



## **Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group**

**Venue: Bridgwater & Taunton College | Cannington Campus | Cannington  
| BRIDGWATER | TA5 2LS**

**28<sup>th</sup> October 2024 commencing at 0930 am.**

Additional paperwork for this and previous meetings can be found on the website:

[https://nrsssg.com/event/1410\\_1410/](https://nrsssg.com/event/1410_1410/)

## **AGENDA**

**All reports & presentations will be circulated with final agenda two weeks before meeting. Members are requested to review reports and submit questions before the meeting, this is to allow responses to be made on day. Questions received during the meeting may be responded to in writing after the meeting.**

**The chair has asked that presenters use their speaking time to highlight important points only, this is to allow time for Plenary Panel Session.**

**All timings indicative and subject to change at Chairs discretion.**

1. 09.30 Welcome from the Chair - Cllr Leigh Redman.  
To include introductions of new staff.
2. 09:35 Apologies for absence.
3. 09.40 Open public Q&A session - Subject to Chairs discretion.
4. 09.50 Minutes of the Meeting held 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024.  
Accuracy & matters arising – see separate sheet.
5. 09.55 Station Director's report - Hinkley Point B Station,  
Nicola Fauvel
6. 10.10 Site Director's report – Hinkley Point A site, Mark Pitts
7. 10.25 NRS corporate report – Bill Hamilton
8. 10.35 NDA reports – David Wallace

9. 10.45 Plenary session: The Plenary for this meeting is split into two parts: The session will give each presenter up to 10 mins to outline their message and 10 mins for SSG members' question & answers. Session will last around 45 mins.

**NRS – Bill Hamilton – Introduce group to Thinks Insight campaign.**

*Over the past few months NRS has been working with a polling company to examine what people who live near our sites think of NRS, their site, what's going on there now and in the future. Today's session will include a short video of some of the people interviewed and provide results from people living around the Hinkley site.*

**NDA – Andy Harper - NDA Socio-Economic Manager, will give a presentation and invite comment and feedback on the socio-economics 'critical enabler' theme for our revised strategy, Strategy 5.**

*The NDA Social Impact and Communities Strategy was published in April 2024 following a public consultation. Strategy 5 is due to be published next year with consultation in the spring, exact timing to be determined, but this is a great opportunity for members to be engaged well before the formal comment period.*

10. 11.35 Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) report Hinkley A&B - Paul Jenson

11. 11.50 Environment Agency Report Hinkley A&B - Alister Wintle

12. 12.05 Chair's report and to note items circulated between meetings.

13. 12:15 To note items circulated between meetings.

HPB Decommissioning consultation letter & proposal to hold special SSG to discuss if we would respond as a group.

NDA announces appointment of Interim Chair of the Sellafield Ltd Board

NDA Business Plan 2024 – 2027

The NDA Social Impact and Communities Strategy

Radiological Habits Survey – sent by Cefas on behalf of FSA

NWS Annual review 2023/2024

14. 12.30 Any other business

**If you have any queries relating to the SSG meeting or wish to send any pre-submitted questions, please use the following email address: [Hinkley.ssg@magnoxsites.com](mailto:Hinkley.ssg@magnoxsites.com)**

**If you are sending a pre-submitted question, please make it clear in your email which regulator the question is for, so we can ensure it is passed to the relevant team.**

**The next Hinkley Point SSG's meeting date: TBC 2025**

## **HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

### **SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS ARISING AT THE MEETING HELD AT THE CANALSIDE, BRIDGWATER ON FRIDAY 26 JANUARY 2024**

- Cllr Leigh Redman, Chairman of the Group, welcomed all those present to the meeting.
- Ms Basra-Steele reported on activities at the Hinkley Point A Site. She pointed out that since the previous meeting Magnox had been rebranded as Nuclear Restoration Services; it remains a wholly owned subsidiary of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.
- Ms Basra-Steele said that high standards of safety performance had been maintained but there had been an accident recently in which a kitchen assistant had sustained hot water burns.
- Ms Basra-Steele said that good progress had been maintained with the installation and commissioning of waste processing facilities and the retrieval and processing of wastes.
- Mr Mike Davies said that this would be the last meeting of this Group he would attend as Station Director, Hinkley Point B as he was to take up an appointment as Station Director, Heysham 1 Power Station. He introduced Ms Nicola Fauvel who would become Acting Station Director when he moved.
- Mr Davies reported on activities at the Hinkley Point B station. He said that high safety standards had been maintained and good progress was being made with the reduction of hazards on the station site. He said that the defueling of Reactor 4 was now some 62% complete; It was anticipated that decommissioning of this reactor would be completed by April / May and that the defueling of Reactor 3 would then follow.
- Mr Bill Hamilton reported on Nuclear Restoration Services corporate issues and members received reports from the NDA, the Office for Nuclear Regulation, and the Environment Agency.
- Mr Ashraf and Mr Davies described preparations which were being made for the transition of B station from an operational power station to a decommissioning site and the transfer of the site to Nuclear Restoration Services.
- Cllr Redman reported on his recent activities on behalf of the Group.

**HINKLEY POINT SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP**  
**Minutes of the meeting held at the Canalside, Bridgwater on 26 January 2024**

**PRESENT**

|                       |   |                                   |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| Cllr L Redman (Chair) | - | Bridgwater Town Council           |
| Ms K Basra-Steele     | - | Site Director, Hinkley Point A    |
| Mr M Davies           | - | Station Director, Hinkley Point B |

**Elected Members**

|                   |   |                                     |
|-------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| Cllr C Allen      | - | Cannington Parish Council           |
| Cllr H Davies     | - | Somerset Council                    |
| Cllr Ms S Goss    | - | Stogursey Parish Council            |
| Cllr B Eyley      | - | Kilve Parish Council                |
| Cllr K Hewson     | - | Bawdrip Parish Council              |
| Mr A Jeffery      | - | Bridgwater & W Somerset Green Party |
| Mr M Laver        | - | West Hinkley Action Group           |
| Cllr Ms R Perrett | - | Otterhampton Parish Council         |
| Cllr M Phillips   | - | Wembdon Parish Council              |
| Ms M Smith        | - | West Somerset Green Forum           |

**Co-opted Members**

Mr M Brown (Vice Chairman)

**Appointed Members**

|               |   |                               |
|---------------|---|-------------------------------|
| Mr S Saunders | - | Office for Nuclear Regulation |
| Mr A Wintle   | - | Environment Agency            |
| Mr P Stevens  | - | Somerset Council              |
| Mr C Jones    | - | Somerset Council              |
| Mr J Burton   | - | Somerset Council              |
| Ms L Martin   | - | Somerset Council              |

**EDF**

Ms N Fauvel  
Mr D Stokes  
Mr H Dyer  
Mr M Pardo  
Ms C Richardson

**NRS**

Mr B Hamilton  
Mr S Ashraf  
Mrs S Fry

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr T Ayre

Mr J Freeman  
Mr M J Davis - Secretary

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

- 1 Cllr Redman welcomed all those present to this meeting of the Site Stakeholder Group for Hinkley Point A Site and Hinkley Point B Power Station.
- 2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr Ian Liddell-Grainger MP, Ms V Thomas, Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, Cllr R Wyke, Fiddington Parish Council, Mr P Jenneson, Cllr M Caswell, Cllr A Govier, Dr B Nozad, Nether Stowey Parish Council, Cllr M Hodson, Cllr C Morgan and Mr A Debenham

### **OPEN PUBLIC Q&A SESSION**

- 3 Cllr Redman invited questions from members of the public. No questions were raised.

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

#### **(a) Accuracy**

- 4 The minutes of the meeting of this Group held on 30 June 2023 were approved as a correct record.

#### **(b) Matters Arising**

- 5 Ms Smith said she had felt that a video about the A Site shown at the previous meeting should have included comments about the quantity of waste on the Site. Ms Basra-Steele said that it was an apprentice recruitment video. Cllr Redman invited Ms Smith to write to him if she wanted to propose an amendment to the minutes.

### **SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT A SITE**

- 6 Ms Basra-Steele drew attention to the rebranding of Magnox as Nuclear Restoration Services which had taken place since the previous meeting. She reported on activities at the A Site, drawing particular attention to the following:
  - (i) She regretted that Trade Union Site Safety Representatives had resigned. An independent group had been asked to review cultural aspects which might have a bearing on these resignations.

- (ii) A kitchen assistant had received hot water burns whilst working in the kitchen on site; actions taken subsequently included improvements in the equipment used.
  - (iii) Radioactivity had been found in sludge at the bottom of a demineralised water tank on the site. It was thought that this had originated from an event in the past.
  - (iv) Improvements in the arrangements for maintenance of equipment used for monitoring gaseous discharges had been pursued with the Environment Agency.
  - (v) The new cohort of apprentices included maintenance technicians working across both A and B sites and graduate recruits.
  - (vi) Good progress was being made with the asbestos remediation project which was due for completion in the coming Summer.
  - (vii) Good progress was also being made with the retrieval of fuel element debris from the wet vaults. It was anticipated that the rate of waste retrievals on the site would increase to a peak in about five years' time, with all wastes retrieved and packaged in about ten years' time.
- 7 In reply to a question from Ms Martin, Ms Basra-Steele said that numbers of NRS staff on site were typically 250 with total numbers of personnel on site including contractors rising to 380-400 at any time.
- 8 Cllr Allen asked whether it was proposed to combine the waste arising from A and B station decommissioning into single storage facilities. Ms Basra-Steele said that consideration was currently being given to opportunities which might arise for the rationalisation of waste storage between the two sites. Mr Saunders said that the two sites were separate entities with separate legal obligations and there were processes which would have to be followed to facilitate any such changes.

## **STATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT – HINKLEY POINT B**

- 9 Mr Davies said that this would be his last attendance at a meeting of this Group as Station Director, Hinkley Point B as he was to take up an appointment as Station Director, Heysham 1 Power Station. He introduced Ms Nicola Fauvel who would become Acting Station Director when he moved to Heysham. He reported on activities and performance at Hinkley Point B since the previous meeting of this Group, drawing particular attention to the following:
- (i) High standards of safety performance had been maintained on the site. Since the previous meeting there had been three first aid injuries, the worst

of these, which had needed off-site treatment, being a hand injury caused by a chisel.

