

DRAFT Meeting Report

Regarding:

EDF Hinkley Point C: Community Forum.

Date: Thursday 14th May 2026 – 6pm

Meeting held at:

Bridgwater & Taunton College, Cannington

Participating:

Doug Bamsey, *Chair*

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

Phillip Spencer (PS), *North Petherton Town Council & Hestercombe LCN*

Jo Smoldon (JS), *Stop Hinkley* [substituting for Roy Pumfrey]

Allan Jeffery (AJ), *Green Party*

Ben Lismer-Jones (BLJ), *Somerset Council*

Joanna Whitehead (JW), *Somerset Council*

Tess Bond (TB), *Somerset Council*

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

Mahtab Khan (MK), *ONR*

Steve Pettitt (SP), *Cannington Parish Council*

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

Amelia Thompson (AT), *Somerset Community Foundation*

Peter Payne (PP), *Williton Parish Council*

Leigh Redman (LR), *Bridgwater Town Council*

Alun Griffiths (AG), *ONR*

Oliver Hayes (OH), *ONR*

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

Jon Ayers (JA), *Environment Agency*

Phil Sugrue (PS), *Environment Agency*

Sue Goss (SG), *Stogursey Parish Council*

Chris Morgan (CM), *Stogursey Parish Council*

EDF Team:

Andrew Cockcroft (AC), *EDF*

Jo Manley (JM), *EDF*

Emma Chorley (EC), *EDF*

Jane Tomaney (JT), *EDF*

Chris Sleath (CS), *EDF*

Lucky Bahia (LB), *EDF*

Drew Aspinwall (DA), *SEC Newgate UK*

Matthew Williams (MW), *SEC Newgate UK*

Apologies received:

Alex Lord (AL), *Environment Agency*

Roy Pumfrey (RP), *Stop Hinkley*

Sue Spicer (SS), *Burton Resident*

Gill Slocombe (GS), *Somerset Council*

Nicola Hale (NH), *Somerset Council*

Item		Action
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	Previous Meeting Note and Matters Arising	
2.1	The Chair reviewed the previous Community Forum meeting note from 15 th January 2026 including the actions and after-notes and invited any further comment. The afternotes/actions from the last Forum are outlined below:	
2.1.1	AFTERNOTE 3.7.1 – In response to a question from Stuart Hill - the percentage of total marine Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs) that have been transported from Combwich Wharf to HPC Site to date is 54%.	
2.1.2	AFTERNOTE 3.7.3 – A link to a full technical report that details the design of the intake heads and fish return system has been provided in the draft meeting note.	
2.1.3	AFTERNOTE 3.15.1 - 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. The words of requirement CW1 are provided in the draft meeting note [from January].	
2.1.4	ACTION 4.5.3 – Following a discussion about noise monitoring equipment at Combwich Wharf, the Chair suggested that this was something that could be discussed at the next Main Site Forum. This was indeed discussed at the Main Site Forum in February.	
2.1.5	AFTERNOTE 4.5.3 – Richard Clews also provided an afternote on the questions related to noise, air quality monitoring and water quality controls. In addition to the discussion at the Main Site Forum, Richard has included further details in the draft meeting note.	
2.1.6	AFTERNOTE 6.1 – Regarding the EA's 'Meet the Regulator' sessions, the email address for anyone interested in attending these sessions has been provided in the draft meeting note – nuclear@environment-agency.gov.uk	
2.1.7	AFTERNOTE 6.4.3 – Stuart Hill had asked the EA team if there was an interim audit, particularly the impact on the environment for future power stations. The EA afternote says that "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."	
2.1.8	AFTERNOTE 6.4.5 – Following a discussion about the sewage treatment plant, the following afternote was provided: "Hinkley Point C's Sewage Treatment plant, its operation and discharge limits were discussed in detail at the Main Site Forum held on 12 th 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."	
2.1.9	ACTION – 10.1.1 – Stuart Hill had raised the issue of ruts on the mini roundabout going towards Nether Stowey. Joanna Whitehead had said she would take this away. These have now been fixed.	

