



Session etiquette

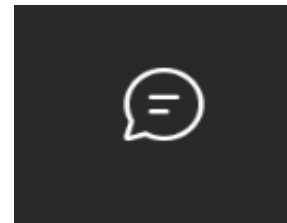
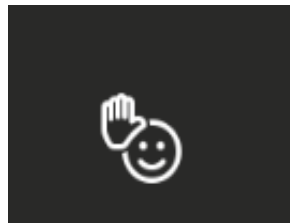
- **Please keep your line on mute during the session unless you are speaking.**

This will help to avoid any background interference and allow the speaker to be fully heard by all.



- **Please submit questions throughout the session either via the chat function or use the raise hands function to ask your question in person.**

Both will be monitored throughout the session and we will facilitate Q&A sessions at appropriate points throughout the meeting. Please remember to lower your hand after you have asked your question.





Please note that this session is being recorded for the purposes of producing a written record of the Q&A. Please be advised that this recording will be deleted once a written record has been produced.



Hinkley Point

**Stakeholder engagement
meeting**

2nd February 2023

Introductions

Wessex Area Team Members



Rebecca Kirk
(Wessex Area Environment
Manager - Regulating Industry and
Enforcement)



Ben Shayler
(Hinkley Point C Project
Manager)

**Lewis
Baines**
(Wessex Hinkley Point C
Project Environment Officer)



Ella Hughes
(Wessex Hinkley Point C
Technical Assistant)

National Team Members



Rebecca Coales
Senior Officer - National
Permitting Service



Andrea Basten
Senior Officer - National
Biodiversity

Karen Edwards
Principal Marine Modelling
and Planning Officer - OCS
Water Quality



Caroline Richards
(Senior Stakeholder Engagement and
Communications Advisor)



Sharon Goulbourne
(Technical Support Officer)



Andrea Hole
(Technical Support Officer)



Declan Roscoe
(Programme Support Office
– Delivery Lead)

