

Meeting Report

Regarding:

**EDF Hinkley Point C:
Main Site Forum.**

Date & Venue:

**Thursday 19th October 2023 – 6pm
Meeting held at: Victory Hall, Stogursey, Bridgwater**

Participating:

Doug Bamsey, *Chair*
Chris Ford (CF), *Stogursey Parish Council*
Allan Searle (AS), *Stogursey Parish Council*
Mike Laver (ML), *Burton resident*
John Burton (JB), *Somerset Council*
Sue Spicer (SS), *Burton resident*
Sue Goss (SG), *Stogursey Parish Council*
Richard Cuttell (RC), *West Hinkley Action Group*
Hugh Davies (HD), *Somerset Council*
Chris Morgan (CM), *Stogursey Parish Council*
Rosemary Woods (RW), *Somerset Council*

EDF Team:

Andrew Cockcroft (AC), *EDF*
Stacy Walker (SW), *EDF*
John Pingstone (JP), *EDF*
Drew Aspinwall (DA), *SEC Newgate UK*
Matthew Williams (MW), *SEC Newgate UK*

Apologies received:

Bruce Eyley (BE), *Kilve Parish Council*

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

Item	Action
1 Item 1 - Introductions	
1.1 Doug Bamsey ('The Chair') welcomed everyone to the meeting, ran through the venue arrangements and forum protocols, and invited all attendees to introduce themselves.	
2 Item 2 - Meeting Note and Matters Arising	
2.1 The Chair reviewed the previous Main Site Forum meeting note from 22 nd June 2023 including the after-notes and invited any further comment.	
There were no comments or amendments suggested.	
2.2 The meeting note was agreed.	
3 Item 3 - Project Progress – (Stacy Walker (SW), EDF)	
3.1 Stacy Walker (SW) gave an update on Environment Week which took place between 11 th -15 th September. The focus was waste, energy use and pollution prevention. Multiple webinars were available to attend. Key takeaways were a focus on onsite recycling, whether construction materials or plastic bottles. Onsite waste disposal is all electric powered.	
There was a trial of utilising the empty return trip of the barge from Combwich to Avonmouth taking waste material with it, thus reducing HGV travel by road. More of this is planned for the future.	
3.2 Project Progress Virtual Tour	
A film was shown in which Simon Parsons, Nuclear Area Island Director, gave an updated site tour. This film is available to watch here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qnNJsTiB16E	
3.3 SG asked if an update could be given of when the dome lift is due and how many road journeys the barge return would replace.	
SW said the weather is an important factor in completing the dome lift operation but should take place before Christmas. She said the forthcoming long-range forecast will give a better idea. Forum members will be kept informed.	
3.4 SW added that the marine planning team are incorporating utilising the barge into plans for next year. SW said an update will be given in the new year.	ACTION SW
Chris Morgan (CM) noted that sewage discharge into rivers is covered in the news a lot and asked whether any instances were at HPC.	
Andrew Cockroft (AC) answered that there haven't been any, and that all discharges from site are monitored by the Environment Agency. He said HPC's discharges are some of the most highly regulated areas regarding water in the area.	
3.5 CM also asked how much extra pressure is being placed on Avon & Somerset Constabulary, saying that there isn't a local point of contact for general policing.	
SW said that EDF funds 6 posts within the Avon & Somerset team and that she would feedback	

regarding presence. SW and AC work closely with Valdo Andrade (PCSO). AC suggested an officer could join at a Parish Council meeting.

The Chair suggested that policing could be a future Main Site Forum agenda item.

- 3.6** Richard Cuttell (RC) stated that a local paper has suggested that the dome lift will take place on 15th December and asked if it needs to be done this year due to funding.

AC said that the timing was not related to funding and that he could not comment on individual dates and referred to SW's points regarding the weather conditions.

- 3.7** John Burton (JB) asked for clarification on sewage discharge. He said the existing sewerage processing plant was regulated by Environment Agency for 10,000 workers on site and asked about the potential extra not being covered by regulation.

AC said this was a good point and would look into the impact of extra workforce numbers on sewerage.

ACTION AC

Afternote: The project continues to work closely with the environment agency and remains within the regulatory limits set. The project will consider the expansion of sewage treatment capacity in 2024.

- 3.8** Hugh Davies (HD) asked about potential problems with protestors once plans for dome-lift are announced.

SW replied she had visited the security room this week and that HPC are confident that current plans which are in place are of the right level to deal with any potential situation that may occur.

