

Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS)
Sizewell A Site
Environmental Management Plan
(Decommissioning)
2026-2027
Issue 21





Executive Summary

In September 2005, Nuclear Restoration Services (previously known as Magnox Electric Ltd) applied for a consent to decommission Sizewell A Site under the Nuclear Reactors (Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning) Regulations 1999, as amended.

The consent was granted by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) (now Office For Nuclear Regulation (ONR)) in May 2006. There are six conditions attached to the consent, most of which relate to the preparation and maintenance of an Environmental Management Plan. This details the ongoing mitigation measures to prevent, reduce, and, if possible, offset any significant adverse environmental effects of the decommissioning work.

This document is the 21st issue of the Sizewell A Site's Environmental Management Plan and provides an update on the activities undertaken in the last twelve months in addition to details of the agreed mitigation measures. This document will be re-issued annually as agreed with the ONR.

As Site Director for Sizewell A, I look forward to another year of successful decommissioning and on behalf of Nuclear Restoration Services, I give my ongoing commitment to minimising any adverse effect on the environment as a consequence of our decommissioning operations.

Alan Walker
Site Director
Sizewell A Site
May 2026

Contents

1	Introduction.....	4
1.1	NRS Decommissioning Strategy Review.....	4
1.2	Site Description	4
1.3	Scope Of The Environmental Management Plan	5
2	EMP Process	7
2.1	Process For Implementation Of Mitigation Measures.....	7
2.2	Process For Determining Effectiveness Of Mitigation Measures	7
3	Mitigation Measures	9
3.1	Mitigation Measures Already Identified (Condition 3a)	9
3.2	Mitigation Measures Not Yet Selected (Condition 3b)	14
3.3	Mitigation Measures Not Yet Identified (3c)	14
4	Effectiveness Of Mitigations	15
5	Changes To The EMP (2025- 2026)	19
6	Distribution Of The EMP	20
	Appendix A: Decommissioning Project Consent	21

Tables

Table 1	Deferral Period Preparations Phase (Condition 3a).....	9
Table 2	Deferral Phase (Condition 3a).....	12
Table 3	Final Site Clearance Phase (Condition 3a).....	12
Table 4	Deferral Preparations Mitigations To Be Selected (Condition 3b)	14
Table 5	Review Of Mitigations Applied in 2025-2026	15
Table 6	Economic Impact	18



1 Introduction

Sizewell A Nuclear Site (hereafter Sizewell A) ceased generation of electricity on 31 December 2006. The Site has now, in line with government policy, entered a period of decommissioning. During this time the plant and buildings associated with electricity generation are being systematically removed. Prior to the commencement of this work Nuclear Restoration Services (hereafter NRS), the licensee of the Site, was legally required to gain consent to carry out the decommissioning project from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) (now Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)). The organisation undertook a rebranding in April 2024 with the name of the organisation changing from Magnox Limited to Nuclear Restoration Services. The change of name represents the organisation's new future mission's strategy.

An application was therefore made to the HSE for consent in October 2005. In support of this application an Environmental Statement was provided, which assessed the impacts of the project on the environment.

Following an extensive public consultation HSE granted consent to carry out the decommissioning project at Sizewell A in May 2006, subject to certain consent conditions (Appendix A).

Condition 2 of the consent requires the licensee to prepare and submit an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) annually to the regulatory authority. Although the original consent documents refer to HSE, regulatory responsibility for EIADR transferred to the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) in 2014¹.

1.1 NRS Decommissioning Strategy Review

NRS decommissioning strategies are continually being reviewed and updated. However, these have not been finalised and therefore this EMP follows the previous strategy.

It is recognised that the current EIADR project description may not yet reflect alternative decommissioning strategies such as on-site disposal and rolling programme of decommissioning. These will be assessed in line with internal standards and incorporated into the NRS EIADR process.

This will be addressed in future issues of the EMP as and when appropriate.

1.2 Site Description

The Reactor Building comprises of two gas-cooled magnox type² reactors which have both been defueled. Each reactor pressure vessel is spherical, made from steel and is situated within a large concrete bioshield. Contained within each pressure vessel are the graphite core and a range of monitoring and control equipment. During operation the reactors were cooled using carbon dioxide. Each reactor has four associated boilers, all of which are external to the bioshield, these converted water to steam in order to drive the turbines located inside the now demolished Turbine Hall. Cooling of the steam to return it to water was achieved by passing seawater through condensing units located in the basement of the Turbine Hall beneath the turbines. The cooling water intake and outfall structures are located off-shore and were connected to the Turbine Hall by means of large underground tunnels which are now sealed. Other buildings and plant associated with the operation of the Site included the Ponds Complex, Cooling Water Pumphouse, the National Grid Substation (structure demolished and land transferred to Edf Energy (Sizewell B Site) in 2024 for further use), Workshop, Stores and Offices.

¹ ONR was previously part of HSE and now acts as the independent nuclear regulator, including for EIADR.

² The term 'magnox' refers to the first generation of gas-cooled nuclear reactors used for electricity generation. It is derived from the cladding material (magnesium non-oxidising alloy) that surrounds each individual uranium metal fuel element.

