

Meeting Report

EDF Hinkley Point C: Main Site Forum.

Date: Thursday 4 March 2021 – 6pm

Zoom Webinar

Participating:

Jim Claydon, *Chair*

Peter Bartley, *Stolford resident*

Lidia Bosa, *Shurton resident*

John Burton, *Somerset West & Taunton Council*

Richard Cuttell, *W.H.A.G*

Bruce Eyley, *Kilve Parish Council*

Christopher Ford, *Stogursey Parish Council*

Sue Goss, *Stogursey Parish Council*

Neil Kimmins, *Avon & Somerset Police Neighbourhood Team*

Mike Laver, *Burton resident*

Joanna Manley, *Sedgemoor District Council*

Erland Plomgren, *Holford Parish Council*

Leigh Redman, *Somerset County Council*

Amanda Stanley, *Shurton resident*

EDF Team:

Andrew Cockcroft, *EDF*

Luke Stevens, *EDF*

Immy Silby, *EDF*

Andrew Goodchild, *EDF*

Ruth Jones, *EDF*

Jim Dobbie, *Sedgemoor Tree Services*

Drew Aspinwall, *SEC Newgate*

Apologies:

No apologies received

In addition to the forum meeting notes and agendas, all presentations and reports are available at www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity

Item

Action

1 Introductions

- 1.1** Jim Claydon ('The Chair') welcomed everyone to the Zoom meeting and ran through the forum protocols and invited everyone to introduce themselves in turn.

2 Meeting Note and Matters Arising

- 2.1 The Chair reviewed the meeting note and afternotes provided from Main Site Forum on 22 October 2020 inviting any further comment.
- 2.2 There were no additional comments and the meeting note was then approved.
This is available to view along with the respective papers and presentations on the HPC website www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity

3 Project Progress

- 3.1 Andrew Cockcroft (AC) welcomed everyone to the first Main Site Forum of 2021 and gave a presentation running through progress on site starting with Covid-19 measures in place. AC wanted to re-assure the Forum that the project is not relaxing the measures and continuing to build upon them. The measures will continue to mirror the Governments position and guidance.
- 3.2 AC gave an overview of progress on Unit 1 and Unit 2 Nuclear Islands, Unit 1 Conventional Island, Dome Construction, Grout Trial, a forward look to project milestones 2021 to 2022 and progress with the mud dredging applications. More information on the dredging in the Bristol Channel can be found online here: <https://www.edfenergy.com/energy/nuclear-new-build-projects/hinkley-point-c/about/dredging-bristol-channel>
- 3.3 AC fed back on the Workforce Uplift special briefing held in January and on the drop-in sessions held subsequently. Information from which is being fed into the topic papers which will be sent to the local authorities.
- 3.4 Immy Silby (IS) updated the Forum on works at Combwich Wharf, where there is good progress on the refurbishment and the piling work is coming to an end. Next, work will start on constructing the new transfer slab quay, where components will be unloaded from barges and onto the wharf. IS said that looking ahead we will be liaising with local residents / parish councils as to what to expect from the operational phase. IS advised that works on the wharf are anticipated to be completed this summer.
- 3.5 Ruth Jones (RJ) gave an update on the application submitted to discharge DCO Requirement MS6: Stockpiling to Somerset West and Taunton Council Reference (Ref: Rmi/32/21/001). The application is to temporarily increase parts of the existing stockpile which is in the south west corner of the site to 45m bringing the whole stockpile up to that level, the works would include infilling over the Holford Culvert and adjacent to Green Lane. The plans and the images are available on the presentation, using the link below.

Pre-Submitted Questions

- 3.6 Sue Goss (GS) submitted the following 3 questions, with answers given inserted under each in turn where appropriate.

“Presumably, the area in question is the Holford Valley section of the stockpile area? If this is the case, what is the current height of this plateau and what will be the duration of the infill (dumping ?) period?”

Answer: SG said that the presentation had answered this question.

- 3.7 “This section of the stockpile is very close to Burton and Knighton - which have previously been subjected to unauthorised night-time working noise by your contractors in this very same area . We would expect that the DCO requirements around working hours and noise limits will be strictly enforced by your Environment team, should the council approve your application.”

SG added that this point was a statement rather than a question but there had been incidences when contractors has been working outside of their permitted hours and wanted an assurance from the environmental team that this will be closely monitored and enforced.

- 3.8** “Presumably, the culvert originally installed in the Holford valley at the start of the preliminary earthworks is also designed to take the pressure of x number of extra tonnes of spoil than was originally intended?”

