

## DRAFT Meeting Report

**Regarding:**

EDF Hinkley Point C: Community Forum.

**Date:** Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026 – 6pm

**Meeting held at:**

Bridgwater & Taunton College, Cannington

**Participating:**

Doug Bamsey, *Chair*

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

Joanna Whitehead (JW), *Somerset Council*

Nicola Hale (NH), *Somerset Council*

Allan Jeffery (AJ), *Green Party*

Linda Hyde (LH), *North Petherton Town Council*

Phillip Spencer (PS), *Hestercombe LCN*

Amelia Thompson (AT), *Somerset Community Foundation*

Peter Payne (PP), *Williton Parish Council*

Shaun Ryall (SR), *Cannington Parish Council*

Terry Ayre (TA), *Local Resident*

Karen Ayre (KA), *Quantock Camping*

Mahtab Khan (MK), *ONR*

Alun Griffiths (AG), *ONR*

Jon Ayers (JA), *Environment Agency*

James Holbrook (JH), *Somerset Council*

Esther Lawson (EL), *Avon & Somerset Police*

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

Phil Sugrue (PS), *Environment Agency*

Alex Lord (AL), *Environment Agency*

Sebastian Koa (SK), *University of Exeter*

Mike Haycroft (MH), *Otterhampton Parish Council*

John Roberts (JR), *Nether Stowey Parish Council*

Leigh Redman (LR), *Bridgwater Town Council*

Roy Pumfrey (RP), *Stop Hinkley*

Sue Goss (SG), *Stogursey Parish Council*

Chris Morgan (CM), *Stogursey Parish Council*

John Roberts (JR), *Nether Stowey Parish Council*

Sebastian Koa (SK), *University of Exeter*

Sarah Nason (SN), *Holford Parish Council*

Hugh Davies (HD), *Somerset Council*

Tina Gardener (TG), *Fiddington Parish Council*

**EDF Team:**

Andrew Cockcroft (AC), *EDF*

Nick Stone (NS), *EDF*

Richard Clews (RCL), *EDF*

Jo Manley (JM), *EDF*

Emma Chorley (EC), *EDF*

Jane Tomaney (JT), *EDF*

Stacy Walker (SW), *EDF*

Drew Aspinwall (DA), *SEC Newgate UK*

Matthew Williams (MW), *SEC Newgate UK*

Simon Donohue (SD), *SEC Newgate UK*

**Apologies received:**

Richard Cuttell (RC), *Shurton Resident*

Justin Sargent (JS), *Somerset Community Foundation*

Sue Spicer (SS), *Burton Resident*

Gill Slocombe (GS), *Somerset Council*

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

Item		Action
1	<b>Introductions</b>	
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	<b>Previous Meeting Note and Matters Arising</b>	
2.1	<p>The Chair reviewed the previous Community Forum meeting note from 18<sup>th</sup> September 2025 including the actions and after-notes and invited any further comment. The afternotes/actions from the last Forum are outlined below:</p> <p>2.1.1 <u>AFTERNOTE 9.6</u> – a link to the community bus timetable has been provided in the draft meeting note</p> <p>2.1.2 <u>AFTERNOTE 9.7</u> – In response to Peter Payne's question about how much of the workforce uplift would be housed to the west of Williton:</p> <p>HPC's latest data showed that of the non-home based workforce (i.e. those not already living in the area who work at HPC) 909 people are living in the former district area of West Somerset. This represents broadly, 12% of the non-home based workforce. Given the location AC noted that a proportion of these people would likely now be part of the permanent population.</p>	
2.2	There were no further comments, and the meeting note was agreed.	
3	<b>Project Progress Update – (Andrew Cockcroft, Nick Stone, Richard Clews - EDF)</b>	
3.1	<p>The Chair invited Andrew Cockcroft (AC), Nick Stone (NS) and Richard Clews (RC) to take the forum through an update on project progress.</p> <p>AC started by saying how he was pleased that the turnout was so good at this Forum. He then showed members an image of the construction site taken just before the Christmas break [slide 6 in the presentation pack].</p>	
3.2	<p>AC then gave members an update on project construction progress from 2025.</p> <p><u>'From the small...'</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first high voltage tests on permanent electrical equipment which will connect HPC to the UK's electricity network were completed.</li> <li>• The works included testing some of the systems in Unit 1's Electrical Building, which will eventually take electricity generated in the Turbine Hall through to the National Grid.</li> <li>• Works have been progressing ahead of the Auxiliary Transformer commissioning activity planned for 2026.</li> </ul> <p><u>...'To the relatively small'</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two Moisture Separator Reheaters (MSRs) were brought into the Turbine Hall and the casing for the high and intermediate pressure turbine was installed.</li> <li>• The MSRs remove moisture that could otherwise damage the turbine blades with the casings ready to house the turbines themselves.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The 14.8-metre-high Pressuriser was successfully installed into the Unit 1 Reactor Building.</li> <li>This component is the final large piece of the primary circuit to be installed, following the completion of the four Steam Generators last month.</li> <li>The Pressuriser will play a crucial part in the Reactor Coolant System by maintaining 155 bar of pressure within the primary circuit.</li> </ul> <p><u>....and the really large</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Triple Point Connection formwork was installed into the bottom of the Outfall Tunnel Shaft - some 45 metres below ground level. The 245-tonne structure has now been covered in concrete and seamlessly forms part of the outfall tunnel structure system.</li> <li>We ended 2025 with 95% of Civil engineering work complete.</li> <li>16 Buildings were completed and their roof's installed.</li> <li>Following the installation of the Unit 2 dome, we completed the concrete work across Unit 1's domed roof.</li> </ul>	
3.3	<p>AC continued by giving members an outline of what is due to happen in 2026. Actions set to happen include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Install Reactor Pressure Vessel into Unit 2.</li> <li>Begin installing feedwater and pipe connections to Unit 1's first Safeguard Building.</li> <li>Complete installation of de-mineralised water system in readiness for commissioning.</li> <li>Complete pre-stressing on Unit 1.</li> <li>Install first fuel handling crane into Unit 1.</li> <li>Energise Unit 1's Auxiliary transformer.</li> <li>Complete cooling water system and fish return system tunnels.</li> <li>Install heat exchangers and additional systems into Unit 1 safeguard building</li> <li>Install low pressure casing into Unit 1 turbine hall.</li> </ul>	
3.4	<p>AC then showed a slide featuring the arrival of the Reactor Pressure Vessel into site, which was delivered on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2026. AC said this represented another milestone in the construction of the second reactor unit.</p>	
3.5	<p>AC mentioned the small fire which was extinguished in the canteen. He gave members the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This was a small fire within a canteen air conditioning unit was dealt with on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December.</li> <li>It was rapidly extinguished by HPCs own fire team.</li> <li>Devon and Somerset Fire &amp; Rescue Service also attended site in line with agreed procedures.</li> </ul>	
3.6	<p>AC then turned to workforce uplift, and updated members on the process taking place with Somerset Council.</p> <p>Meetings with the LCNs took place in November.</p> <p>The plan in Jan / Feb 2026 is to go through a process with the Council, to look at the topic papers and get feedback on those. The next step will be to redraft these and update the strategies that go with the topic papers (e.g. community safety management plan) – the legal agreements are set to be drafted in March.</p>	

