

# Draft Meeting Report

**Regarding:**

EDF Hinkley Point C:  
Main Site Forum.

**Date & Venue:**

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – 6pm  
Meeting held at: Victory Hall, Stogursey, Bridgwater

**Participating:**

Doug Bamsey, *Chair*

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*

Valdo Andrade (VA), *Avon & Somerset Police*

Hugh Davies (HD), *Somerset Council*

Bill Halder (BH), *Bridgwater Resident*

Rose Palmer (RP), *Shurton Resident*

Rosemary Woods (RW), *Somerset Council*

Jenny Ody (JO), *Stogursey Parish Council*

Bob Croft (BC), *South West Heritage Trust*

**EDF Team:**

Andrew Cockcroft (AC), *EDF*

Stacy Walker (SW), *EDF*

Mounia Miguil (MM), *EDF*

Drew Aspinwall (DA), *SEC Newgate UK*

Matthew Williams (MW), *SEC Newgate UK*

**Apologies received:**

Chris Morgan, *Somerset Council*

Chris Ford, *Stogursey Parish Council*

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

In addition to the forum meeting notes and ACendas, all presentations and reports are available at [www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity](http://www.edfenergy.com/hpccommunity)

Item	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>Item 1 - Introductions</b>
<b>1.1</b>	Doug Bamsey ('The Chair') welcomed everyone to the meeting, ran through the venue arrangements and forum protocols, and invited all attendees to introduce themselves.
<b>2</b>	<b>Item 2 - Meeting Note and Matters Arising</b>
<b>2.1</b>	The Chair reviewed the previous Main Site Forum meeting note from 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 including the after-notes and invited any further comment. The following action points from the February meeting were discussed:
	3.4 – re. numbers of U25s working on the project – Andrew Cockcroft (AC) said that there are 477 under-25s from Somerset on the project. He said he didn't have the numbers for West Somerset, which Sue Goss (SG) suggested might be in single fingers. AC added that HPC have updated their report, so a more detailed breakdown of numbers by previous district authority should be available in future.
	3.4 – re. Stogursey Primary links and potential visit to site – Stacy Walker (SW) updated members that she had spoken with the Quantock Trust and are working with Stogursey Primary through the Trust. Filming and media equipment is being donated to the school thanks to this link. Going forward, this will include having some of the school children into the HPC Visitor Centre. SW said she was looking forward to working with them.
<b>2.2</b>	The meeting note was Agreed.
<b>3</b>	<b>Item 3 – Hinkley Point's archaeology: 5,000 years of history (Bob Croft – South West Heritage Trust)</b>
<b>3.1</b>	Bob Croft (BC) gave a presentation outlining some of the archaeological finds at locations near to HPC – including the Bronze Age enclosure found at Shurton, the hypocaust of a Roman villa found during work on the Cannington bypass; and an early Medieval cemetery.
	3 volumes have recently been published about the archaeology surrounding HPC; these are available for purchase here <a href="http://pen-and-sword.co.uk">Pen and Sword Books: The Archaeology of Hinkley Point C Nuclear Power Station, Somerset. Excavations in 2012-16 - Hardback (pen-and-sword.co.uk)</a> ; and Bob's presentation slides can be found with the presentation pack <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>3.2</b>	BC then took questions from members.
	SG commented that there was a lot of technical data in the books and requested that this be separated from everyday facts to aid understanding.
	BC said that the technical report was part of the planning requirement but that he supported getting a simpler version of the report.

Mike Laver (ML) asked if the volumes were available online; BC replied that they are in discussions for a PDF version to be made available online, and he will continue to look into this.

AC asked if Stogursey Parish Council had a copy of the report; BC replied that this will be made available and a copy also put in the local library. SG said that Nether Stowey would appreciate a copy too.

Rose Palmer (RP) asked what happened to the early Medieval burial ground once the excavations finished? BC said that the burials were removed and this is now the western edge of the main site. The items removed are stored at the Somerset Heritage Centre.

