



# Newsletter February 2012

## Surround Hinkley Sat 10<sup>th</sup> March and Blockade Sun 11<sup>th</sup> March

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March, there will be a peaceful action afternoon at Hinkley Point. The plan is to make a human chain around the site. Please come and join us in whatever capacity you can. It begins at 12:00 noon at the main gates. There will be speeches as well as music from the local band **Seize the Day**.

We need to show the strength of protest at the proposed Hinkley C power station with a large number of people. So please pass the message on and try to bring at least five friends with you.

The developers EDF already have permission from the local Council to level the site, but they do *not* yet have approval to build the power station itself, nor have they committed to spending the billions of pounds required. There is still time to stop it.

This action is being organised by Stop New Nuclear with support from a variety of anti-nuclear organisations, including Stop Hinkley. On Sunday 11th, some of the campaign organisations are also participating in a blockade.

A detailed information pack can be downloaded from the Stop New Nuclear website on <http://stopnewnuclear.org.uk>. Or ring them on 0845-2872381. For local info, including accommodation ideas, ring Chinks on 01278 733 218.

Stop Hinkley has some bright yellow window stickers publicising the event. Please ring: Suki on 01278 733 237 or email [suki@parsonfarm.co.uk](mailto:suki@parsonfarm.co.uk) and these can be posted to you. Publicising this event is critical to getting as many people there as possible.

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### Occupation of Langborough Farm by Reclaim Hinkley



A deserted farmhouse in the middle of the Hinkley C development site (see above) was occupied by supporters of South West Against Nuclear on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb in protest at the plans by French company EDF to trash 400 acres of land before they have permission to construct the nuclear power station.



The Reclaim Hinkley occupiers announced they were legally squatting the property under Section 6 of the Criminal Law Act 1977.

They have been there ever since, camping in the yard of the old farmhouse and receiving a regular stream of visitors from all over Somerset and beyond with food, water, firewood and solidarity.

Media coverage has included an article in the Guardian (see <http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/feb/17/activists-occupy-nuclear-site-edf?INTCMP=SRCH>) and TV footage on BBC Points West. Among the visitors has been the Liberal Democrat MP for Wells, Tessa Munt.

This building has to be demolished as part of site clearance, but this has not started yet. The company is now taking them to court, however, claiming repossession of the property and also trying to ban all future occupations of the construction site. The hearing is due to be heard on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> Feb at the High Court in London (10.30 am in Court 10). There is expected to be a demonstration outside.

To keep up to date on the occupation look on Facebook@ South West Against Nuclear or Seize the Day. If you would like to visit, please ring 07530-947554 or, if their batteries are flat, 07980 731896. People who can stay overnight would be most welcome.

The occupiers are incredibly committed to the cause of protecting the site, fighting for justice and democracy and making a stand against the powerful EDF machine. Please support them in any way you can.

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## **New Report: “A Corruption of Governance”**

This new report by the Association for the Conservation of Energy and Unlock Democracy shows how Ministers and Parliament were misled over the need for new nuclear power stations. It was presented to Parliament on 31 January by a cross-party group of MP's including Caroline Lucas, Tessa Munt and others from all the parties. Three Stop Hinkley members attended as well as a variety of other anti-nuclear groups such as Bristol Friends of Earth, Greenpeace and more. There were some excellent speakers including Steve Thomas from Greenwich University.

The report shows that on the basis of the Government's own evidence:

- There is no need for new nuclear power stations to deliver energy security i.e to “keep the lights on” and to achieve 80% reductions in carbon dioxide by 2050.
- Government statements that electricity supply will need to double or even triple in order to achieve a low carbon economy are disproved by its own evidence.
- Decisions taken by previous and current Governments that new nuclear power stations were needed are not based on evidence.
- A recent consultation on 16 possible pathways suggested by the Government to achieve 80% reductions in CO2 by 2050 is undermined by the fact that the decision on new nuclear power stations had already been taken.

Stop Hinkley issued a press statement welcoming the report and calling for all work on Hinkley C to stop until the issues it raised had been resolved.

Katy Attwater, Stop Hinkley's spokesperson, said: "This scrupulously researched report shows that two of the National Policy Statements, EN-1 and EN-6, approved by Parliament, are based on false information and the public has no alternative but to deem them invalid. MPs have, likewise, no alternative but to consider them fraudulent, re-open the debate and bring those responsible for this corruption to account.

“The push for nuclear through this corruption of governance is forcing a gross injustice upon the people of Britain. We have been seriously misled into believing that there is a need for nuclear power. Now it's communities such as ours near Hinkley that are unnecessarily facing the prospect of EdF starting to dig up 400 acres of beautiful coastline in the coming weeks. This will bring unprecedented disruption to lives and livelihoods.

“The onus is on our local councils, regulators and the Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) to look at the implications of having been misled by the Government regarding EdF's applications, past and pending, as a matter of urgency.”

This is one of the key campaigns that the anti-nuclear movement is focused on. Please read the report if at all possible. We need as many letters to MPs as possible to urge them to reopen this important debate. It could and

should have a major impact on whether the IPC has the authority to even approve the proposed station based on the misguided analysis of the need for new nuclear stations. The address for all MPs is: House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. An on-line petition is in the process of being organised, so keep a lookout for that.

The link to this excellent and meticulously researched report is: [www.ukace.org](http://www.ukace.org). Stop Hinkley's press releases can be found at [www.stophinkley.org](http://www.stophinkley.org).