3.9 The Path to Dome Lift

SW gave a wider project update. To achieve Dome Lift focus is on four key areas:

1. Completing the internal civil structures.
2. Introducing key equipment.
3. Preparing the Dome ready for lifting.
4. Building and lifting in the Polar Crane.

3.10 Internal Civil Structures

- Crane has now been removed from the centre of Unit 1.
- Focus is on getting the +19.5m level slab finished which is a pre-cursor to Dome Lift.
- In addition, work must be completed on the Ring Walls (located on the outer circumference of the internal structures).
- Rebar placement, formwork erection and several concrete pours occur each week to progress the structures which will 'hold' components of the Nuclear Steam Supply System in place.

3.11 The Path to Dome Lift – Equipment introduction

- Several pieces of key equipment are required to be installed prior to Dome Lift.
- In August, the Reactor Pressure Support Ring was lifted into the building as well as the third accumulator for the emergency cooling system.

The RPV Support Ring supports the Reactor's position in the Reactor Pit. It is the first piece of permanent equipment manufactured by Framatome to be introduced into the reactor building.

3.12 Assembling and preparing to lift the Polar Crane

Work on the Polar Crane assembly is taking place in the large white building opposite the Simulator Building. The Crane will swivel around the Dome to manoeuvre heavy components during

construction and then be used for maintenance and refuelling.

Progress

- The crane is taking shape and Mechanical & Electrical fit out well underway.
- 4x bogies and 2x cross members assembled and Quadrilateral formed.
- In the past few weeks giant trolleys have been lifted into the enclosure. These will run up and down the crane's two large beams on rails.

3.13 Turbine Hall – Internal Crane

- The 300t crane trolley made the journey from Combwich earlier this month.
- The crane will live at the top of the Turbine Hall and will be used for installation and maintenance of the Turbine.
- The crane is being assembled by Fayat in Avonmouth, Bristol.

3.14 Marine Works

- The first of six Isolation Caps have been delivered.
- Each one consists of around 33 tonnes of high tech, first of type engineering.
- The caps have two important functions during construction and commissioning:
 1. Preventing water from entering the tunnels while the team completes the work to connect the tunnels to the heads sitting on the seabed.
 2. Allowing water from the Bristol Channel into the system, leading to the filling of the tunnels and ultimately flooding the forebay. Therefore, this delivery takes us one step closer on our Mission to Commission Hinkley Point C.
- Each Isolation Cap will be integrated into the giant steel Liners at Portbury, ready for placement into the seabed in the coming months.

3.15 Pre-submitted Question – Completion dates and total costs

Submitted by Mike Laver, Burton resident.

“Could you please include completion dates and current total costs for both units 1 and 2 in your project update. These facts have been lacking in your recent updates and raises doubts amongst the public regarding your management of the project.”

Response: AC said HPC's costs and schedule are unchanged since its last review in 2022 following the pandemic. HPC will continue to use the mantra of 0,0,96,26.

0 – Harm to people

0 – Quality re-work events

96 – Month schedule from J0 to COD (8 years – 2027 for unit 1)

26 – Billion

The 96-month schedule is a challenging one and would make HPC's construction faster than that of Taishan. HPC have also continued to note that a 15-month risk window exists.

The risk of further delay of the two units assessed at 15 months, assuming the absence of a new pandemic wave and no additional effects of the war in Ukraine.

Since the start of main construction in December 2018, the project has been delayed by 18 months in total, mainly due to impact of the pandemic.

During more than two years of the measures put in place in response to the pandemic, the project continued without stopping. This protected the integrity of the supply chain and allowed the completion of major milestones.

ML added that he raised this because an update to the EDF board quoted a figure of £33bn. AC said this was nominal cost when started; £33bn is in effect the inflationary cost.

SG asked what time driven 96 months means, 8 years from 2023.

AC replied that the nuclear industry measures construction timeline from point when J zero (completion of base) to unit coming online.

SS asked if that timeline includes testing.

AC replied it includes everything.

3.16 Pre-submitted Question – Noise and environment monitoring

Submitted by Mike Laver, Burton resident

“You also promised at a previous meeting to periodically provide details of your routine noise and environment monitoring activities. This was agreed following the lack of reporting now no longer provided by Somerset Council.”

AC replied as follows:

1. Noise

The fixed monitoring network around the perimeter of HPC main site has been upgraded and remains operational. No exceedances of the DCO noise limits attributable to HPC works have been detected.

Whilst the offshore work took place we undertook supplementary assurance noise monitoring to confirm that there were no exceedances of the DCO noise limits during these operations.