- (ii) Good progress was being made with defueling Reactor 4 and with the work to reduce the level of hazards on the site. Defueling of Reactor 4 was now 62% complete. This work was currently paused while the station undertook planned maintenance work. It was anticipated that the defueling of Reactor 4 would be completed in April / May; the defueling of Reactor 3 would then follow.
  - (iii) Public consultation on decommissioning proposals for the station was to take place during the Spring.
  - (iv) The station had continued its support of charities and local organisations. The four-year charity partnership with Prostate Cancer UK, which had provided demonstrable progress in the charity's work, had come to an end. The Station had established a support arrangement with the Alzheimer's Society for the future.
- 10 Cllr Redman expressed members thanks to Mr Davies for the support he had given to the work of this Group. Mr Davies said that he had enjoyed working at Hinkley Point and would be keeping his family home in Wembdon.

## **NUCLEAR RESTORATION SERVICES CORPORATE REPORT**

- 11 Mr Hamilton reported on Nuclear Restoration Services corporate issues. He drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) Nuclear Restoration Services was a wholly owned subsidiary of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority.
  - (ii) NRS was shortly to publish a 10-year strategy document, identifying its vision and the challenges it faced.
  - (iii) In order to achieve an understanding of local views on the future of its sites after the completion of decommissioning, NRS had been undertaking polling, using a professional polling company. He outlined the scope of the polling and said that the results of this work would be made public. He undertook to provide a more detailed report on this work at the next meeting of this Group.

## **PLENARY PANEL SESSION - AGR TRANSITION FROM GENERATION TO DECOMMISSIONING**

- 12 Mr Ashraf, who had recently been appointed as the NRS AGR Transfer Director, gave an overview of the future NRS fleet, including AGR (Advanced Gas-cooled

- Reactor) sites. These sites would be transferred progressively to NRS from EDF as defueling was completed. It was anticipated that the first AGR site to be transferred would be Hunterston B, followed by Hinkley Point B and Dungeness B and it was intended that the transfer into NRS would be “seamless”.
- 13 Mr Ashraf described the financial arrangements for funding the decommissioning of the AGR sites. For the current NRS sites, funding was obtained from central government funds via the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority; decommissioning of the AGR sites would be funded from the Nuclear Liabilities Fund. Mr Ashraf drew attention to the opportunities for sharing experience between the companies and learning from each other as the AGR sites progressed through transition and transfer.
- 14 Mr Davies said it was anticipated that defueling of Reactor 4 would be completed by the coming May and that defueling of Reactor 3 would be completed during the summer of 2025. The cooling ponds would then be emptied, and it was anticipated that it would be possible for the site to be declared fuel free during 2026. Mr Davies referred to the legal process associated with the transfer of the Nuclear Site Licence between the two companies. Until the Licence was transferred, EDF remained responsible for compliance with its Site Licence obligations and from that time Site Licence responsibilities would pass to NRS.
- 15 Mr Davies described the change in emphasis as the station moved from being an operational nuclear power station to a decommissioning site. Whilst fuel remained on site there was clearly a primary focus on nuclear safety; once the fuel was removed the focus of the site would move onto decommissioning projects and waste issues.
- 16 Cllr Eyley asked how the public could be assured that EDF was spending enough of its profits to ensure safety at the station. Mr Davies said that from the time that the plant shut down there was no profit being made by Hinkley Point B for EDF. He said that the station’s operational cost of some £100 million per year was charged to the Nuclear Liabilities Fund and the contractual arrangement allowed only a small surplus or deficit to be transferred to the company on the basis of its performance. Mr. Saunders said that the same standards of safety remained applicable whatever the operational state or the ownership of the plant.
- 17 Cllr Redman asked when there was likely to be any noticeable difference in the external appearance of the B station. Mr Davies said that there would be no significant demolition of buildings until after all the fuel was removed; it remained an operational site until that time.
- 18 Mr Jeffery asked about the adequacy of the Nuclear Liabilities Fund to meet the cost of decommissioning. Mr Davies said that the fund had been set up to cover the costs of defueling and decommissioning the AGR reactors and Sizewell B. He



said that the fund was managed by independent trustees and the current understanding was that it would be sufficient to meet the needs of the sites.

#### **UPDATE FROM THE NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING AUTHORITY**

- 19 As the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority was not represented at the meeting, Cllr Redman invited members to advise him if there were any questions they would like him to refer to the NDA.

#### **OFFICE FOR NUCLEAR REGULATION REPORT**

- 20 Mr Saunders reported on the ONR's inspection and regulatory activities. Reports from ONR inspectors had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Mr Saunders drew particular attention to the following:
- (i) ONR's responsibilities covered nuclear safety, security, safeguards, transport and conventional health and safety on licensed sites.
  - (ii) In its regulation ONR was required to be consistent and proportionate, to target areas of greatest potential risk, to be transparent and to be accountable for its actions. Its regulation was carried out by sampling rather than auditing.
  - (iii) Mr Saunders outlined the nature and scope of the ONR's inspections at the sites since the previous meeting. The results of these inspections had been satisfactory with specific items for learning identified.
  - (iv) ONR had observed a demonstration of EDF's emergency response to an incident local to the Hinkley Point site involving the transport of radioactive material.

#### **ENVIRONMENT AGENCY REPORT**

- 21 Mr Wintle reported on the Environment Agency's monitoring and regulatory activities in relation to Hinkley Point A Site and B Station. A report on those activities had been circulated to members in advance of the meeting. Mr Wintle provided information on the nature and scope of inspections carried out by the Agency at the sites and outlined issues which were being addressed.

#### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

- 22 Cllr Redman reported on his and Mr Brown's activities on behalf of the Group. He pointed out that he and Mr Brown had visited both sites and had had useful discussions with Site Directors and staff. He suggested that members would benefit from visits to the sites and invited them to contact him if they wanted such visits to be arranged.

- 23 Cllr Redman anticipated that there would be a review of the SSGs as they were approaching the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their introduction. He undertook to keep members informed of any such discussions.
- 24 Cllr Redman drew attention to the various items which had been circulated to members since the previous meeting. It was his intention to continue to circulate information on any developing issues in this way between meetings. He invited members to contact him between meetings if there were any matters on which they wanted information.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 25 Mr Jeffery suggested that any review of the SSG might include consideration of the representation of C Station at these meetings. Cllr Redman said that there were currently separate arrangements for the construction site but it might be appropriate to consider this matter again when C site became an operational power station.

### **ACTIONS/ADDITIONS**

- 26 Susan Goss Vice Chair / Acting Chair Stogusey Parish Council asked the following questions which have since been replied to by the Site Director:

**Q1. What type of ventilation will be utilised in the ISF - will it be passive or mechanical?**

The ventilation is mostly passive. There is some mechanical recirculation type ventilation that dehumidifies the air; we need to do this to maintain the condition of the packages that are stored in the ISF.

**Q2. What type of monitoring is proposed and the frequency of this?**

NRS assumes this question relates to radiological discharges from the facility; the ISF is a permitted route and will be subject to an assessment of discharge which will be reported as part of the monthly statutory returns process. Routine monitoring for levels of surface contamination will also be undertaken annually. There are other types of monitoring that confirm that the atmosphere of the store remains suitable for ongoing storage of packages; temperature and humidity are monitored continuously.

**Q3 . Will this facility be shared with ‘B ‘ site - and if so ,will the same type of storage containers be utilised?**

The current plan is for the store to be used for HPA waste only, although this might change in the future if optioneering for HPB waste identifies the HPA store to be the most appropriate intermediate storage location for the waste. This will of course be subject to permission being granted and no objections from our Regulators.

## **DATE TIME AND PLACE OF NEXT MEETING**

27      It was noted that the next meeting of this Group was scheduled to be held on  
28 June 2024

MJD  
31 January 2024

# Hinkley Point B Site Stakeholder Group Report 28 October 2024

Nicola Fauvel, Hinkley Point B Station Director

# 1. Station issues



Thank you for giving me the opportunity to present my first operational update for Hinkley Point B as Station Director.

I am not entirely new to the Site Stakeholder Group, as I did attend our last meeting back in January 2024 with previous Station Director, Mike Davies. However, I thought it would be helpful to tell you a bit more about myself.

I started my working career at Torness power station as Systems and Design Engineer 25 years ago. Ten years later I moved to EDF's National Nuclear Engineering Centre in France and after spending some time at Flamanville, I returned to the UK in 2014 to join Hinkley Point C. During my time there, I held a number of technical, leadership and project manager positions.

I joined Hinkley Point B as Plant Manager in November 2022, and succeeded Mike Davies as Station Director in March 2024. I live in Bridgwater and have two teenage children.

As you know, we finished generating electricity in August 2022. To this day the site remains the single most productive nuclear power station in UK history, something our team remains fiercely proud of (though I suspect EDF colleagues at other stations will surpass our record at some point!).

In September 2022 we started defueling, painstakingly removing the fuel from reactor 4 before sending it to Sellafield. And I'm delighted to confirm that on August 9 we completed the task of emptying reactor 4 and it was declared fuel free. The efficiency and professionalism with which we completed this work is a testament to the teams at Hinkley Point B. The work being done here is a human endeavour and one of which we feel rightly proud. But, of course, the job is only half done, and we started defueling reactor 3 on August 22, 2024. We expect to complete that work, thanks to substantial learning over the last two years or so, by late 2025. After that we will go through a transition process before we hand the site over to NRS (Nuclear Restoration Services) for full decommissioning, which we expect to start sometime after handover.

As you know, we measure our safety performance against top tier indicators, and I am pleased to report it is now over 18 years since we experienced a nuclear reportable event. This safety performance ranks Hinkley Point B alongside some of the best performing nuclear power plants in the world, and we will ensure we maintain this focus, and these high standards, as we continue our defueling journey. In terms of environmental safety, it is now over three years since our last top tier reportable environment event.