2.1.10	ACTION 10.1.4 – Stuart Hill mentioned the upgrade in lighting on Combwich Wharf, saying there hadn't been any thought for the environment. Andrew Cockcroft said he would take this away and speak to Stuart outside of the meeting. Andrew Cockcroft said that Stacy Walker had been looking into this, and it was highly likely that at the existing labs, so they have engaged with Hinkley B on this matter – and that Stacy would call Stuart about this. ACTION SW Stuart Hill (SH) mentioned that in his view not recording the environmental impact of the construction of the power station would be a mistake. The Chair clarified it was to do with the role of the EA rather than the broader point.	ACTION SW
2.2	There were no further comments, and the meeting note was agreed.	
3	Project Progress Update – (Andrew Cockcroft - EDF)	
3.1	The Chair invited Andrew Cockcroft (AC) to take the forum through an update on project progress.	
3.2	AC started his presentation by showing members the latest site progress video with HPC Delivery Director Simon Parsons [slide 8, link to video provided]. Leigh Redman (LR) asked if peak construction meant peak workforce. AC said that workforce numbers were at about 13,500. He replied to LR that he would give a full update on workforce uplift.	
3.3	AC then talked through slide 8 in the presentation pack about bus and passenger safety. AC added that HPC has the largest private bussing fleet in the country and highlighted the overall safety record.	ACTION AC
3.3.1	AC mentioned two events, one on the A38 by Bridgwater mowers and one off the Cannington bypass. While he couldn't go into details, these weren't preventable due to safety procedures. One was the result of a medical incident, the cause of which is still being investigated. The second event was a car on the opposite side of the road, telematics from the bus showed no excessive speed or braking.	
3.3.2	Sue Goss (SG) said that a smaller HPC bus was passing through Stogursey and met an ambulance with blue-lights on, and the bus didn't reverse – and said that in situations like this there should be some training to allow drivers to reverse. AC agreed and reiterated there isn't a blanket ban on drivers reversing; they are told to use their judgement – he said he would feed this back to Rebecca Jeffreys. ACTION Chris Morgan (CM) mentioned an incident where two buses met and neither reversed, and the situation went on for some time. He suggested there needed to be some advice for drivers as what to do in this situation. AC said this could be picked up again at the Transport Forum. ACTION	
3.3.3	LR said that 99.9% works out at 30 incidents or events a month, and asked what is classed as an event?	

3.4	AC replied said this could be a bus brushing a fence, or a minor bump, all the way through to a significant incident. LR asked if this included near misses, AC said these were recorded separately – he would look to provide this information in an afternote. AFTERNOTE AFTERNOTE – Further data on incidents was provided to the Transport Forum. The presentation provides slide 21 (accessible here - HPC TF 25/06/26 Presentation Pack) shows the latest data for May 2026. Stuart Hill (SH) said there had been three to four bus breakdowns, including one this evening. He reminded the forum of poor behaviour on the road and said he doesn't want a fatality on the roads. He also expressed concern about people on motorbikes travelling to site – and asked for things to be ramped up. AC asked for clarity as to what SH meant by ramping up. SH said he meant either through a police presence or a safety campaign. Valdo Andrade (VA) said that Tom Hall did speed gun and other checks on the C182. AC mentioned road safety week in November, and that this was discussed at a recent Community Safety meeting. SH asked for information on reliability of the buses. The Chair suggested this could be discussed at greater detail at the TF, and AC said he didn't have the data on breakdowns at present. ACTION AFTERNOTE - Further data on breakdowns was provided to the Transport Forum. The presentation provides slide 21 (accessible here - HPC TF 25/06/26 Presentation Pack) shows the latest data for May 2026.	ACTION Chair / AC
3.4	AC continued about workforce uplift [slide 9] and acknowledged this was taking time. The general consensus at the council etc. is that this is done correctly and the right level of scrutiny applied. AC said that a final mitigation package was close to being agreed; the legal reviews of the topic papers has been carried out. He underlined how the basis for mitigations were based on items discussed at the fora. SG said although it said further updates to forums and LCNs would be provided, but there was no update at her LCN. AC said that the November joint meeting was where further detail was given, and this would be done again once the council had taken its final view.	
3.5 3.5.1	AC then talked through a slide giving an update on the Acoustic Fish Deterrent (AFD) – slide 10. He then answered the following questions from members: Jo Smoldon (JS) asked how the new proposed AFD would be powered. AC said it would be battery powered; the previous design had almost 300 underwater speakers, whereas this uses transducers. It is roughly the same weight as a large lobster pot and is a much more flexible solution. Allan Jeffery (AJ) asked for more detail on the fish recovery system and why this was needed in addition to an AFD – and if there was a register for all the dead fish being thrown out.	

