

**HINKLEY SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP****Tuesday, 15 September 2026****The Canalside, Marsh Lane, Bridgwater, Somerset****Attendees:**

Name	Organisation / role
Cllr Leigh Redman	Chair
Graham Pearn	Vice Chair
Cllr Kevin Hewson	Bawdrip Parish Council
Mike Lerry	Bridgwater Town Council
Tim Manders	Bridgwater Town Council
Mr J Harbour	Cannington Parish Council
Alan Jeffery	Green Party
Cllr John Roberts	Nether Stowey Parish Council
Cllr Bob Birkenhead	Otterhampton Parish Council
Ellie Bamforth	Somerset Council
Tessa Bond	Somerset Council
Hugh Davies	Somerset Council
Cllr H Davies	Somerset Councillor for Watchet, Williton and Stogursey
Neil Kimmins	Somerset Council
Mike Hodson	Spaxton Parish Council
Cllr C Morgan	Stogursey Parish Council
Alan Debenham	Stop Hinkley
John Smolden	Stop Hinkley
Loretta Whetlor	Watchet Town Council
Richard Hubbard	Wembdon Parish Council
Mark Pitts	HPA Site Director
Des Uminski	HPB Station Director
Sohail Ashraf	AGR Transition Director
Sharon Fry	NRS, Regional Communications and Socio-economic Lead
Ms H Dyer	Environmental Safety & Chemistry Group Head
Mr L Gallagher	EDF
Matthew Pardo	EDF, External Communications Manager
Dave Stokes	EDF, Communications Officer
Lucy Platts	Environment Agency
Ms M Lake	Environment Agency
Alister Wintle	Environment Agency
Paul Jenneson	ONR Dual Site Inspector
Kate Whittle	Minute Taker

1. Welcome and Introduction - Cllr Leigh Redman, Chair

- 242 The Chair (Cllr Redman) welcomed members, confirmed the meeting was being recorded solely to support preparation of the minutes, and reminded attendees to sign in. The Chair thanked both sites and their staff for the informative site visit held the previous week and asked that the appreciation of members be passed on to those involved.

2. Apologies for absence

- 243 Apologies were received from Cllr Sue Goss – Stogursey Parish Council; Cllr M Phillips - Wembdon Parish Council; Maureen Smith - West Somerset Green Forum; Louise Martin - Somerset Council; John Addison - Cannington Parish Council; Rachel McQuilliam - Civil Nuclear Constabulary; Sarah Milligan - UKHSA/Public Health England; Emily Mosley - UKHSA/Public Health England; Charlie Pallott - UKHSA/Public Health England

3. Open public Q&A session

- 244 Members of the SSG were invited to raise questions. The Chair reminded members that papers are circulated in advance to allow technical questions to be submitted early; where a full answer could not be provided in the meeting, a written response would follow.

4. Minutes of the meeting held 17 March 2026

- 245 The revised minutes previously circulated were accepted as an accurate record with no objections.
- 246 The Chair reviewed the action tracker. Outstanding or continuing matters included an NDA response on oversight and democratic assurance for material sent to Sellafield, circulation of Nuclear Liabilities Fund information, clarification of the railhead legacy and ownership arrangements, and a possible Environment Agency briefing on regulation and inspection planning.

5. NRS Hinkley Point A Site Report - Mark Pitts

- 247 The circulated report was noted. Safety performance remained the first priority, with no lost-time accidents reported. The final discharge sampler issue discussed at the previous meeting had been resolved. Progress continued across waste retrieval, treatment and storage, including placement of the first complete package (known at HPA as a 'final' package) into the store and preparation of further packages.
- 248 The Cavendish contract had been terminated following technical and programme difficulties. Options, including revised contracting arrangements and possible delivery of some works in-house, were being assessed. The effect on the programme would be confirmed once the recovery strategy was developed.
- 249 Five low-level waste shipments had been completed, and delivery remained on schedule at the time of the report.
- 250 Good progress was reported on the operator change facility, remotely operated vehicle work, and modular intermediate-level waste processing. One delivery target remained under close review because of ground and construction challenges.
- 251 Members discussed the final package design and storage process. A short briefing was requested covering package dimensions and volumes.
- 252 The site's STEM, work experience, and apprenticeship activity were outlined. Members discussed geographic reach, the range of apprenticeships, and the value of a future SSG presentation on the programme.
- 253 Community activities included beach cleaning, volunteering, charitable fundraising, and socio-economic support. Greater publicity for this work was encouraged.

- 254 Robotics and remote technologies were highlighted as ways to inspect and work in areas where direct access is difficult, reducing exposure and improving delivery.
- 255 The Chair recorded concern that NDA and NRS corporate representatives would not routinely attend SSG meetings, with relevant updates and questions instead routed through the Site Director. The Chair and Vice Chair would continue to raise the issue.