Back in March a lost time incident (LTI) occurred at the power station, after one of our contract partners sustained a wrist injury. The individual was treated on site by first aiders before being transported to hospital as a precaution. He was later discharged to recuperate at home and has since returned to work. A full investigation has been completed and is being used to prevent similar recurrences in the future. There were five other first aid injuries in the reporting period, all of a minor nature. One of these included a contract

partner who aggravated an existing medical condition and sustained a muscle injury while undertaking cleaning activities.

As part of EDF's Zero Harm Week earlier this month, we held a Safety Day at the power station on 16 October. Some of our safety suppliers and partners, including Hilti, Nationwide, Sievi, Eureka, The Alzheimer's Society and MIND, showcased their products and services, and we organised a Dementia Friends Awareness session. The event was formally opened by Kiran Basra-Steele, Designate Safety, Security and Assurance Director for Nuclear Operations, and the activities proved popular with our staff and contract partners.

Auditors from Lloyd's Register Quality Assurance (LRQA) recently completed their annual LRQA surveillance and recommended the station's certification continues against the management system standards for Quality (ISO 9001:2015), Environment (ISO 14001:2015), Occupational Health and Safety (OHSAS 18001:2007) and Asset Management (ISO 55001:2014).

In April we hosted a visit to members of an Energy Security and Net Zero Select Committee looking into the country's future energy technology mix. The committee met members of the Station Executive Team and were taken on a tour of the site.

I was proud to welcome over 200 people, including colleagues from Hinkley Point A, to site during two 'family days' we held in the autumn at the power station. Following a tour of the site, family members enjoyed the refreshments on offer and took part in a number of fun challenges. There was also an opportunity to see at first hand one of our fire appliances, some of the CNC's vehicles and equipment, and one of our fuel flask transporters. This was the third consecutive year we had opened our doors to our families, and it's always a special occasion when we do so.

## 2. Transfer and Decommissioning

Collaborative work with NRS is continuing as we look ahead to transferring the Hinkley Point B site in 2026.

In June, I had the pleasure of welcoming Andy Munro, NRS Future Missions Director, Sohail Ashraf, NRS AGR Transfer Programme Director, and Laura Miles, NRS AGR Programme Delivery Manager, to the site. After meeting with members of the Station Executive Team, all three took part in a site tour, before holding a special question and answer session with staff.

And then earlier this month we held the first of a series of 'Engagement Days', where our NRS Corporate and Hinkley Point A colleagues visited and spoke to over 150 Hinkley Point B employees about what it feels like to work for NRS, how decommissioning looks in practice, and the wider contextual background about the company and the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). We received some excellent feedback from our staff about the day and interactions, and we look forward to hosting more of these in the coming months.

As reported previously, a Decommissioning Waste Processing Facility (DWPF) will be required for processing low level waste during decommissioning activities. A Joint NRS / EDF Working Group has now been setup to oversee these proposals.

A project to install a new Active Effluent Discharge line is underway, covering such scope as modelling for dispersal, silt build up and a concept design. It is imperative that any design is BAT (Best Available Techniques) and compliant, and installed to reduce our overall works power and to ensure we have a suitable solution for active discharging during the care and maintenance preparations phase. The line we currently use will be unavailable when we complete defueling.

The second public consultation on the decommissioning of Hinkley Point B power station was held in late Spring 2024 for a duration of six weeks; the responses were reviewed and considered when preparing the Environmental Statement for the EIADR consent application under the Nuclear Reactors (Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning) Regulations (EIADR). EDF has also engaged with various external technical stakeholders including the Environment Agency, Somerset Council, Natural England, Historic England, National Highways, Internal Drainage Board, and Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) as part of the consultation process. The EIADR consent application with the Environmental Statement was submitted to ONR on 30 August.

### 3. Defueling Statistics

For the reporting period January 1, 2024 to October 8, 2024:

- 84 spent fuel flasks were dispatched to Sellafield (100 were dispatched in 2023)
- All irradiated fuel assemblies (IFAs) have been removed from reactor 4, and it was declared 'fuel free' on August 9, 2024
- At the time of writing, in total 38 IFAs (10%) out of 308 have been removed from reactor 3
- Earlier in the month, we dispatched the 200<sup>th</sup> spent fuel flask off site since defueling began in September 2022.

### 4. Staff

- 450 EDF employees
- 19 agency staff
- 200 full-time contract staff

### 5. Environmental Update

In April 2024, the station had a joint inspection by the ONR and EA on the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations (COMAH) to review the progress of the hazard reduction programme. The station successfully demonstrated that the site was below the threshold for a lower tier COMAH site and has submitted the necessary paperwork to exit the regulations. The hazard reduction programme has continued with the recent

removal of the pipework associated with the Per and Polyfluoroalkyl (PFAS) fire foams to meet the legislation deadline in July 2025.

As per the normal company process, all events of environmental interest are recorded and trended to determine the potential for continually improving our operational activities.

In September we held a 'Pride in the Point' event when over 150 *Team Hinkley* members were out on the site tidying and clearing away unwanted items, and taking positive action to make the station an even better place to work. The following amounts of waste was collected and disposed:

- 1 x general waste skip – Approx 500kg
- 1 x Mixed Recycling skip – Approx 1 tonne of waste
- Approx 40kg of WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment)
- Approx 50kg of hazardous waste, including, aerosols, fluids, etc
- Approx 300kg of metal waste
- Approx 100kg of wood waste
- Approx 500kg of inert waste (concrete, soil, rubble etc)

## 6. Emergency Arrangements

We have successfully completed our 2024 emergency arrangements exercise programme, which included shift exercises, observed counter terrorism and Level 1 demonstration exercises, and a Level 2 exercise (*Jaguar*) which supported Somerset Council's test of the off-site arrangements.

As we work through our defueling programme and look to the future, we are continually reviewing our emergency plans to ensure they remain appropriate and relevant.

Exercise *Jaguar* (the Level 2 exercise), was potentially the last of this type of exercise for Hinkley Point B, as it is anticipated we will exit the REPIR (Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations once the site is fuel free. Again, this will require a change in the off-site emergency plans, and progress on this will be reported at future SSG meetings.

All our exercises have provided valuable learning, and resulting actions are being managed through normal station processes. Planning for our 2025 exercise season is ongoing

Since January there have been two ambulances called to the site for individuals who have taken ill at work. I am pleased to report both have made full recoveries and have since returned to work.

## 7. Community News

### Sponsorship and Donations

EDF continues to support local charities and organisations. Since the last meeting, local beneficiaries have included:

- > Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival (sponsorship of lost children wristbands)
- > Bridgwater Half Marathon, 10k and 5k (sponsorship of water station and refreshments)
- > Bridgwater Netball Club (sponsorship of new kit for under 12s team)
- > Bridgwater Operatic Society (sponsorship of lighting and special effects for show)



- > Bridgwater Wolves FC (sponsorship of children's football tournament)
- > Cannington Pre School (donation of raffle prize to raise funds for new interactive white board)
- > Cossington Village Hall (donation of rubber flooring matting for refurbished shed)
- > MIND Somerset (donation of raffle prize for charity event)
- > Minehead Bowling Club (donation to purchase new equipment for the Youth Academy Team)
- > Nether Stowey Football Club (sponsorship of under 15s team)
- > Quantock Education Trust (Part funding of crossing control costs at Stogursey Primary School)
- > Spaxton Flower Show (covered the cost of the hire of trestle tables for 2024 flower show)
- > St Margaret's Somerset Hospice (a donation in memory of former contract partner)
- > Wembdon FC (New gazebo for training sessions and match days for under 12s team)

We also continue to print the following monthly community newsletters: Stogursey News, The Stockland Gatepost, and Fiddington News.

In the past 16 years, Hinkley Point B's Sponsorship and Donations Committee has supported 415 requests from local charities and community groups.

Charities, community and non-for profit groups who wish to apply for support from Hinkley Point B's Sponsorship and Donations groups should contact Dave Stokes at [dave.stokes@edf-energy.com](mailto:dave.stokes@edf-energy.com).

In August we donated 4,000 surplus disposable face masks to Exmoor Search and Rescue Team. Exmoor Search and Rescue Team is a voluntary mountain rescue team, which assists in locating lost or missing persons, and recover the injured and ill from remote locations.

## Charity News

EDF's new charity partner is The Alzheimer's Society and since the partnership began in January, I am delighted to report the team at Hinkley Point B has already raised over £11,000. This money has been raised through a variety of sponsored fundraising activities, including walks, half marathons, haircuts and dye, Snowdonia treks, to name just a few.

Like my predecessors, I was also talked into taking part in a challenge to raise money for our charity, and I hesitantly accepted an opportunity to join a small Hinkley Point B team running 5k in the *Bridgwater Half Marathon, 10k and 5k* on 1 September. Now as you can probably see, I am not known for my athletic skills, and I haven't done any real sporting activities since I left school many years ago, so under the guidance of one of our employees who is a trained UK Run Leader, we set about getting myself in race condition. I am pleased to say the training paid off, and I successfully finished the run along with a small group of colleagues, and we raised nearly £1,000 for The Alzheimer's Society.

I hope this report gives a useful overview of what's been happening at Hinkley Point B this year, and please do let me know if you have any questions.

Nicola Fauvel

# **The Future of NRS sites**

## **Hinkley - Site-specific report**

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Thinks Insight & Strategy

# About the site-specific reports

The following site-specific reports have been written using data from the quantitative survey conducted by Thinks as part of their public research on behalf of NRS. Verbatim responses from the online community have also been included to illustrate the findings.

The survey asked 2100 respondents, comprising:

- **Nat rep sample:** 1000 people, demographically representative of the UK
- **Local boost:** 600 respondents who live within 40 minutes of an NRS site (50 participants in each of 12 sites)\*
- **Young people boost:** A boost of 500x 11-18-year-olds

The data informing the site-specific reports comes from a combination of the local boost sample and those in the Nat rep sample who live near an NRS site. Please note that this means the base sizes for each site are small (<100). Differences between the sites are therefore to be treated indicatively, rather than as statistically significant.

