

Somerset County Council
Regulation Committee – 5 July 2012
Report by the Group Manager -Environmental Management: Barry
James

A

Application Number: 3/32/12/030
Date Registered: 25.04.2012
Parish: Stogursey
District: West Somerset
Member Division: Watchet & Quantocks
Local Member: Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew
Case Officer: Bob Mills
Contact Details: rwmills@somerset.gov.uk
(01823) 356019

Description of Application: **SECTION 73 APPLICATION - CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDING FOR THE STORAGE OF INTERMEDIATE LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE MATERIALS AT HINKLEY POINT 'A' POWER STATION, STOGURSEY, BRIDGWATER, TA5 1YA (VARIATION OF BUILDING DESIGN APPROVED BY PLANNING PERMISSION NO. 3/32/04/009, DATED 10.08.2004)**

Grid Reference: 320340 - 145973

Applicant: Magnox Electric plc.

Location: Hinkley Point 'A' and 'B' power stations are located on the Bridgwater Bay coastline about 3km (2 miles) north of Stogursey - the 'A' station being the westerly complex. The previously permitted storage building site is located to the north of the access road, about 125m west-northwest of the site security gatehouse.

1. Summary of Key Issues and Recommendation(s)

- 1.1 **The application proposes to amend the design and scale of a previously permitted building for the temporary storage to intermediate level radioactive waste (ILW).**
- 1.2 **The main issues for the Committee to consider are:**
- **The appropriateness of the building's design for the storage of radioactive waste; and**
 - **The visual appearance of the proposed structure.**
- 1.3 **It is recommended that planning permission is GRANTED subject to conditions.**

2. Description of the Site

- 2.1 The Hinkley Point site is on a headland extending into Bridgwater Bay about 8 km (5 miles) to the west of the mouth of the River Parrett and 3 km (2 miles) north of Stogursey. Within the Bay an extensive area is notified as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) / Ramsar site, a large part of which is also a National Nature Reserve (NNR) managed by Natural England. The boundaries of the Bridgwater Bay SSSI / Ramsar site (but not the NNR) also extend about 1.5 km (1 mile) landward immediately to the east of Hinkley Point to include the Wick Moor grazing marsh.
- 2.2 The landscape of Hinkley Point is dominated by two nuclear power stations: Hinkley Point A (which closed in 2000 and is in the process of decommissioning) and Hinkley Point B. To the west, a site is identified for a third power station, Hinkley Point C, which is the subject of an application for a Development Consent Order currently being considered by the Major Infrastructure Planning Unit (Planning Inspectorate). A County Wildlife Site extends around the southern boundary of the existing power stations complex and into the 'C' site.
- 2.3 The larger local villages are located away from the coastline, the closest to Hinkley Point being Stogursey about 3km (2 miles) away. Small hamlets (i.e., Knighton, Burton, Shurton, Wick and Stolford) and isolated farmsteads are located closer to the coast / power station. Further south, the Quantock Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) extends south-eastward from the coast at East Quantoxhead, to within about 8km (5 miles) of Hinkley Point.
- 2.4 The application site boundary encloses the Hinkley Point A nuclear power station, which has an area of over 19 ha (48 acres) covered by the nuclear site licence.
- 2.5 The site for the construction of the intermediate level radioactive waste (ILW) storage facility is located alongside the site access road, about 125m to the west-northwest of the site security gatehouse. A substantial electricity sub-station is located on the south side of the access road, from which several sets of high voltage overhead power lines are carried on pylons aligned southeastward across Wick Moor.
- 2.6 The construction site has been excavated to a level about 5m below the access road. The footings for the previously permitted building have been installed.

3. Site History

- 3.1 It was announced on 23 May 2000 that Hinkley Point A would be shut down. Authorisation for the decommissioning was given by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) in July 2003.

