

DRAFT Meeting Report

EDF Hinkley Point C: Main Site Forum.

Date: Thursday 20th October 2022 – 6pm

Victory Hall, Stogursey, Bridgwater

Participating:

Jim Claydon, *Chair*

John Burton, *Somerset West & Taunton Council*

Sue Goss, *Stogursey Parish Council*

Chris Morgan, *Somerset West & Taunton Council*

Allan Searle, *Stogursey Parish Council*

Mike Laver, *Burton resident*

Neil Kimmins, *Avon & Somerset Police*

Sue Spicer, *Burton resident*

Gary Perrett, *Sustrans*

Leigh Redman, *Sedgemoor District Council*

Richard Cuttall, *Shurton resident / W.H.A.G*

Stuart Hill, *C.H.A.I.R & Wildfowlers*

Esther Lawson, *Avon & Somerset Police*

Chris Ford, *Stogursey Parish Council*

Shaun Ryall, *Cannington Parish Council*

EDF Team:

Andrew Cockcroft, *EDF*

Andrew Goodchild, *EDF*

Luke Stevens, *EDF*

Drew Aspinwall, *SEC Newgate*

Robyn Evans, *SEC Newgate*

Apologies:

Bruce Eyley, *Kilve Parish Council*

Sue Jones, *West Hinkley Action Group*

Jo Manley, *Sedgemoor District Council*

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

1 Introductions

- 1.1** Jim Claydon ('The Chair') welcomed everyone to the in-person meeting. He asked everyone to introduce themselves and ran through the forum protocols and venue arrangements.

The Chair mentioned the recent passing of Ann Bown who was a regular attendee at both the Transport and Community Forums and said he would formally pay tribute to Ann at the upcoming Transport Forum.

2 Shared Use Cycle Path Workshop Reporting (Andrew Goodchild, EDF)

- 2.1** A workshop took place ahead of the Main Site Forum (open to members of all the Fora) on HPC's proposal to develop a new shared use cycle path between Combswich and Hinkley Point. The purpose of the workshop was to capture feedback on the overall concept and the detailed improvements to surfacing that would enable a route accessible to all users.
- 2.2** Once the consultation closes, Andrew Goodchild (AG) said HPC will take into account all the questionnaires, comments submitted online, and the feedback from the workshops in considering the next steps it will take in relation to the proposal. He reiterated that HPC wants to understand people's concerns and encouraged people to fill out a questionnaire either online or in writing.

3 Meeting Note and Matters Arising from the last Forum held: 23rd June 2022 (Chair)

- 3.1** **Item 2.4** – Sue Goss (SG) noted that she received a response on dry storage for spent fuel but that she was not happy with the response. Andrew Cockcroft (AC) agreed to discuss this with SG after the meeting.
- 3.2** **Item 3.8** – John Burton (JB) made the point that it should say that workforce uplift matters have now been agreed with four councils, rather than three, noting that North Somerset Council was involved in this.
- 3.3** **Item 4.6** – On the Hazardous Substances Consent application to Somerset West and Taunton Council, JB said that since the last Main Site Forum meeting, the application has been lodged and the Council has more details on its website.
- 3.4** **Item 4.10** – On applications for the design of permanent buildings, JB said the note states that around 75% of these requirements have been agreed, which implies that 25% have been refused. He made clear that 75% of the total submissions have been agreed, but 25% are outstanding.

There were no further comments and the draft meeting note was agreed.

4 Project Progress Update – (Andrew Cockcroft, EDF)

- 4.1** (AC) gave a presentation running through progress on site and major milestones, reported that:
- 4.2** **Unit 1 Updates**
- The first stage of third level for the outer containment wall was completed on 25th August.
 - A 27 hour pour took place with four pumps working to deliver the 4.5m high, 1.3m thick circular wall.
- 4.3** **Internal Structures**
- Over the rest of 2022 the internal structures will grow towards the +19.5m level with the completion of the ring wall.
 - The radial walls, clearly visible in December last year are now almost invisible.
 - There is a focus on many smaller pours forming the various rooms and walls within the reactor building.

4.4 Unit 1 Reactor Cavity Panels

- The reactor cavity is being pre-constructed within the East Pool Bunker and installed onto the cavity base.
- Cavity panels are being lifted in, stitched together and welded to form the final pool.
- The complete pool will then be lifted into the reactor building later this year.