It is also worth noting that views towards priorities and strategies for decommissioning are consistent across the sites, and these can be found in more detail in the full report, which contains analysis across all NRS sites and from all phases of the research (the online community, deliberative workshops and the survey).

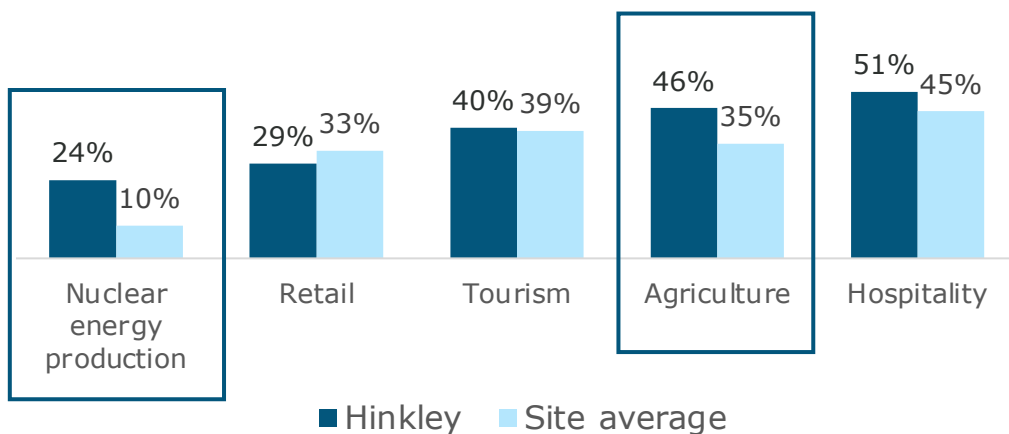
# Key findings



# Residents associate Hinkley with its rurality, as well as nuclear energy production

Which of the following areas do you feel has the biggest positive impact on your local economy?

Hinkley - Top 5 responses



Only Chapelcross scores more highly with respect to **agriculture**, while Hinkley is the clear leader with respect to **nuclear energy**.

What is important for the future of your local area?

*\*Scoring different areas of public life out of 10, where 0 is not at all important and 10 is very important*

- **98%** of Hinkley's residents say that **leisure opportunities** are important (7-10/10) for the future of their local area.
  - This is significantly higher than every other site except Oldbury.
- Meanwhile, **88%** of locals say that **local heritage** is important (7-10/10), the highest score across the sites.

This aligns with findings from the online community, where participants referred to their local area as having good community spirit, but somewhat limited leisure opportunities.

*"Where I live there's a good sense of community... everyone knows each other."*

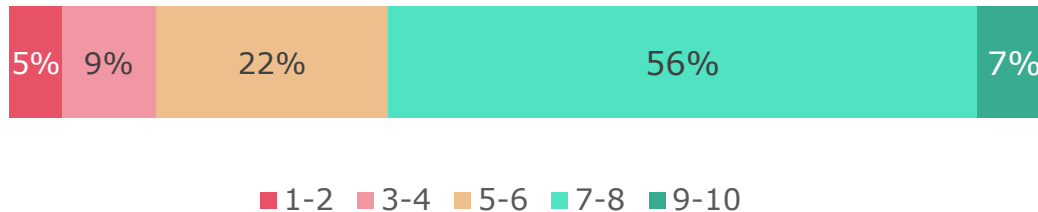
Online community, Hinkley

*"It's a village in a rural place. Sometimes there isn't a lot to do."*

Online community, Hinkley

# Hinkley's residents are the most likely of all the sites to know about and support the use of nuclear energy

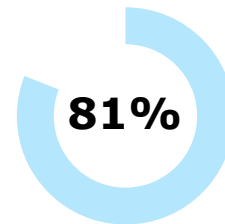
How much do you feel you know about nuclear energy in the UK?



When asked how much they know about nuclear energy, Hinkley participants' mean score (6.5/10) is the **highest across the sites**.

Furthermore, 4 in 5 of Hinkley's residents (81%) **support the use of nuclear power** to provide energy in the UK, the highest proportion across the twelve sites.

Support for nuclear power to provide energy in the UK

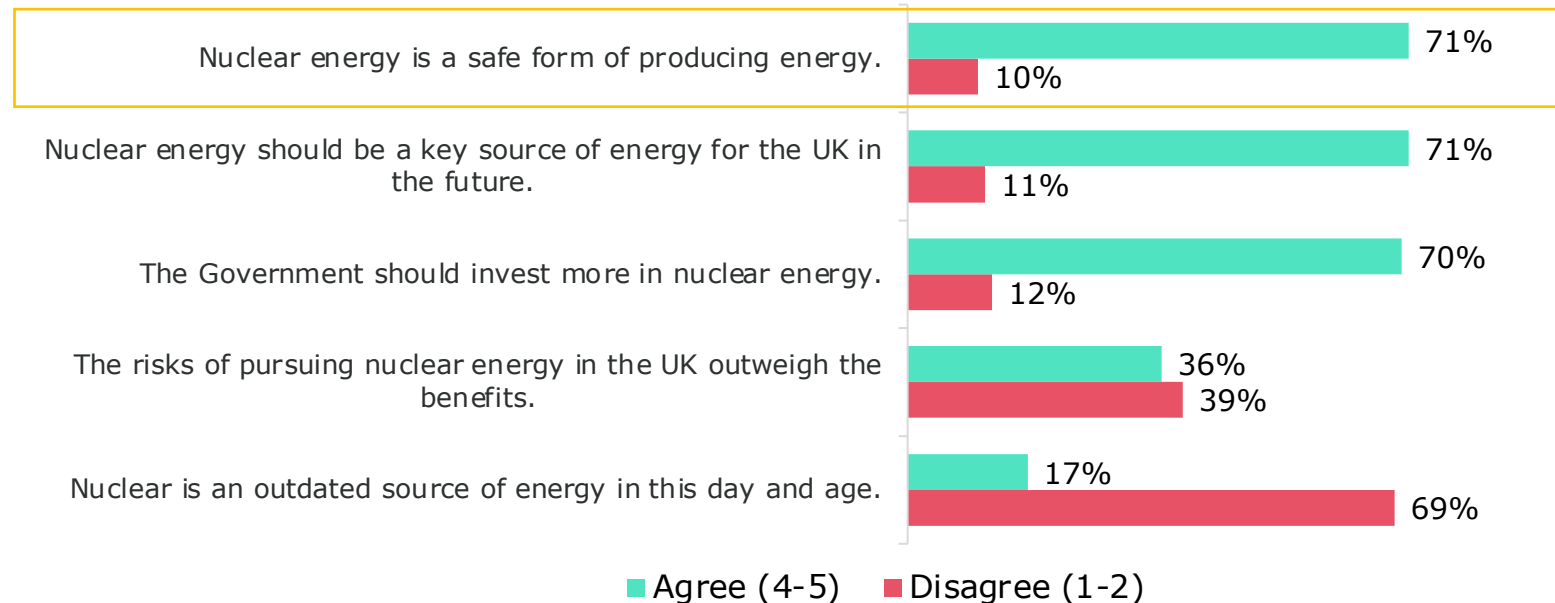


*"I've got no concerns about [our nuclear site] at all, it's been great for my local area with regards to jobs and putting us on the map."*

Online Community, Hinkley

# Hinkley's residents believe that nuclear energy is a safe form of energy, which it is *not* outdated

**To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?** (Agreement on scale from 1-5)



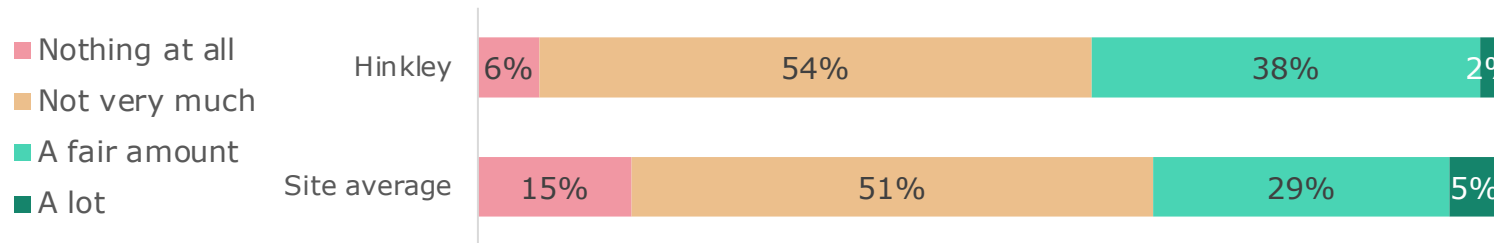
| Hinkley mean score | UK mean score |
|--------------------|---------------|
| 3.8                | 3.4           |
| 3.9                | 3.6           |
| 3.9                | 3.5           |
| 2.9                | 3.0           |
| 2.2                | 2.6           |

All scores out of 5

Residents are also much more likely than those at other sites to believe that nuclear energy should be a key form of energy for the UK (71%) and that the Government should invest more into nuclear (70%), but they are **less sure whether the risks to nuclear outweigh the benefits** (36% agree vs. 39% disagree).