- 3.2 Planning permission (no. 3/32/04/009) was granted for works related to the decommissioning in August 2004. This included:
- (i) the construction of a building for the treatment and storage of on-site intermediate and low-level radioactive waste (ILW and LLW) materials (Building A);
 - (ii) the construction of temporary buildings (for a 15 year period) for the sorting and packaging of LLW prior to despatch (Building B), encapsulating and packaging wet and solid ILW (Buildings C and D), and an access control building (Building E);
 - (iii) the modification of 2 existing buildings to provide solid ILW waste skip export facilities (Buildings F and G);
 - (iv) the temporary storage of excavation and construction materials;
 - (v) a discharge pipeline; and
 - (vi) associated boundary fencing.
- 3.3 In December 2004 a Direction was made on behalf of the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. This designated the site, installations and facilities at Hinkley Point A station to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) for the decommissioning and cleaning up of the principal nuclear site, and operations for the treatment, storage and transport of hazardous materials.
- 3.4 In May 2005 the County Council was informed that a review of the decommissioning strategy had determined that existing buildings within the 'A' station site could be adapted to fulfil some of the functions identified for the buildings identified in the 2004 application, reducing the need for demolitions and new constructions.
- 3.5 De-fuelling was the first major activity following permanent cessation of electricity generation, with the used (or 'spent') nuclear fuel (in the reactors and the irradiated fuel storage) removed from the site and transported to Sellafield for reprocessing. The 'A' site is currently in the 'Care & Maintenance Preparation' phase which includes a significant amount of dismantling, demolition and waste management work. However, there are some installations that are shared with the adjoining Hinkley Point B Power Station which will be retained for a period to support its operations. The reactor buildings and the major plant within them will not be dismantled during this phase.
- 3.6 The 'A' site is expected to enter the Care and Maintenance phase in 2025. During this phase radioactivity levels at the site will be allowed to decay naturally so that more conventional demolition techniques can be used to remove the reactor buildings at an appropriate time. That is not expected until about 2085.

4. The Proposal

- 4.1 The radioactive waste storage building (referred to as 'Building A' in the 2004 planning permission) was intended to be used as the store for packaged ILW from the Hinkley site until an off-site Geological Disposal Facility (GDF)

becomes available for its final disposal. However, the applicant seeks to vary the design of Building A, to be replaced by the Intermediate Level Waste Interim Storage Facility (ISF).

- 4.2 The ISF is a similar building to the previously permitted Building A in exterior cladding, but is smaller, both in footprint and height. The proposed building is 58.3m long, 23.55m wide at ground level, and 14.7m high. It is a simple design, although the building shape is slightly unusual in that it would be broader at eaves level (27.2m) than at its base. The previously permitted Building A was identified as 100m x 24m x 18m high.
- 4.3 The already installed foundations of the originally proposed Building A will be utilised for the revised structure.
- 4.4 Externally, the building will be clad with profiled aluminium that curves up and over the structure in a continuous sweep that includes both walls and the roof. A sectional shutter door and personnel doors will be located in the northern elevation, approached via shallow ramps. Dehumidifier plant may be located at ground level at either end of the southern elevation.
- 4.5 The proposed building will include a receipt and inspection area and storage area for ductile cast iron containers (DCICs) within concrete shield walls. Within the ISF building the DCICs will be moved by means of an overhead travelling crane.
- 4.6 If approved, construction is due to commence during 2012 and is expected to be completed in late 2013. Whilst the Government's strategy is to have an off-site permanent disposal facility ready by 2040, the ISF will have a design life of up to 150 years and thus be available to store DCICs until the off-site GDF becomes available (even if it is delayed).
- 4.7 **List of Application Documents:** The following documents were included with the application-
- Document Register;
 - Covering letter;
 - Application forms and statutory declarations;
 - Notices to the NDA, EDF Energy Nuclear Generation Ltd, and EDF Nuclear New Build Generation Company;
 - Support Document "Information to Support Section 73 variation to Planning Permission 3/32/04/009" (Prepared by Alan O'Sullivan, Property and Commercial Services, Magnox).

Drawings submitted with the application comprise the following:

- "Plan Showing Locations of Proposed New Buildings, Plan App Fig. HPA/PA/31", scale 1/1000 (Job No. 217291, Drawing No. A-001, Issue S2);
- "Building A, Radioactive Waste Storage Building, Roof Plan and Elevations, Plan App Fig. HPA/PA/40", scale 1/200 (Job No. 217291, Drawing No. A-002, Issue S2);

- “Elevation of Site after Demolition of Other Buildings, Plan App Fig. HPA/PA/121”, scale 1/1000 (Job No. 217291, Drawing No. A-003, Issue S2); and
- “Post Works Site Plan, Plan App Fig. HPA/PA/32, scale 1/1000 (Job No. 217291, Drawing No. A-004, Issue S2).