SG questioned the level of strain on the culvert, the impact on the public right of way and requested reassurances over the stability of the stockpile.

Andrew Goodchild (AG) acknowledged that there was an incident when there was a lack of compliance by a contractor. They were re-briefed, the 7am – 7pm working hours when materials can be deposited on the stockpile was reinforced. We have not seen a re-occurrence of this but we will continue to undertake spot checks, monitoring and briefings.

Regarding the stability, AG said that extensive work to look at the additional weight which is reported in a structural stability statement and have commissioned experts to look at the drainage implications and structural implications. John Burton (JC) at Somerset West and Taunton Council has commissioned specialists to review the details of EDF’s application.

In terms of impact of the footpath, AG said we have tried to select the ‘least-worst option’ within the constraints of the site. We will be seeding the edge to help with limiting the visual impact of the stockpile.

Luke Stevens (LS) said he sits within the environment team and will be liaising with the team to ensure that works are carried out in accordance with the agreed arrangements.

- 3.9** SG asked what is HPC going to do with this additional material at the end?
AG said we are looking into how we profile the material to deliver the original landscape design.
SG said she was worried about AG’s response and hoped that there would not be changes to the profiling of the southern boundary as a result of this. AG said that the south boundary has been planted up as per the original DCO plan, what we are dealing with is the land to the north of the 144750 line rather than the southern boundary, in between that part of the site and Green Lane.

Pre-submitted Question from Richard Cuttall (RC):

- 3.10** “Having read the briefing notes there are too many acronyms like NCRs, FCRs and RFT. This information needs to be clearer especially for non EDF people.”
AC made reference to the acronyms and the presentation had been reviewed ahead of the forum to clarify these. Amanda Stanley (AS) said that K28 stockpile should also be explained.

- 3.11** “Secondly in the Southern Lands brief there are various maps. There is no legend ! Why is this information not being delivered in a clearer non technical format?”
AC said again that point had been taken on board and a legend added to the presentation.

- 3.12** SG said thank you to the project for proposing that the parish councils will be notified of any large movements from Combwich Wharf.

RC asked:

- 3.13** Back in 2017 the project identified a shortage of spoil locations, permission was then granted 2019 to put the extra spoil in various locations, how do we:

a) know you won’t come back to us and say we got our calculations wrong, again?

- b) in 2019, AG sent an email to JB saying that the project would be regularly inspecting, maintaining the stockpile drainage ditches and this would be documented. How many times have the council requested these documents and are they in the public domain?

AG answered:

- a) Once the 2 tunnel boring machines are launched and have done their work, then that is the end of the additional material to deal with and there are no other earthworks planned. We can be confident that there won't be any further material.
- b) The council have not asked for the information regarding the stockpiles.

JB responded and said that he did not perceive there to be a problem so had not requested the reports as there has not been a need to do so. JB said he had not received a request to ask for this information to date.

- 3.14** RC said that he would like JB to request the records which including the temporary works co-ordinator records that go into the temporary works register. JB said he would follow this up.
- 3.15** For the purposed of clarity, AG reassured the Forum that these records do exist and the outcome of those has informed the circa 200-page report to do with structural stability which is included in the planning application that is currently live.
- 3.16** SG asked if the engagement report on workforce uplift would be made available as would like to see where comments have been taken on board. AC said that the report forms part of the topic papers being submitted to the local authorities. JB added that the combined local authorities would need to seek legal advice as to whether these documents at this stage would be made available.
- 3.17** RC asked if workforce uplift and the increase to Hinkley Campus room and parking costs would create pressure on Stogursey?
AC said that campus charges are now £25 / night which includes £1 for parking, this is back from the promotional rate of £20 set temporarily in 2019 to drive up patronage. The rates have been agreed with the unions. AC added that the rate is still exceptionally competitive and workers who use it receive a minimum of £40.78 accommodation allowance per night, therefore there is very little evidence that normalisation of the rate will impact the local area in any way.

The presentation can be viewed at: www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity under Main Site Forum.