3.5.2 3.5.3 3.5.4 3.5.5	AC said this was a belt and braces approach. Trials found that there a few species that don't hear at all and therefore the AFD wouldn't be able to protect them, and thus a new safety net is required. For larger species, it is designed to return them to the sea unscathed. For those that might be not survive, it's also important to return their biomass to the marine environment. AJ then asked if there was going to be an agenda item on this subject – and AC said it would be best to do this once the confirmed consenting route was clear. AJ added that the proportion of tagged fish is low compared to those that are untagged. AC said he understood this and mentioned condition CW2 which is monitoring. HPC is mandated to monitor any ongoing impact, and AC said the fish recovery and return system is an important part of that monitoring. AC said once full picture of 2 years of studies has been completed, this would be a good point to have an agenda item. LR said he supported a further meaningful discussion about this topic, as there were other conversations that would feed into this, particularly around maintenance. AC said that maintenance of the previous iteration of the AFD would have required divers to regularly service 280 speakers, whereas this system was far easier to maintain – and the maintenance was actually possible. SH said he was concerned about context and said if you took combined the fish killed at various fish from other power stations was going to landfill – and people don't realise per megawatt how much fewer fish were going to be killed compared to previous power stations. The Chair said it was something to map out in terms of the agenda item and which organisations could present jointly.	
3.6	Pre-submitted questions – Project progress and buses - From the HPC Video, can EdeF elaborate on why transitioning into the MEH phase has been 'tough going'; the phrase 'now we're really getting moving' implies that there have been holdups. So, what's been causing these? <u>Answer:</u> AC said in many ways it's been starting the project again, going from buildings to transferring workforce and ways of working. There hasn't been a seamless transition, demobilisation of main civils, a change of personnel and ways of working – this is why it's been tough going. AC said the productivity rates on site have increased. "It's interesting that you devote a slide to 'Bus & Passenger Safety' just two weeks after two bus accidents in quick succession. What can you tell the Forum about those incidents?" – submitted by Roy Pumfrey, <i>Stop Hinkley</i> <u>Answer:</u> AC said he had addressed this point earlier in his presentation (see section 3.3.1)	

3.7	Pre-submitted questions - Jetty 1. "What is the jetty currently being used for, when was it last used and what was transported in or out on this route?" - Submitted by Jo Smoldon, <i>Stop Hinkley</i> <u>Answer:</u> AC replied that the jetty started life purely for bringing in concrete and aggregates. Over the past few years it has been used more flexibly, being used for components and sections of the steel dome. Increasingly it has been used to bring in steel rebar – all part of the drive for efficiency. The Chair said the TF had quite an extensive conversation about the use of the jetty and presentations about this.	
3.7.1	AJ asked how much longer the jetty was licenced for. AC said it had been extended – and concluded by saying that it's far preferable to bring things in by sea rather than road.	
3.8	The Chair then asked if there were any further questions for AC.	
3.8.1	Steve Pettitt (SP) asked for an update on the new system for reporting fly parking. AC said that a member of Cannington Parish Council was at the recent TF where there was an update; AC said that it has been signed off by IT, who had picked up a cybersecurity risk – this has been tested and address and should now be a matter of weeks away. AC said this would be discussed at the next Transport Forum ACTION	ACTION AC / Chair
3.8.2	SH raised some recent instances of fly parking in Combwich; AC said he appreciates the feedback of potential problem areas.	
3.9	The Chair reminded members of how in a previous Community Forum that there would be more discussions of the operational side of HPC. AC then introduced Chris Sleath (CS) and Lucky Bahia (LB) to run through how the power station produces electricity. CS introduced himself – he is a Senior Operations Manager at HPC and is responsible for the team that will operate HPC. He previously worked in operations at Hartlepool Power Station. He joined HPC five years ago and was in the first group of people to go through the HPC reactor operator training. LB introduced himself, like CS he is also a Senior Operations Manager at HPC; and previously worked at Hinkley B. He was in the second cohort of HPC reactor operator training.	
3.10	CS then talked the Forum through slide 14, showing the inside of the Pressurised Water Reactor. He described and spoke about the following elements: • The Operator's role: ensure nuclear safety (monitoring, control, response) • Primary circuit: RPV, pumps, pressuriser, steam generators • Benefits of PWR (Pressurised Water Reactor) vs EPR (European Pressurised Reactor): higher power, fewer penetrations, enhanced safety, double containment. • 3C philosophy: Control, Cool, Contain	