About this consultation

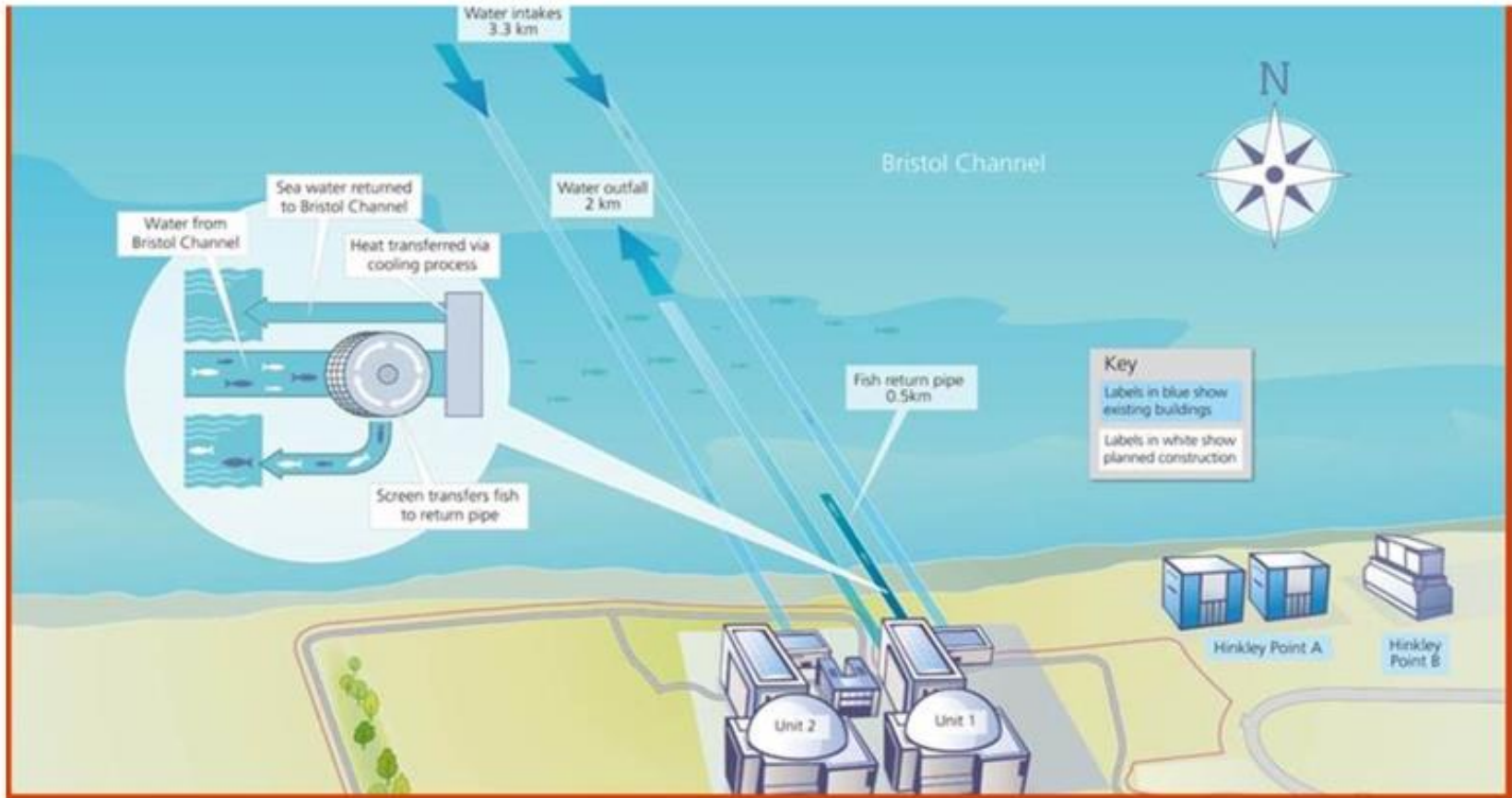
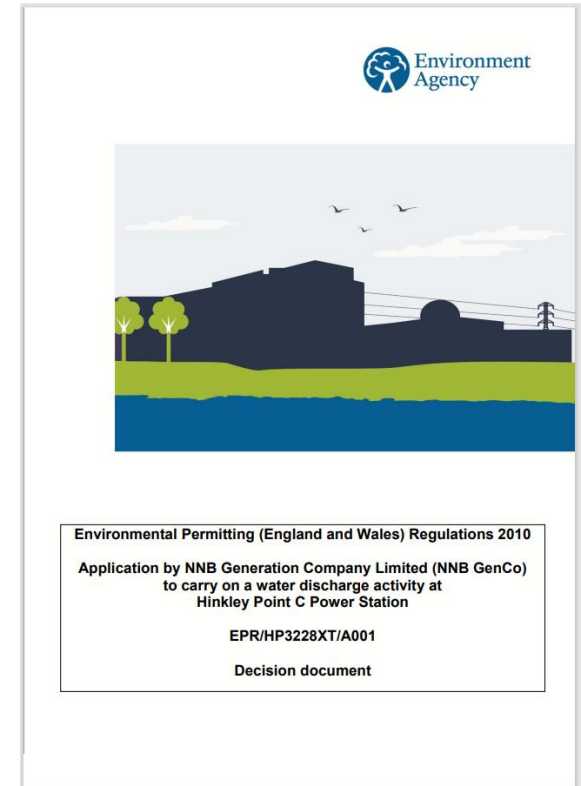


Diagram from EDF website: Fish Protection Measures

Hinkley Point C: WDA permit background

- 2013 - We issued a permit for the cooling water discharge including conditions relating to a proposed Acoustic Fish Deterrent (AFD)
- 2019 - HPC applied for a permit variation to remove the conditions and we held a public consultation on their application
- 2020 - HPC appealed to the Secretary of State for Defra against the deemed refusal of their permit application
- 2021 - Appeal heard at virtual Public Inquiry by Planning Inspectorate. Case called in by the SoS Defra for final decision.
- 2022 - 2 Sept – Defra SoS dismissed the appeal to remove the acoustic fish deterrent (AFD) conditions from the original permit.