The Chair restated the exciting nature of the finds; BC said this was an exciting 'snippet' of the history of this corner of England.

Hugh Davies (HD) said it was a pity that local TV haven't run any pieces or series on this and stated it could be a revenue stream. BC said that they are keen to synthesise the information.

ML suggested that an interpretation board near the site boundary might be a good idea; BC agreed and suggested this could also include a QR code. AC remarked that this could take the form of a heritage walk or similar.

Bill Halder (BH) asked if analysis of the bones found can show if they were all local farmers or from outside the area? BC said that there were no obvious finds from outside the country eg. from Europe, but some were from Suffolk.

The Chair thanked BC for his presentation, which was of particular relevance to this audience given the proximity to the finds.

#### **4 Item 4: Project Progress Update (Andrew Cockcroft, EDF)**

##### **4.1** AC explained that he would give an update on key milestones for the rest of the year.

AC introduced his presentation with an aerial view of the HPC site (which was taken within the last month or so) and explained a few of the key features of the site. The gap in construction between Units 1 and 2 is currently 18 months, this varies between 12 and 18 months depending on the project phasing.

AC pointed out the steady progress' of Unit 1 since dome lift which included the construction of the exterior containment wall, with the interior wall being complete.

AC then moved to the fuel transfer building. The fuel transfer building is important in terms of managing spent fuel but also needs to build to up to its full height to facilitate the Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) being loaded into the reactor later in 2024. On top of this building will be a series of rails and lifting equipment, which will enable EDF to carry out that important task.

AC moved onto progress being made on the turbine hall. More of the exterior cladding has been added.

The large building in the centre of the image is the shared administration centre, which is the size of a large office block and shared between units 1 and 2, with a control centre for each.

Regarding Reactor Unit 2, the third ring liner will be installed later this year. One key learning from Unit 1 is that on Unit 2 both the inner and outer containment walls are being built up at the same time.

HPC is continuing to bring some of the key pieces of equipment onto site, with the Reactor Pressure Vessel being brought in last year. As of 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024, the steam generators are starting to be brought in. The first 2 are on site. In total, 8 of these will be needed (4 per reactor). The remainder of these will arrive throughout this year and into 2025 – these are some of the largest pieces of equipment to be brought up the C182.

AC apologised for the delay regarding a recent AIL on the C182, and that EDF will do everything they can to ensure notice is given in advance. AC thanked SG for bringing this up at May's Community Forum.

#### **4.2 Cooling Water Tunnels**

AC showed a photo of the works inside the cooling water tunnels. Work to complete these is progressing well. Teams are currently reinforcing the outfall tunnel's opening with robust steelwork. The next phase will be to being the secondary spray concrete works on the connection between the tunnel and the vertical shaft.

#### **4.3 Inside the Unit 1 Reactor Building**

The pouring of two slab ledges within Unit 1's containment building marked the completion of all concrete works above the +19.5m level in the Unit 1 Reactor Building. This means that the major civils work has been completed on the 'inner structures' of the building.

The focus has now shifted to the next phase of work, the coating of the walls and liner, to complete rooms and hand them over to MEH.

#### **4.4 Latest Progress**

AC said that the MEH team has successfully installed the first 6 Electrical Marshalling Cabinets in the Electrical Building. Five more are currently being installed. The cabinets are manufactured by Staffordshire-based Capula and are part of HPC's instrumentation and control system.

The reactor core contains a series of internal components that hold the 241 fuel assemblies, guide the control rods and regulate neutrons around the fuel. They were delivered safely by ship to Avonmouth on 19<sup>th</sup> February.

RP asked what the MEH phase was; AC replied that it stands for Mechanical, Electrical, Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning, and that it involves the installation of approximately 4,000km of wiring in 7,500 different rooms.

#### **4.5 Looking forward to the rest of 2024**

The main highlight for the rest of this year will be the installation of the Reactor Pressure Vessel, which will be the 'dome lift' moment of this year and a very significant milestone. The MEH phase will also accelerate across the project.