6. EDF Hinkley Point B Site Report - Des Uminski

- 256 The Station Director reported no significant work-related accidents or incidents since the previous meeting. Members were informed of the sad death of a colleague following a non-work-related medical emergency on site; the site response and first-aid support were recognised, and a donation had been made to the air ambulance service.
- 257 The site was fuel-free and preparing for transfer to NRS on 1 October 2026. Revised emergency arrangements, a new emergency control centre and successful external management-system audits were reported.
- 258 A trial shutdown of the final cooling-water pump was planned for the end of September, supported by monitoring to confirm discharges remained within agreed requirements.
- 259 Readiness work covers decommissioning planning, regulatory interactions, waste arrangements, event reporting, organisational capability and emergency preparedness. Shadow working had been completed successfully.
- 260 The workforce was reducing as part of the transition. Role-by-role competence and training assessments, together with an organisational vulnerability review, were used to demonstrate that the transferring organisation would remain competent and capable.
- 261 Members discussed the retention of operational knowledge. The importance of records, regulatory requirements, learning from Hunterston B, and continued collaboration between the two Hinkley sites was emphasised.
- 262 Asset care and early decommissioning work included removal and reuse of redundant equipment, preparation to remove fuel-pond skips, and development of near-term plans covering asset care, decommissioning and waste operations.
- 263 Members raised future contractor numbers, traffic, and transport impacts. These would form part of future planning, although major increases were not expected immediately.
- 264 The nature and treatment of remaining intermediate-level waste was explained. Potential shared use of HPA processing and storage facilities was noted, subject to the necessary arrangements and permissions.
- 265 The Nuclear Liabilities Fund was discussed. A link to published information was to be circulated to members.
- 266 An error in the recorded origin of two low-level waste consignments was acknowledged. The issue related to traceability of information rather than waste content or activity, and corrective actions had been put in place.
- 267 An update was requested on Somerset Council's off-site emergency planning arrangements following the change in the detailed emergency planning zone.

7. Plenary Session - AGR Transition - Sohail Ashraf

- 268 The Transfer Programme Director outlined the programme to transfer the AGR sites into NRS, described as a major expansion of the NDA group's decommissioning mission. Hunterston B transferred on 1 April 2026 and the lessons from that transfer were being applied to Hinkley Point B.

- 269 Hinkley Point B remained on target to transfer to NRS on 1 October 2026, subject to completion of the final transfer criteria and regulatory steps.
- 270 The purpose of the transfer was to bring operational knowledge together with NRS decommissioning capability, improve consistency, share innovation, and support safe, efficient hazard reduction.
- 271 Funding routes were explained: existing Magnox work was grant-funded through the NDA, while AGR decommissioning would draw on the independently managed Nuclear Liabilities Fund.
- 272 Planning would proceed through an interim plan, a three-to-five-year business plan, and a longer-term plan through care and maintenance. Competence management will continue after transfer.
- 273 Members discussed practical integration between HPA and HPB, including site access, the boundary between the licensed sites, shared facilities, and efficiencies. Options would be considered, but expectations would need to be managed because any changes remained subject to safety, security, licensing, and planning requirements.
- 274 A question was raised about the long-term future and potential reuse of the wider site after decommissioning. The programme's current mission was safe decommissioning and making land available for potential future use; the specific future use had not been determined. The matter was taken away for further information.

8. Regulators

8a. ONR Reports - Hinkley A & B - Paul Jenneson

- 275 The ONR representative introduced his new role as site inspector for both Hinkley sites and summarised ONR's independent regulatory responsibilities. ONR has moved its sponsoring department to the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero.
- 276 At HPA, an inspection of the radioactive waste management arrangements found that the first final package placed into storage had been delivered in accordance with the approved plan.
- 277 ONR continued to work with the site and local planning authority on arrangements needed to realise potential efficiencies from shared waste facilities.
- 278 At HPB, ONR had completed substantial regulatory work supporting the fuel-free position, revised emergency arrangements, and transfer. The transfer remained subject to full regulatory scrutiny and licensing requirements.
- 279 ONR reported constructive joint working between the sites and continued focus on maintaining safety and compliance through transition.

8b. Environment Agency Reports - Hinkley A & B - Alister Wintle / Lucy Platts

- 280 The circulated reports were taken as read. The Environment Agency summarised inspections, monitoring, and ongoing work at both sites.
- 281 At HPA, the Agency continued investigation and assurance of work relating to discharge monitoring and the effect of tidal conditions on monitoring locations. The planning inquiry concerning shared waste arrangements was also noted.
- 282 Members asked why replacement of an MCERTS-certified flow meter had taken several months. The Agency explained that suitable certified equipment for an older system was difficult to source, and that interim measures had provided assurance that monitoring continued.

- 283 Routine environmental monitoring around the coastline and site continued. Sampling observed during the previous week's visit formed part of the regular programme and was not additional incident monitoring.
- 284 At HPB, inspections covered waste management and transition arrangements. Monitoring results remained within relevant limits. Minor permit non-compliances concerning waste documentation had been given the lowest impact rating, and corrective actions were in place.
- 285 The Agency was reviewing permit and technique submissions associated with transition and future discharge arrangements. Some proposals were being treated as interim measures while longer-term options were developed.

9. Chair's Report and Items Circulated Between Meetings - Cllr Leigh Redman

- 286 The Chair's written report had been circulated. Owing to travel to the NDA national conference, the Chair and Vice Chair needed to leave shortly after the regulatory reports. Members were invited to submit any remaining questions for a written response.
- 287 Members noted the documents and updates circulated since the previous meeting, as listed in the meeting pack.

10. Any Other Business

- 288 No further substantive business was captured before the meeting closed. Any unanswered questions were to be provided to the Secretariat for an onward response.
- 289 The Chair thanked attendees and confirmed the next meeting date as Tuesday, 16 March 2027.

Next meeting: Tuesday, 16 March 2027