

HINKLEY POINT A SITE

Gabion Wall Briefing for the SSG - July 2023

Hinkley is protected by a concrete sea wall which runs north of the site. A picture of this configuration is shown below:



In addition to the sea wall, following a flooding event in 1981, a gabion wall was constructed. The purpose of this was to provide protection against extreme events. The gabion wall design varies dependant on the adjacent ground level.

On 17/05/2021, it was identified that a western section of the Gabion Wall at Hinkley Point A had collapsed. The collapse did not result in any injuries to personnel or any significant damage to the adjacent security fence positioned to the north.

A photo showing the extent of the collapse is provided below:



The impact of the collapse on the site's safety case was reviewed and confirmed to not be of a concern. The adjacent site, Hinkley Point B (HPB), was also informed due to potential claims of the gabion wall structure to provide protection against potential flooding scenarios.

Magnox Ltd and EdF have assessed the condition for the flooding claim and potential impact on plant items and are content that the gabion in its current state still provides some level of protection.

Following on from the collapse, work was undertaken to remove the top layer of gabion baskets. The intent of this work was to remove loading from the lower-level gabion baskets to reduce the potential for further collapse due to cascade failure. HPB were engaged as part of this work pack development.

The section of the gabion wall which collapsed was left in its resultant configuration as whilst some further settlement of the collapsed section was judged to be likely, overall, the configuration was deemed to be stable and there were no undue concerns regarding the short-term stability. It was determined that on a risk basis it was as low as reasonably practicable (ALARP) to leave the gabion wall in its condition whilst full scale works were developed.

Although further movement has been noted, the profile of the collapsed section remains relatively consistent with that of the resultant configuration following the initial collapse on the 17/05/2021.

The condition of the gabion wall has been reported and discussed with both site regulators Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and Environment Agency (EA), no regulatory concerns have been raised.