



HINKLEY SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
Tuesday, 17 March 2026
The Canalside, Marsh Lane, Bridgwater, Somerset

Attendees:

Leigh Redman
Graham Pearn

Chair
Vice Chair

Kevin Hewson
Paul Crosland
Allan Jeffery
Terry Ayre
John Roberts
Bob Birkenhead
Rhys Wallis
Tess Bond
Hugh Davies
Louise Martin
John Shakespear
Sue Goss
Chris Morgan
Jo Smolden
Alan Debenham
Emily Moseley
Charlie Pallot
Maureen Smith
Richard Hubbard

Bawdrip Parish Council
Fiddington Parish Council
Green Party
Member of the Public
Nether Stowey Parish Council
Otterhampton Parish Council
Office of Rachel Gilmour MP
Somerset Council
Somerset Council
Somerset Council
Somerset Council – Planning
Stogursey Parish Council
Stogursey Parish Council
Stop Hinkley
Stop Hinkley
SWHPT UKHSA
UK Health Security Agency
West Somerset Green Forum
Wembdon Parish Council

Mark Pitts
Sharon Fry
Bill Hamilton
Kate Whittle
Des Uminski
Hannah Dyer
James Mason
Dave Stokes
Lucy Platts
Alister Wintle

NRS HPA
NRS
NRS
NRS
EDF HPB
EDF
EDF HPB (Unite the Union)
EDF HPB
Environment Agency
Environment Agency

1. Welcome and Introduction – Cllr Leigh Redman - Chair

The Chair (Cllr Redman) opened the meeting and welcomed new members, reminding all attendees to sign in. The agenda had been circulated prior to the meeting. Graham Pearn introduced himself as the Vice Chair.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllr J Addison – Cannington Parish Council; Mr A Debenham – Stop Hinkley; Ms R Gilmour – MP for Tiverton and Minehead; Cllr M Hodson – Spaxton Parish Council; Ms V Thomas – Environment Agency

3. Open public Q&A session

Q: A question was raised about why there is not a separate “HPC stakeholder group” and what role this group plays relative to broader issues.

A: The Chair advised that EDF previously chose to operate separate communication forums for HPC Station including a main site forum, transport forum and community forum. Those forums are continuing until there is a case when there is some fuel on the station.

The SSG will continue to remind EDF about the SSG and encourage engagement, noting there is overlap in membership.

4. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the meeting held 23 September 2025 had been previously circulated.

It was confirmed that the ongoing approach is to circulate reports two weeks prior to meetings to allow reading and submission of questions in advance to guarantee responses, with technical questions taken away for written answers.

Lucy Platts (Environment Agency) clarified that whilst Paragraph 160 referenced consultation on transfer of a radioactive substances permit, there is no consultation on transferring the permit.

Action Points Follow-Up:

Bill Hamilton (Director of External Affairs, NRS) provided follow-up on a prior action point regarding plans for the use of the site after Hinkley A is decommissioned. He confirmed that NRS is undertaking a programme across UK sites to engage communities on a variety of topics including what is good about their community and what they want improved; what they know about the site and its future; views on decommissioning strategies (faster vs slower); ideas for future site uses.

Mr Hamilton advised that a “deep dive” had been undertaken at Hinkley A, which included a wider range of topics and involved local focus groups.

NRS committed to involving the SSG in future discussions and making the report available via the SSG once completed.

Q: A question referenced a press article citing a specific end date for the decommissioning.

A: Mr Hamilton advised that any quoted date is a planning assumption rather than a firm commitment. The chair indicated the press-article point would be taken away as an action to seek definitive information.

Q: A concern was raised referencing a previous presentation about “restored to nature” at Wylfa and subsequent announcements about new nuclear.

A: Mr Hamilton stated that the decommissioning/restoration discussion related to the existing Wylfa site managed by NRS, while proposed new nuclear would be on a separate adjacent site, analogous to A/B/C station adjacency.

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

5. NRS Hinkley Point A Site Report – Mark Pitts

Safety & environmental performance

- Overall safety performance remains good; reporting culture strong (best in fleet).
- Minor events largely weather-related (aging infrastructure).
- EA warning letter issued re Environmental Monitoring Programme review lapse. Document update committed by month end; improved internal review controls agreed.

Waste retrievals & facilities

- Wet vault retrievals ahead of schedule.
- Dry Vault Retrieval Project progressing.
- ILW shipments exceeded target (10 achieved vs 8 planned).
- PCF now in active commissioning.
- MILWEP restart more complex than expected.
- First box into store expected imminently.

Organisation & transition

- New organisational structure moving projects closer to Site Director with the aim of: tighter control of headcount, cost and delivery to be implemented by end April. Approach applies fleet-wide.
- Support and learning shared with Hinkley B in preparation for transition.