We also had a couple of noise complaints over the summer:

- 1) Noise nuisance complaint (20 Jul) – Non white noise reversing beacon. It was a new W.Hares forklift – taken out of service the next day and alarm replaced for correct tone.
- 2) Complaint via the council in September on night noise - We investigated with the contractor and confirmed there haven't been any overnight works so the source of the noise remains uncertain.

2. Light

Lighting survey undertaken on 19/09/2023 that assessed light levels at the perimeter of the site. Resulted in a recommendation to amend lighting in one location.

We received one complaint on light during the quarter. The issue was rectified but we were unable to follow up as it was submitted anonymously.

3.17

ML asked a follow-up question related to air quality. He said, with recent still days and easterly winds, there has been an obvious smell of diesel from site.

AC replied this is measured but no breaches were recorded.

SG asked if noise readings are monitored for breaches 24/7.

AC replied it isn't monitored manually but flagged automatically.

SG asked what would happen if it was flagged at 3am.

AC said it requires someone to be logged in and doesn't go to someone's phone.

AC said he would take this away and report back as breaches could occur at any time of day.

ACTION AC

3.18

Richard Cuttell (RC) asked about reversing sounders; saying that he hears them on a daily basis and doesn't feel it's worth his while reporting.

AC said that contractors were trusted to operate as specified, and agreed that RC could send a very short message to the main enquiries containing just the time stamp of a reversing beacon being heard; and the team would investigate.

3.19 Pre-submitted Question – Banks of River Parrett

Submitted by Mike Laver, Burton resident

“I would also like your views on the condition of the banks of the River Parrot particularly the erosion adjacent to Steart Marshes. Is this impacted by EDF shipping transport to Comwich Wharf?”

In response, AC said that it is highly unlikely that the use of the Wharf is affecting erosion on this section of the river which is subject to a huge range of external factors as a highly dynamic estuary with an enormous tidal range.

Firstly, HPC’s use of the area for shipping is relatively light with movements only every few weeks. Secondly, HPC have established protocols to reduce the speed of its marine vessels within the River Parrett with further speed reductions in the Steart Marshes area. We are not the only users on the river but are the only ones who have imposed restrictions on ourselves which are also designed to protect against ecological impact at Steart Marshes itself.

In addition, HPC further restrict this speed when transiting the Steart Marches area. The requirements are monitored during every barge delivery that provides assurances that the Tug Masters are observing those speed restrictions.

The monitoring team also consider other traffic including the Pilot vessels - passing on their observations of speed and wash even though HPC has no ability to enforce any breaches.

EDF does not undertake any dredging of the river itself and its MMO permit only allows HPC to dredge within the Comwich Wharf Berth Bed area.

3.20 SG asked whether these restrictions were in place because of nesting shelduck. AC replied that this was the case at Steart, however it was self-imposed further down.

3.21 CM asked if limits were imposed because of the scale of traffic.

AC answered that it’s a mixture, recognised the sensitivity at Steart because of the low-lying area. He said it doesn’t necessarily come down to size but an appreciation that there will be an increase over a longer time period.

3.22 HD pointed out that Watchet has a new harbourmaster employed by the local authority, in charge of 4 harbours. AC replied that HPC has its own harbourmaster, and is also unique in that it has its own harbour authority. SW added that this was to do with the number of notifications to mariners; with many of these being weather dependent and the need to control at short notice; hence HPC having its own harbourmaster.

3.23 Pre-submitted question – DCO Consultation

Submitted by Sue Goss, Stogursey Parish Council

“There has as yet been no date given for the proposed ‘ Autumn ‘ Public consultation on the prospective changes to the DCO . It is now nearly half way through October - well into autumn - An update on this proposal re the actual Consultation date would be welcome.”

In response, AC said that EDF continues to develop the technical reports to support the consultation and still aims to begin its consultation before Christmas. HPC will ensure that Forum

members receive details of the proposed dates and all information relating to the consultation when ready.

ML asked about the length of the consultation period, and whether January is the deadline for the planning application.

AC said that there needs to be care to avoid consulting over Christmas and confirmed that that no events will take place during the holiday period.

3.24 Pre-submitted question – Cycle route

Submitted by Sue Goss, Stogursey Parish Council

“Stogursey parish council still await the decision regarding whether HPC will proceed with their proposal for a cycle path from Steart to Stolford . This question is particularly relevant to the MS Forum due to the fact the majority of this proposed Cycle path runs through Stogursey Parish - and also , as a detailed discussion session for this was held at a previous MSF meeting in Stogursey Victory Hall.”