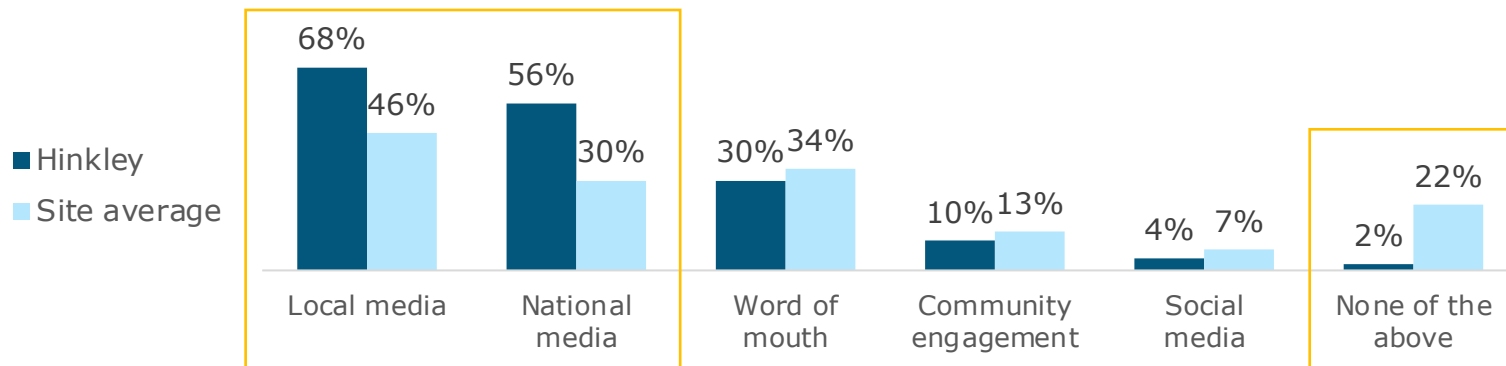
# Hinkley stands out among sites for its presence in local and national media

## How much do you feel you know about your local nuclear site?



While half (54%) of Hinkley's local boost feel they don't know very much about the site (in line with the site average), **very few (6%) claim to know nothing at all.**

## Where, if anywhere, have you heard about your local nuclear site?



*[What do you know about plans for the site?] "Part of the plant closed last year, and they are in the process of building a new one."*

Online Community, Hinkley

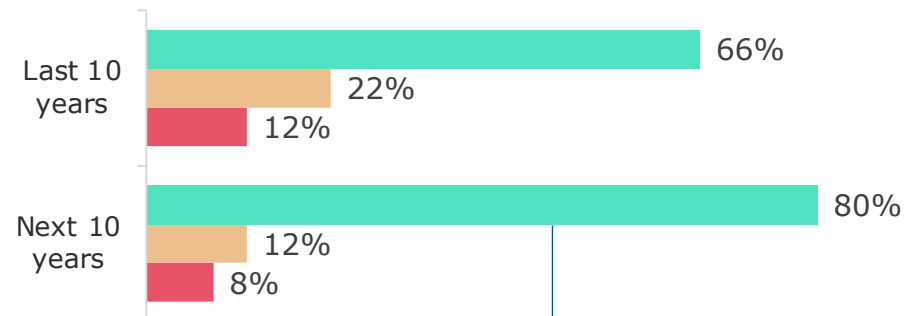
Hinkley's local boost are considerably more likely to have heard about the site in **local** and/or **national media** than the rest of the local sample.

They are also less likely to say they have heard from no sources about it.



# Hinkley's residents strongly believe that the site makes a positive contribution to their local economy

Do you think Hinkley has had / will have a positive or negative impact on your local area in the...?

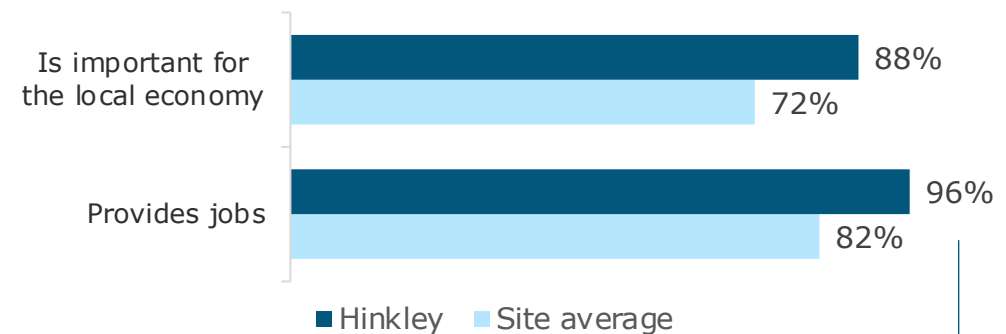


Participants not only think that Hinkley has had a **positive impact** on their local area in the last decade (66%), but they are also **optimistic** about the impact the site can have in the next decade (80%).

*"[It's] massive, the jobs it's provided over the years, directly and indirectly has helped my local area survive and thrive. Without it we would be a poorer place."*

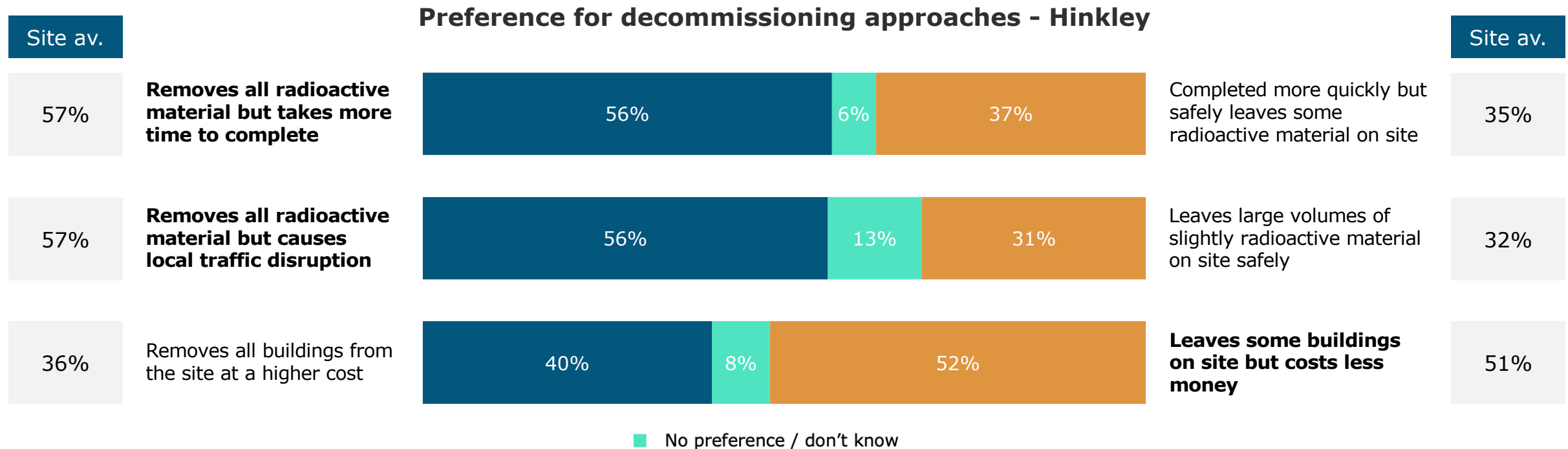
Online community, Hinkley

Do you agree or disagree that your local site...? Showing % agree



**9 in 10** of Hinkley's local boost think that the site is **important for their local economy** (88%), while all but a handful believe that the site provides jobs (96%).

# Quantitatively, Hinkley's residents are in line with the average with regards to decommissioning strategies



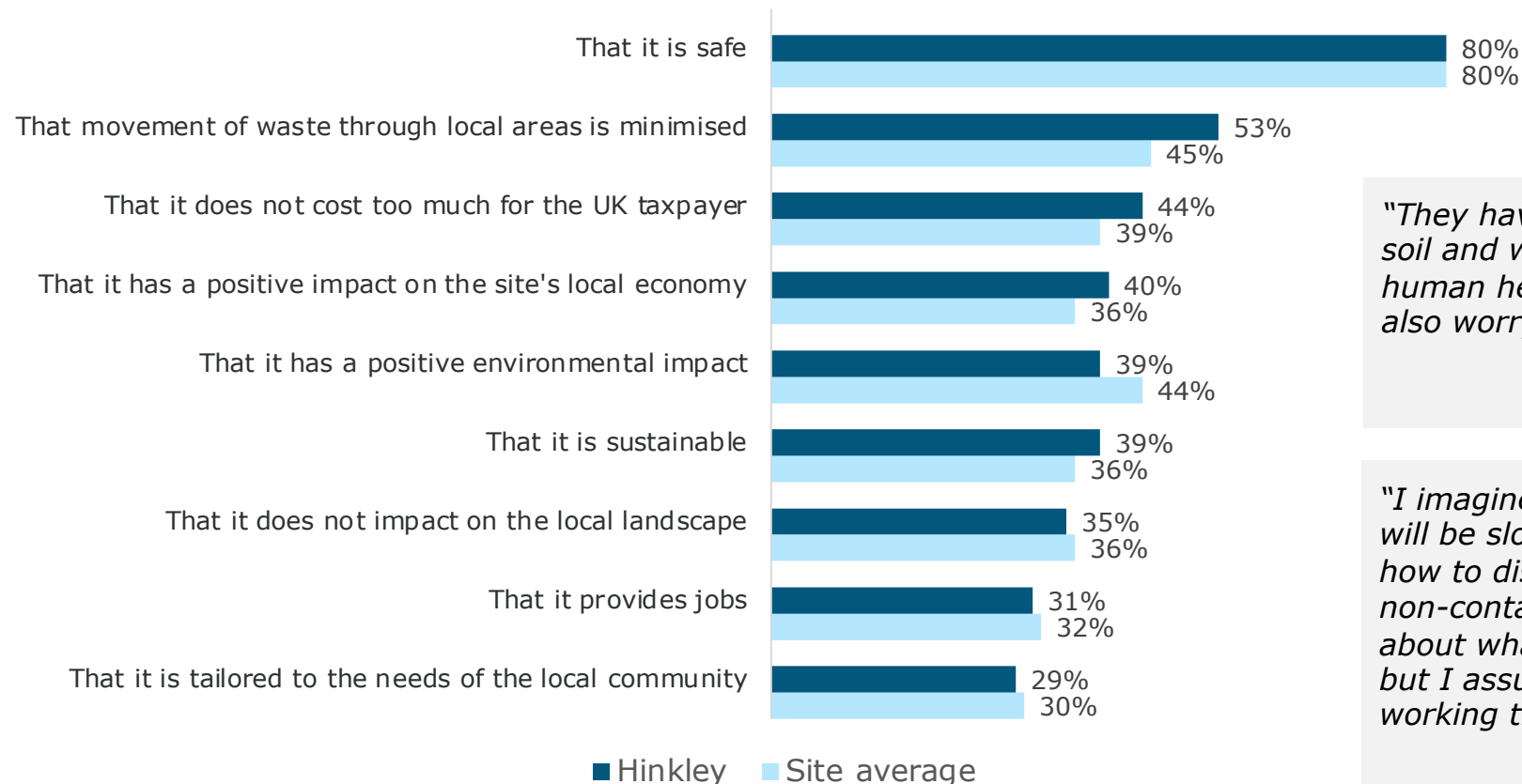
However, a minority of online community participants show concern about the disruption increased activity around the sites might have on the local area.