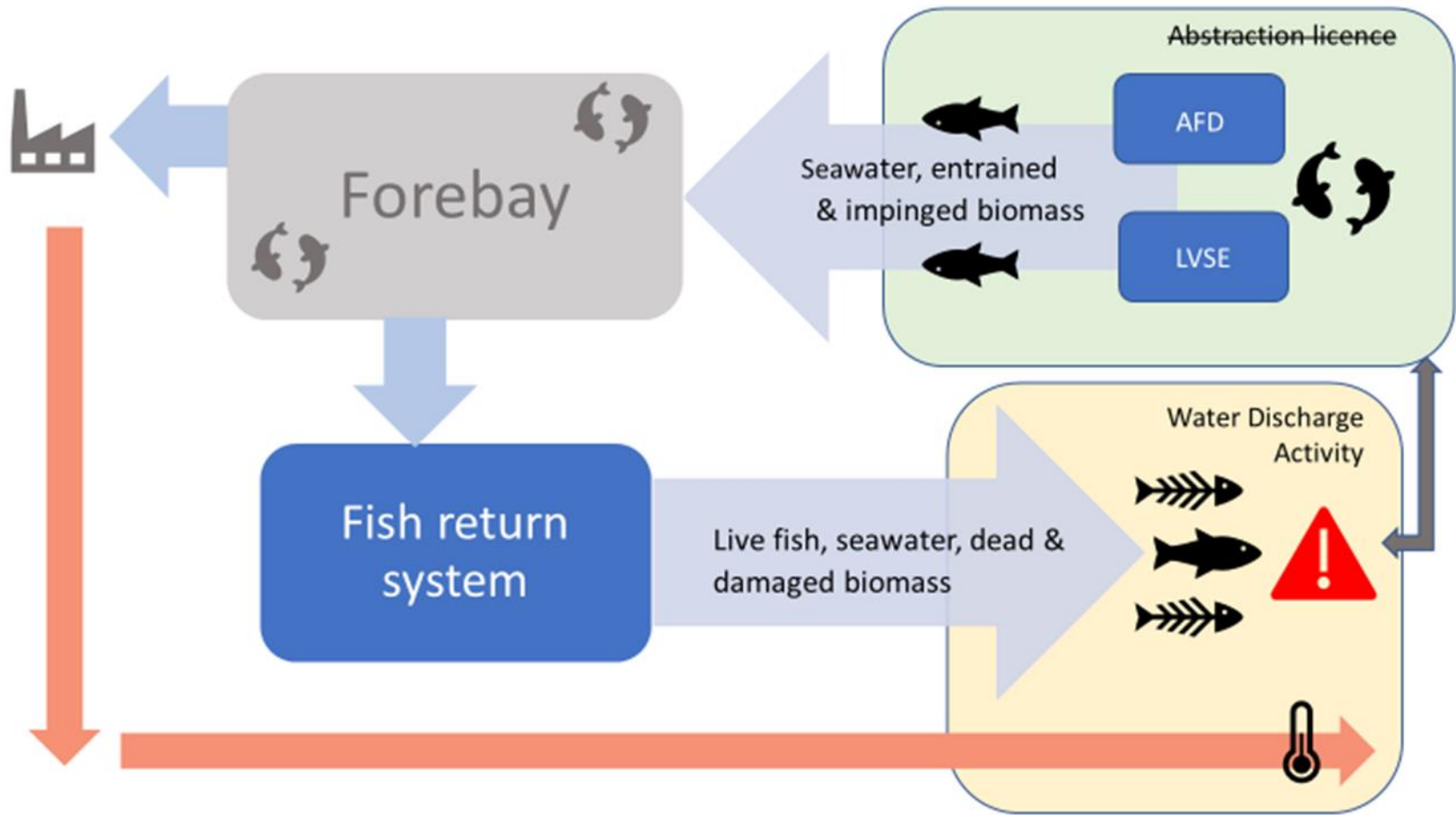
Hinkley Point C: Autumn discussions

Pre-action protocol letter:

- HPC took the first steps towards a Judicial Review of the appeal decision
- The Secretary of State responded, setting out Defra's position and an alternative dispute resolution
- This included HPC re-applying to vary the WDA permit
- Our determination will consider the effects of the discharge of polluting matter on the receiving water environment, in the absence of an AFD



Pollution controls



Hinkley Point C: What's happening

- HPC has applied to change its operational Water Discharge Activity (WDA) permit
- Application EPR/HP3228XT/V005
- The proposal is to vary the permit, to remove conditions that relate to an Acoustic Fish Deterrent (AFD) and add a waste stream for discharge from the Fish Recovery and Return system (FRR)
- We are holding a public consultation on the content of the permit variation application documents



Hinkley Point C: How to see the application

- Online: Consultation website <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/ta5-1ud-nnb-generation-company-hpc-limited-v005>
- At Hinkley Point Visitor Centre, Cannington Court, Church St, Cannington, Bridgwater, TA5 2HA
- Public Register, Environment Agency, Rivers House, East Quay, Bridgwater, TA6 4YS. 9.30am-4.30pm, Monday to Friday. Call the National Customer Contact Centre on 03708 506 506 to arrange an appointment. We may charge to cover copying costs.