3.10.1	Containment Barriers: fuel cladding, reactor pressure vessel, concrete containment building LR asked about rod exchange and when spent fuel is cooled and stored, HPC won't have any spent fuel moved away from site. CS said the EPR would be refuelled every 18 months, there are 241 fuel assemblies. Every 18 months 1/3 of these would be taken out. These would be kept in the spent fuel pool. Those would remain there (highly boronated to absorb neutrons), once HK is at a certain level (realistically 5-10 years), the fuel is at a low enough decay heat to safely transport. The temperature of the pool is approx. 30C. It then gets moved to a dry store. He explained about how the reactor would be refuelled, this is part of a defined process of approx. 30 days.	
3.11	CS then explained slide 15 in the presentation pack about nuclear fission. - The process of Fission is when Uranium-235 splits → heat + neutrons - Energy from mass → energy ($E = mc^2$) - EPR fuel: UO_2 pellets in assemblies- 241 fuel assemblies - Delivery of fuel to site: shielded, regulated transport only handled by trained personnel - Refuelling process: ~18 months, shutdown, replace fuel CS also explained about the source of neutrons and splitting enriched uranium 235 or 238. Uranium splits into different products, and releases 2.43 neutrons are released every time an atom is split. 3.11.1 LR asked for the dimensions of a fuel assembly. CS wasn't exactly sure but said the height was about 8m and reactor pressure vessel (RPV) internals was 8m. 3.11.2 JS asked how the fuel was coming to site. CS replied it comes in an 'FCC4' container, which looks like a yellow dustbin on its side, and would be delivered by road. Measuring devices would say if it had been tampered with or damaged in transit. JS asked how often it would need to be delivered – CS said this would be every 18 months. SH asked he if was correct that there was no danger from the fuel unless dropped on your foot. CS said this is safe by design, only when it's put in a certain situation (e.g. close together with other assemblies hot pressurised water). SH asked if it was the same set up as at Sizewell B. CS said this design is more robust than Sizewell B – and will be a development from other EPRs are Taishan, Flamanville 3 and Olkiluoto in Finland. 3.11.3 AJ asked what the essential difference is between Sizewell B and the HPC reactors. CS said the redundancy and diversity of the protection systems has been enhanced. AJ asked what the essential difference is between Sizewell B and the HPC reactors. CS said the redundancy and diversity of the protection systems has been enhanced. AJ then asked where the fuel comes from; CS said the manufacturers said this would be provided by Framatome. CS said that reprocessed fuel would not be used on site.	
3.12	<u>The 3 circuits of a nuclear reactor</u>	

	LB continued with the presentation by talking through the three circuits of a nuclear reactor (slides 16-18). The primary circuit is housed within the reactor building and circulates the pressurised water through the reactor core. LB also explained the role of the steam generators in the process. The secondary circuit is contained in the turbine hall, where it converts the heat from the primary circuit into steam, which spins the turbine. The tertiary circuit is in the pump house and operates the cooling system (pumping water from the sea). The conditions for each of the circuits is as follows: • Primary: ~300°C / 155 bar (keeps water liquid) • Secondary: ~230°C / 70 bar • Tertiary: low temperature & pressure	
3.13	LB showed members an animation of how it all works together (slide 19) Jane Tomaney (JT) said there is the visitor centre at Cannington Court shows this in detail too. The Chair thanked CS and LB for their presentation.	
4	Item 4: Update – Office for Nuclear Regulation (Alun Griffiths, ONR)	
4.1	Alun Griffiths (AG) gave an update on his role and the role of the ONR. AG talked through his slides to members (slides 21-28 in the presentation pack).	
4.2	Mahtab Khan (MK) introduced himself – he head of regulation at the ONR for HPC and also Sizewell C. MK explained that the role of nominated site inspector is pivotal in providing public confidence. He said that AG and Oliver Hayes (OH) act as primary visible contact with the community. MK noted AG's contribution over many years and wished him a happy retirement. OH will be fulfilling this role and is experienced ONR official. The Chair thanked AG for his contributions to the Forums and wished him all the best for his retirement – with which members agreed enthusiastically.	
5	Item 5: Update – Environment Agency (Jon Ayers, EA)	
5.1	Jon Ayers (JA) presented his slides to the Forum (29 to 33 in the presentation pack). He updated members that there had been an unannounced inspection recently undertaken (detail on slide 30).	
5.2	JA suggested to members that the meet the regulator sessions are a good time to discuss and ask questions about the AFD – the next of these will be in September.	
5.3	JA then took questions from members:	