1.2.1 Sensitivity of Receiving Environment

The nearest settlements within a 10km radius of the Site are Sizewell Village, Leiston, Aldeburgh, Saxmundham, Snape and Yoxford.

Sizewell A Site lies within the Suffolk and Essex Coast & Heaths National Landscape which has been designated by Natural England. A narrow coastal strip of the Suffolk Coast incorporating Sizewell has been defined by Natural England as Heritage Coast.

The following sites of nature conservation interest are located within the Sizewell vicinity:

- Minsmere-Walberswick Heaths and Marshes Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).
- Minsmere-Walberswick Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar Site.
- Sizewell Marshes SSSI.
- Off-Shore Structures used by Kittiwakes etc. for roosting and breeding - County Wildlife Site (CWS).
- Sandlings SPA.
- Leiston-Aldeburgh SSSI.
- Westleton Heath National Nature Reserve (NNR).
- Walberswick (Suffolk Coast) NNR.
- Dunwich Heath Nature Reserve.
- Aide-Ore SPA, RAMSAR and SAC.
- North Warren RSPB Reserve.
- Outer Thames SPA.
- Suffolk Shingle Beaches CWS.
- Leiston Common CWS.

There are no Scheduled Monuments on the Site, the nearest is Leiston Abbey and moat. There are no listed buildings within 2km of the Site. The closest Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) is Dunwich Cliff, approximately 6-8km from the Site.

1.3 Scope Of The Environmental Management Plan

This EMP details the mitigation measures to prevent, reduce and, where possible, offset any significant adverse effects on the environment throughout the decommissioning of Sizewell A. It also includes measures that, although not associated with significant adverse effects, are nevertheless proposed.

The decommissioning project at Sizewell A is divided into three phases. The Environmental Statement (ES) refers to the phrases of Care & Maintenance Preparations (C&MP), Care & Maintenance (C&M), and Final Site Clearance (FSC). The Care and Maintenance phrase terminology has now been superseded by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to Deferral Preparations and Deferral phases:

- Deferral Preparations
- Deferral Period³
- Final Site clearance

³ The "Deferral Period" was previously known as the "Care & Maintenance" Period.

1.3.1 Duration

This EMP is structured around the three phases outlined above. This is primarily because mitigation measures may evolve over time based on operational experience and advances in technology. Where such measures are yet to be identified, require further development, or need to be revised, they will be detailed in subsequent versions of the EMP, along with the justification for any changes. All updates will remain subject to the Consent and associated Conditions issued by the HSE (see Appendix A).

Deferral Period Preparations.

The first phase of decommissioning is aimed at hazard reduction. During this phase all of the radioactive and non-radioactive plant and buildings on the Site (other than the Reactor Building, Ponds Complex and Security Lodge) are dismantled. Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) (radioactive) is retrieved from current storage locations as appropriate, processed and then placed into purpose-built storage. Upon completion of Deferral Preparations, the Site will have been put into a passively safe state where the need for human intervention to maintain acceptable conditions is minimised, i.e. the Deferral period.

Deferral

The second phase which could potentially last for some decades, during which no significant dismantling will be carried out. The Site will continue to be managed, monitored and maintained to ensure that it remains in a passively safe and secure state. The Site will continue to be the subject of a nuclear site licence during this period.

Final Site Clearance

The final phase of decommissioning, which is expected to last about 10 years. It involves the dismantling of the remaining structures on the Site, including the reactors, the clearance of any residual radioactivity to the applicable standards and the de-licensing of the Site so that it can be made available for alternative use, as appropriate.

Mitigation measures may change in the future in light of experience and developing technologies. The impacts of the later phases of work have been documented in the original Environmental Statement, but due to the difficulty in predicting the nature of environmental and regulatory regimes over long periods, more confidence should be attached to the assessment related to the earlier phases. Consequently, mitigation measures for activities during FSC will be refined, based on technologies available at that time.

2 EMP Process

It is a requirement of the conditions attached to the consent (See Appendix 1), to implement the mitigation measures and describe their effectiveness.

This section describes the process for implementing and measuring the effectiveness of the mitigation measures.

2.1 Process For Implementation Of Mitigation Measures

Company and Site procedures ensure that decommissioning activities are carried out in accordance with the mitigation measures set out in this EMP. Any decommissioning work or modifications on the Site are assessed during the proposal stage in accordance with robust company procedures and, where appropriate, mitigation measures are put in place to prevent impacts identified.

There are a number of tools used on Site to ensure that all environmental impacts are minimised. The Company has an Integrated Management System which is certified to ISO 9001 (Quality Assurance), ISO 14001 (Environmental Management Systems), ISO 45001 (Occupational Health and Safety Management System) and ISO55001 (Asset Management System).

In addition, where there is the potential for an activity to produce significant discharges or disposals, either radioactive or non-radioactive, the Site undertakes Best Available Techniques (BAT) studies in accordance with Company Process.

2.2 Process For Determining Effectiveness Of Mitigation Measures

The Site aims to monitor the effectiveness of any mitigation measures employed and, where necessary, review these in order to ensure successful reduction of significant environmental impacts. The Radiological Protection & Environment Department works closely with other departments and contractors during Site work activities. This ensures mitigation measures are considered, applied and reviewed, where relevant, throughout the lifecycle of each package of work, from conception to completion. It also allows supervision and practical evaluation of the effectiveness of any mitigation measures employed. Evaluations can provide valuable feedback on any difficulties encountered, changes required or highlight further mitigation requirements.