<p><b>3.7</b></p> <p><b>3.7.1</b></p> <p><b>3.7.2</b></p> <p><b>3.7.3</b></p> <p><b>3.7.4</b></p> <p><b>3.7.5</b></p>	<p>The Chair then invited questions from members for AC.</p> <p>Stuart Hill (SH) asked if there was a ballpark percentage for the AIL moves that had already been completed. AC said this does exist, but he doesn't have the figure off the top of his head so will provide an afternote. <b>AFTERNOTE AC</b></p> <p>AFTERNOTE: The percentage of total marine AILs that have been transported from Comwich Wharf to HPC Site to date is 54%.</p> <p>John Roberts (JR) asked if the meeting at Wembdon with the LCNs would be repeated. Joanna Whitehead (JW) replied that there was one set for the end of Feb / beginning of March where Somerset Council and EDF would report back.</p> <p>Leigh Redman (LR) said that AC made reference to the fish return tunnel system; he had assumed that the inlets would be that rather than return tunnels. AC said there are 3 levels of fish protection – intake heads on the seabed (to slow down the suction of water), the Acoustic Fish Deterrent (AFD) and the return tunnel system to return these fish to the sea – and is part of the pumping station set up and is separate from the main outfall tunnel.</p> <p>LR asked the Chair if there could be a note put together on this subject. The Chair said that the separate slides on this subject later on the agenda might allow LR to expand on this matter. AC said that a more technical piece could be provided in an afternote.</p> <p>AFTERNOTE – A full technical report that details the design of the intake heads and fish return system is available through the <a href="#">following link (CLICK HERE)</a></p> <p>Linda Hyde (LH) asked about progress on the proposed J24 accommodation campus. AC said that this would be spoken about later, but that HPC are looking at various options and are working through the technical elements of these.</p> <p>Terry Ayre asked if the plan to flood Pawlett Hams had been dropped. AC said that the project did not intend to take forward any proposals for saltmarsh habitat creation, although the project does have to remain agile to regulatory requirements.</p>	<p><b>AFTERNOTE AC</b></p> <p><b>AFTERNOTE AC</b></p>
<p><b>3.8</b></p> <p><b>3.8.1</b></p>	<p><u>Pre-submitted question</u></p> <p>“There is no mention of how HPC progress in 2025 stands against EdeF (Paris) expectations, nor whether it will make up for any of the delay in construction. How much later is the HPC completion date following 2025 ‘progress’?” - submitted by Roy Pumfrey, <i>Stop Hinkley</i></p> <p>Answer: AC replied that the completion date is as announced in the most recent half-year results. The range for completion remains from 2029 – 2031. AC said that the MEH phase continues to be a challenging operation, something the project is always looking to try and improve.</p>	