5.3.1	SH asked about Port of Bristol mitigation plans (for planned wind turbines); he asked about the environmental impact as HPC will be shifting water and asked if the EA was looking at the two things. JA said this might be the case, but he would take this away:	ACTION / AFTERNOTE
5.3.2	SH asked if the next meet the regulator session could be in person rather than on Teams. JA said there is the intention to hold an in-person session but wasn't sure when this would be.	
5.3.3	SG mentioned the samples from the water management zone and asked where these were. JA said there are five dotted around the site, the one was water management zone 4 on the South side of the site which discharges into the stream running adjacent to site. SG asked where the water actually discharges. JA said 'outlet 1' is in front of the sea wall at the front of the site and across the foreshore. At the back of the site, it is discharged into the Holford stream. JA said these discharges are rainfall dependent.	
6	Item 6: Update – Community Fund (Amelia Thompson, Somerset Community Foundation)	
6.1	Amelia Thompson (AT) ran through her presentation (slides 34 to 40), and explained the types of grant that are available to organisations.	
6.2	AT then showed a 'heat map' summary 2018-2025 (slide 36) and offered a caveat – she mentioned how colours might be more intense in areas where the impacts of HPC aren't as great as in other areas (e.g. Porlock, Taunton) – however she said that these were organisations based in these areas who were active in areas impacted by the construction of HPC. AT said that the job over the next 5-7 years is to make those colours darker with the additional money coming in.	
6.3	<u>Recent examples</u> AT then focused on some recent examples.	
6.3.1	A grant of £850,000 was provided for Wilstock Hub in North Petherton – and explained this grant had unlocked close to £2m in external funding from other partners, including national funding. This centre will also have a nursery for local residents, a coffee shop and a multi-use games area (MUGA) which is already operational. AT encouraged members to visit this once built.	
6.3.2	AT then spoke about a grant made in 2024, highlighting monitoring and the changes in the community as a result of a grant. One such example is Home-start West Somerset, who work with young families and run a range of workshops. The provided £155,000 over three years for a Dad Matters coordinator, supporting men's mental health. There are walks (and over 80 Dads attended walks in 2025-6); this can connect with other mental health projects in Somerset. AT said that 60 families had attended a Christmas party with their children. At said she liked this example as it demonstrated the impact of a grant on local organisations and communities.	

6.3.3	AT then provided her contact details and encourage members to get interested organisations to contact her.	
6.4	The Chair invited questions from members for AT.	
7	Item 7: Main Site Forum (16th October 2025) - (Chair)	
7.1	The Chair updated members about the most recent Main Site Forum, which was held on 12th February 2026. The Forum had a Project Progress Update, a planning update, a presentation from EDF's Stuart Jagger / Richard Clews on Landscape Restoration and Environmental Management. This included slides on stockpile management, sewage treatment at HPC, ecology and biodiversity, and noise and light monitoring. The next meeting of the Main Site Forum is on Thursday 4th June 2026	
8	Item 8: Transport Forum (13th November 2025) – (Chair)	
8.1	The Chair updated members about the most recent Transport Forum, held on 12th March 2026. Forum covered a project progress update, an update from the Transport Review Group, a passenger transport update, and a presentation from Claire Warner-Blackman on Marine and Road Deliveries. The next Transport Forum will take place on Thursday 25th June 2026	
9	Item 9: Any Other Business	
9.1	The Chair then invited any items of Any Other Business from members.	
10.1.1	CM said there are several items gone back to the TF, there is a problem within Cannington / Comwich and Stogursey etc. of electric vehicles (e.g. scooters and e-bikes), and something needs to be done about this. The Chair said that with CM's permission this should be raised again at the next TF. ACTION	ACTION Chair
10.1.2	SH mentioned the mouth of the pill in Comwich, which was promised to be kept clear navigable and hasn't been done so. He felt that was a safety issue here, that many people didn't want to risk coming in and moor; and the issue was serious. SH said he would like a response from the harbourmaster or in the next Forum as maintenance was promised. ACTION	ACTION AC
11	Item 11: Date of next Community Forum	
11.1	The next Community Forum will be held on Thursday 17th September 2026 at 6pm.	
12	The meeting ended.	