#### 4.6 DCO Material Change Application update

AC then gave an update on the DCO material change application. HPC are currently looking at the results of the consultation, understanding the concerns raised and the views that have come forward - this will inform their final application and submission in the early part of 2025. AC then ran through the rest of the stages in the process. All of the information regarding this is still available online for people to view.

#### 4.7 Supporting the next generation

AC then said that population growth in Sedgemoor is outstripping the rest of Somerset, the wider South West region and the country as a whole. This goes against impression of there being a 'brain drain.' AC believes that HPC is a key driver of enabling young people to stay in the region, and also for younger people to come into the region for these jobs. He then ran through a few of the key facts, the youngest person on the project is 15 and doing a T level; the oldest person is 83. The total number under 25 is 1,392; of which 477 are from Somerset. In the next survey they will attempt to break this down further to get data by more local areas, the old district authorities etc.

ML asked what the best point of contact for young people was. AC said that a section of the website was available and lots of information is available online. As a project, there are EDF apprentices and programmes, which are made more powerful by contract partners who offer similar things themselves. AC said there was an excellent summary of the access routes for young people online ([EDF Energy HPC recruitment tool](#)) This is a key reason why HPC are supporting the Somerset Careers and Business partnership.

Rosemary Woods (RW) asked if ex-military were targeted as well? AC said that there are very close links to the armed forces and HPC have signed up to the armed forces covenant to help with transition from the forces to civilian jobs. More information is available online –

**AFTERNOTE** - [Press release: EDF signs-up to the Armed Forces Covenant | EDF \(edfenergy.com\)](#)

**AFTERNOTE**

SW added that there is a veterans/military group so that people can feel supported when they come onto site. There is a huge amount of support available onsite.

#### 4.8 Workforce development update

AC began by showing the timeline of how the forecasted peak workforce numbers has evolved since the assumption in the original DCO from 2013.

#### 4.9 Why the change?

There was a clear segregation between the earthworks, civils and MEH phases, and mobilised pre-operations / commissioning team.

What EDF have found is pretty much all of those (except earthworks) are working simultaneously. The overlap of key phases is one factor; the second is the necessity of power from HPC in the UK, and desire from the UK government to complete the project safely as quickly as possible.

The third element is clarity – having a complete MEH design end-to-end, an understanding of what that looks like, how long it will take and how many workers needed.

RW pointed out that the impact on the community was higher, particularly with higher numbers coming in.

SG asked how much less than 15,000 this is likely to be as numbers were unclear at the Community Forum.

AC said that at present EDF doesn't know. SG then asked if this could be 14,999? AC said he would cover why it would unlikely be that high but they don't have the clarity to give a more exact figure.

#### **4.10 Does an increased workforce require planning permission?**

It doesn't, as the physical form of the power station will not change, and there are no legal obligations which limit the number of workers.

HPC appreciates their potential impact on the local community and will continue to limit impacts as far as possible.

HPC are reviewing the relevant topics from the DCO Application and Environmental Statement to determine if their strategies should be updated, but they now have the ability to consider actual impact rather than forecast. They expect mitigations to fall under the existing or adjusted Section 106 agreement.

#### **4.11 Mitigation changes**

In May 2022, an assessment was carried out underpinned by 6 topic papers. 4 key strategies were looked at, including a supplemental s106. Looking at how the impact has been managed and discussed at meetings of SEAC, TRG and established working groups.

AC showed the evolution of provision in terms of accommodation campuses etc. – the comparison from 5,600 (2 accommodation campuses, 4x park and ride, 34% or 1,900 local workers) to 11,000+ - 3 campuses, 9 parks and ride and 3,500 local workers. 1,200 buses per day are assessed by the DCO, with workers at current levels. According to the TRG report there are just over 1,064 bus movements, this is largely thanks to the use of double decker buses.

#### **4.12 Accommodation**

Looking at the numbers staying in rented accommodation as an example of impact, AC ran through the figures that were anticipated in the original DCO. AC said that Somerset Council does a fantastic job delivering bed spaces. Just short of 4,000 bed spaces have been created using the housing fund.