<p><b>3.9</b></p>	<p><u>Health, Safety and Environment</u></p> <p>Nick Stone (NS) then continued with a slide on HPC’s Health and Safety Performance in 2025.</p> <p>NS said that the aim was zero harm, and for the project to be among the top performers in industry regarding health and safety.</p> <p>For context, NS said that in 2025 there were 34 million hours worked on the project, up from 28 million hours in 2024. NS said he felt this was important context.</p> <p>NS said that the project doesn’t want incidents to happen in the first place, hence HPC looks at ‘potential events’ and what can be done to prevent this from happening. In addition, HPC is looking at trends of low-level events to see any emerging patterns.</p>	
<p><b>3.10</b></p>	<p>NS then ran through some statistics relating to Health and Safety performance on site in 2025, and how those figures compared to 2024. Overall, there was 74 ‘high potential events’ in 2025, down from 77 in 2024.</p> <p>NS explained that a ‘high potential event’ was an event that, if realised, would have resulted in serious injury, or worse.</p>	
<p><b>3.11</b></p>	<p>NS then mentioned how he had given an update at September’s 2025 Community Forum about the Tower Crane improvement notice that had been issued in April 2025.</p> <p>NS updated members that the improvement notice had been closed [at the end of July 2025] as there had been sufficient progress and improvement demonstrated around the monitoring of tower cranes. NS said that this was part of a wider review of monitoring of construction assets on site. He mentioned that there had been an inspection by the ONR which was rated green.</p> <p>In the autumn, HPC updated their standards for work equipment and construction phases structures and provided instructions to contractors.</p> <p>In December 2025, HPC completed the extent of condition review, and the monitoring improvements were provided to the ONR. The issue has now been closed as long as the updated monitoring process remains throughout the rest of construction.</p>	
<p><b>3.12</b></p>	<p>NS then spoke about two high potential events related to lifting on site in November 2025.</p> <p>Following two incidents close together, the Principal Contractor suspended all lifting across the site, pending an investigation.</p> <p>As both incidents were by one contractor, a review was undertaken of unaffected contractors’ processes, who were then able to restart lifting operations [e.g. Big Carl]. The affected contractor had to reassess their own processes, and their lift operations were restricted – i.e. only materials related to construction and only in specific areas. Initially, Appointed Persons were required to be present for every lift.</p> <p>The common results of the investigations related to standards of supervision. A staged restart of specific lifting activities was carried out by the Principal Contractor, and there was an increase in the ratio of Appointed Persons.</p>	

<p><b>3.13</b></p> <p><b>3.13.1</b></p>	<p><u>Fire safety</u></p> <p>NS said that the project has been looking at fire safety across the site – and the incident on January 2<sup>nd</sup> related to a specific condenser pump in the air conditioning unit in the west office, which has additional risk associated with it regarding fire safety. HPC is finding out where those parts are, implementing additional monitoring, and in due course will swap those parts out.</p> <p>In addition, the project has identified challenges related to coordination between contractors ensuring that buildings are managed in such a way so that fire safety doesn't become an issue. HPC is reviewing processes for providing oversight to those contractors to ensure that no-one is put at risk from a fire safety perspective.</p> <p>SH said his understanding was that lift failures can be categorised as material, process or human behaviour – and asked if it fell in the latter category.</p> <p>NS replied that it was down to process, something the project has been reviewing.</p>	
<p><b>3.14</b></p>	<p><u>Acoustic Fish Deterrent</u></p> <p>AC then introduced a slide about the proposed new Acoustic Fish Deterrent (AFD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hinkley Point C will have more fish protection measures in place than any other power station in the world - with three separate systems required. These will include an Acoustic Fish Deterrent, Low Velocity Side Entry water intake heads and a Fish Recovery and Return System.</li> <li>• Testing of the technology was carried out over the summer 2025 in partnership with Swansea University. The results are being analysed but there is high confidence the system is proving effective.</li> <li>• Initial results from the analysis of fish tagging research also show that one of the protected species, salmon, is not even present in the area around the power station's water intakes in any significant number. Only three salmon have been detected in the vicinity in the last two years.</li> <li>• The new system will be consented through either a discharge of the original DCO or through the material change application we plan to submit this summer.</li> </ul> <p>AC added that this update serves also as an update on the DCO Material Change application – there is also the route of discharging the original conditions of the DCO, which originally stated that HPC should have an AFD, speaking to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) HPC says that they have a system which works and which fits with the condition – HPC needs to decide and AC said he will update members when this has happened.</p> <p>If HPC go down the material change route this will likely be by the summer, and HPC needs to understand the timelines for the discharge route.</p>	
<p><b>3.15</b></p>	<p>AC then showed members a short clip of a tank trial of the new AFD taking places at Swansea University.</p> <p>He then took questions from members:</p> <p>LR said it was good to see the tests, however he looked forward to the detailed papers as there's a difference between a tank and an estuary. It would be interesting to see the echo effect – and what the effect on the wider environment would be. He asked when these</p>	

