

Report to Compton Bishop Parish Council Hinkley C Connection Project

31st January 2016

National Grid's Application for the proposed Hinkley Point C electric line connection

The Hinkley C Connection Project started in 2007 with an internal report by TEP (The Environment Partnership) which formed the basis of the Stage 1 documentation for public consultation which started in 2009. The consultation ended in July 2015 with the final phase being seven months of The Planning Inspectorate (PI) holding public examination and hearings with National Grid (NG), Joint Councils and other parties (including Compton Bishop Parish Council) providing evidence .

The PI submitted their conclusions and recommendation to the Secretary of State (SoS) for Energy and Climate Change on 19th October 2015. Her ruling was published on 19th January 2016.

The Secretary of State approved National Grid's application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the works described. There are no significant changes to the application and a predominantly overhead connection, using the new 'T' pylons will be constructed between Hinkley C power station and Seabank, Avonmouth. The area from Badgworth to Sandford via the Lox Yeo Valley includes the AONB which requires National Grid to lay their cables underground.

As stated in previous reports, the areas around Kennel Lane, Webbington Road and Barton Road will suffer severe disruption during the construction period.

Construction is planned to start this year (2016) be completed by mid-to-end 2022.

I have provided, below, extracts from the main paragraphs of the SoS notice, the PI conclusion and for clarification have added diagrams of the main locations in our Parish.

Possible Judicial Review : You have received my report on the first meeting chaired by James Heapey and my request for an indication of support for investigating the possibility of a Judicial Review. I received four positive responses (one no-response) which provided the authority to continue. A second meeting was held on 30th January to discuss the Judicial Review process and costs. The first stage is to locate a law firm who will provide *pro bono* advice on merits or otherwise. This has started. If we do not have *pro-bono* support then funds of around £7,500 - £9,000 for a barrister will have to be raised. Indications are that District Councils could be financially supportive for this stage. If the case appears to be sound, public funding will be needed to progress further. Schemes and possible benefactors are being investigated

The legal timetable to file the Judicial Review is within six weeks of the Secretary of State's decision, which gives a closing date of 29th February. To achieve this we will have to secure funding by 19th and make a decision by Friday 26th February.

If you wish to study the official documents, I have provided links via the Parish website (Navigate from the home page to *News Headlines/Government gives the OK.....*)

Note that the PI documentation is 1,100 pages and NG published 1,611 documents. The SoS letter is a mere 35 pages.

Richard Parker

31st January 2016

Extracts - SoS notice : PI conclusion : diagrams of impacted locations

Secretary of State for Energy & Climate Change Decision

Main points from her document :

141. For the reasons set out in this letter, the Secretary of State considers that there is a compelling case for authorising the Application given the national need for the proposed Development and that the potential adverse local impacts of the Development do not outweigh the benefits of the proposed scheme. The Secretary of State is content that making the Order would be consistent with NPS EN-1 and EN-5.

142. The Secretary of State has therefore decided to accept the ExA's recommendation in paragraph 10.2.1 of the Report to make the Order granting development consent and to impose the requirements recommended by the ExA, but subject to the modifications described below. In reaching this decision, the Secretary of State has had regard to the Report as amended by the Errata sheet referred to in paragraph 7 above, and to all other matters which the Secretary of State considers important and relevant to the decision as required by section 105 of the 2008 Act. The Secretary of State also confirms for the purposes of regulation 3(2) of the Infrastructure Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2009 that the environmental information as defined in regulation 2(1) of those Regulations has been taken into consideration.

From : Planning Inspectorates report to SoS

Hinkley Point C Connection Project Examining Authority's Report of Findings and Conclusions and Recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change

The PI conclusions in its 660 page report, supported by 5 appendices :

10.1.2 The main issues have been identified in Section 4.1 of this report. Our findings and conclusions in relation to policy, the principle of the development and generic planning issues are set out in Chapters 4 and 5. In Section 4.2, we conclude that the need for the proposed development has been established. In Section 5.14, we conclude that there are no policy, or legal requirements that would lead us to recommend that consent be refused for the proposed development in favour of another alternative.

10.1.11 In coming to our view that development consent should be granted in the form proposed in the recommended Order attached at Appendix E, we have taken into account all matters raised in the representations. We find no reason either individually, or collectively, that would lead us to a different conclusion.