#### **4.13 Travel plan**

HPC are still hitting the travel by bus target. Numbers travelling by car are less than anticipated.

#### **4.14 Consideration of actual impact**

HPC are tracking key impact areas. Since the beginning of 2022, AC showed a graph showing the number of complaints received regarding fly parking and worker behaviour. Numbers aren't accelerating as workforce numbers increased. There was a slight spike in the beginning of 2024; but this was attributed to more engagement e.g. community walks.

#### **4.15 Ambulance callouts**

From 2021, there was a rise in 2022 but this stabilised and there has been no real increase relative to workforce numbers. Reports from local NHS is that local GP appointment availability isn't impacted by HPC workers.

#### **4.16 Crime**

AC showed a graph of crime figures from A&S police, reported linkages (both committed and as a victim or crime) Considering this, something is being done right and should continue.

#### **4.17 Social and economic benefit**

AC continued that opportunities have been coming forward from the project and showed a map of figures across the country. £5.3bn has been spent, much of that going hyper locally. AC said that he had visited small manufacturing company near J24 of the M5 which had secured another large contract recently.

There has been a boost to local businesses and EDF is not taking its foot off the gas in that respect. The supply chain engagement effort will continue, both for the MEH and commissioning phases etc. AC emphasised that there will be lots of opportunities for local businesses.

AC said that it has been a boost to local skills, in terms of the volume of apprentices and skills investment. 65% of those apprentices are based locally.

All the centres of excellence - welding, electrical and mechanical - are open. A map showed the location of all people undergoing training at centres of excellence. There is a density of people based in Somerset, SW and S Wales. In total, 8,000 people have been through those centres, about 1/3 from some of Britain's most deprived areas. Providing jobs is not enough; but the project is providing jobs with a higher skill level and higher pay.

#### **4.18 Outcomes – economic improvement**

AC said that they are still using old district figures – with Sedgemoor seeing growth in lower age groups. This compares positively against the wide SW regional average. So younger generations are staying and moving to the area.

AC mentioned the increase in employment rate – using Sedgemoor as an example – there the increase is far higher than in the wider South West. Economically, Bridgwater has a 10% higher productivity than the surrounding area.

#### **4.19 Scenarios to be tested**

AC continued by stating what does above 12,000 mean? EDF doesn't have a figure in mind, they know that there are limits to the numbers of workers that can be hosted at site and within the community. The most obvious question is where would more than 12,000 people sleep?

There is a piece of work ongoing by the construction director looking at who needs to come to site, how best to utilise modern ways of working to minimise the number of people physically needed on site at HPC.

#### **4.20 Mitigation being considered**

A slide was shown with possible mitigation in 6 areas:

- Community Safety (additional funding and support for Emergency Services / Community Safety posts)
- Health (further expansion of Hinkley health service)
- Transport (Maximising use of the bus service to minimise local car movements and remain within DCO caps)
- Accommodation (Additional funding for the Council alongside options for Campus extensions and caravan park expansion)
- Opportunity and benefits (Local business engagement and maximisation of training and employment support)

- Community Fund (Continued use of the Community Fund beyond the peak of construction and focus on sustainability)

The process and engagement plan was then outlined with the various advisory groups and strategies / actions plans highlighted.

SG said economic benefits to Bridgwater and Sedgemoor isn't guaranteed once construction is finished. AC said that this is a worry, and links to SG's pre-submitted question [see 4.22 below]. He doesn't believe that there will be the same level of investment once construction is complete. All of these local businesses will look to be actively transferred to other projects locally (eg. Agretas).

SG asked how many of workforce are expected to go to Sizewell?  
AC said that it's down to personal decision by those people. Some haven't moved to Somerset and mentioned that the construction industry has historically been very transient.

John Burton (JB) said that in his final remarks AC said that HPC isn't in a planning process. JB said that, in his opinion, any future s106 is part of the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA).

When AC referenced peak on site, we should bear in mind that peak was due to be 3 months, over time we know that the peak has been pushed back; and will be more of a plateau as it will now last for up to 18 months, and members should bear that in mind.