The effectiveness of mitigation measures is discussed with Project Managers and Engineers. They are also assessed during regular project safety reviews and during the close out of decommissioning proposal quality plans.

The Site measures the effectiveness of mitigations in a variety of ways outlined below.

2.2.1 Environmental Performance Monitoring

Environmental performance monitoring (e.g. dust, noise, groundwater monitoring) is performed using specialist equipment. This allows assessment of environmental impacts post-mitigation in addition to being of use for determining baseline conditions. The main use of post-mitigation environmental monitoring will be for larger projects, such as the demolition of buildings or movement of large quantities of spoil. The need for this form of monitoring is determined on an individual basis for each project based on the anticipated activities and the potential for significant adverse impacts. The effectiveness of radiological mitigations is monitored via the Site's Environmental Monitoring Programme.

2.2.2 Visual Evidence

Inspections of the work area both prior to, during and after project works are used to assess the requirements for mitigation, ongoing suitability of the mitigations and overall success in minimising significant adverse impacts. Where it is deemed appropriate, photographic evidence can be gathered to support the assessment of effectiveness. Routine Site tours by suitably qualified individuals are used to identify areas of success and areas for improvement. These tours are used to monitor the effectiveness of mitigations on environmental receptors.

2.2.3 Review of Regulatory Action, Complaints, and Internal Event Reporting

The Site operates a robust system of internal event reporting, where workers are encouraged to report conditions which are unsafe or pose a threat to the environment. These reports are investigated and additional controls put in place where required.

Learning from experience is also regularly reinforced by the internal review of complaints, event reports raised and any regulatory actions received. Learning is then shared and communicated with all other NRS Sites through various company platforms.

3 Mitigation Measures

The following tables list the mitigation measures for each phase of the decommissioning project at Sizewell A. Examples of how mitigation measures have been implemented during decommissioning activities are listed in Section 4.

Sizewell A will notify the ONR of any significant change to a mitigation measure no less than 30 days before the change is made, or within such shorter time as the ONR may agree.

3.1 Mitigation measures already identified (Condition 3a)

This section details the mitigation measures that have been identified for the lifecycle of decommissioning according to the topics that were identified in the original Environmental Statement.

3.1.1 Deferral Preparations Phase (Condition 3a)

Table 1 below outlines the possible environmental impacts during the Deferral Period Preparations and the proposed mitigation measures to address these.

Table 1: Deferral Period Preparations Phase (Condition 3a)

Deferral Preparations Phase (3a)		
Topic	Nature of impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed
Air Quality and Dust	Dust emissions (from on Site), increase in Site dust emissions due to construction, demolition and waste/materials handling operations etc. which could impact on residential and industrial receptors.	As appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of the Building Research Establishment, Guidance on the Control of Dust from Construction and Demolition Activities (2003). On Site roads to be regularly cleaned of mud/dust deposits, including the use of recirculating water wheel washers and road cleaners as appropriate; and sheeting of vehicles carrying potentially dusty loads. Minimisation of unnecessary material and waste handling as far as practicable. Use of water sprays for external demolition activities as appropriate. Use of water sprays during outside infill operations. Avoidance of vehicular use on unsurfaced (soft) ground where possible and limits on vehicle speeds on such surfaces where it cannot be avoided. Use of water sprays during particularly windy or dry conditions. Use of water sprays to maintain damp surfaces during dry and windy weather (e.g. soil stockpiles, demolition rubble); or sheeting or seeding of surfaces of stockpiles of soil or other dusty materials. Sheeting or seeding of surfaces and/or use of wind fences as appropriate. Covering of containers and/or use of wind fences as appropriate.
	Dust emissions due to any use of explosives.	Such activities will not be carried out under particularly dry or windy conditions, and local residents, Sizewell B and Sizewell C will be informed in advance.
	Increase in dust at residential properties along traffic routes due to soiled vehicles or vehicles carrying dusty loads.	As appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sheeting of lorries carrying dusty loads. Provision of wheel washing for heavy goods vehicles on leaving Site.
Ecology	Loss of nest sites for Black Redstarts.	Provision of additional, appropriately designed nest boxes prior to the commencement of works.
	Loss of foraging habitat for Black Redstarts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimisation of habitat loss, where reasonably practicable. At any one time parts of the Site will provide potentially suitable foraging habitat for Black Redstarts.
	Incidental mortality/ noise (including explosions) and visual disturbance of Black Redstarts.	Employee awareness program and experienced individual tasked with identifying active nest sites.
	Loss of nesting habitat for Kittiwakes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of additional nesting sites for Kittiwakes at the Lowestoft colony.
	Incidental mortality of Reptiles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reptile proof fencing to be used to prevent reptiles from moving into working areas. Reptile proof fencing should be installed prior to works commencing, allowing a period of time for reptiles to move out of the working area.

