

## **Submission to EDF Energy from Clopton Parish Council regarding the Sizewell C Stage 4 Consultation Document.**

Clopton Parish Council have concerns based on the pressures that construction traffic will impose on all of the local road system. However, this submission from Clopton Parish Council relates primarily to the additional traffic that the proposals will direct along the B1078 through the heart of the village.

Although Section 4.5.4. of the Stage 4 Consultation Document Indicates that there are no locations where the increase in daily traffic volume generated by the Project construction causes the road capacity to be exceeded. Section 4.2 of the document indicates that an under all scenarios the location of the Southern park and ride at Hacheston will increase traffic on the B1078 by in excess of, 1000 vehicles per day. These vehicles will in all probability travel through the Village of Clopton.

The B1078 is a rural two-lane road but is not overly wide and heavy goods vehicles currently using the road, frequently encroach the oncoming traffic lane. The verges and ditches are broken down when HGVs have to pass one another leading to the degradation of the road.

The section of the B1078 through Clopton is set at the National speed limit and, apart from a short strip beside the bus stop, there are no pavements for pedestrians. The road at this point is largely straight, and traffic tends to travel close to, or above the national speed limit. This is already a significant problem for residents of Clopton.

Within the village of Clopton from the junction of the B1078 and B1079 at Potash Corner, travelling east, towards Wickham Market, there are three junctions with the B1078 of great concern, Monewden Road, Manor Road and Shop Road.

These junctions suffer from poor visibility in both directions and in order to negotiate these junctions, drivers have to pull out onto the road to enable them to see, this already creates daily near misses and there have been many accidents at these points. In a recent study commissioned by Suffolk County Council these junctions were identified as problematic and yet no remedial measures have been undertaken or are planned.

Due to its angle and location, the junction with the Monewden Road at Catts Hill, has extremely poor visibility to the left due to the hill and to the right due to the corner. If vehicles are travelling at speed, they crest the hill and encounter a vehicle crossing onto the road. This difficult junction is a hazard for all due to the speed of traffic.

Manor road, which serves the south side of the village, also connects with the B1078 and, at the crest of a hill, it is not unknown for impatient drivers on the B1078, to be overtaking blind at this point.

Shop Road to the north, houses the greatest volume of Clopton residents, and the greatest concentration of children. It is a busy vehicle junction and, in addition to vehicles turning on to the B1078, residents and children have to cross the B1078 at Shop Road to reach the bus

stop, or to catch the school bus. Children and residents also have to cross the B1078 at this point, to access the playing field and the village hall.

This is a major hazard with children having to cross a road that carries high volumes of traffic travelling close to the national speed limit or greater. Additionally, the B1078 at this point is quite narrow with vehicles passing extremely close to any pedestrian waiting to cross the road or joining or alighting at the bus stop

There are also a number of residences dotted along the B1078. The residents of these properties have to join the B1078 directly from their driveways, this is extremely difficult and homeowners have reported that they frequently have to ask someone to see them out onto the road in order to join safely. This also creates a hazard for the pedestrian seeing them out.

Clopton Parish Council believe that a significant reduction in the speed limit along the Clopton section of the B1078 is long overdue and that the additional traffic proposed within the stage 4 consultation will make this an absolute necessity. It will be unforgivable to have to wait until someone is killed on this stretch of road before this is finally implemented.

As part of its neighbourhood mitigation measures EDF energy should work with Suffolk County Council to ensure this is instigated prior to commencement of major construction works.

Clopton Parish Council believe that similar concerns are valid for the B1078 passing through the villages of Debach and Charsfield and would support the concerns of these villages regarding the increased volume of traffic being directed along unsuitable narrow rural roads.

In addition Clopton Parish Council have concerns about the practicality of the diversion route proposed around Wickham Market, and we totally support the views expressed by Wickham Market Parish Council.

As regards the A12 around Woodbridge and Melton.

The A12 itself is already struggling with the traffic levels, particularly in the rush hour and at weekends in the summer. EDF must work with Suffolk County Council to identify and implement measures to improve the road and minimise congestion in this area.

For Clopton villagers, travelling from Clopton to the A12 via the Bredfield Road, joining the A12 currently, is extremely difficult. This is due to the volume and speed of traffic on the A12. At certain times of day joining the A12 at this junction is almost impossible. Increased volumes of traffic on the A12 will render this junction totally impossible and measures should be undertaken to improve this junction.

**Clopton Parish Council opinion is that:**

- The B1078 is not suitable for increased levels of heavy good vehicles;
- The B1078 through the village of Clopton will not be safe with the increased levels of general traffic proposed under all scenarios within the Stage 4 Consultation Document, without the introduction of speed reduction measures;
- As part of its neighbourhood mitigation measures EDF energy must work with Suffolk County Council to ensure that speed reduction measures on the B1078 through the village of Clopton, are instigated prior to commencement of major construction works;
- Similar concerns are valid for the B1078 passing through the villages of Debach and Charsfield.