

Sizewell B Power Station

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Station News

The station has operated at full power during May, June & July.

Sizewell B become the first power station to receive the Biodiversity Benchmark

British Energy received high praise after the land surrounding Sizewell B became the first power station to receive the Biodiversity Benchmark from the Wildlife Trusts.

The award recognises the work done by both British Energy and Suffolk Wildlife Trust to turn the 684 hectares (ha) of land around the station into a haven for wildlife and nature lovers alike.



Christine Blythe, senior estates surveyor, said: "British Energy is proud to have received the Biodiversity Benchmark from the Wildlife Trusts. Sustainability is at the heart of the way we do business and the Benchmark is recognition of our commitment to the conservation and enhancement of wildlife in Suffolk.

"This achievement is also a reflection of the contribution made by our various partners on the Suffolk coast particularly The Suffolk Wildlife Trust whose wardens' practical skills and wildlife expertise have been invaluable."

Since 1994 over 13 miles of public and permissive paths have been created across the estate, and are enjoyed by over 25,000 visitors each year thanks partly to the guided walks led by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust wardens.

Julian Roughton, chief executive of The Suffolk Wildlife Trust, said: "The Suffolk Wildlife Trust has enjoyed a very good working partnership with British Energy since the 1990s.

"Once neglected wildlife habitats have been transformed into a matrix of secluded grazing marshes, reedbed, wet woodland and heathland.

"This diverse site is one of the best wetlands in East Anglia for wildflowers and a stronghold for otter, water vole and kingfisher. In summer the dykes are alive with an incredible 17 species of dragonfly while birds like wigeon, snipe and shoveler are attracted to the flooded marshes during winter."

The area includes 104ha of coastal grazing marsh, reedbed and fen which have been restored by grazing, scrub clearance and water level management and is noted for its nationally scarce plants, population of water voles and breeding birds like reed bunting and cettis warbler.

Some 70ha of arable land have been restored back to lowland heathland for the benefit of species like adder, slow worm and skylark. Since 1990, over 170,000 trees and shrubs have been planted, many of them broadleaves and 3000m of new hedgerow have been planted which together with arable field margins, provide important wildlife corridors.

All of these sit within an area of outstanding natural beauty with the surrounding land, known as Sizewell Belts, designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

To receive the benchmark, British Energy and the Sizewell site were subjected to a series of audits with the company being recommended for certification only after having satisfied the rigorous criteria to assess the management of the site.

Juillian Roughton added: “This is a great example of what can be achieved through industry and conservation working together and just goes to show that with effective environmental stewardship of the land, nature can thrive - this does not happen by accident, it requires a great deal of commitment and hard work by British Energy and its partners.

“British Energy is one of the first organisations to achieve the Biodiversity Benchmark and I hope it will encourage more organisations to follow their example.”

BTO Challenge - Sizewell wins two awards

The BTO Bird Challenge began in 1994 and is a biannual competition in which Sizewell has participated in all eight challenges. Sizewell has either won its category or received a community award every time and so with British Energy sponsoring the 2008 competition the pressure was on to maintain the standard set.

A final total of 154 birds was enough to win the Power Station (100ha or larger) section. Although our total was respectable there is now stiff competition within other BE sites, Heysham and Dungeness were in a different group as they have a smaller landholding but they both managed to record 160 species, well done to them.

Both Sizewell and Heysham won awards in the Conservation category for improvements and initiatives carried out on site to improve the area for birds and wildlife.



The awards ceremony took place at Sizewell on 12 June at the Sizewell Sports & Social club in Leiston.

School takes 'Green' steps!

Students and teachers from Leiston Middle School celebrated the school's 100th birthday on Friday 10 July by making individual pledges as part of Green Britain Day.

Green Britain Day Facilitator Niki Spatchett, Sizewell B's Community Liaison Officer and Steve Friend, Sizewell B's Environment Co-ordinator helped students to think about the changes they can make for a greener Britain. They encouraged students, teachers and the local community to make a green footprint pledge for Green Britain Day with the clear message that lots of people taking these small steps together will make a big difference.



The students took part in the special day by dressing in clothes from a particular era of the school's 100 year history. The youngest and oldest pupils in the school jointly planted a tree, not only to mark the Centenary event, but to replace the old tree which was struck by lightning a few years ago. The event ended with everyone sharing a birthday cake, prepared by the school kitchen staff, to celebrate the schools 100th year.

Potential Employees of tomorrow

Sizewell hosted a number of work experience students from Suffolk schools during June & July. Work experience students can offer many qualities to our organisation. They are looking for the opportunity to develop the skills they need for the world of work.

During their time at Sizewell the students were given a project to make a steel bodied copper & nylon mallet in the workshops. The students fully embraced this opportunity and feedback received was how much they enjoyed and valued their time at the station.



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