Drawings were also included to illustrate the previously approved building, as follows:

- “Extent of the Application Site and Contiguous Magnox Electric Land Holding and Locations of proposed Facilities on Land Leased from British Energy”, not to scale (Project No. 54/07041, Drawing No. HPA/3130/LA/0002327, Version 1, Issue 1);
- “Plan Showing Locations of Proposed New Buildings”, scale 1/1000 (Project No. 54/07041, Drawing No. HPA/3130/LA/0002329, Version A, Issue 02);
- Building A, Radioactive Waste Storage Building, Roof Plan & Elevations”, scale 1/200 (Project No. 54/07041, Drawing No. HPA/3130/LA/0002331, Version A, Issue 01).

5. Consultation Responses Received

5.1 West Somerset District Council: No objections.

- It is understood that the proposed alternative ISF is smaller in length and height, although it is noted that the eaves are wider. This is regarded as an improvement in terms of visual impact.
- The proposed structure is simpler in design which should make it easier to dismantle and remove during the Final Site Clearance. This is regarded as another positive step.
- Although smaller and simpler, the proposed structure is expected to fulfil the same function to the same service level.
- The County Council is ultimately responsible for ensuring the structure is able to perform the same function as originally granted.

5.2 Stogursey Parish Council: No observations to make.

Fiddington Parish Council: No comments received.

Holford Parish Council: Concerned about possible long-term environmental effects of storage of ILW since there appears to be no plan for its eventual relocation or processing. This appears to be an easy option adopted in an environmentally sensitive area.

Kilve Parish Council: No comments received.

Nether Stowey Parish Council: No comments received.

5.3 Sedgemoor District Council: No objections.

- Comments as per West Somerset District Council (above).
- It is requested that informatives are added to the decision notice inviting the applicant to initiate discussions with the District Councils regarding a compensatory financial contribution.

- 5.4 **Cannington Parish Council:** No comments received.
Pawlett Parish Council: Support.
Otterhampton Parish Council: No comments received.
Stringston Parish Council: No comments received.
Stockland Bristol Parish Meeting: No comments received.
- 5.5 **HSE - Office for Nuclear Regulation:** No comments received.
- 5.6 **Nuclear Decommissioning Authority:** No comments received.
- 5.7 **Environment Agency:** No objections.
- The EA's Nuclear Regulation Department are aware of, and in discussion with Magnox regarding the day-to-day regulation of the proposed ISF. Early discussions on the proposed hazard, risk and mitigation measures required is underway.
 - It has been clarified with Magnox that the change from the previous permission is simply the reduced size of the store proposed.
 - In view of any potential future increases in tidal or surface water flood risks in this locality due to climate change impacts, it is advised that consideration is given to the use of flood resistant construction practices and materials.
- 5.8 **Natural England:** No comments received.
- 5.9 **Public Comments:** None received.
- 6. Comments of the Group Manager – Environmental Management**
- 6.1 The application proposes to amend the design and scale of a previously permitted building for the temporary storage of intermediate level radioactive waste (ILW). The main issues for the Committee to consider are
- the appropriateness of the building's design for the storage of radioactive waste; and
 - the visual appearance of the proposed structure.
- 6.2 Regard is to be had to the development plan for the purpose of this determination, which must be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. Relevant policies are contained in the Regional Planning Guidance for the South West (RPG10), Somerset and Exmoor National Park Joint Structure Plan (SP, adopted April 2000), the draft West Somerset Local Plan (LP). Also taken into account are the unsaved policies of the Somerset Waste Local Plan (WLP, adopted February 2009).
- 6.3 **National Radioactive Waste Management:** Following the 2002 White Paper "Managing the Nuclear Legacy", the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) was established to manage waste in a responsible manner to ensure it is safely managed now and for future generations. To that end it has considered opportunities for waste minimisation, re-use and recycling, waste

treatment, packaging, storage, transport and final disposal. The Government strategy for higher activity wastes, such as ILW, as set out in the 2008 White Paper “Managing Radioactive Waste Safely, A Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal” is eventual disposal to a purpose built GDF. During 2011 industry guidance was published on interim storage of higher activity waste that covers the key issues of waste package performance, store longevity, monitoring and inspection regimes, and store maintenance and refurbishment. This requires storage facilities to be designed in accordance with good engineering practice and to enable radioactive waste to be stored in a passively safe condition, taking account of normal and accident conditions.