10.2 RECOMMENDATION

10.2.1 For all of the above reasons, and in the light of the Panel's findings and conclusions on important and relevant matters set out in the report, the Panel under the Planning Act 2008 (as amended), recommends that, subject to:

- the matters relating to Crown land being resolved;
- the provision of a supplemental s106 agreement to enable reasonable costs associated with monitoring of the temporary and permanent mitigation for bat SACs incurred by the Joint Councils to be recovered from the Applicant;
- the provision of a supplemental s106 agreement to secure a financial contribution from the Applicant towards the cost of the diversion of the England Coast Path (footpaths WL23/71 and WL23/61); and
- the matters relating to the potential interference with the safe operation of CLH's high pressure fuel pipe-line being resolved.

The Secretary of State grants the application for development consent and makes the Hinkley Point C Connection Order as set out in Appendix E.

FROM Appendix E

SCHEDULE 1

AUTHORISED DEVELOPMENT

400kV OVERHEAD ELECTRIC LINE

In the District of Sedgemoor

Work No. 1D —LD route Puriton to South Mendips Cable Sealing End

Works to construct a 400kV overhead electric line 12.8km in length commencing at the existing 400kV overhead electric line on works plan section B, sheet 1 and terminating at the South Mendips cable sealing end (CSE) compound on works plan section B, sheet 11. The electric line consists of 37 pylons and 2 full line tension (FLT) gantry structures, the installation of conductors, insulators and fittings between pylon LD1 and gantry structures LD38A and LD38B, and connections into the South Mendips CSE (Work No. 2C).

The works include installation and construction of a temporary site construction compound along the route of the overhead electric line, as shown on works plan section B sheet 10, containing welfare facilities, material lay down and parking areas.

400kV UNDERGROUND CABLES

In the District of Sedgemoor and the District of North Somerset

Work No. 2B —Mendips underground cable and cable crossing

Works to construct a 400kV underground electric cable route comprising—

- (a) the installation and construction of two 400kV underground electric cable circuits with a route length of 8.5km in length commencing at the CSE compound on work plan section B, sheet 11 and terminating at Sandford 400kV substation (Work No 3A) on work plan section D, sheet 1;
- (b) the installation of a crossing of the River Axe shown on work plan section B, sheet 11. The cable circuits will cross the River Axe in the vicinity of Loxton either by—
 - (i) incorporating the cables in a specifically designed and constructed bridge to cross the watercourse; or
 - (ii) installing the cables under the watercourse using Horizontal Directional Drilling, but only one option for Work No. 2B(b) (not both) may be carried out.

The works include the installation and construction of 4 temporary site compounds along the route of the underground cable circuits containing welfare facilities, material lay down and parking areas shown on works plans section B, sheet 11; section C, sheets 1 and 3; and section D, sheet 1.

In the District of Sedgemoor

Work No. 2C —South Mendips cable sealing end compound

Works to construct the South Mendips cable sealing end (CSE) compound as shown on work plan section B, sheet 11, to include—

- (a) earthworks to provide a suitable platform for the equipment;
- (b) construction of foundations to support all new structures, plant and equipment;
- (c) installation of air insulated switchgear (AIS) and cable sealing ends;
- (d) installation of support structures;
- (e) construction of compound perimeter fence;
- (f) landscaping, gates and fencing of site boundary; and
- (g) a permanent vehicular access road.

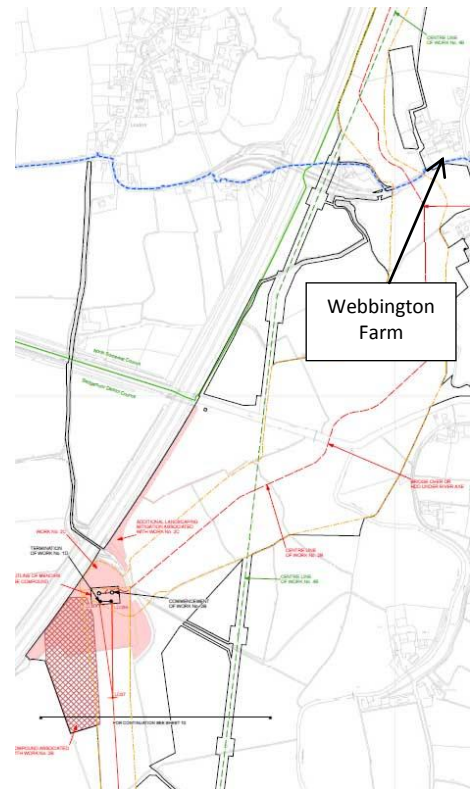
[Comment : This area is in a flood zone 3 environment :
Ref: 5.4.59 (Flood Risk Assessments for Major Structures)

Structure : South of Mendip Hills CSE Compound

Flood Zone Status : Flood Zone 3

[Comment : this zone has a high probability of flooding comprising land assessed as having a 1 in 100 or greater annual probability of river flooding (>1%), or a 1 in 200 or greater annual probability of flooding from the sea (>0.5%) in any year.]