<p>3.15.1</p>	<p>papers would be available. AC replied that it was unlikely that these would be published before the application to the MMO is submitted.</p> <p>LR then asked for an afternote of how the approval system would work – which is a new system which would complete the original expectation of the DCO. AC said that it’s complicated with multiple organisations and routes. AC said that this would be spelt out in an afternote. <b>AFTERNOTE AC</b></p> <p>AFTERNOTE: The results of the research, as part of an application for system deployment, will be submitted for regulatory consideration and approval later in 2026. As the authoritative regulator for this area, the Marine Management Organisation will assess and determine the application as part of the route discharge condition CW1 of the DCO.</p> <p>Requirement CW1 states: “(1) No development shall commence until details of Work Nos. 2A to 2H have, following consultation with the Countryside Council for Wales, Natural England, English Heritage and the Environment Agency, been submitted to and approved by the Marine Management Organisation. The details shall include — (a) the location and design (size and shape) of the off-shore intake and outfall heads; (b) the alignment (horizontal and vertical) of the cooling water intake and outfall tunnels; and (c) the location and design of the fish recovery and return system and the low velocity side entry intakes, which shall be in accordance with the Environment Agency guidance referenced in the Environmental Statement (Volume 2, chapter 2, paragraph 2.6.21). (2) The acoustic fish deterrent system shall not be installed until details of the location and design have, following consultation with the Countryside Council for Wales, Natural England and the Environment Agency, been submitted to and approved by the Marine Management Organisation. (3) No water abstraction shall commence until the off-shore intake and outfall heads, cooling water intake and outfall tunnels, the fish recovery and return system, the low velocity side entry intakes and the acoustic fish deterrent system have been installed in accordance with the approved details referred to in paragraphs (1) and (2).</p> <p>SH then said congratulations on having a fish return system for HPC, he noted the trial was on dogfish whereas on salmonoid species have a different skeleton – and asked if tests were being carried out on other species?</p> <p>AC said that this was shown because he could show it to members, but there are sensor arrays and other trials being carried out at sea. Large scale testing in the Severn estuary is the main thrust of the research, tank trials are another element.</p>	<p>AFTERNOTE AC</p>
<p>3.16</p>	<p><u>Pre-submitted questions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does EdeF justify its claim that fish protection measures for HPC cost £700million, or is this simply a big number plucked from the air to add fuel to the anti-regulation fire?</li> <li>• Is it true that the only way you can detect and record fish presence in the area of the cooling water intakes (e.g. Salmon) is if the fish have already been caught and labelled with a tag? How many fish in the River Severn are not tagged already? This must be a small number of total fish in the area giving a false sense of numbers.</li> </ul> <p>- Submitted by Allan Jeffery, Green Party.</p>	
<p>3.16.1</p>	<p><u>Answer 1:</u> Regarding justifying the £700million figure, AC said that he led the work with</p>	

<p>3.16.2</p>	<p>the commercial teams. This involved a detailed examination of budgets and spend with all of the contractors. For example, they looked at how much it would cost to design and produce the intake heads at Avonmouth. AC explained this meant designing and production of the three main elements – the intake heads, fish recovery and return system plus the AFD - all of the lifetime costs of these add up to £700 m.</p> <p>AJ asked for clarification that this meant research and development costs, which AC confirmed. AJ then asked if these would also be used at Sizewell C? AC said he didn't know the answer to this; AJ pointed out there was a difference in terms of tidal range.</p> <p><u>Answer 2:</u> AC said he understood AJ's question but said that an approach to sampling had to be taken, as with any statistical analysis. High risk species such as salmon and shad will not all be tagged, yet there could be a statistically significant extrapolation from the numbers – and there are experts in this field at Swansea University.</p> <p>In terms of testing, some A/B blind testing has been carried out. On one intake head there is an AFD system turned off and turned 'On' on another intake head. This then helps to give a good overall basis for comparison as to the system's efficiency.</p> <p>AC said that HPC is the first power station in the area to have any form of fish protection at all.</p> <p>AJ said he looks forward to the full report but expressed concerned that at present the project is just looking at tagged fish rather than looking at exact numbers in the area. AJ said he would be interested in seeing how the research was carried out. He expressed concern that pelagic species would just be killed off.</p> <p>AC said that this new system would have a greater range, and may have even greater protection at lower frequencies.</p> <p>SH suggested an agenda item on the fish return system. AJ said he looked forward to more detail on the subject.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p><b>Item 4: Planning Update (Richard Clews, EDF)</b></p>	
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Richard Clews (RCL) gave members an update on planning matters relating to the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 3<sup>rd</sup> December permission was given by the Secretary of State to extend the use of the Temporary Jetty to 27 March 2028.</li> <li>• The jetty is used to deliver aggregate to the site, reducing HGV movements for materials that may otherwise need to be delivered by road.</li> <li>• Delivery of rebar cages to the site, which are constructed at Avonmouth, significantly improving the time taken to construct the concrete reinforcement.</li> <li>• Projections are for around 138,000m<sup>3</sup> of aggregate to be brought in via the jetty between 2026 –2028.</li> </ul> <p>RCL added that this formally updates Article 82 of the DCO. He mentioned how members who also attend the Transport Forum will have heard from Jamie Jamieson and Claire Warner-Blackman how important the jetty is to the project.</p>	
<p>4.2</p>	<p><u>Pixies Field – Emergency Bus Parking Extended</u></p> <p>This is part of the HPB site and is a modest area of existing hard standing adjacent to Pixies Mound, an ancient monument.</p> <p>Permission granted in 2014 and 2017 for parking 225 vehicles for HPB outages. In 2022 it</p>	