- 6.4 Currently at the ‘A’ site, ILW is stored in a number of different forms in a number of locations above and below ground. In accordance with national policy and published guidance, it is proposed that this waste will be characterised, retrieved, conditioned and packaged into thick-walled DCICs and stored above ground in a facility where it can be easily monitored (i.e., the redesigned Building A / ISF).
- 6.5 **Relevant Development Plan Policies - Waste Policies:** SP policy 66 (Development of Waste Management Facilities) indicates that waste management facilities should preferably utilise previously developed land, where (inter alia) it is as close as practical to the source of the waste and nuisance to neighbouring land uses is minimised. In addition, the facility should have satisfactory access and respect the landscape character of the area. WLP policy W14 (Nuclear Waste Disposal) states that planning permission will not be granted for the disposal / permanent storage of nuclear waste in Somerset. WLP policy W15 (Nuclear Waste Treatment and Storage) states planning permission for facilities for the treatment and temporary storage of nuclear waste will not be granted unless:
- the waste arises solely from the operation or decommissioning of the plant at Hinkley Point;
 - any treatment is confined to processes essential prior to transportation or storage;
 - temporary storage is confined to intermediate level waste with a specified end date for that storage; and
 - there is no national facility for intermediate level waste storage or disposal.
- 6.6 In this case, the proposed facility is on the site of the waste arisings, access is good, and once constructed, the passive storage facility will have little or no impact on neighbouring land uses in accordance with the requirements of SP policy 66. Landscape issues are considered under ‘Building Design and Construction’ below. Pending the development of a GDF, which is expected to be available by 2040 (and outside Somerset), the proposal is in accordance with the requirements of WLP policies W14 and W15.
- 6.7 **General Policies:** RPG10 policy EN1 (Landscape and Biodiversity) seeks strong protection for the region’s internationally and nationally important landscape areas and nature conservation sites, and encourages the

maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity resources. SP policy STR1 (Sustainable Development) requires development to be of high quality and good design, minimise journey distances, conserve biodiversity and environmental assets, and give priority to the continued use of previously developed land and buildings. SP policy STR6 (Development Outside Towns, etc) requires development to benefit economic activity, maintain or enhance the environment, and not foster growth in the need to travel. SP policy 1 (Nature Conservation) affords the greatest level of protection to ecological sites of international and national importance, and SP policy 5 (Landscape Character) requires the distinctive character of the countryside to be safeguarded with particular regard given to features in landscape, cultural heritage and nature conservation terms. SP policy 15 directs coastal development to within towns, rural centres and villages. Where development is proposed in other locations it should respect the natural beauty, biodiversity and geology of the area, and minimise the risk of flooding, erosion and landslip.