Deferral Preparations Phase (3a)

Topic	Nature of impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed
Geology, Hydrogeology and Soils	Inadvertent or uncontrolled disturbance or spreading of existing contaminated soils, including movement by windblown dust, entrainment in runoff, attachment to vehicles and/or inappropriate soil handling operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk studies and Site investigation, if necessary, before works commence in order to determine the presence or absence of contamination, so that appropriate working practices can be adopted from the outset. • Controlled access to or from known or potentially contaminated working areas as appropriate. • Use of recirculating wheel washers on lorries leaving Site as appropriate. • See also measures under 'Inadvertent contamination of soils and/or groundwater arising from temporary storage of contaminated soils, wastes or materials'. • See also control measures under 'Air Quality and Dust'.
	Mobilisation of existing contamination by direct rainwater infiltration due to changes in ground coverage.	Investigation of contaminated soils prior to removal of hard-standings or buildings/foundations (possibly by desk study alone if appropriate), with prior remediation if necessary.
	Mobilisation of existing contamination by direct rainwater infiltration due to the creation of temporary open excavations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk studies and Site investigation, if necessary, before works commence in order to determine the presence or absence of contamination, so that appropriate working practices can be adopted from the outset. • Excavation dewatering, if necessary, with monitoring and appropriate management/disposal of any waters arising. • Tenting of exposed areas or excavations, if necessary.
	The potential contamination of ground and groundwater due to contaminated water entering those external drains that run to soakaways.	See mitigation measures required to prevent contamination of soils and/or groundwater; and spills and leaks.
	Creation of new contaminant migration pathways (e.g. due to the creation of boreholes, piles or excavations connecting previously unconnected geological strata).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with British Standard 5930 (Code of Practice for Ground Investigations) and BS 10175 (Investigation of Potentially Contaminated Sites - Code of Practice). • Compliance with Environment Agency (EA) Technical Report P5-065/TR (Technical Aspects of Site Investigation). • Production of risk assessments, method statements and contingency plans.
	Inadvertent contamination of soils and/or groundwater arising from temporary storage of contaminated soils, wastes or materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sampling and testing of soils, wastes and materials prior to storage as appropriate. • Segregation as appropriate. • Use of containment (e.g. membranes) to eliminate cross-contamination, as appropriate. • Management of rainwater run-off from storage areas for contaminated or potentially contaminated soil, wastes and materials.
	Inadvertent contamination of soils and/or groundwater arising from inappropriate use of contaminated soils, wastes or materials as infill materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sampling and testing of potentially contaminated soils, wastes and materials prior to use as appropriate. • Authorised disposal of unsuitable soils, wastes and materials.
	Changes in soil and groundwater quality due to spills or leaks of non-radioactive substances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bunding of chemical and fuel storage according to EA Pollution Prevention Guidance (PPG) Notes 2 and 6⁴. • Appropriate protocols for chemicals and fuel handling in line with PPG 6, with trained staff only to operate facilities. • Emergency spill response planning according to PPG 21, including spill kits kept on Site and trained staff available.
	Derogation of existing groundwater abstractions due to on Site dewatering operations, if any.	If necessary, placement of recharge barriers as appropriate (i.e. inject back into the ground an equivalent amount of water to that extracted).
	Changes in groundwater flow/water table regime beneath nearby sites designated for their ecological value due to on Site dewatering operations, if any.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If necessary: • Placement of physical barriers (e.g. sheet piles) and recharge barriers as appropriate (i.e. injection back into the ground an equivalent amount of water to that extracted). • Provision of compensation flows directly into the feature affected.

⁴ Pollution Prevention Guidance has been withdrawn by the Environment Agency and is now only available through the 'National Archive', but should still be referred to for good practice guidance.

Deferral Preparations Phase (3a)		
Topic	Nature of impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed
Landscape and Visual	Light spill from Site works.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any new lighting to be installed on Site should be directional lighting.
Noise and Vibration	Local residential properties, recreational areas & industrial receptors. General changes to noise directly from the Site and associated changes in traffic.	<p>As appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of equipment fitted with effective silencers where practicable. Appointment of a Site contact to whom complaints/queries about construction/demolition activity can be directed - any complaints to be investigated and action taken where appropriate. Local residents informed of exceptional activities. No potentially significant external working outside of normal working hours without prior agreement with the local authority. All construction activity to be undertaken in accordance with good practice as described by British Standard 5228:1997⁵ Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites. This includes minimising unnecessary revving of engines, turning off machines when not required and routine maintenance of equipment.
	Noise & vibration caused by explosive demolition (if used).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of good blasting practice and warning members of the public and the operators of Sizewell B and Sizewell C in advance of demolition activities using explosives.
Socio- Economic	Long term loss of Direct Employment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRS will encourage its contractors to make use of local labour, equipment and services as far as practicable. NRS will attempt to redeploy affected staff, provide opportunities for early retirement & support staff retraining/reskilling.
Traffic and Transport	Impacts on safety on roads with an accident record worse than average (King George's Avenue, Leiston).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No specific mitigation is possible because of the absence of specific accident clusters and causes. However, a Travel Plan is incorporated into the Site Management Control Procedure for Environmental Management⁶. This encourages, among other actions, communal transport and car sharing. Personnel are encouraged to avoid the centre of Leiston if possible. Heavy Goods Vehicles are to use B1122 Lovers Lane-C228 route between the A12 and Site as appropriate.
	Impacts on safety etc. due to mud on roads.	Wheel washing of lorries as necessary.
Surface Water Quality and Drainage	Changes in North Sea water quality due to the potential release of turbid and/or contaminated water from decommissioning activities on the Site.	<p>Where necessary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wetting down (e.g. excavation or construction/demolition areas) to prevent windblown spread of dust into locations where subsequent washing into surface water drains would be likely, and appropriate management of wastewater arising. On Site roads to be regularly kept free from mud/dust deposits, including the use of recirculating water wheel washers and road cleaners as appropriate. Sheeting or seeding of any stockpiles of soil or potentially contaminating materials. Careful design and siting of spoil mounds as necessary to manage run-off, including use of low walls around such mounds if appropriate. See also measures under 'Geology, Hydrogeology and Soils'.
	Changes in North Sea water quality due to minor spills and leaks of non-radioactive substances, if they occurred.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Careful siting of concrete plant and fuel/chemical handling facilities according to EA Pollution Prevention Guidance (PPG)⁴ Notes 5 and 6. Bunding of chemical and fuel storage according to PPG 2, PPG 5 and PPG 6. Appropriate protocols for chemicals and fuel handling in line with EA PPG 6, with trained staff only to operate facilities. Emergency/spill response planning according to PPG 21; including spill kits kept on Site and trained staff.