Delivery priorities

- “Blue chips” remain protected priorities (80/20 focus).
- Culture improvement actions completed.
- ST2 waste processing slowed deliberately to ensure repeatable performance.
- Mosaic Loading Facility HAZOP delayed pending design maturity.

Waste map & classification

- 14 settling tanks confirmed.
- Fuel element debris treated as ILW; higher dose items routed via MOSAIK.
- End-state expectation: ~400 waste packages in store.

Workforce & recruitment

- Hinkley A training school performing well; supports wider fleet.
- Apprentice intake starting 7 September (26); roles expanding beyond technicians.
- 14 additional posts approved to strengthen support functions.

Community, charity & sustainability

- Community funding continues with local focus.
- Ongoing volunteering activities noted.
- Charity fundraising shifted to targeted outcomes (cuddle cot achieved).
- Sustainability priorities: carbon literacy, habitat management, reducing generator use.

Visits & engagement

- NDA CEO and local MP visit received positive feedback.
- Community roadshows scheduled to support awareness and recruitment.

Member discussion items

- Interest raised in preserving A station control room (for Chair's report)
- Clarified: Hinkley B under EDF; Hinkley A under NRS/government.
- Village shop reopening funding request encouraged via proposal.
- Supply chain resilience discussed; potential for shared spares across sites.
- Funding impact on Hinkley A minimal due to risk priority.
- Question on long-term decommissioning funding taken away.

6. EDF Hinkley Point B Site Report - Des Uminski

Des Uminski introduced himself to the group with a brief background.

Safety performance & culture

- Strong safety and environmental performance (one historic top-tier event - transformer failure).
- Minimal injuries: one minor lost-time incident in the last year and a small number of first-aid cases.

Environmental performance & management

- ONR formal sign-off achieved for EIADR
- Environmental scope covers the full site; management plan being finalised
- Sustainability metrics to align with NRS; most waste expected to be recyclable clean waste.

Defueling & fuel-free verification

- Reactors fully defueled; final flask left site on 28 November, with ONR fuel-free verification signed off on 12 January
- Nearly 5,000 fuel elements removed; over 2,000 flasks dispatched during station life, including 360 since end of generation
- Significant efficiency gains achieved between Reactor 4 and Reactor 3 defueling
- All difficult fuel successfully removed, with lessons learned shared across AGR stations.

Transition to decommissioning & organisational change

- Site is fuel-free and focus is on stabilisation and readiness for decommissioning
- Transfer from EDF to NRS on 1 October, with learning from Hunterston B's transition Focus will be on supporting people through the operational-to-decommissioning change
- Management team reduced to Station Director plus five lead team members.

Plant condition, asset care, and infrastructure investment

- Ongoing investment critical for long-term structures, with over £2m per year spent on infrastructure
- Major works (roofs, cladding, glazing) lead into continuous maintenance cycles, reflecting the long-term nature of site care.

Hazard reduction programme

- Significant post-generation hazard reduction.

- Over 1m litres of kerosene removed, with usable material returned to the supply chain where possible.
- Major plant shutdowns and drainage completed, reducing operating cost and risk
- Site exited COMAH regulations in April 2024.
- Ongoing work to further reduce conventional hazards and achieve a benign plant state for decommissioning.

Site works, waste facility & reuse initiatives

- Redundant contractor buildings cleared to facilitate decommissioning activities
- Strong reuse and sustainability focus.

Emergency arrangements, security & CNC

- Emergency arrangements revised to reflect fuel-free, industrial-site risk.
- CNC requirement being stood down pending ONR sign-off; community presence expected to continue short-term. From end of April, CNC will no longer be claimed in a formal station capacity.

Cooling water & effluent discharge changes

- Cooling water intake reduced to one pump.
- New small discharge line proposed to prevent silting of the existing outlet
- Discharges limited to treated sewage and infrequent, low-impact pond water arisings.
- Commitment to share plans early and address coastal impact concerns through permitting and regulation.

Funding & cost responsibility

- Defueling and post-generation costs are funded through the Nuclear Liabilities Fund (NLF) - drawdown began during defueling
- Commitment to issue a briefing to explain NLF funding arrangements post-generation.

Railhead status & community legacy

- Railhead owned by Transport Solutions and no longer required following completion of defueling.
- Potential community or legacy use raised; site acknowledged and agreed to take the discussion forward as a longer-term consideration.

Sellafield governance & waste handling

- Concern raised over oversight and democratic assurance for material sent to Sellafield. Mr Uminski noted that the industry is highly regulated, and signposted the question to the NDA, with a commitment to take it away and respond outside the meeting.

Station milestones, community & charity

- 50 years of AGR generation; first AGR connected to the Grid in February 1976, with generation ending in 2022 and defuelling starting September 2022
- Continued community engagement through visits, family days, and stakeholder hosting
- £31,000 raised for Alzheimer's Society.