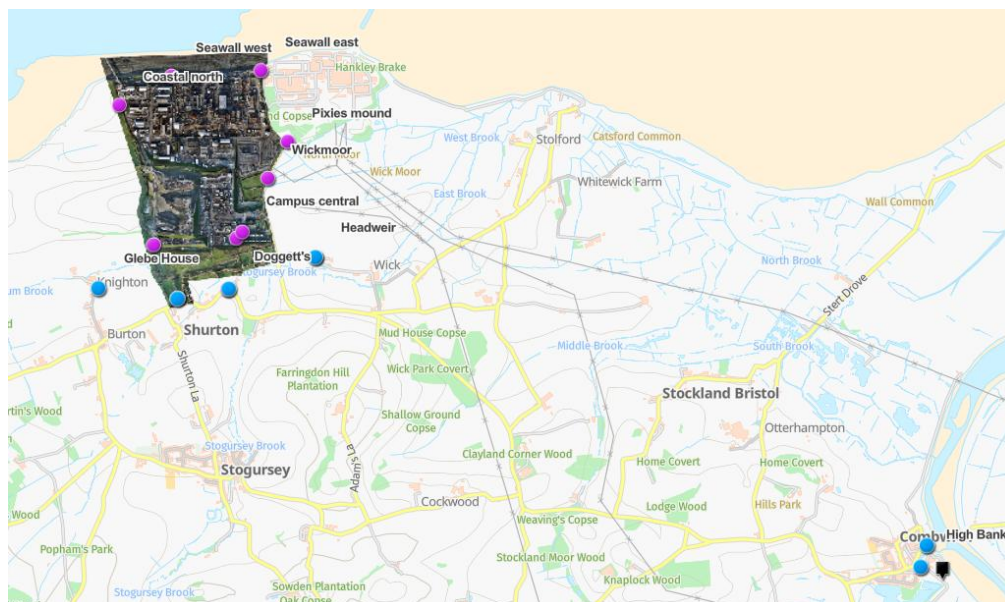
	<p>was permitted to be used for HPC emergency bus parking, which was to expire December 2025.</p> <p>Permission has been granted to extend the use for five years following assessments on the HRA, ecology, lighting and transportation.</p> <p>This allows the project to have flexibility to stack buses safely if there are incidents on the local network.</p> <p>Land will be restored following the expiry of consent.</p>	
<b>4.3</b>	<p><u>Pending DCO applications</u></p> <p>RCL then provided members with pending DCO applications (Slide 26 in the presentation pack); which include the permanent fence, landscape restoration, permanent signage and the operational travel plan.</p> <p>He added that the permanent fence is likely to be commenced this year.</p>	
<b>4.4</b>	<p><u>Mill Farm expansion</u></p> <p>RCL then gave members an update on the proposed Mill Farm expansion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is a planning application for up to 100 additional touring pitches for HPC workers and welfare building.</li> <li>• It has been assessed for ecology, habitat, arboriculture, transport, flood risk, drainage and landscape impact.</li> <li>• EDF are seeking pre-application advice from Somerset Council</li> <li>• This proposed expansion will be presented to Fiddington Parish Council prior to submission</li> <li>• The aim is for submission in February / March 2026</li> </ul>	
<b>4.5</b>	<p>RCL then took questions from members.</p>	
<b>4.5.1</b>	<p>Stuart Hill (SH) asked if there was any news on the restoration of the coastal footpath.</p> <p>RCL said that there needs to be safety on the shorefront – he expects this to be when the plant is operational and doesn't expect it to be before that. RCL said he hasn't been looking at this for the coming year because of activities that have been taking place along the shoreline.</p>	
<b>4.5.2</b>	<p>Sue Goss (SG) asked if the noise monitoring equipment was still operational. RCL said his understanding was that there was monitoring on Combwich Wharf. SG clarified she meant around the site itself near Shurton / Burton. RCL said that some were removed following meetings with the local authority.</p> <p>AC said the project could do a full review of where these things are – and there is a different between active noise monitoring (e.g. during noisy work) and equipment in situ all the time.</p>	
<b>4.5.3</b>	<p>The Chair suggested this could be something to be discussed at the Main Site Forum (February).</p> <p>LR asked if there had been any changes to the environmental impact stations. He said he had driven past one today and it wasn't there anymore.</p>	<b>ACTION AC / Chair</b>

RCL said that some of these were removed. RCL said he didn't believe the environmental health officer was monitoring this but would update LR.