⁵ BS5228: 1997 has been superseded by BS5228: 2009 Parts 1 & 2.

⁶ The Environmental Management Control Procedure has been withdrawn and the Travel Plan has been incorporated into a Site Section Working Instruction.

3.1.2 Deferral Phase (Condition 3a)

During the Deferral Phase no significant works are planned with the possible exception of recladding the reactor buildings (should this be required). It is anticipated that the reactors would be reclad in a similar material to that used at the start of care and maintenance hence the visual impact will remain unchanged.

Table 2 Deferral Phase (Condition 3a)

Deferral Phase (Condition 3a)	
Topic	Nature of Impact
Landscape and Visual	During Deferral no significant works are planned with the possible exception of recladding the reactor buildings (should this be required). It is anticipated that the reactors would be reclad in a similar material to that used at the start of Deferral hence the visual impact will remain unchanged.

No other significant adverse environmental impacts were identified during the Deferral period.

3.1.3 Final Site Clearance Phase (Condition 3a)

Most of the mitigations during this phase, will be the same as those identified in the Deferral Preparations Phase. Table 3 below outlines additional mitigation that are proposed during this phase of decommissioning.

Table 3 Final Site Clearance Phase (Condition 3a)

Final Site Clearance Phase		
Topic	Nature of impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed
Air Quality and Dust	Increase in Site dust emissions due to construction, demolition and waste/materials handling operations etc. which could impact on residential and industrial receptors.	As appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of the Building Research Establishment, Guidance on the Control of Dust from Construction and Demolition Activities (2003). • On Site roads to be regularly cleaned of mud/dust deposits, including the use of recirculating water wheel washers and road cleaners as appropriate; and sheeting of vehicles carrying potentially dusty loads. • Minimisation of unnecessary material and waste handling as far as practicable. • Use of water sprays for external demolition activities as appropriate. • Use of water sprays during outside infill operations. • Avoidance of vehicular use on unsurfaced (soft) ground where possible and limits on vehicle speeds on such surfaces where it cannot be avoided. • Use of water sprays during particularly windy or dry conditions. • Use of water sprays to maintain damp surfaces during dry and windy weather (e.g. soil stockpiles, demolition rubble); or sheeting or seeding of surfaces of stockpiles of soil or other dusty materials. • Sheeting or seeding of surfaces and/or use of wind fences as appropriate. • Covering of containers and/or use of wind fences as appropriate.
	Dust emissions due to any use of explosives.	Such activities will not be carried out under particularly dry or windy conditions, and local residents, Sizewell B and Sizewell C will be informed in advance.
	Increase in dust at residential properties along traffic routes due to soiled vehicles or vehicles carrying dusty loads.	As appropriate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheeting of lorries carrying dusty loads. • Provision of wheel washing for, as a minimum, heavy goods vehicles on leaving the Site.
Ecology	Loss of nest sites for Black Redstarts.	Provision of additional, appropriately designed nest boxes prior to the commencement of Site works.
	Loss of foraging habitat for Black Redstarts.	Minimisation of habitat loss, where reasonably practicable. At any one time parts of the Site will provide potentially suitable foraging habitat for Black Redstarts.
	Incidental mortality/noise (including explosions) and visual disturbance of Black Redstarts.	Employee awareness programme and experienced individual tasked with identifying active nest sites.
	Incidental mortality of Reptiles.	Reptile proof fencing to be used to prevent reptiles from moving into working areas. Reptile proof fencing should be installed prior to works commencing, allowing a period of time for reptiles to move out of the working area.

