with the best of British industry and enterprise. The town and its services grew, a diverse economy was established, and a community thrived. With change came more employment opportunities while in the meantime, the farms surrounding Leiston

continued to be a highly productive contributor to England's eastern 'bread basket'. The rural and industrial settled in the coastal landscape, in it together.

The building of Sizewell A from 1961 to 1966 provided more employment opportunities at a time when Garretts was responding to changes in the agricultural and transport sectors. The motivations of the Town Council representatives of the time were in step with the zeitgeist: post-war pragmatism on the need for homes and infrastructure and a desire for full employment and better pay. If there were protests over the aesthetic of pylons, the shouts and sloganeering would have fallen on the ears of people who did not take electricity generation for granted. There certainly was concern and reticence over the construction of Sizewell A itself, but the supportive silent majority 'let them get on with it.' Indeed, the 1961 August bank holiday saw 3,000 visitors watch the construction process from an observation platform built specially to allow the public to see the site.

In 1966, Sizewell A began four decades of generating electricity and training and employing generations of local people. The diversity of the economy that Sizewell and the energy sector offered was a strength and an opportunity. Several young men and women in Suffolk would never have had the chance to become engineers without the arrival of the energy sector.



It did not prevent local people becoming hoteliers, farmers, business owners, entrepreneurs, fishermen, cleaners, teachers, doctors and nurses. It did introduce new skills, investment and wealth to the Heritage Coast.

As with many manufacturers, the Garrett works finally closed its doors in 1981. A visit to the Long Shop Museum in Leiston shows how this extraordinary family left its mark not only on the town but on the surrounding landscape (such as the iconic Snape Maltings) and on the social history of Britain. Garrett's descendant Elizabeth Garrett Anderson was the country's first woman to become a physician and surgeon. Like her sister, Millicent Garrett Fawcett, Elizabeth was a prominent suffragist and Britain's first female mayor – for that hotbed of radicalism, Aldeburgh.

In 1970, 156 square miles of the Suffolk Coast and Heaths was designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Amid the coast and heaths, Sizewell A had been generating electricity for four years by that point, right on the Suffolk Coastal Path. The beauty of the Suffolk coast has remained constant despite decades of change. Construction of Sizewell B, Britain's first Pressurised Water Reactor, started 17 years later. The building of a nuclear power station in an AONB is not a new experience. What did change was the role of the operators of the stations and their relationship with the surrounding landscape.

As the owner of 2.5 square miles of the AONB (of which the nuclear licensed area makes up less than 6% - or 0.09% of the AONB as a whole), Sizewell B became responsible for the stewardship, public accessibility and enhancement of the wildlife, flora and fauna on this land. Working with the Suffolk Wildlife Trust and alongside neighbours like RSPB Minsmere, the station operator won awards for biodiversity management. Industry, environmental groups and membership organisations working on conservation together is a characteristic of our Heritage Coast.

Sizewell B began generating electricity on Valentine's Day 1995, giving the Grid a kiss of 1.2 gigawatts (enough power for all the homes in East Anglia). I arrived in Leiston 15 years later, having joined the Sizewell C Team to build relationships with local communities and representatives. It became very clear to me very quickly that this time the approach to building a power station would have to be undertaken with a social and

environmental care undreamt of in the 1960s and unheard of in the 1990s. It is important that the next change can be delivered with the appropriate sensitivity, meeting the needs, requests and concerns – and yes, the demands and objections – of thousands of East Suffolk residents.

**“Change is coming again with or without Sizewell C. The environmental, social and economic tumult of global climate change, Brexit and potentially the deepest recession the country has ever experienced will not conveniently bypass communities on the Suffolk coast.”**

Yet I am optimistic. Unremarkably, I disagree with those with apocalyptic attitudes to change. Change is the way of life in East Suffolk and its communities are used to it. They have always engaged in shaping its future and despite differences in opinion, background and outlook, no one is suggesting that this beautiful area detaches itself from the world. Change is coming again with or without Sizewell C. The environmental, social and economic tumult of global climate change, Brexit and potentially the deepest recession the country has ever experienced will not conveniently bypass communities on the Suffolk coast. Businesses, industry, conservationists and communities should continue to be in it together as the unending ebb and flow of change laps our Heritage Coast.

*Tom McGarry, Sizewell C Project  
tom.mcgarry@edf-energy.com*

# About the Publication

Our Heritage 2040: A New Energy for the Suffolk Coast is focused on the tourism and energy sectors and Suffolk's precious and outstanding Heritage Coast. Its ambition is to understand how best to reconcile global energy needs and local environmental responsibilities within a shared commitment to a Net Zero Carbon future. Its focus may be on England's east coast, but the issues resonate for us all.

The project has been running since January 2020. The initial aim was to establish meaningful dialogue across multiple stakeholders, including business leaders, politicians, major energy players and local residents and communities. All significant infrastructure projects, especially those involving "nuclear", create inevitable tensions. What started off as an exercise in better engagement has since flourished into something more ambitious. Together, we continue to explore the juxtaposition between the innovation, investment and employment the energy sector can bring to the region and the

all-important protection, enhancement and future opportunities that make the Heritage Coast so special.

Our Heritage 2040 is rich in challenges and future vision. It addresses profound social, economic and investment needs as well as celebrating heritage and culture. It seeks to establish meaningful legacy and outlines tangible actions for regional and national policymakers. Most of the essayists are drawn from the Sizewell Community Working Group. Many hold distinctive - and often opposing - views but have come together in a spirit of genuine collaboration. We are extremely grateful for their contributions.

The publication, edited by Matthew Gwyther, has been supported by Sizewell C, while maintaining complete editorial independence (as a number of the essays will testify). A series of (virtual) roundtable conversations - bringing to life the essays and the issues - are planned for October 2020: please get in touch if you would like to participate.

**[www.jericho chambers.com/ourheritage2040](http://www.jericho chambers.com/ourheritage2040)**

[robert.phillips@jericho chambers.com](mailto:robert.phillips@jericho chambers.com)  
[matthew.gwyther@jericho chambers.com](mailto:matthew.gwyther@jericho chambers.com)

## Thank you to the Sizewell Community Working Group

Peter Abson, Public Affairs and Policy Senior Manager, National Grid

James Alexander, Future Agenda; Suffolk Wildlife Trust

Paul Bongers de Rath, Secretary, Aldeburgh Society

Charlie Burgess, Media Adviser

Nigel Cornwall, Hydrogen East

Jo Deakin, Journalist, Filmmaker and Stop Sizewell C campaigner

Michael Gidney, CEO, Fairtrade Foundation

Nicholas Gold, owner, Orfordness

Mark Goyder, Founder, Tomorrow's Company & Author

Sam Hayes, Restaurateur

Leaf Kalfayan

Tony Langham, CEO, Lansons

Mike Lavelle, Safety Director, Sizewell C

Katherine Mackie, Chair, Aldeburgh Society

Tom McGarry, Head of Stakeholder Engagement, Sizewell C

Michael Mahony, Essayist and Campaigner

Clare Parsons, Trustee, HighTide

Robert Phillips, Founder, Jericho Chambers

Julia Pyke, Director of Financing and Economic Regulation, Sizewell C

Jonathan Reynolds, Managing Director, Opergy Ltd

Andy Wood, CEO, Adnams PLC

Sarah Williamson, Technical Director, Laing O'Rourke

Ian Wright CBE

Derek Wyatt, former MP and Digital Guru