**AFTERNOTE:** Noise, air quality monitoring and water quality controls were presented at the Main Site Forum on 12<sup>th</sup> February. For the purposes of this note, there were questions about whether the noise monitoring equipment is still operational, and separately regarding the removal of air quality monitoring.

**AFTERNOTE**  
**RCL**

On the first matter concerning noise, the plan below identifies the location of noise monitoring around the area. The majority are on-site, with some to the south of the site and around Combych.



In addition to monitoring, noise complaints are recorded and investigated. Records show that there were 5 complaints in 2024 and 3 in 2025, the most recent concerned noise from individuals travelling to work (not construction noise) and two related to construction activity elsewhere, not related to HPC operations.

### Air Quality Monitoring

With regards to the air quality monitors and their removal, correspondence was held between the Council and HPC regarding the monitoring equipment, which were installed as part of workforce uplift, and were decommissioned independently by Somerset Council following evidenced prepared by Somerset Council (without involvement by HPC) that:

- 5 years of continuous monitoring had not shown any significant air quality impacts or exceedances of air quality objectives associated with EDF transportation routes.
- The monitors were at the end of their useful life, needed replacing as they kept breaking down and needed to be sent away for repair regularly.
- The costs and officer time in replacing the monitors was not felt justified by the results obtained. In addition, the remaining budget available would not have been sufficient to cover replacing and maintaining a new monitoring network.

Somerset Council confirmed that the team was authorised to decommission the monitors (in Bridgwater) and they have been removed.

It was confirmed that this effectively drew to a close the Air Quality Monitoring Action Plan referenced in the original S106 for Bridgwater.

<b>5</b>	<b>Item 5: Update – Office for Nuclear Regulation (Alun Griffiths, ONR)</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	<p>Alun Griffiths (AG) gave an update on his role and the role of the ONR.</p> <p>AG updated members on the ONR’s activities in the third quarter of 2025.</p>	
<b>5.2</b>	<p>ONR continues its engagement with the project via regular site inspections, visits and meetings at NNB GenCo (HPC) Ltd’s offices and supplier locations across the following themes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• construction and commissioning</li> <li>• design and safety case;</li> <li>• organisational capability (including supply chain and quality);</li> <li>• pre-operations;</li> <li>• conventional health and safety and fire safety; and</li> <li>• security.</li> </ul> <p>These inspections, along with routine contact with other international regulatory bodies provide ONR with valuable intelligence on the progress NNB GenCo (HPC) Ltd is making developing its competence and capability to manage the design, procurement, and construction of HPC and will inform future permissioning decisions.</p>	
<b>5.3</b>	<p><b>Permissioning:</b></p> <p>In advance of major permissioning points ONR will continue to apply flexible permissioning to allow the start of a number of other activities.</p> <p>ONR released the flexible permissioning Hold Point that allowed introduction of the first emergency diesel generator (EDG) into a Unit 1 generator building.</p>	
<b>5.4</b>	<p><b>Nuclear Task Force Review</b></p> <p>ONR has worked closely with the Taskforce to help shape the future of UK nuclear regulation, recognising the expansion, growth and technological advancements happening across the sector.</p> <p>We are ready to implement recommendations that remove any unnecessary burden from the regulatory framework, while maintaining rigorous safety standards.</p> <p>We will continue to work closely with government, industry and other regulators on the implementation of the Taskforce recommendations, following the publication of the government’s more detailed response, expected in due course.</p>	
<b>5.5</b>	<p><b>Non-routine matters:</b></p> <p>The investigations into the tragic fatality that occurred on site in November 2022 and the separate event at site that resulted in a worker sustaining injuries as a result of a rebar mesh wall falling resulted in decisions to prosecute as previously reported.</p> <p>These matters were subject to preliminary hearings at Bristol Magistrates Court on 15 December 2025. Not guilty pleas were entered in relation to all charges.</p> <p>Matters will now progress to trial and the cases were adjourned until 30 January, 2026, at Bristol Crown Court for pre-trial review hearings.</p>	