4.5 Unit 1 Internal Structures

- **Unit 1 Reactor Building:** The first Neutron Door was installed in the Reactor Building late September. Installation on the +5.15m level (1 of 11 doors for this area). The Inner Containment lift 8 was completed 29th September. Known as the 'horseshoe' as it goes around the Equipment Hatch. This is the last layer of concrete before Liner Ring 3 can be lifted.
- **Main Control Room:** Great progress is being made on the Main Control Room. Final welding completion will take place next week (w/c 24th October 2022).

4.6 AC highlighted wider achievements, including:

- The Drum Screens manufacturing is in progress.
- The final slab pour of the Operational Service Centre. The operational service centre will provide the main office, control centres (security, medical, emergencies), stores and workshops for the HPC Operations Team and sits between the 2 reactors.

4.7 AIL Deliveries

- Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs) have been moving along the C182 from Combwich.
- Plan to pause deliveries and movements until the end of the year whilst final improvement work is carried out at Combwich Wharf.
- The notification system is working well – AC encouraged people to let HPC know if they feel they are not being informed.
- The main girders for the polar crane beam have arrived on site and are in storage ready for the pre-fabrication of the crane.

4.8 A film was played showing the floating cranes lower the 5,000 tonne intake heads down to seabed at HPC.

The film is available to view here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OQR3Rjo51WU>

4.9 Looking towards the end of 2022

Unit 2 Reactor Building

- Construction of the +1.5m slab. This will allow placement of the Radial Walls and building the structures upward. AC said HPC continues to see good efficiency gains (around 20-30%) transferred from Unit 1 to Unit 2.

Unit 1

- Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) The RPV will be completely finished by year end, ready to leave Frametomes factory in St. Marcel (France) and begin its journey to HPC.
- Liner Ring 3 lift – The next Liner Ring before the Dome will be lifted onto Unit 1. Teams will then continue working upward both on the containment structures and in the building.

4.10 Planning and Permits

1. The Environment Agency has now approved a variation to the RSR permit. This is part of the process to adjust the spent fuel storage method from "wet" to "dry".
2. HPC are considering the timing of a pre-application consultation on a material change to its Development Consent Order. It will include proposed changes to the acoustic fish deterrent and spent fuel storage method. The current plan is for the consultation to begin on Tuesday 8th November 2022. AC said the date could still change and HPC will keep the Forum close to developments. **AFTERNOTE:** The HPC team are considering the timing of the consultation and will ensure that Forum members are updated with the latest schedule.

3. HPC has submitted an application to the MMO for minor variations to the permit for the next phase of marine works – the drilling of the vertical shafts down to the tunnels. It includes;
 - Minor variation to programme end dates to allow for unexpected delays (*start dates remain the same);
 - Increased volume of grout used within the six vertical shafts;
 - Removal of the use of a de-airing pump and facility;
 - Small increase in volume of arisings expected from drilling; and,
 - Increased range of the size of backfill used to protect the heads from scouring (now including 500mm material)

4.11 AC said the engineering required to take on this connection is complex and that HPC will provide more detail on this process over the next series of Forum meetings.

4.12 Apprentices

AC welcomed that HPC has reached its target of training 1,000 apprentices during the construction period.

4.13 Team Changes

AC noted that Vicki Dingwall has left the project and moved into a learning and development role at Magnox. A new member will be joining AC's team soon and will attend the next Main Site Forum meeting.

4.14 Lighting and Winter Preparations

AC encouraged people to get in touch with any lighting problems they are facing to ensure they are resolved as soon as possible.

4.15 On the Acoustic Fish Deterrent DCO, SG said she thought the Environment Agency turned the application down.

AC said the Secretary of State for DEFRA turned down the appeal relating to HPC's application to vary the permit, and HPC are currently looking at requesting a Judicial Review into this decision. HPC's primary case for removing the AFD is unchanged so they can progress with the DCO consultation on this basis. On completion of the consultation phase and the main application would follow once there is more clarity.

Sue Spicer (SS) said there is a lot of activity in the channel at moment, asking whether dredging is taking place.

AC explained that it is mainly the backfilling, noting that some minor dredging is required now that the intake heads have been placed.

SS asked whether there will be boats out there all the time.

AC said there will be boats out there for quite a long time, especially as the main backfill operations take place. He said there will be boats with drilling rigs but as this happens HPC will ensure Forum members understand what is going on.