*"I do think Hinkley could do more to limit the large lorries and heavy traffic passing through on the main roads."*

Online Community, Hinkley

# Similarly, Hinkley's preferences for decommissioning are in line with the total sample, with safety top

## Decommissioning criteria selected as very important



*"They have to ensure there is no contamination of soil and water that could negatively impact human health, wildlife or local ecosystems... I do also worry about a Chernobyl-style explosion."*

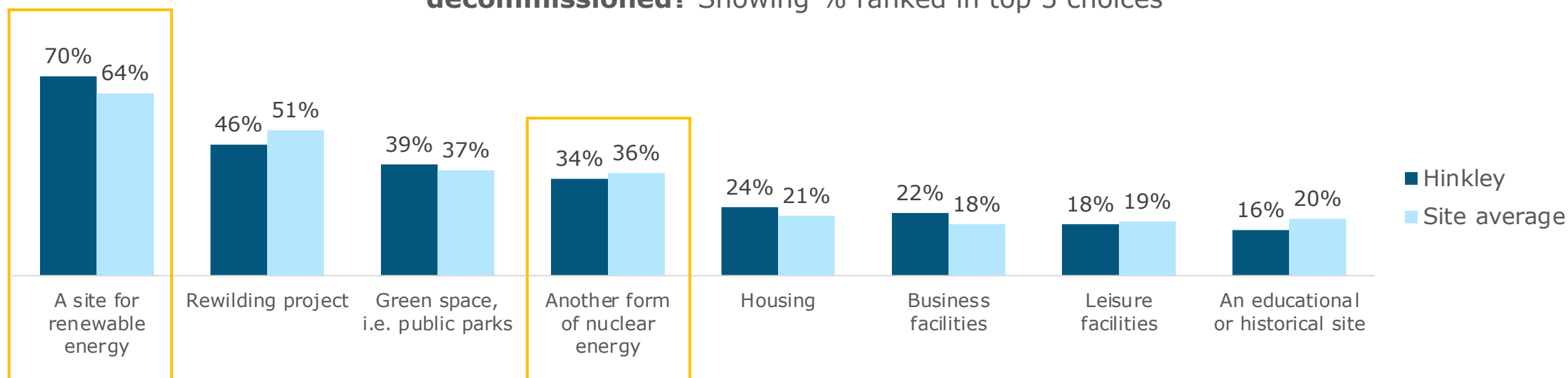
Online Community, Hinkley

*"I imagine if they are decommissioning it, they will be slowing down the reactors and working out how to dispose of the nuclear waste in a safe and non-contaminating way. I really don't know much about what happens at a decommissioned site, but I assume there will be less and less people working there."*

Online Community, Hinkley

# Most residents would like to see the site be used for renewable energy production after decommissioning

What would you like the future use of your local site to be, after it has been decommissioned? Showing % ranked in top 3 choices



As with the strategies and preferences for decommissioning, Hinkley's residents reflect the total local sample when it comes to their preferred future uses for their site. Preferred by 70% of residents, **a site for renewable energy is the most popular option**, followed by rewilding projects (46%) and green spaces (39%). Perhaps surprisingly, given positivity towards nuclear energy shown elsewhere in the survey, **only a third would prefer 'another form of nuclear energy' (34%)**.



# Thank you!

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# Hinkley Point SSG

October 2024



## Contents

1.0 NDA Stakeholder Update October 2024



## NDA Stakeholder Update

Please find below a brief update on main points of interest since the last meeting.

### General Election

Following the General Election the Labour Party, with Sir Keir Starmer as the new UK Prime Minister, won with a majority of c170. Within the Department for Energy and Net Zero the Rt Hon Ed Miliband has been appointed as the new Secretary of State with his team of Rt Hon Lord Hunt OBE as Minister of State for Energy and Net Zero, Sarah Jones MP as Minister of State for Industry, Kerry McCarty MP as Parliamentary Under Secretary for Climate, Miatta Fahnbulleh MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Energy Consumers and Michael Shanks MP as Parliamentary Under Secretary for Energy.

The new Secretary of State has advised the priorities for the department are:

1. delivering our mission to boost energy independence and cutting bills through clean power by 2030
2. taking back control of our energy with Great British Energy
3. upgrading Britain's homes and cutting fuel poverty through our Warm Homes Plan
4. standing up for consumers by reforming our energy system
5. creating good jobs in Britain's industrial heartlands, including a just transition for the industries based in the North Sea
6. leading on international climate action, based on our domestic achievements

The announcement and launch of Great British Energy (GBE), a publicly owned, clean-energy company which will be headquartered in Scotland has now been made by the Secretary of State. The aim is to speed up the deployment of mature and new technologies, as well as local energy projects, to support the government's aim of decarbonising the UK's electricity system by 2030 whilst also ensuring we can meet future demand as we further decarbonise the economy. GBE will be paid for by a windfall tax on oil and gas giants and will invest clean power projects all across the United Kingdom. [Juergen Maier](#), former CEO of Siemens UK, has been announced as Chair of Great British Energy.

- Following the election we have seen significant constituency level change at NDA sites with ten now represented by a new MP
- We are contacting new constituency MPs at and around our sites and Ministers in key Whitehall departments introducing the work of the NDA group and seeking an early meeting.





- Additionally, over the coming weeks and months, we will be working through the policy implications of a new government for the NDA group, including the forthcoming spending review.

### Board updates

- As previously announced **Adrienne Kelbie CBE**, Chair of Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) board, will be stepping down over Summer 2024 and her successor has been announced as Liz Peace.
- **Harriet Kemp** recently (30<sup>th</sup> August) joined the NDA board. She has extensive background and experience in HR matters and remuneration matters including working at Compass Plc, Novartis and Pepsi.

### Outreach activities

- During the pre-election period outreach activities was limited but a number of planned commitments which were postponed are now being rescheduled. This included a site visit by the new Energy Minister Lord Hunt. Lord Hunt recorded a short video after his visit which can be watched on the Sellafield Ltd Facebook [page](#)

### Engagement priorities for 2024

- We recently held our **Stakeholder Conference** on September 17/18 in Manchester. We'd like to thank all those that attended and engaged and if you haven't already we'd like to encourage you to provide us with feedback via [Slido](#). In due course we'll be putting up videos from the event so check out the [NDA linked In page](#). During the event David Peattie announced that the NDA would be investing an extra £5m over the next five years to support around 20 PhDs. This builds on the current annual spend of £45m in early careers, including apprenticeships, graduates and PhDs.
- In response to previous feedback, the first **SSG Chairs and Vice-Chairs event** to reflect a group-wide approach involving the NDA, NRS and other OpCo CEOs was held on July 8/9. This combined event provided richer discussion and a chance for the SSG delegates to talk about their opportunities and challenges. It also featured updates on socio-economics and the NDA's heritage strategy.
- As mentioned in previous updates, our **independent review into the SSGs** is underway. This exercise will provide an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the stakeholder voice in the local community over the last 20 years. It will also allow us to consider how best to address some of the challenges that face us as we think about the future. Our Chairs and Vice-Chairs played a role in helping to draft the scope of the review and they received a short progress update at the SSG Chairs and Vice-Chairs meeting mentioned above.
- We are in the process of developing and designed our next broad **stakeholder survey**. More details will be available in due course.



- Preparation is underway for **Strategy V** which we expect to publish in March 2026. Our strategy document is published every 5 years and describes our high-level approach to delivering our mission. Within that we identify several critical enablers essential to the successful delivery of our mission including public and stakeholder engagement. We will engage early with stakeholders during the development of the document and its subsequent consultation.
- We are working closely with the Nuclear Industries Association (NIA) to establish a **Cross-Party Group** on the Civil Nuclear Industry in the Welsh Parliament. The aim is to have its first meeting in November 2024.

### **Publications, public service and policy updates**

- We have now published our [Annual Report](#) which has also been laid in Parliament. The Annual Report sets out the progress made against our mission, from safely decommissioning existing sites to preparing to take responsibility for more, while managing radioactive waste for our existing programme and new nuclear
- The previous Government and devolved administrations published an updated policy for nuclear decommissioning and managing radioactive substances, including radioactive waste. Publication follows consultation undertaken last year on the proposals. [Read details of the policy here.](#)
- The policy included an expectation that the NDA should explore with stakeholders the potential for optimising the LLW Repository to take suitable, less hazardous intermediate level waste.
- Engagement with the local community and relevant stakeholders will be an important part of this work, alongside further technical evaluation. If appropriate, the project would proceed to creation of a final business case and seek necessary approvals.
- Nuclear Waste Services will be working with relevant key stakeholders to inform its thinking
- The Scottish Government is about to start its review into its policy for higher activity radioactive waste (HAW). The policy framework is set out in a 2011 Policy and the 2016 Implementation Strategy. The anticipated timeline is: Commence review – mid 2024, Hold a public consultation – early 2025, issue a revised Policy document – late 2025.
- The new nuclear industry skills “roadmap” has been launched aimed at attracting and retaining the sector’s workforce of the future. The National Nuclear Strategic Plan for Skills (Skills Plan) is based on sector collaboration, investment in training, leadership development and improving diversity. The NDA is a signatory to the charter, which was signed at Westminster, that underpins the goal to double the number of new apprenticeships by 2026 and recruit 40,000 new jobs by 2030.
- The **NAO value for money study** into whether Sellafield and the NDA are taking a sustainable approach to decommissioning, leading to permanent hazard reduction is underway, with visits to Sellafield and formal interviews now completed. We expect the study to be published on 25 October.