8. ONR Reports A&B – Paul Jenneson

- ONR representative (Paul) absent; ONR report taken as read.
- Opportunity offered for members to submit questions for formal recording and response.

9. Environment Agency

Environment Agency report - Hinkley Point A

- EMP inspection identified a missed plan review; EA issued a warning letter, with an updated plan submitted and under review.
- Solid waste inspection was positive, with no non-compliances.
- Records inspection scheduled for late March / early April.
- Discharge reporting remains compliant; one flow-meter certification issue notified to EA and being resolved without impact on monitoring confidence.

Environment Agency report: Hinkley Point B (Key findings)

- December 2025 inspection of standby combustion plant found no non-compliances and highlighted good practice in plant isolation and retirement.
- FGAS inspection fully compliant, with strong arrangements, training, certification, and forward replacement planning.
- EA engagement ongoing to support alternative effluent discharge arrangements as cooling water pumps are shut down.
- Overall compliance remains strong, with no non-compliances, discharges within limits, and monitoring data submitted on time.

Environmental monitoring programme updates

- The environmental monitoring programme covers a range of sites across the coastline, extending from West Somerset towards Weston-Super-Mare.
- Additional monitoring is being conducted on the River Parrett site.

EA engagement post-transfer to NRS

Q: SSG requested clarity on how EA engagement and inspections may change once both sites are under NRS and hazards reduce.

A: EA confirmed engagement will continue, with significant focus on operator/permit transfer and management system changes

- Ongoing permit transfer and shadow-working arrangements noted
- EA indicated a briefing could be provided, subject to clarification of SSG information needs.

RIFE – Radioactivity in food & the environment

- RIFE complements EA regulation, providing annual reporting and long-term trend context using site discharge data, EA monitoring, witness monitoring, and independent laboratory analysis.
- Involves wider environmental and food-chain sampling alongside emissions data, with UKHSA and specialist contractors supporting analysis and reporting.

Actions & follow-ups captured from the discussion

- (a) Take away Sellafield governance/assurance question and provide a response (likely via NDA input)
- (b) Circulate a notice/briefing on the Nuclear Liabilities Fund (NLF) and broad funding arrangements from end of generation onward
- (c) Confirm definitive CNC headcount (estimated ~50) and report back
- (d) Share developing active effluent discharge modification plans with stakeholders when available, to support early review and discussion of potential coastal impacts
- (e) Railhead potential legacy/community use to be explored with the relevant owner/parties (Transport Solutions), continuing the conversation
- (f) EA to consider a briefing to explain how regulation/inspection planning works through the transition to NRS and as site risk profiles change (subject to agreeing information needs).

10. Chairs report and to note items circulated between minutes

Organisational changes & meeting participation

- NDA will no longer attend meetings, reflecting stabilised NRS restructuring and site additions.
- NRS now operates with three chief executives and three managing directors; site directors report directly to a managing director
- From the new financial year, NRS corporate reporting will no longer be provided in the same format.

Chair updates: Information sharing between meetings

- The Chair reiterated his commitment to keep members informed of key information and decisions between meetings.
- Members were encouraged to continue raising questions and seeking clarification
- It was that staff departures during the transition period have slowed responses, though this is improving.

Senior leadership engagement and reporting

- SSG Chairs and Vice-Chairs will meet with senior leadership (NDA/NRS) quarterly.
- The Chair intends to request a briefing note to share with members, to capture key points and avoid uncertainty over what is most important.

11. AOB

Community engagement & roadshows

- Community roadshows scheduled for next week (town on Tuesday, retail park on Wednesday). SSG encouraged to drop in to discuss the site's future, including decommissioning.

Potential visit / Further engagement

- Both sides agreed in principle to a visit to gain better shared understanding (date TBC).

Heritage, legacy & museum collaboration

- Strong local interest in recognising the site's legacy and community connections. Intention to digitally archive materials so the site's history can be viewed over time.

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- Chair visited the Blake Museum (Bridgwater), which is supportive of a potential display. Follow-up planned to explore collaboration, including use of historical construction photos.

Questions raised and responses

Q: Would reducing meetings to two per year (linked to perceived NDA cutbacks on SSG-related activity) affect Chair/Vice-Chair remuneration (suggestion was a possible one-third reduction due to reduced administration)?

A: The Chair acknowledged it as a fair question and stated it would be discussed outside the meeting.

Q: Clarification was sought regarding “streaming” and a prior discussion about returning to three meetings per year

A: The Chair referenced a detailed report page sent out in the briefing pack

Meeting logistics, environment, and close

- An attendee commented on difficulty concentrating due to heat/lights and multiple speakers. The Chair apologised and committed to improving the environment for the next meeting.

The meeting was closed, with thanks given to attendees.

Next meeting date: 15th of September 2026