



## *Stop New Nuclear*

Press Release

17 September 2012

### **MASS TRESPASS PLANNED AT HINKLEY POINT NUCLEAR POWER STATION – 8 October**

Protesters from all over the UK are gearing up for a mass trespass at the site earmarked for the first of a new generation of nuclear power stations. Hundreds are planning to converge at a weekend protest camp before scaling the fence round land being cleared for the controversial Hinkley C power plant in Somerset.

The Stop New Nuclear Alliance expects many people to be arrested. “The government is refusing to acknowledge that its ‘new nuclear’ strategy is dangerous and expensive so we are being forced to raise our game,” said spokesperson Nancy Birch.

On the Saturday before the trespass, symbolic barrels of radioactive waste will be wheeled through the streets of nearby Bridgwater to highlight the huge stockpile of high-level nuclear waste that will be stored at Hinkley C if it gets the green light. There will also be a rally with international speakers.

The new French EPR reactors being proposed by EDF Energy will produce spent fuel that is so hot it will have to be stored on site for over 100 years. If the government gives the go-ahead for eight new nuclear power stations around the UK, everyone’s back yard will become a toxic waste dump.

On Monday October 8<sup>th</sup>, protesters will attempt to scale the fence around the Hinkley C site and scatter seeds in a symbolic attempt to reclaim the damaged land. “EDF Energy is already clearing the site despite the fact that it has not yet received planning permission for the reactors or funding approval from its Paris HQ for the construction of the new station,” Birch added.

Sarah Reid, a member of the Stop New Nuclear Alliance, said further damage to the land must be avoided at all cost. “The government and EDF are hell-bent on pushing through ‘new nuclear’ despite clear evidence that it will be impossible without massive public subsidies and a big hike in energy bills. We are calling on the public

to fight this policy tooth and nail. Germany is creating a nuclear-free future that is sustainable and affordable. We can do the same here.”

The Stop New Nuclear Alliance is a coalition of anti-nuclear groups including the local Stop Hinkley campaign.

Ends/

**For more information:** Katy Attwater, Stop New Nuclear Alliance (0798 073 1896) <http://stopnewnuclear.org.uk>; Crispin Aubrey, Stop Hinkley (01278 732921 or 0792 052 3673) [www.stophinkley.org](http://www.stophinkley.org)

**Notes to the editor:**

EDF Energy has received permission from West Somerset Council to carry out preparatory work on the land earmarked for Hinkley C. It has not yet received planning permission for the construction of the new power station.

The timetable for the protest is as follows:

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

11.30: Assemble King Square, Bridgwater (Nuclear waste barrels piled up near EDF's offices. Photo opportunity.)

12.30 – 1.30pm: Procession through town centre

1.30 – 3.30pm: Rally with speakers including Kate Hudson, general secretary of CND and journalist Oliver Tickell. A video message will be shown from Wells MP Tessa Munt.

4.30 – 5.30pm: Die-in and symbolic tree planting at Hinkley Point nuclear power station.

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October**

Mass trespass at the Hinkley C site. Giant catapults will be used to scatter a total of 577 seed balls on the land - one for each day since the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear disaster in March 2011.