- We have recently published our **Nuclear Heritage Strategy**. The NDA are tasked with decommissioning the UK's legacy nuclear sites, sites and facilities which have been at the heart of delivering nuclear benefits for the UK, including national defence programmes and supplying safe, low-carbon power, for decades.
- The [heritage strategy](#) enables the NDA group to identify and preserve the tangible and intangible assets, objects, and memories of the nuclear industry, the people who worked in it, and the communities that supported it.
- NDA has published its **Socio Economic Report** for 2023/24, detailing a record investment in projects across the UK - [NDA group investing in our communities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

### Mission delivery

- The NDA recently launched its brand-new, specialised cyber facility to accelerate collaboration and innovation across nuclear operators and the supply chain, enhancing the collective ability to successfully defend against cyber threats. The Group Cyberspace Collaboration Centre (GCCC) provides a space for experts in cyber, digital and security to come together and share knowledge and learning on how best to defend against evolving threats. The centre is a multi-functional space for collaborating, brainstorming, workshops, talks, learning and tutorials, cyber exercising, incident management and more. It aims to encourage our cyber, digital and security experts to think and work differently, with our shared future foremost in mind.
- Future plans for our Chapelcross site in Dumfries and Galloway were unveiled in August, with a long-term vision to develop the site into a Green Energy Hub: [Chapelcross Masterplan - CX Project](#)
- NWS and the NDA have established an innovative partnership for the enhanced management of asbestos waste, awarding two contracts to establish the **Asbestos Innovation Partnership**. This partnership will work with the NDA group and the supply chain, to test and develop new solutions to treat asbestos waste, helping to deliver efficiencies and enable more effective waste management.
- A collaboration between NRS, NTS and NWS has achieved a significant milestone by transporting the final waste from the Treated Radwaste Store (TRS) in Winfrith to the LLWR for disposal. The completion of this project ahead of schedule means that the need for **waste storage at Winfrith** which closed in 1990 has been removed, leaving the site ready for decommissioning.
- NDA and NRS have underlined their commitment to Government to, where possible, safely accelerate **land release at Harwell** site to maximise the economic impact of decommissioning. We have identified clear areas of strategic importance and will work together with the Harwell Campus joint venture on developing options for those areas. We are at early stages and still progressing the current release of plots, aiming to have a broader plan for land release this autumn.



- At Sellafield, the first transfer of fuel from an A1 skip to the new 63 can rack in support of the AGR programme has been made. This is a significant milestone presenting new capability that will, via further 63 can racks, enable storage of the volumes of EDF fuel needed into the 2030s.
- The hearing for the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) charges against Sellafield Ltd under the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 took place on 20 June at Westminster Magistrates Court in London. Sellafield Ltd entered a guilty plea to all charges. The sentence was pronounced on 2<sup>nd</sup> October with a fine of £332,500.00 being imposed.

Thank you for taking the time to read our update. If you have any questions, please feed-back through the Secretariat or ask David Wallace, who will be attending the meeting.



Nuclear  
Decommissioning  
Authority



Office for  
Nuclear Regulation

ONR Site Report

**EDF Energy – Hinkley Point B**

# ONR Site Report

## EDF Energy - Hinkley Point B

**Report for period:** 1 January – 30 June 2024

**Authored by:** S Saunders, Nominated Site Inspector

**Approved by:** M Webb, Head of Regulation

**Issue No.:** 1

**Publication Date:** August 2024

**Record Ref. No.:** 2024/34381

## Foreword

This report is issued as part of ONR's commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed to members for the Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lrc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group meetings where these reports are presented and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

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# 1. Inspections

## 1.1. Date(s) of inspection

During the report period 1 January – 30 June 2024 the ONR site inspector and specialist inspectors made inspections on the following dates:

25 January

13 – 14 February

9 – 10 April

27 June

ONR site security inspectors made inspections on the following dates:

24 March

19 June

# 2. Routine matters

## 2.1. Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- the conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- the Energy Act 2013
- the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA74); and
- regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

The inspections entail monitoring the licensee's actions on the site in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters that may affect safety. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, routine inspections of Hinkley Point B covered the following:

- Emergency arrangements
- Control of major accidents

### **Emergency Preparedness**

The station is proposing to optimise the on-site emergency arrangements post defueling of reactor 4 to reflect the reducing hazard on the site. This will require a formal approval from ONR. In advance of this request, ONR inspectors evaluated a “proof of concept” exercise on 14 February 2024. This exercise successfully demonstrated that the proposed removal of the defueled reactor desk engineer did not affect the ability to deliver an effective emergency response required under Licence Condition 11.

In addition to attending the “proof of concept” exercise, ONR inspectors will review the associated documentation when the formal request to implement this change is received.

On the 24 March 2024, ONR security inspectors evaluated a demonstration of the station emergency arrangements in responding to a security incident. Whilst the exercise scenario was judged to be particularly challenging, the required security outcome was not achieved and ONR required a redemonstration was required.

ONR security inspectors observed two separate re-demonstrations on 19 June 2024 and judged that the security response achieved the required outcome. Consequently, ONR has judged that the station’s emergency arrangements are adequate.

### **Control of Major Accidents**

On 3 April 2024, Hinkley Point B notified the Competent Authority, ONR and the Environment Agency, that their holdings of dangerous substances has decreased below the COMAH lower tier threshold.

On 9 April 2024, inspectors from ONR and the Environment Agency conducted a COMAH exit inspection at the site to examine the arrangements for moving from a lower tier COMAH site to a sub-COMAH site. The inspection centred on the removal or reduction of key dangerous substances that are either named substances or have the appropriate classification and labelling to be considered as dangerous substances under COMAH.

Based on the pre-inspection information and the site intervention, the Competent Authority judged that the arrangements for the removal and reduction of dangerous substances, pursuant of the COMAH regulations, were adequate. Following the submission of the denotification from COMAH, Hinkley Point B is no longer considered to be a COMAH establishment.

Members of the public, who would like further information on ONR's inspection activities during the reporting period, can view site Intervention Reports at [www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records](http://www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records) on our website [www.onr.org.uk](http://www.onr.org.uk).

Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

## 2.2. Other work

The ONR site inspector attended the Site Stakeholder Group meeting held on 26 January 2024.

ONR's Heads of Regulation for AGR operating reactors also attended site for a familiarisation tour and discussion with the station senior executive team on 27 June 2024.

## 3. Non-routine matters

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

There were no such matters or events of significance during the period.

## 4. Regulatory activity

ONR may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, ONR issues regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken; these are usually collectively termed 'Licence Instruments' (LIs) but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an Enforcement Notice.

- No LIs, Enforcement Notices or Enforcement letters were issued during this period.

Reports detailing the above regulatory decisions can be found on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/>.

## 5. News from ONR

For the latest news and information from ONR, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter 'ONR News' at [www.onr.org.uk/onrnews](http://www.onr.org.uk/onrnews).

## 6. Contacts

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ONR Site Report

**NRS Ltd – Hinkley Point A**

# ONR Site Report

## NRS Ltd - Hinkley Point A

**Report for period:** 1 January – 30 June 2024

**Authored by:** Nominated Site Inspector

**Approved by:** Acting Delivery Lead

**Issue No.:** #1

**Publication Date:** July 2024

**Record Ref. No.:** 2024/27930

## Foreword

This report is issued as part of ONR's commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed to members for the Hinkley Point A&B Site Stakeholders Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lrc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Hinkley Point A&B Site Stakeholders Group meetings where these reports are presented and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

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# 1. Inspections

## 1.1. Date(s) of inspection

No ONR inspections were carried out during the report period 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024.



## 2. Routine matters

### 2.1. Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- the conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- the Energy Act 2013
- the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA74); and
- regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

The inspections entail monitoring the licensee's actions on the site in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters that may affect safety. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, no routine inspections of NRS Ltd Hinkley Point A were conducted.

Members of the public, who would like further information on ONR's inspection activities during the reporting period, can view site Intervention Reports at [www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records](http://www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records) on our website [www.onr.org.uk](http://www.onr.org.uk).

Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email [contact@onr.gov.uk](mailto:contact@onr.gov.uk).

### 2.2. Other work

The site inspector attended the Magnox Ltd Oldbury, Berkeley and Hinkley Point A Quarterly Regulator Interface Meeting on the 9 January and the 9 April 2024 to discuss issues, events and project milestone updates at the sites. The second meeting included an annual review of safety, security and environmental performance. The overall site performance across the NRS Ltd southwest region remains adequate and no new issues which would significantly impact ONR's purposes were identified.

The site inspector held regular meetings with the Site Director and weekly keep-in-touch meetings with the operational staff on site. During these meetings they discussed regulatory issues, site incidents, future permissioning and progress with significant decommissioning milestone delivery.

### 3. Non-routine matters

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

Matters and events of particular note during the period were:

- An employee sustained a minor injury during manual handling work which resulted in a RIDDOR notification to ONR due to the person being away from work, or unable to do their normal work duties, for more than seven consecutive days.

## 4. Regulatory activity

ONR may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, ONR issues regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken; these are usually collectively termed 'Licence Instruments' (LIs) but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an enforcement notice.

- No LIs or enforcement notices were issued during this period.
- Enforcement letter, ONR-EL-23-053 dated 2 April 2024, was issued during the period, relating to a canteen incident reported in the last SSG report.

## 5. News from ONR

For the latest news and information from ONR, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter 'ONR News' at [www.onr.org.uk/onrnews](http://www.onr.org.uk/onrnews).

## 6. Contacts

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# Environment Agency report to the Hinkley Point Site Stakeholder Group.

October 2024

## Introduction

This report covers the Environment Agency's regulation of the Hinkley Point A & B nuclear sites and related issues for the period February to October 2024.

## Radioactive substances regulation

We regulate radioactive waste disposals to the environment. We do this through environmental permits that contain limits and conditions aimed at minimising wastes and protecting the environment. We also check compliance with these permits by making regular inspections at Hinkley Point A & B.

Regulatory compliance interactions are recorded in Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCARs). These summarise the type of work we have undertaken, describe any non-compliance or observations and good practice, and include actions or recommendations from our findings. They are public register records and can be provided on request (please see the 'further information' section at the end of this document to find out how to request public register records-in the link below).