5 Habitats Management: Green Lane/ Foreshore (Luke Stevens, EDF)

5.1 Luke Stevens (LS) updated the Forum on habitats management at Green Lane and the Foreshore.

5.2 Green Lane

LS outlined HPC's work in ensuring the retained habitats are in good condition:

- He said the area has gone from arable land to species-rich grassland over the past ten years
- The hedgerows are managed positively, and a dark corridor is maintained for bats
- Containers have been manufactured with holes in them to allow for solitary bees.

5.3 Sue Goss asked what will happen to the trees in the tubs once work is finished on site.

LS said they will be removed and noted that there is a hedgerow behind them but that as it is salty and windy it takes them a long time to grow. LS confirmed that once taken apart, the plastic tubs will be recycled, the soil will be used elsewhere and the trees that are alive will be planted elsewhere.

SG asked what happened to the crossings for reptiles.

- 5.4** LS explained that there were plans for the reptile crossings at the start of the project based on survey information which was inconclusive about the reptile population. Further surveys took place which showed there were no reptiles there and therefore the requirement was removed.
- 5.5** LS said Green Lane will join back into the public rights of way network and said it is currently excluded from access by anyone else on the project.
SG said Green Lane was badly rutted at the beginning of the project, asking whether the ruts have been filled in.
LS said the surface is a stoned track.
- 5.6** LS summarised that Green Lane functions as a bat corridor, the new planting and grassland is good, and there is a strong population of butterflies and glow-worms, as well as hares and rabbits on site.
- 5.7** **Foreshore**
LS gave an update on the foreshore and the grassland, which is another of the maintained habitats. He explained that this grassland is accessible through the end of the coastal path via Benhole Lane.
- 5.8** LS said there are a number of conditions to maintain areas of flowing water at the foreshore for the preservation of several of features of the Severn Estuary, including Corallina.
- 5.9** SG asked how long this will go on for and whether it will return to its normal state when HPC is finished. LS said he would need to refer to marine colleagues on this.
- 5.10** Richard Cuttall (RC) asked what has been done to this part of the coast to need human intervention to create these reservoirs.
LS said it is due to the installation of the jetty. He said HPC must have a marine licence that surveys the foreshore beforehand and a marine licence for having the jetty which sets out the mitigation HPC must have in place to keep the seaweed contented.
- 5.11** SG asked what will happen when the jetty is removed and whether the seaweed will go back to its natural state.
LS said there will be some remediation of the area to make sure it functions again.
AG explained that the WaveWalker did cause some damage as it moved up and down to undertake the piling for the jetty. He said the medium-term intervention is currently in place and when HPC comes to submit information on the removal of the jetty, they will need to put something in suitable for the long-term.
- 5.12** Stuart Hill (SH) asked about the current state of the wildlife and whether there have been any improvements.
LS said there has been over 10 years of good hedgerow management. He added that much greater numbers of breeding yellowhammers have been recorded on the western boundary over the last couple of years.
- 5.13** SH questioned whether the bat population is stable.
LS said HPC must maintain a dark corridor to show the bats are still using Green Lane in commuting. He said that this is the case, which shows that the bats are not put off by the construction activity on site. However, he added that there are other practices and land use that take place off-site which could impact this.
- 5.14** SH spoke on cases of avian influenza in the area.
LS said they do not see a huge number of birds and that there isn't anywhere on site that would get this kind of congregation of waterfowl or birds.
- 5.15** JB asked whether the annual report for this year had been produced if it would be shared with the local planning authority and Natural England.
LS said there is one and that he can share it.

- 5.16** SG asked about badger activity.
LS said the site is badger free. He added that the temporary sets at the top of Green Lane are still being used and there is quite a lot of badger activity there.

6 Any other business

- 6.1** The Chair noted that this was his last Main Site Forum. He thanked everyone who participates in the forums for their constructive and positive approach, including EDF, the local authorities, police and other agencies, and local people for representing their communities.

7 Date of next meeting: Thursday 23rd February 2023 at 6pm

- 7.1** 2023 dates for the Community, Main Site and Transport Forums

All 6pm start and on Thursdays:

Main Site Forum: 23rd February 2023 / 22nd June 2023 / 19th October 2023

Community Forum: 19th January 2023 / 18th May 2023 / 21st September 2023

Transport Forum: 16th March 2023 / 13th July 2023 / 16th November 2023

- 7.2** The meeting ended.