Hinkley Point C: How to get involved

- Closing date for comments on the application documents **2nd March 2023**
- Online: Consultation website <https://consult.environment-agency.gov.uk/psc/ta5-1ud-nnb-generation-company-hpc-limited-v005>
- Email: psc-waterquality@environment-agency.gov.uk
- Write to: P&SC - WQ Team, Quadrant 2, 99 Parkway Avenue, Sheffield, S9 4WF
- Comments will be posted on the public register. Please tell us if you do not want your response to be public.



Hinkley Point C: Next steps

- Complete our determination, carefully considering all comments made during the consultation
- Decide whether to grant or refuse the permit variation application. If we grant it, we must decide what conditions to include in the permit
- We may run a further 4 week consultation on the proposed decision and draft permit if there is significant public and stakeholder response to this consultation
- Final decision later this year





Questions received in advance

Questions from representative of Stop Hinkley

- A full explanation of what is happening with EDF and the AFD. I feel we have been left completely in the dark recently. Informed by vague announcements with no substance by both EDF and yourselves. I don't think you have been considerate of the time, energy, effort, money and concern put into supporting you on this issue over the last three years by many different individuals, interest groups and other environmental agencies.
- The issue of EDF proposing to change from wet to dry storage of high-level waste from HPC. The method to be used and the possible impact on the local environment as we are heading into a Climate Emergency. Your own flood maps for Somerset show HPC surrounded by the sea by 2050, 20 years into its 60 years of operation.

Question from representative of Institute of Fisheries Management:

- Can we see the Environmental Impact Assessment for the original application for the WDA permit? In particular, the impacts on fish species and fisheries?
- What are the reasons for the requested changes to the permit?
- Can we see the Environmental Impact Assessment for the application for the new / changed WDA permit? In particular, the impacts on fish species and fisheries.

Question from Member of the public

- Given that, in regard to NNB GenCo's previous WDA application for HPC, the following clear conclusions were reached (as recorded in Environment Agency communications):-
 - HRA assessment unable to conclude that removing the AFD would have no adverse effect on protected habitats and species in the Severn Estuary.
 - Appeal decision agreed that the AFD should remain. Why is the matter being moved into the Planning regime and how can stakeholders and the public be certain that those conclusions will be respected and acted on?

Questions from representative of Stop Hinkley

- Does the EA have access to the monitoring and records of the fish kill from Hinkley B & Hinkley A? The company it proves that the power stations had no impact on the fish numbers in the Severn Estuary. Have you had sight of this “decades of data” from Hinkley A and B?
- Was this data presented at the Public Enquiry and shown to the SoS for Defra?
- Is there any baseline information on species and fish numbers prior to the operation of HPA or HPB?
- Has the EA done research with the fishermen of the Severn Estuary on their views on the species and fish numbers? We have heard many stories from them on the enormous impact on fish numbers since four Nuclear power stations have been using sea water cooling systems since 1962 in the Severn Estuary. That is in living memory for many of the fishermen and their fathers.

Question from Representative of Somerset Taunton & West Council

- My interest is in the proposal to remove the acoustic fish deterrent. I would like to understand the reasoning and the likely impact on local fish populations.

Questions from representative of Fish Guidance Systems Ltd

- When the Secretary of State has confirmed the government's decision that an AFD should be installed at Hinkley Point C, why is the EA considering an application by EDF to remove the AFD, rather than rejecting it outright?
- The Planning Inspector concluded that EDF had not attempted to complete the design of an AFD, and had not contacted any AFD manufacturers. What has the EA done to ensure EDF complies with this basic requirement before removing the AFD?
- What has changed in the EAs parameters between the original planning and this consultation that has led to the EA abandoning its own Best Practice for the screening of intakes?
- Why is the decision at Sizewell to ignore Best Practice on the screening of intakes being used to override a public inquiry and Secretary of State decision that Best Practice should be followed at Hinkley Point C?

End of presentation