AC said that he should have made that point and agreed that peak is approximately 18 months. JB said that the worst impacts will probably take place at peak – and this will be significantly longer.

#### **4.21 Next steps and timetable**

There are 6 steps before the conclusion of this by the end of summer 2024. A Spatial Distribution Note will be updated and finalised. Topic papers will be revised and presented to the Council, Emergency Services and Health Authority. Discussions on the extent of the mitigation are required and revisions to the strategies will be prepared. A joint forum meeting will be held to discuss the content of the papers, mitigation and strategies. These strategies and supplemental agreement will be discussed at SEAC and TRG.

#### **4.22 Pre-submitted question**

Submitted by Sue Goss, Stogursey Parish Council  
Post HPC Construction Legacy discussions

"The Parish Council are concerned that these have possibly been taking place in the background with no representation being sought from Stogursey Parish Council to represent the host parish of HPC. Several members of this council have been involved in the HPC project from the very onset - the original planning application to West Somerset council regarding The preliminary Earthworks, the DCO process, through to the current day - or just the experience of living through all stages of the NNB. There is no evidence that anyone in the current Somerset Council, involved in any discussions around Legacy agreements, would have much idea of the impact of the construction on this community over the past 16years or its aspirations regarding any Legacy agreements either favourable - or conversely - likely to undesirably impact on our parish. Therefore, we would like - and deserve - to be included in any such discussions as and when they occur."

Answer: – Future Director Designate (Tam Al-Bishawi) is now on site; his view is that HPC should be beyond nuclear industry best practice in terms of operational sustainability and working together with local community. The mandate given is to do more than what HPA or B have delivered in the locality. AC added that this would be a slow burner towards the end of the decade. Including environment, economy and social elements, and within those elements of course the Parish would be included in these discussions, what sort of support there is; how the community fund could be continued over this time, and any other ideas that came forward.

SG added that this was good, that at Flamanville the investment into those communities is visible. Have those discussions about legacy started, said that Stogursey PC should have a seat at the table.

AC said that he does make this point; discussions have started internally. Stogursey Parish Council is not being left out as broad discussions have started with Somerset Council on strategic elements, but the details haven't been discussed yet. When that element happens externally, AC said that the Parish Council would be brought in.

The Chair asked JB to explain what engagement with Somerset Council meant. JB replied that this means taking the conversation to Local Community Networks to understand which mitigations are and aren't working well; this will inform Somerset Council's view back to HPC.

Sue Spicer (SS) said that she enjoys walking round the Southern Area, and wondered if there were any photos from the camera placed on the brook? SG showed a photo of the wildflowers.

AC said that seeing photos reminded him of Lidia Bosa, who has referenced that the brook running through the southern area is overgrown; EDF are on the case and will sort. SS pointed out there was a camera under the bridge – AC said he would find out.

**AFTERNOTE/ACTION  
AC**

BH asked when the spoil heap will start to decrease in height?

AC said this will be right at the tail end of the construction. It has been moved there for vehicle movements.

SG asked if discussions have been entered into with the Fairfield Estate [landowner, leasing land from] about it? AC replied that Andrew Goodchild had a conversation with them [before leaving HPC], and will need to check where they have got to.

**AFTERNOTE:** Discussions are continuing with the Fairfield estate. These are commercially sensitive discussions with full detail not able to be shared at this point.

**AFTERNOTE**

## 5 Item 5 - Any other business

The Chair invited items of Any Other Business.

SW said that the HPC team have been contacted by a student at the University of Portsmouth, who has asked if anyone would be prepared to take part in a short survey to help with studies about nuclear/perceptions of nuclear power. The survey takes about 5 mins to complete. SW has brought copies with her and will leave those for members to fill in should they wish.

The survey can also be filled in online [here](#).

## 6 Date of next meeting



The next meeting of the Main Site Forum will be on Thursday, 17 October in Stogursey Victory Hall at 6pm.

**6.1** The meeting ended