Response: AC answered that EDF remains committed to considering the emerging proposal and the views of the wider community. This is likely to be later in 2024 when capacity in the team is available to move into detailed considerations of the proposals.

3.25 Pre-submitted question – Workforce uplift 2

Submitted by Sue Goss, Stogursey Parish Council

“Proposed Workforce Uplift 2. An update on this proposal would be welcome as this could / would impact on Stogursey as the host parish of HPC.”

Response: AC replied that as the workforce increases, EDF is of course considering the potential impacts in a holistic way. We have drafted initial topic papers that consider the potential impacts and opportunities and will provide a full briefing to the forums towards the end of 2023.

SG asked if AC was prepared to say a figure of what the uplift would be; AC replied this was under consideration and conversations are ongoing. Uplift 1 was around 8,500.

3.26

SG replied why the number was so badly underestimated.

AC attributed this to the impact of the pandemic, and that had brought together the civil and electrical phases of the project, which were planned to be separate. This has resulted in a higher level of workforce.

John Burton (JB) pointed out that while there’s no upper limit, there must be a health and safety limit.

3.27

AC said he was unaware of what the carrying capacity is but would provide a detailed briefing in the future.

Chris Ford (CF) asked what conversations had taken place on the impact of restrictions on the A39 e.g. 20mph speed limit. AC said that he would refer to Andrew Wagstaff (logistics lead) on this.

ACTION AC

Afternote: The logistics team continually monitor roadworks and restrictions along all routes. The restrictions on the A39 have been noted.

AFTERNOTE

3.28

CM asked what measures EDF will put in place once all workers have gone. The pandemic extended the length of construction time. What will EDF and Somerset Council do to avoid a boom and bust situation for local businesses, accommodation providers etc.

AC agreed and said EDF has kickstarted a legacy project, currently in its infancy but will consider all of these things and how to manage the ‘exit.’ This would include looking into how to transfer

businesses into other projects; tracking opportunities and what to do with those who have been upskilled. He noted, in particular, the importance of retaining talent.

SG added that rather than compensate businesses, why couldn't the community bus continue? SG felt that some businesses had done rather well as a result of the new nuclear build.

AC replied that there are no plans to compensate business, but that EDF are talking to engineers and manufacturers etc to support a sustainable future. He said HPC will look into other matters including the community bus service and the community fund closer to commissioning.

4 Item 4: Southern Landscape Ecology Area Update (Stacy Walker, EDF)

4.1 September Somerset Walking Festival

HPC organised a walk and talk in the Southern Landscape Area with Chris Dennis (ecologist). It is intended that Chris will attend a future Main Site Forum.

4.2 Wildlife

SW said that grass snakes were not present before work started, but numbers are now increasing.

Barn owls have been using nestboxes in three different locations; they are doing well in part due to increased numbers of grass snakes. SW noted that many species decreasing in other areas are increasing in numbers in the Southern Landscape Area.

In terms of other wildlife, SW said that hares have benefited from dogs being kept on leads.

Numbers of yellowhammers are increasing in the Southern Landscape Area, and are in decline elsewhere in the country. Other areas are also showing a decrease in numbers of greater horseshoe bats; in the Southern Landscape Area woodland areas and dark corridors are monitored and a high number of bats have been recorded using them, including an increased number using the bat house.

SW added that EDF are looking at putting on walks again in the new year and will provide an update on dates and encourage sign ups.

ACTION SW

4.3 Questions

JB said Somerset Council should receive an ecology update from the project; but reported that he did not receive one last year. He requested an update and offered to share this with Natural England.

Afternote: The Ecology update was provided to JB.

4.4 SG added that hares were present before HPC even if they were new to the Southern Landscape Area.

The Chair thanked SW for her presentation.

5 Item 5 – Any Other Business

The Chair invited items of any other business.

5.1 Given the future increase in workforce, RC asked what Covid measures have been put in place, including vaccinations?

AC replied that seasonal influenza indicators are a bigger risk than Covid at present, but vaccinations are available on site.

RC asked if HPC requires any evidence of vaccination status to work there.
AC replied that they don't.

6 Item 6 - Date of Next Main Site Forum

6.1 The next Main Site Forum meeting is scheduled for Thursday 29th February at 6pm.

JB asked if there was a date to bring all three fora together into a single forum.

AC replied that it depends on a detailed response from the Council but would likely now take place in early 2024.

AFTERNOTE

6.2 The meeting ended.