Mitigation proposed : Raise all water sensitive equipment above the design flood level to a minimum level of 7.2m i.e. above the 1 in 1000 (0.1%) annual probability event.]



In the District of Sedgemoor

Work No. 2D —Temporary project office compound

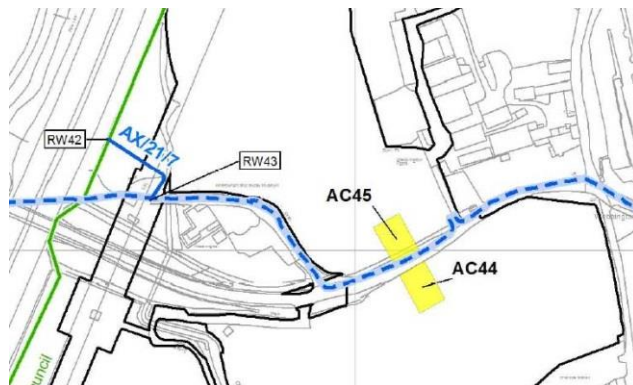
Works to construct a temporary project office compound, at the location shown on works plan section B, sheet 10, to include—

- (a) temporary car parking, hard standings and roadways;
- (b) temporary offices and staff welfare portacabins;
- (c) temporary materials, tools and fuel storage areas;
- (d) temporary storage of plant and equipment;
- (e) wheel cleaning facilities;
- (f) security fencing; and
- (g) construction and security lighting

Comment : See Construction Traffic Management Plan on the next page

PART 2
STREETS SUBJECT TO TEMPORARY ALTERATION OF LAYOUT
Page 80 :

Webbington Road
 At AC44 and AC45 (as shown on Section B, Sheet 14 and Section C, Sheet 1 of the access and rights of way plans) the creation of two temporary bellmouths to enable access/egress with sufficient size to accommodate a HGV vehicle. Comprising the installation of a new road surface, white lining, kerbing and a suitable drainage system, where required.



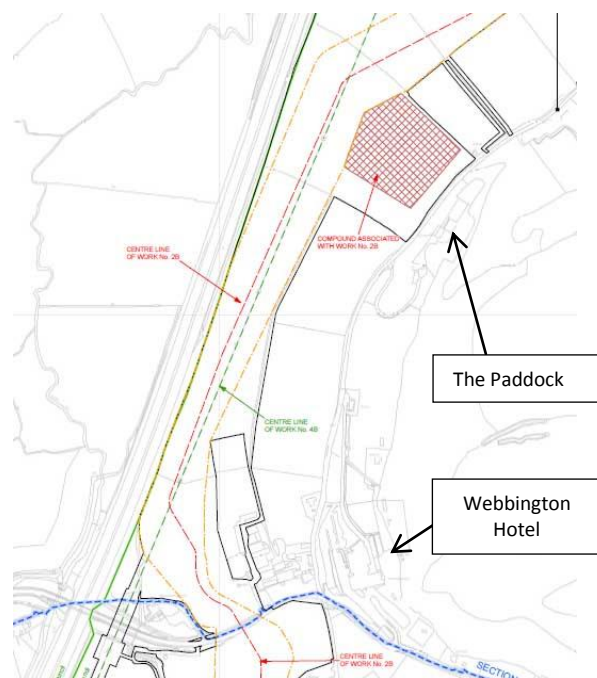
Comment : This diagram shows the access to the haul road from Webbington Road

Note that the reference to the location of Haul Roads is not included in appendix E but appears in the Planning Inspectorate’s Report, the relevant extract is below:

Title: Recommendation to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change

CONSTRUCTION TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN

5.3.17 The haul road would continue to the north-east serving the underground construction, crossing Sevier Road at Webbington and en-route serving Barton Road compound and Castle Hill compound, until reaching Sandford Batch where the route would continue to the north crossing A368 Towerhead Road near Sandford and on to Sandford substation.



Note : this diagram shows the location of the works compound in Barton Road