4 Update report: Southern Area

- 4.1** Luke Stevens (LS), gave an update presentation on the landscaping, planting works, pond transition and signage in the emergency access for the Southern Area. The presentation was made available ahead of the meeting and can be viewed here: www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity

LS talked the forum through the key features of the design, planting and the timeline and showed photos from site and highlighted that a legend for the map had been added in response to RC question.
- 4.2** LS said that each month an aerial photo of the site is taken and if you compare the image of the Southern Area to the plan you can see how closely these do match.
- 4.3** LS showed an image of the Water Management Zone 6, and explained how the original design was made up of 3 ponds, but following a re-calculation of water catchment the area has been re-configured so it both functions as it should and also provides enhanced biodiversity.
- 4.4** LS said that he has been talking to the County Council about the signage on the emergency access road. The junction will need to be as specified by the Highways Authority but within the site itself there is the opportunity to review size and scale of the signage.

- 4.5** A question was raised of the project as to why the signage is so different to B Station. LS said that road and highways standards have changed since that signage was put in. LS said as the planting and seeding has not taken place yet the signage does currently look stark. The bridge size has been reduced down, and is less intrusive than the original design, but still meets all the standards required of it.
- 4.6** LS said that access will be allowed when the conditions allow, but this will be after the tree planting and seeding. There will be plenty of routes but access to some routes will be opened when they are ready, and some may be summer paths only. Whilst the access has been restricted, there has been an increase in the population of hares and other wildlife.
- 4.7** LS and IS are working on signage and wayfinding materials and will share them as soon as they are ready.
- 4.8** Jim Dobbie (JD), from Sedgemoor Tree Services gave an update on the planting programme. JD wanted to highlight to the forum that the sheer scope and quality that has been asked for is very high, the quality of stock is really high, with native locally grown species of tree, including a variety of fruit trees.
- 4.9** Planting is currently taking place above the pond, planting is being kept in groups, avoiding straight lines and the feedback from JD's team on the ground is that the area is going to be wonderful when it is finished.
- 4.10** Erland Plomgren (EP) asked about watering the young trees. JD said that his team will be overseeing the maintenance regime, responding to the conditions but also balancing this with encouraging the trees to put their roots down and not rely on their intervention. This covers established planting and the new planting.
- 4.11** SG said that the community have enjoyed picking fruit from the trees that are now well established. The southern area emergency access road could do with some more planting which would help to screen the road, which SG compared to an A-road, and would like to see the signage removed to make it more sympathetic. SG said she feared people on motorbikes and quad bikes would be able to access the emergency road.

LS said work was already underway regarding the signage and what can be done to reduce the visual impact. Regarding access by motorbikes and quad bikes, there are pedestrian gates and kissing gate. The public access officer on a recent visit did not raise any concerns. The road and its surface has always been part of its design but the planting will take time to establish.

- 4.12** SG said the current access from Shurton is a latch gate it would be possible to get in by a motorbike or quad bikes. LS said he would look at that.

AFTERNOTE: LS checked with SCC Rights of Way officer regarding gates and the issue of quad bikes, motorbikes using the area the response was as follows: "The bridle gate on the road is the legal requirement for a bridle gate. You have also made it suitable for medium and large mobility vehicles by adding the latches and making it two way opening. I've not yet come across any effective means to stop illegal users such as quad bikes, by opening up these routes to horses and mobility vehicles I'm afraid that also allows other users."

LS wanted to add that this location is probably the only place in the county where a quad bike rider may be greeted with a response from security personnel.

- 4.13** Amanda Stanley (AS) said that if the emergency access road is ever used then she hopes the speed limit on the signs will not be adhered to and therefore are not required. She requested confirmation that this road was not going to be used at any other times. LS confirmed it is an emergency access road, the flooding and draining specification is set by highways for this kind of road. LS agreed to look at the signage issue already raised.

**AFTER
NOTE**

- 4.14** AS said that on a positive note, the landscaping above the road is looking amazing and is really looking forward to it drying out and being able to access it but is happy to wait so it can all be established and thanked the team for all their efforts.
- 4.15** AS asked: Water levels in the bridge culverts are very high, what is the plan to monitor water level?
LS said the design is not meant to alleviate water level from further upstream only to provide a road crossing. The approval criteria for the bridge is a 100-year storm event and the ponds in the southern area are design to take a 1 in 100-year storm event plus 30% so they have an enormous capacity to attenuate and hold water rather than release it into the wider environment. In Benhole Lane and areas further upstream it has been extremely wet, and that area has always been an issue but we have a limited amount of ability to do anything outside our boundary, but within our boundary we undertake regular maintenance.
- 4.16** AS asked: what is the plan for the car parking / hardstanding area which is just behind the boundary of Yellow Door Cottage?
LS said: the new arrangement is that all the gates will be locked, the only vehicular access will be through the main emergency gate for security or emergency traffic, there is the footpath gate and then the hardstanding gate will be locked and only used by vehicles coming down to do maintenance of the grass and trees but there will be no more activity than there has in the past.
- 4.17** RC said that several years ago the 'perimeter drain' had some access points alignment with paths but was of the understanding that the ditch will be aligned in a way that it could be walked through when not full of water. LS said it was agreed to be reprofiled to it was less steep; we have taken out the black plastic matting and reprofiled it so it is shallower, and will be a dry ditch in the summer and slightly more damp in the winter. RC asked if it would be fenced. LS said the plans do not include a fence.
- 4.18** Mike Laver (ML) asked when could we expect to see a planting plan and profile for the area north of the southern boundary up to Green Lane. LS this was still as per the landscape vision document originally shared as part of the DCO application, which can be shared again. LS will have to get approval for the design so will need to go through the same approval process as to the rest of the Southern Area.