We maintain regular contact with the sites between visits to the sites.

## Hinkley Point A

### Aqueous Waste Inspection

In January we completed an Aqueous Waste Inspection. Radioactive aqueous waste can arise from various sources. These include effluent from decommissioning activities, radioactive designated areas, surface water and groundwater that has entered potentially contaminated areas, sumps and bunds. Hinkley Point A also must manage non-radioactive waste which can arise from activities on site, foul drainage, surface water and groundwater.

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Discharges of radioactive aqueous waste are permitted by permit number EPR/ZP3693SL. This sets quantitative limits on the radioactive isotopes that can be present in the discharge and activity level of the radioactive isotopes be minimised.

No non compliances with the permit were identified as part of this inspection. The management system is satisfactory but there are recommendations and observations identified to deliver improvements and to prevent future non-compliance. Further consideration needs to be given to understanding aqueous waste holistically at Hinkley Point A and the benefits this could bring to permit compliance, incident response and the wider sustainability framework.

The areas of the Effluent Treatment Plant, Pondwater Treatment Plant and Mobile Active Effluent Treatment Plant were in acceptable condition with no obvious signs of damage or poor housekeeping. Staff involved in the inspection had a good knowledge of the system, including its operation and maintenance. Good practice was recognised with evidence of a proactive pollution prevention and spill response process.

### **Environment and Business Site Visit August 2024**

In August 2024 Hinkley Point A hosted a visit from the Environment Agency Radioactive Substances Regulations Legacy and Waste Team. The visit included a tour of the site focusing on waste management. This included the Pre-Conditioning Facility, Modular Encapsulation Plant and the Interim Storage Facility. Hinkley Point A shared their lessons learned from decommissioning and radioactive waste management.

### **Planned regulation**

A Firewater and site drainage inspection is planned for October 2024. The inspection will review Hinkley Point A's arrangements for managing site drainage, drainage related assets and prevention of firewater runoff from site. This will include credible scenarios for fires that could produce fire water run off and/or spillages to the drainage system that have the potential for environmental impact.

### **Hinkley Point B**

As part of our routine regulation we continue to hold routine meetings with the Environmental Safety Group (ESG), station management and Independent Nuclear Assurance (INA), in addition to relevant external bodies such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). These routine interactions allow us to remain informed of any relevant activities and events at the site of regulatory interest during the defueling period.

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### **COMAH Exit Inspection**

In April 2024 we undertook a joint inspection with ONR on exit from the requirements of the Control of Major Accident Hazards 2015 (COMAH) regime following the station's denotification.

Under this regime the station was required to be registered for some of its chemical holdings with ONR/EA and have a plan in place to prevent a major accident or pollution incident. Since the station stopped generating, they have demonstrated that they no longer require the use of certain significant chemicals, including Hydrazine.

The inspection focused on walking around the plant including tanks, bunds, and pipes to ensure all the COMAH chemicals had been drained down, removed, and disposed. We also looked at revised emergency arrangements for chemical spills and were reassured that the arrangements will remain in place due to the station still holding large quantities of other chemicals such as oils which are not notifiable under the COMAH regime

We also reviewed how chemicals were ordered at the station and the arrangements that the station has in place to ensure that they do not exceed COMAH thresholds on certain chemicals including Ammonia now that they are no longer a registered COMAH site.

The inspection was beneficial in identifying the key steps required to exit the COMAH regime for the remaining fleet of AGR stations.

The station has been proactive in undertaking work to reduce chemical holdings that are no longer required, resulting in a significant hazard reduction at the site, and can exit the COMAH regime.

We made some minor recommendations on issues such as Hydrazine signage still being in place despite the chemical being disposed of and how this may be confusing if the emergency services are called out. The recommendations will be easy for the station to address.

### **Annual Review of Safety, Security and Environment (AROSSE)**

We took part in the stations AROSSE on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July - this meeting included a plant/site tour of up-and-coming issues for transfer, such as options for the Active Effluent Discharge Line (AEDL), when the cooling water is switched off at the end of defueling.

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The meeting gave a good overview of the station's environmental performance over the last year, but also looked ahead to key issues in the future for transfer and decommissioning.

### **Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) Inspection**

We undertook an inspection at Hinkley Point B's (HPB) District Survey Laboratory (DSL) in the village of Combwich on the 18<sup>th</sup> of July. The focus of our inspection was on the stations Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP), which is a requirement of their nuclear Radioactive Substances Regulation (RSR) permit.

Our inspection involved reviewing management system documentation for the EMP, quality assurance, staff training and competency and we also visited some of the sample points in the environment around the HPB site to witness samples being taken.

The DSL also holds a non-nuclear RSR permit for holding radioactive sources for analysis and for the accumulation of radioactive waste. We visited the sampling and analysis laboratories to ensure compliance with the non-nuclear permit and discussed the future of the permit following a decision by the operator to move the DSL to the main HPB site.

Overall, we found that arrangements for the station's Environmental Monitoring Program (EMP) were well managed and found no non-compliances with either environmental permit.

We have made a number of recommendations and an action to help further improve arrangements and ensure on-going future permit compliance. As the DSL is moving to the main station we plan to return later in the year when the new laboratory is set up to inspect the new arrangements and review intercomparison testing between new monitoring equipment.

As part of our inspection, we noted several areas of good practice, which included the yearly EMP sample plan where sampling requirements were translated into a workable timetable to ensure they were collected on time considering the weather, tides and staff availability and the use of technology for source security.

Finally we were able to gain some local intelligence to help inform our habits survey to ensure we get the best information and data to enable us to review and assess the impact of the station on people and the surrounding environment.



## Events and enforcement

### Hinkley point A

There have been no non-compliances identified at Hinkley Point A to date this Compliance Year.

### Hinkley Point B

#### **Pond Debris Action Extension**

In August 2023 we undertook an inspection on Higher Activity Waste (HAW). During this inspection we reviewed compliance with the site's environmental permit, which included reviewing whether the Best Available Techniques (BAT) are utilised to ensure HAW streams are being managed in such a way as to minimise secondary radioactive wastes and that work is being progressed to secure their long-term safe disposal.

We set a number of actions and recommendations as part of our findings- these have been closed out apart from one remaining action on carboniferous pond debris as set out below.

***230816/7-Action - For HPB to develop and produce a strategy for the lifecycle of the carbonaceous debris waste streams in the nuclear fuel ponds with timescales for characterisation, optioneering, removal/ POCO of the ponds, future treatment and conditioning and final disposal to demonstrate that the Best Available Techniques are being applied to this waste stream by 01/09/2024.***

Although the station has made some progress toward the action, there is still some work to do with characterising the waste and determining a disposal route. We have agreed to extend the action deadline to July 2025 to allow work to be carried out on the characterisation of the waste. Our priority is that there is a plan for the disposal of this waste prior to the transfer of the station. We will ensure we keep up to date with how this action is progressing through our routine regulatory interactions.

### Exercise Jaguar

The Environment Agency took part in Exercise Jaguar in September 2024. Exercise Jaguar was a test of the Hinkley Point B Off-Site Plan. The Environment Agency provided staff who were involved in the Exercise at the Avon and Somerset Police Headquarters, in our Area Incident Room at Rivers House, Bridgwater and also our National Radiation Assessment Cell.

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## Discharge reports

The operators at Hinkley Point A and B are required to report liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment to us on a regular basis. We assess these to check compliance with the site permits. The site discharge reports, and our assessments are placed on the public register.

### Hinkley Point A

The effluent and gaseous discharges from Hinkley Point A were below notification levels and permitted limits. The Environmental Monitoring Programme data was submitted within the required timescales and the review identified no results or trends of concern.

### Hinkley Point B

The liquid and gaseous discharges from Hinkley Point B were below any notification levels and within permitted limits. The Environmental Monitoring Programme data was submitted within the required timescales and the review identified trends of concern.

There has been an issue with EDFs external laboratory provider for the analysis of Sulphur-35 in grass and milk which meant that minimal detection levels for the samples could not be met and reported as part the statutory returns. EDF has investigated and are addressing with their external lab contractor. The results are expected to be reported as normal at the next sampling round. As this is an issue effecting all EDF stations it has been raised with our corporate regulator to address and follow-up on.

## Environmental impact

Nuclear sites are required to carry out a rigorous environmental monitoring programme (EMP) that requires the operator to monitor and assess the impact of their discharges on the environment.

Additionally, the Environment Agencies and Food Standards Agency carry out independent environmental monitoring around nuclear sites. The results of this work are published in our annual Radioactivity in Food and the Environment (RIFE) report (1). We will continue to follow Government guidelines with Safe Systems of Work in place, with the with regards to our monitoring of the environment and foodstuffs.

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The 2022 RIFE report is available here: [RIFE 28, Radioactivity in food and the environment, 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rife-28-radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-2022) (www.gov.uk) and the 2023 report is in preparation.

### **Habits Survey**

The habits survey undertaken on our behalf by Cefas was successfully completed in the Hinkley area between 1<sup>st</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024. For more information on the Habits Survey please see the leaflet below, which was sent out to the SSG prior to the survey taking place. A draft report expected by end of the calendar year and final report expected March 2025.

[Habits Information Leaflet 2024.pdf](#)

### **Further information**

Further information on our role in regulating the use of radioactive substances and related activities on nuclear licensed sites can be found on the Environment Agency section (ii) of the GOV.UK website.

GOV.UK website.

The Environment Agency's Lead Regulator for the Hinkley Point A site is Alister Wintle. The Environment Agency's Lead Regulator for the Hinkley Point B site is Victoria Thomas.

Victoria is a Senior Nuclear Regulator and Alister is a Nuclear Regulator. Both are based in the Wessex Area. They are all part of the national Nuclear Regulation Group (South) which is based at the Environment Agency's Wallingford office in Oxfordshire.

The EA's Nuclear Regulators undertake environmental regulation of radioactive substances on nuclear licensed sites in southern England. They work closely with the local Environment Agency teams in those areas as well as external bodies such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/monitoring-radioactivity>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-regulation-in-the-environment-agency>