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### **IPC Consultation:**

Approving Hinkley C is now in the hands of three commissioners at the Infrastructure Planning Commission based in Bristol. A timetable for the hearings has now been set; this shows that the process will start in March, with a preliminary meeting (see below) and will have to be completed by 21 September, after which it will be up to the Secretary of State for Energy (now Ed Davey after Chris Huhne's resignation) to make the final decision, probably at the beginning of 2013.

The Preliminary Meeting will be held on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March at the Sedgemoor Auction Centre in North Petherton. It begins with registration at 9:30 a.m. Those who filled out the IPC registration are entitled to attend. However, we will be staging a demonstration outside this meeting with the hope that as many people as possible will join in with banners and flags.

According to the preliminary report the five main issues of concern raised so far are:

- 1. Traffic**
- 2. Development Consent Order**
- 3. Socio-Economic Effects**
- 4. Comwich**
- 5. Landscape/Visual Impact**

There will be many other issues which stop Hinkley and others will want to raise, such as flooding and emergency planning, especially after the Fukushima disaster, and these should be flagged up at this meeting.

Later in the process there will be "Open Floor" meetings in the area near the power station for local people to make comments. There are a variety of dates during May. At the moment, they are scheduled in

Cannington and Comwich. There has been an outcry from Stogursey residents that the village has so far been omitted from the list.

More information about EDF's application and how you can respond can be found on [www.independent.gov.uk/infrastructure](http://www.independent.gov.uk/infrastructure), and then type in Hinkley Point.

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### **Street Stalls**

Jo Smolden and her gang have been busy running some excellent Stop Hinkley street stalls twice a week. Every Friday they have been on College Green in Bristol. Tuesdays have alternated between Bridgwater, Glastonbury and Taunton. If you would like to help at one please give her a ring on 01278 459099.

The stalls have been incredibly successful at getting the word out on the street.

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### **EDF risks public safety by life extension to Hinkley B AGR**

It would be an accident waiting to happen if Électricité de France (EDF) were allowed to extend the life of their ageing fleet of advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) nuclear power stations, as announced on 16<sup>th</sup> February.

In a press release Stop Hinkley described it as a desperate move to keep nuclear power generation going in the UK as investors shy away from new nuclear build that is increasingly looking like a white elephant.

No mention was made about the EDF extensions announcement at last Friday's Hinkley Site Stakeholder Group meeting. Stop Hinkley put questions to the Hinkley B Deputy Manager who had given a report following the planned refuelling outage towards the end of last year, asking why spend such a large outage maintenance sum of £35 million if closure was coming soon at 2016? Questions were also asked specifically about the amount of weld repairs that had to be done and the previous queries about the graphite blocks in the reactor. He said that nothing definite was decided about the life extension but that it was highly probable that they would be pushing for one.

Hinkley Point B is one of 14 AGRs EDF has earmarked for extension beyond their

designed operating lives. It was already granted a controversial extension beyond 2011 that will expire in 2016. Katy Attwater, the campaign group's spokesperson, said: "EDF's plans for extensions have to be considered a totally irresponsible and unacceptable gamble as there are serious safety concerns about the crumbling graphite moderator cores. Hinkley B should be shut down now."

Full press release at [www.stophinkley.org](http://www.stophinkley.org).

### Seven Things To Do

1. Join the Surround on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March, help publicise it with emails to friends, displaying a sticker on your car or window or telephone pole outside your house, post on Facebook.
2. Write to your MP about the **Corruption of Governance** report.
3. Protest outside the IPC meeting in North Petherton on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March.
4. Pass on this newsletter to anyone you think might want or need to read it.
5. Post information on your own Facebook page with links.
6. Keep checking in at [www.stophinkley.org](http://www.stophinkley.org) and the Stop Hinkley page on Facebook.
7. Encourage your friends to join Stop Hinkley at <http://www.stophinkley.org/JoinDon.htm> or contact Val.

## Stop Hinkley Condemns Token Jobs

The nuclear deal agreed on 17 Feb between David Cameron and Nicholas Sarkozy was a PR exercise for the nuclear industry, Stop Hinkley said in a press statement. 1,500 jobs for Rolls Royce, who have no experience in working with nuclear power, will not affect the unemployment figures. Thousands of jobs could be created in the renewable industry immediately; by investing heavily in nuclear, the Government is not putting money into

simpler, safer and sustainable alternatives.

Spending £15m on training our young people to work in an industry that is dangerous and not sustainable is misguided. 344,000 people in Germany are employed in their growing renewable energy industry. This is 10 times the entire current UK nuclear workforce. (Full press release at [www.stophinkley.org](http://www.stophinkley.org).)

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### Quote

Edward Davey, Liberal Democrat MP and newly appointed Secretary of State for Energy, speaking in 2006: "A new generation of nuclear power stations will cost taxpayers and consumers tens of billions of pounds. In addition to posing safety and environmental risks, nuclear power will only be possible with vast taxpayer subsidies or a rigged market.

"It is an issue that crops up in my postbag time and time again. People don't want nuclear, but they don't know what the alternatives are. Now they do, and the alternatives are cleaner, safer, greener, and better for the environment and the taxpayer."

### Events

**Surround and Blockade Hinkley  
March 10 & 11 [see front page]**

**Stop Hinkley meeting  
Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm  
West Bow House, Milton Place  
Off West Street, Bridgwater**

## Contacts

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**[www.stophinkley.org](http://www.stophinkley.org)**