Final Site Clearance Phase		
Topic	Nature of impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed
Geology, Hydrogeology and Soils	Inadvertent or uncontrolled disturbance or spreading of existing contaminated soils, including movement by windblown dust, entrainment in runoff, attachment to vehicles and/or inappropriate soil handling operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk studies and Site investigation, if necessary, before works commence in order to determine the presence or absence of contamination, so that appropriate working practices can be adopted from the outset. • Controlled access to or from known or potentially contaminated working areas as appropriate. • Use of recirculating wheel washers on lorries leaving Site as appropriate. • See also measures under 'Inadvertent contamination of soils and/or groundwater arising from temporary storage of contaminated soils, wastes or materials'. • See also control measures under 'Air Quality and Dust'.
	Mobilisation of existing contamination by direct rainwater infiltration due to changes in ground coverage.	Investigation of contaminated soils prior to removal of hard-standings or buildings/foundations (possibly by desk study alone if appropriate), with prior remediation if necessary.
	Mobilisation of existing contamination by direct rainwater infiltration due to the creation of temporary open excavations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk studies and Site investigation, if necessary, before works commence in order to determine the presence or absence of contamination, so that appropriate working practices can be adopted from the outset. • Excavation dewatering, if necessary, with monitoring and appropriate management/disposal of any waters arising. • Tenting of exposed areas or excavations, if necessary.
	The potential contamination of ground and groundwater due to contaminated water entering those external drains that run to soakaways.	See mitigation measures required to prevent contamination of soils and/or groundwater; and spills and leaks.
	Creation of new contaminant migration pathways (e.g. due to the creation of boreholes, piles or excavations connecting previously unconnected geological strata).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with British Standard 5930 (Code of Practice for Site Investigations) and BS 10175 (Investigation of Potentially Contaminated Sites - Code of Practice). • Compliance with EA Technical Report P5-065/TR (Technical Aspects of Site Investigation). • Production of risk assessments, method statements and contingency plans.
	Inadvertent contamination of soils and/or groundwater arising from temporary storage of contaminated soils, wastes or materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sampling and testing of soils, wastes and materials prior to storage as appropriate. • Segregation as appropriate. • Use of containment (e.g. membranes) to eliminate cross-contamination, as appropriate. • Management of rainwater run-off from storage areas for contaminated or potentially contaminated soil, wastes and materials.
	Inadvertent contamination of soils and/or groundwater arising from inappropriate use of contaminated soils wastes or materials as infill materials.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sampling and testing of potentially contaminated soils, wastes and materials prior to use as appropriate. • Authorised disposal of unsuitable soils, wastes and materials.
	Changes in soil and groundwater quality due to spills or leaks of non-radioactive substances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bunding of chemical and fuel storage according to EA Pollution Prevention Guidance (PPG) Notes 2 and 6⁴. • Appropriate protocols for chemicals and fuel handling in line with PPG 6 with trained staff only to operate facilities. • Emergency spill response planning according to PPG 21, including spill kits kept on Site and trained staff available.
	Derogation of existing groundwater abstractions due to on Site dewatering operations, if any	If necessary, placement of recharge barriers as appropriate (i.e. inject back into the ground an equivalent amount of water to that extracted).
	Changes in groundwater flow/water table regime beneath nearby sites designated for their ecological value due to on Site dewatering operations, if any	<p>If necessary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placement of physical barriers (e.g. sheet piles) and recharge barriers appropriate (i.e. injection back into the ground an equivalent amount of water to that extracted). • Provision of compensation flows directly into the feature affected.

Final Site Clearance Phase		
Topic	Nature of impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed
Landscape and Visual	Light spill	Any new lighting to be installed on site should be directional lighting.

3.2 Mitigation Measures Not Yet Selected (Condition 3b)

No such activities have been identified for the Deferral, or Final Site Clearance phases at this time. The Deferral Preparations phase mitigations are outlined below.

Table 4 Deferral Preparations Mitigations to be selected (Condition 3b)

Deferral Preparations Phase (3b)		
Topic	Nature of impact	Mitigation Measures Proposed
Historic Value	Historical value of Sizewell A	<p>A strategy to preserve the historical and industrial value of all NRS reactor sites, of which Sizewell A is one, is being considered. NRS will provide supporting information to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority as required to assist in making any decisions.</p> <p>Potential options include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting a Royal Commission of the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) level 1 survey. • Undertaking a comprehensive cataloguing of existing photographs and supplementing these with new photographs where appropriate. • Retaining operational records and other documents of interest. • Displaying items of plant of interest, e.g. panels from a control room, in a visitors centre and/or museum.

3.3 Mitigation Measures Not Yet Identified (3c)

All activities have been assessed for Deferral Preparations and for the Deferral Period itself and therefore there are no examples for these phases.

Additional mitigation measures (or any changes required to those measures listed above) for activities during Final Site Clearance will be based on the technologies available at that time, decommissioning experience and any future environmental assessment deemed necessary.

4 Effectiveness Of Mitigations

It is a requirement of the conditions attached to the consent (See Appendix A) to describe the effectiveness of the mitigation measures that are implemented.

This section will discuss the measures which have been implemented, how the site measures their effectiveness in reducing significant environmental impacts and describes their use in some relevant projects which have been carried out during 2025/2026.

Image 1: Turbine Hall Structure Pre-Demolition



Image 2 & 3: Completed Turbine Hall Demolition



Table 5 below shows some of the mitigations put in place to support work undertaken across Site in 2025/26. There have been no significant environmental events related to this work and the mitigations applied have been effective and proportionate to the hazards present.