AFTERNOTE: Link to the approved Landscape Strategy is:

<https://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20190919180526/https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/wp-content/ipc/uploads/projects/EN010001/EN010001-005334-8.17%20Hinkley%20Point%20C%20Landscape%20Strategy%201.pdf>

**AFTER
NOTE**

- 4.19** Lidia Bosa (LB) asked on behalf of some of her neighbours when there will be access to the Southern Area and commented that Benhole Lane was very wet? LS said that it will be weather dependant and when the planting is established. We don't have any control over Benhole Lane only it is very wet at the moment and not our land as previously mentioned.
- 4.20** SG said the sides of the 'perimeter drain' that RC asked about were still very steep.
LS said that when they have silted up a bit and planting has established, they won't be very steep and less so than the usual ditches all over the county. The public rights of way officer on her recent visit was not concerned about the profile of the ditches.
- 4.21** RC asked about the plans for Peter Farmery memorial area.
LS said that work is all in-stream and will be undertaken when the access and the conditions are right.
- 4.22** IS said that the next edition of Plugged in will be out at the end of March. The magazine is going back to being printed, so if you used to receive a hard copy in the post you will again and if you would like to receive one and have not done so in the past please contact Hinkley Point C Enquiries:
<https://contactus.hpcenquiries.com/> where you can subscribe to Plugged in.

- 4.23** IS said in line with Government guidelines, the project hopes the Community Bus will be able to resume service in mid-April but will be in touch closer to the time.
- 4.24** IS said that there has been some feedback on the length of the Main Site Forum, so if you have any thoughts on the length of the meeting or the content that is being shared then please let us know.
edfenergy@hpcenquiries.com

5 Any other business

- 5.1** AS confirmed that this feedback was her and she welcomed that the recent meetings have been shorter but would welcome less time on the project update and more on the Southern Area.
AS added that that the recent road closure was a debacle and requested that when major works are planning could telephone numbers of people 'who can make difference' be shared beforehand.
- 5.2** AS said that litter was an issue and asked LS if he could look at a community litter pick when conditions allow and volunteered her services as did LB.
- 5.3** Mike Laver (ML) had submitted a question and some images (on 22 February 2021) prior to the Main Site Forum, which was:

"The attached picture shows the regular flooding that occurs adjacent to the earthworks bund on the site western boundary. This was taken 2 days after a heavy storm and whilst the water level has fallen it still completely obstructs the Southwest coast path and is causing significant damage to the crop in the field. There seems to be a problem with the design of the bund to be able to divert the inevitable water that accumulates in the valley. Could you please investigate a solution to this problem."

In response, LS explained that this is an ongoing annual problem; it has been particularly bad this year due to the amount of rain we have had. We are undertaking surveys on site to identify the problem and find a solution. We are also discussing the issue with neighbouring landowners.
Hopefully in the next few weeks the weather will change and all the paths which have been very wet this winter will dry out. Please be reassured that we are working to remedy this situation.

Following the meeting ML emailed to say that "contrary to your messages this matter was not referenced at the meeting. ML requested that these details are minuted and for Luke to report back to the next meeting, if not before, with a solution to the problem." And that he was "not sure that 'you are investigating the problem' is an answer. I would like to know what and when something is going to be done about it... Hence my reason for raising it at the MSF to get an action logged that we can trace." **ACTION**

ACTION

6 Date of next meeting:

- 6.1** Date / time: Thursday 24 June 2021 at 6pm
- 6.2** There will be questionnaire circulated in April to field Fora members sentiment on the arrangement for future meetings.
- 6.3** The meeting ended.