5.5.1	<p>No further comment can be made at this time due to the live legal proceedings.</p> <p>Fire enforcement notices were served on Bylor JV after identifying significant fire safety shortfalls. Following a focused fire safety intervention, ONR inspectors identified that Bylor had failed to implement appropriate arrangements for the effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review of preventive and protective measures. Improvements must be completed by 30 June 2026. In the meantime, Bylor JV is expected to manage the risk profile accordingly.</p>	
5.6	<p>Pre-submitted question</p> <p>“Are the fire enforcement notices served by ONR as a result of the air-con unit fire in December 2025 or do they relate to other fire safety issues at HPC?” - submitted by Roy Pumfrey, <i>Stop Hinkley</i></p> <p>5.6.1 Answer: AG replied that this was to do with the adequacy of emergency lighting, so was unrelated to the event that AC had mentioned in his presentation.</p> <p>AG said that an enforcement notice was served on the MEH alliance at the end of December in relation to fire safety. Bylor JV had addressed that and brought themselves back into compliance. He said that it was in relation to a specific building where the fire risk assessment wasn’t kept up to date.</p> <p>Mahtab Khan (MK) and AG were on site to have a ‘to account’ meeting with the relevant parties, and outlined what the next steps would be for the ONR.</p> <p>RP then asked if there was still to be an investigation. AG replied that it wasn’t at a level which would require reporting to the ONR. In this case, in terms of fire detection and response it was at a level that would be expected.</p>	
6	<b>Item 6: Update – Environment Agency (Alex Lord, Jon Ayers, EA)</b>	
6.1	<p><u>Non-nuclear updates</u></p> <p>Alex Lord (AL) gave an update of the EA’s work in relation to HPC and mentioned the HPC meet the regulator meetings.</p> <p>Jon Ayers (JA) said that overall compliance remains good.</p> <p>A sample was taken from the discharge point at the end of the jetty. The treatment plant is a focus (samples taken by Wessex Water) throughout 2026.</p> <p>There were lots of questions about the AFD at the November ‘meet the regulator’ event. JA recommended members attend these events as the fish specialists will be attendance.</p> <p><b>AFTERNOTE:</b> Anyone interested in attending the ‘meet the regulator’ sessions can do so by emailing: <a href="mailto:Nuclear@environment-agency.gov.uk">Nuclear@environment-agency.gov.uk</a></p>	<b>AFTERNOTE AL / JA</b>
6.2	<p><u>Nuclear updates</u></p> <p>AL then gave an update on nuclear matters, with there being no compliance issues.</p> <p>Inspections have been carried out on environmental protection function, commissioning effluent treatment and the solid waste treatment system.</p>	

6.3	<p><u>Policy and publications</u></p> <p>AL and JA then gave an update on policy and publications, including an update on the Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce, the recent Atlantic Partnership for Advanced Nuclear Energy, the Reactor Assessment Process, GB Energy-Nuclear’s selection of Rolls Royce as their small modular reactor (SMR) partner, and the New Nuclear National Policy Statement (EN7).</p>	
6.4	<p>AL and JA then took questions from members:</p> <p><b>6.4.1</b> LR asked about the sewage monitoring outlet, if there was onsite monitoring and if it was an announced or unannounced inspection.</p> <p>JA said that there is telemetry in place; these are compared to readings from those on site. Phil Sugrue (PS) said that it was a planned visit but the request for sample was unannounced.</p> <p>LR suggested an afternote on the mapping of the results of that, particularly in light of workforce uplift. He was interested to see if there has been an impact as the number of staff on site has increased and suggested a three-year period. JA agreed it would be interesting to see the trend.</p> <p>The Chair asked if this was better information for a meet the regulator event.</p> <p>JA said he will give a summary at the meet the regulator event.</p> <p>AC said that this was discussed at a previous Forum. AC suggested that it might be worth republishing a previous afternote.</p> <p><b>6.4.2</b> SG said that the jetty is only 500m from Shurton Bars. She expressed concern that while this isn’t a registered beach, there are never any water tests taken there. SG said she felt there should be because it’s an important beach and it is a safety issue for residents who love going swimming there; they shouldn’t be impacted by sewage discharged only 500m away.</p> <p>JA said that the EA take samples from designated bathing waters. To become a designated bathing area there needs to be 100 bathers a day in high season. NS added that the terms of distance is tempered against what is being discharged – it will not be discharged until it has met the standards that are required.</p> <p><b>6.4.3</b> SH asked if there was an interim audit – particularly the impact on the environment for future power stations.</p> <p>JA said he would take this away. AFTERNOTE: The Environment Agency does not audit or assess the overall environmental impacts of the HPC construction site as a whole. Our role is limited to regulating those activities that fall within our statutory responsibilities.</p> <p><b>6.4.4</b> RP said that this was a task for EDF after completion of the site, as per the DCO.</p> <p>Allan Jeffery (AJ) asked if the sewage was going through ultraviolet treatment before it was being discharged. JA said that there were ultraviolet lights, something that is not normally required unless it’s being discharged into a designated bathing area – so that HPC had gone over and above what is required.</p> <p><b>6.4.5</b></p>	AFTERNOTE