Table 5 Review Of Mitigations Applied in 2025-2026

Environmental Hazard	Works Description	Environmental Mitigation	Issues? (Y/N)	Effectiveness/comments
	Turbine Hall Demolition Project - Dust Emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dust monitors deployed for duration of demolition. Site roads were regularly cleaned of mud/dust deposits by road cleaner. Water sprays utilised for demolition of main structure. Water sprays used to dampen down demolition rubble stockpiles during dry and windy conditions. Minimisation of unnecessary material and waste handling as far as practicable. Speed limit of 9mph enforced on Site roadways. 	N	Mitigations implemented. No issues reported.

Environmental Hazard	Works Description	Environmental Mitigation	Issues? (Y/N)	Effectiveness/comments
Air Quality and Release of Dust	Crushing of Demolition Rubble.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concrete crusher placed in Turbine Hall basement void to reduce dust dispersal. Material processed under the Aggregate Protocol. Water sprays utilised for crushing activities. Pre and Post use inspections of concrete crusher performed. 	N	Mitigations implemented. No issues reported.
	Transfer of Material to Sizewell C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicles kept off of public roads during transfer, travel distance minimised. Each vehicle load sheeted. 	N	Mitigations implemented. No issues reported. The re-use and transfer of the material to Sizewell C provided a more sustainable solution, eliminating the need for additional vehicle movements on local roads.
Ecology	Turbine Hall Demolition Project – Black Redstarts/ Bats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 13 Nesting boxes deployed in various locations around Site in 2023 to provide additional habitat in preparation for the structure’s demolition. Bat boxes additionally deployed to the south of the structure in Hill Wood and one box installed on a Site tree. 	N	3 Nesting boxes were used with nests built within them during 2025’s nesting season. No other nesting locations were identified on Site during the period. No reports of bat sightings received during the demolition process.
	Site Activities – Other Wildlife	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodic ecological walkdowns conducted to identify nesting bird locations and numbers (Herring and Lesser Black Backed Gulls). Installation of additional bird netting in project/operational areas. 	N	Mitigations implemented. No issues reported. Gulls continue to frequent and nest on Site in large numbers each year.
Geology, Hydrogeology and Soils	Site Activities involving Investigations, Groundwater Monitoring, Project Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Routine groundwater monitoring campaign. Spill kits available in work areas and personnel trained in their use. 	Y	Borehole BH108 lost during Turbine Hall demolition process. Borehole redrilled by external contractor WSP in March 2026.
Diesel Generator Use	Turbine Hall Demolition Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generators and remote fuel tanks stored on hardstanding where practicable and away from Site drainage. Spill kits available in work areas and personnel trained in their use. ESQEP provided with monthly fuel usage figures for company carbon reporting requirements. Inspections of generators, diesel storage containers and connecting pipework for signs of leaks, damage or degradation prior to use and on a regular basis whilst in use. New generator Local Station Instruction (LSI) adopted within Site procedures and management system. 	Y	Generators brought onto or taken from Site without ESQEP knowledge. New generator working instruction created for future Site use.
Noise	Turbine Hall Demolition Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise monitoring units deployed. Local residents informed of project milestones and work scope in the form of an information leaflet, this provided Site contact details for any noise complaints/queries. Additional communication of project status through the Site’s Stakeholder Group (SSG). 	N	Mitigations implemented. No issues reported.

Environmental Hazard	Works Description	Environmental Mitigation	Issues? (Y/N)	Effectiveness/comments
Transport	Turbine Hall Demolition Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel Plan adopted for the transfer of various waste streams from Site. 	N	Mitigations implemented. No issues reported.
	Transfer of Material to Sizewell C.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vehicle loads maximised to reduce movements. Vehicles kept off of public roads during transfer, distance minimised. 	N	Mitigations implemented. No issues reported.

Image 4: Gull Activity During Decommissioning Works



Socio-Economic Impacts

Table 6 – Social economic funding for local initiatives/projects since financial year of 2023/24.

Financial Year	Recipient	Project/Initiative	Amount
2023/24	Saxmundham Art Station	Art Station work placements, internship and new East Suffolk LCEP Coordinator	£22,500
	Leiston Long Shop	Museum Director	£31,400
	4 x Good neighbour application (up to £2,000 per application)		£3,826
		Sub Total	£57,726
2024/25	Saxmundham Art Station	Art Station work placements, internship and new East Suffolk LCEP Coordinator	£22,500
	East Suffolk Council	Enhanced Youth Employment Service	£95,00
	4 x Good neighbour application (up to £2,000 per application)		£4,246
		Sub Total	£147,146
2025/26	Leiston Long Shop	Museum Director	£25,400
	East Suffolk Council	Enhanced Youth Employment Service	£95,000
	2 x Good neighbour application (up to £2,000 per application)		£2,894
		Sub Total	£123,294

Communities around Sizewell A Site have received a total of £328,166 of NRS Socio-Economic funding since April 2023.

Enhanced Youth Employment Service (YES)

Funding has allowed The Youth Employment Service (YES) to support 16–24-year-olds in East Suffolk progress into education, employment or receive training through personalised in-person and online support. Each year, the project supports around 300 young people to help achieve a positive long-term outcome.

Museum Director

Funding has allowed Long Shop Museum to carry the museum into a new digital hybrid age, increasing its audience, improving accessibility, and developing its network of community support services and activities.