	<p>SG asked where the sewage outfall would be when the jetty was removed. NS said that the permanent sewage plant was HXA (the design capacity of 2,000 people), positioned centrally in the site, as it goes out of the main outfall tunnel and is diluted.</p> <p>JA replied on bathing water that the sample limit is 80mg/l for ammonia - and the samples showed 3mg/l.</p> <p>The Chair said SH / RP's question might be something for the EDF team</p> <p>RP said the leader of a nature walk said that there would be one.</p> <p>RCL said the environmental monitoring was reported to the Council, the EA and others.</p> <p><b>AFTERNOTE:</b> Hinkley Point C's Sewage Treatment plant, its operation and discharge limits were discussed in detail at the Main Site Forum held on 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026. This meeting confirmed the very high levels of treatment applied before any discharges were made. This meant that Hinkley Point C's discharges were well below limits set more widely and also well within the ranges required for a Blue Flag bathing standard.</p>	<b>AFTERNOTE</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Item 7: Update – Community Fund (Amelia Thompson, Somerset Community Foundation)</b>	
<b>7.1</b>	Amelia Thompson (AT) gave an overview of the grants that had been awarded by the Somerset Community Foundation. Almost £12million has been awarded, with there being almost 400 grants in total. She explained that her job was the delivery of the Community Fund, the bulk of which goes to the Dowsborough Local Community network (LCN) area.	
<b>7.2</b>	AT then gave a summary of 2024/25, in which new grants worth £1,808,349 were awarded to organisations. 54 grants were awarded to organisations across all the HPC Community Fund programmes.	
<b>7.3</b>	<p><u>Recent examples</u></p> <p>AT then focused on two recent examples.</p> <p>Bridgwater Parkrun: this had recently been launched; small grants gave a grant of £2,800. It is happening at St. Matthew's field, and last week they had 335 runners.</p> <p>Stogursey Arts Festival Trust – a grant of £3,100 was awarded to support the hosting of an annual festival last October. This grant went towards craft workshops, venue hire etc.</p>	
<b>7.4</b>	<p>AT then gave members her contact details and invited questions from members.</p> <p><b>7.4.1</b> Peter Payne (PP) said that the help that AT gives makes it very easy to get funding for the community.</p> <p><b>7.4.2</b> AC reiterated there would be plenty of money in the fund – and that Forum members had good contacts with local organisations and encouraged them to get in touch.</p> <p><b>7.4.3</b> SW added that AT and the fund are excellent at using their expertise to help shape ideas and provide support to organisations. She added that often the hardest thing is getting the idea off the ground.</p> <p><b>7.4.4</b> Linda Hyde (LH) thanked AT for the large amount released to the hub and asked about the rural car parking fund – AC said this was a matter to raise with him.</p>	

<b>8</b>	<b>Item 8: Main Site Forum (16<sup>th</sup> October 2025) - (Chair)</b>	
	<p>The Chair updated members about the most recent Main Site Forum, which was held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2025.</p> <p>The Forum had a Project Progress Update and a presentation on workforce uplift.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Main Site Forum is on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2026.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<b>Item 9: Transport Forum (13<sup>th</sup> November 2025) – (Chair)</b>	
	<p>The Chair updated members about the most recent Transport Forum, held on 13<sup>th</sup> November 2025.</p> <p>The Forum covered a project progress update, an update from the Transport Review Group, a presentation on the transport implications of workforce uplift, a passenger transport update, and a presentation from Claire Warner-Blackman on Marine Deliveries, Road Deliveries and Diversionary Routes, which prompted an interesting discussion.</p> <p>The Chair will confirm the next Transport Forum will take place on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<b>Item 10: Any Other Business</b>	
<b>10.1</b>	The Chair then invited any items of Any Other Business from members.	
<b>10.1.1</b>	<p>SH mentioned fly parking continued to be an issue in Combwich and the west end bypass ruts previously mentioned on the mini roundabout going towards Nether Stowey. Joanna Whitehead (JW) said she would take this away.</p> <p>The Chair said that this would be something good to mention at the Transport Forum.</p> <p>SH said that more needs to be done on fly parking and communicate the impacts thereof.</p> <p>AC said that SW has been doing a lot of work on this (including meeting with Parish councils). He said he understood local frustrations and that HPC needs to know where the problem hotspots are in order to send enforcement teams.</p>	<b>ACTION JW</b>
<b>10.1.2</b>	Karen Ayre (KA) said that there are a lot of workers on the Taunton side of the Quantocks, when they go to J24 it adds hours of travel onto their day which is a lot. She added that there is a massive uptick in people driving across the Quantocks. AC said there are P&R facilities on that side. KA said that the problem was SPS pushing workers to J24.	
<b>10.1.3</b>	JW said that on behalf of Gill Slocombe, asked that she continues to have complaints about fly parking and asked if the idea that went forward about giving the locations and photos had been taken forward. AC said that GS had been briefed on the new system.	
<b>10.1.4</b>	SH mentioned the upgrade in lighting on the Wharf, and said there has been no thought for the environment. AC said HPC needs to take that away and speak to SH outside the meeting.	<b>ACTION AC</b>
<b>10.1.5</b>	KA asked if Quantock lakes could be looked at as well. The Chair said as it is a private site this is a Somerset Council matter.	

10.1.6	<p>John Roberts said that it was EDF that put in the planning application; the mitigation that was part of the planning application was never done and the caravan site has doubled in size. He said the planning hadn't been completed.</p> <p>RCL said that it is for the site owner to install the landscaping, and there may be a non-compliance issue here.</p>	
11	<b>Item 11: Date of next Community Forum</b>	
11.1	The next Community Forum will be held on <b>Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 6pm.</b>	
12	The meeting ended.	