Good Neighbour Projects

Funding has provided a Winterproof Kit to Leiston Youth Football Club and a Matchday Kit to Tunstall Juniors Netball Club.

5 Changes To The EMP (2025- 2026)

The primary update to this Environmental Management Plan (EMP) relate to formatting improvements implemented as part of an internal EIADR enhancement initiative. These changes aim to streamline the EMP process and ensure consistency in the template used across all NRS sites.

As a result, some sections have been removed or amended compared to the previous version. However, there are no substantive changes to the content, as no modifications were made to the mitigation measures for the 2025–2026 period relative to 2024–2025.



Image 5: Male Black Redstart using specialised nest box provided



Image 6: Female Black Redstart returning with food for young

6 Distribution Of The EMP

Any queries relating to decommissioning activities at Sizewell A Site or requests for copies of this EMP should be addressed to:

The Site Director
Sizewell A Site
Nr Leiston
Suffolk
IP16 4UE

In addition to the submission of this EMP to the ONR, NRS will make the document publicly available via the NRS pages on the GOV.UK website.

Copies of this EMP can be viewed at the following locations:

- Leiston Library, Old Post Office Square, Main Street, IP16 4ER.
- Aldeburgh Library, Victoria Road, Aldeburgh, IP15 5EG.
- Saxmundham Library, County Offices, Street Farm Road, Saxmundham, IP17 1AL.
- Southwold Library, Old Hospital Hub, Field Stile Road, Southwold, IP18 6LD.
- Woodbridge Library, New Street, Woodbridge, IP12 1DT.
- Framlingham Library, The Old Court House, Bridge Street, Framlingham, IP13 9AJ.
- Wickham Market Library, Resource Centre, Chapel Lane, Wickham Market, IP13 OSD.

Further information on the HSE's (now ONR) decision to grant consent to decommission Sizewell A Site can be found in their decision report, which describes the content of the conditions attached to the Consent and the main reasons and considerations for the decision. Requests for copies of this document should be made directly to the ONR.



Image 7: Cooling water intake and outfall structures

Appendix A: Decommissioning Project Consent

Decommissioning Project Consent No.1

May 2006

**NUCLEAR REACTORS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR
DECOMMISSIONING) REGULATIONS 1999**

CONSENT

granted under regulation 4(b)
in accordance with regulation 8(3)
with conditions attached under regulation 8(4)

SIZEWELL A POWER STATION

The Health and Safety Executive, for the purposes of regulation 4(b) in accordance with regulation 8 (3), hereby grants consent for carrying out the project applied for under regulation 4(a), in particular, to remove all buildings except the reactor buildings, alter the reactor buildings for a period of deferment, retrieve and package operational intermediate level waste, and store the intermediate level waste until it can be removed from site, and clear the site, subject to the conditions under regulation 8 (4) attached.

Dated:

For and on behalf of the
Health and Safety Executive

Signed

Dr S. L. Creswell
A person authorised to
act in that behalf

**NUCLEAR REACTORS (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR
DECOMMISSIONING) REGULATIONS 1999**

CONDITIONS

attached under regulation 8(4)
to Decommissioning Project Consent No. 1 granted under regulation 4(b)

SIZEWELL A POWER STATION

Condition 1

The project shall commence before the expiration of five years from the date of this Consent.

Condition 2

(1) The licensee is required to prepare and implement an environmental management plan to cover mitigation measures to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.

(2) The project shall not be carried out except in accordance with the environmental management plan.

Condition 3

Within 90 days of the date of this Consent, with reference to the Environmental Statement provided under regulation 5(1) and evidence to verify information in the Environmental Statement, provided under regulation 10(9), the environmental management plan shall:

- a. list the mitigation measures that are already identified in the Environmental Statement and evidence submitted to verify information in the Environmental Statement;
- b. list the options to implement work activities where mitigation measures may be required but where selection of an option will only be possible in the future;
- c. list the work activities where mitigation measures may be required but where assessments to identify mitigation measures will only be possible in the future.

Condition 4

Subsequent to condition 3, the environmental management plan shall:

- a. with reference to condition 3b, identify the mitigation measures for options that have been selected, giving reasons for their selection;
- b. with reference to condition 3c, identify the mitigation measures from assessments carried out, giving reasons for their selection;
- c. describe the effectiveness of the mitigation measures over time;
- d. describe significant changes to the mitigation measures in light of experience, giving reasons for such changes.

Condition 5

The licensee is required to:

- a. provide the environmental management plan to the Health and Safety Executive within 90 days of the date of this Consent and every year thereafter, or within such longer time as the Executive may agree;
- b. make the environmental management plan available to the public within 30 days of the plan being sent to the Health and Safety Executive, or within such longer time as the Executive may agree; the plan may replace earlier versions.

Condition 6

The licensee is required to provide notice to the Health and Safety Executive of any significant change to a mitigation measure to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any major adverse effects on the environment no less than 30 days before the change is made, or within such shorter time as the Executive may agree.

Dated:

For and on behalf of the
Health and Safety Executive
Signed

Dr S. L. Creswell
A person authorised to act in that behalf

Sizewell A Site

Near Leiston

Suffolk

IP16 4UE

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/nuclear-restoration-service>