- 6.8 LP policy LC/3 (Landscape Character) requires that development does not harm the scenic quality and distinctive local character of the landscape. LP policy NC/1 (Sites of Special Scientific Interest) states development will not be permitted if it affects a SSSI. Where it is also a NNR regard will be had to the site's national importance. LP policy CO/2 (Coastal Defences) requires developments in coastal locations to respect the heritage, landscape character, nature conservation and local amenities, and demonstrate the need for a coastal location. LP policy BD/1 (Local Distinctiveness) requires development to be in scale and sympathetic to the scale and layout of existing buildings and spaces, local land form, etc, and BD/2 (Design of New Development) requires development to respect the scale and character of its surroundings.
- 6.9 **Building Design and Construction:** By their very nature, nuclear facilities are modern complexes, comprising a number of buildings and plant - some of colossal scale - in relatively isolated coastal locations. The Hinkley complex is no different. Whilst it is not situated within a specially designated landscape area it is accepted that the Quantock Hills AONB and ecologically important coastal and marine areas are within its sphere of visual influence.
- 6.10 The visual impact of the proposed development needs to be considered in context, i.e., in relation to the present and future scale and disposition of structures that dominate the local area and landscape. As the current decommissioning progresses, whilst the majority of buildings on the 'A' site will be removed, the largest structures (i.e., the two reactor buildings) will remain, as will the ISF (or Building A previously permitted) and the access control building (Building E) and other lesser structures. These will be located alongside the 'B' site and electrical control and distribution plant (and the 'C' site if built). Similar lengthy decommissioning procedures are also likely to apply to the 'B' site (and 'C' site). Therefore, the legacy of the nuclear industry will affect the landscape at Hinkley Point for perhaps another 100 years or more, which is well beyond the anticipated period of need for the proposed ISF.

- 6.11 Externally, the proposed ISF is of similar finish to that previously permitted, but considerably smaller, reduced in length by over 40m and reduced in height by over 3m. The building site is excavated into the ground, thereby limiting views from the landward side. The site would also be largely screened from the coast by the remaining built structures on the 'A' and 'B' (and possibly 'C') sites. During its lifetime, the ISF would not fundamentally alter the visual appearance of the Hinkley complex, despite its size, whether from long- or short-distance viewpoints.
- 6.12 In my opinion, from a visual and landscape character assessment, the proposed redesign of Building A is acceptable (and will satisfy SP policy STR1) and not harm the local landscape character (SP policy 5 and LP policy LC/3). The proposal will respect the coastal setting and is essential in this location (SP policy 15 and LP policy CO/2) and will maintain, or at least not significantly harm the environment (SP policy STR6 and LP policy SP/5). The proposed development is not expected to impact on the nature conservation importance of the Bridgwater Bay SSSI and NNR (SP policy 1 and LP policy NC/1). The building design is in scale and sympathetic to the scale and layout of existing buildings and spaces (LP policy BD/1) and not out of scale and character with its surroundings (LP policy BD/2).
- 6.13 Whilst the comments of Holford PC have been noted, the proposed radioactive waste storage building is in accordance with national policy pending the development of a GDF (see paragraph 6.3 above), and an on-site facility is already permitted in respect of the 'A' site by virtue of planning permission no. 3/32/04/009. At that time all the relevant planning policies (that have not changed significantly in the meantime) were taken into consideration. The ability of the structure to serve its purpose is a matter for other authorities to determine, but it can be noted that no objections to the design have been received.
- 6.14 The existing permission permits the storage of ILW only, and does not permit the importation of radioactive waste from outside the 'A' site. Works relating to external works during the construction of the facility (and materials deliveries) are limited to 0730-1800 hours on weekdays, and 0800-1300 hours on Saturdays only. There is also a requirement for Building A to be demolished and the site restored within 3 years (or any agreed longer period) of a national facility for the long term management of ILW or another means of off-site storage or disposal becoming available.
- 6.15 Subject to the retention of the conditions attached to the original planning permission I have identified no reason why planning permission should not be granted in respect of the proposed ISF (revised Building A design).
- 6.16 I have noted the comments of Sedgemoor District Council regarding the inclusion of a note relating to financial compensation. However, I regard its inclusion as inappropriate in this instance.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The Government strategy for the management of higher activity wastes, such as ILW, is disposal to a purpose built Geological Disposal Facility (GDF). However, the GDF is not expected to be available until about 2040. In the meantime, ILW generated at the Hinkley Point 'A' site will be packaged into thick-walled Ductile Cast Iron Containers (DCICs) and stored above ground in a purpose built structure where it can be easily monitored.
- 7.2 Planning permission (no. 3/32/04/009) was granted for works related to the decommissioning of the nuclear power plant in August 2004, to include the construction of a building for the treatment and storage of on-site intermediate radioactive waste (ILW) materials (known as Building A) and other works. This application seeks to revise the design of Building A.
- 7.3 Externally, the proposed ISF is of similar finish to that previously permitted, but considerably smaller – being over 40m shorter in length and over 3m less in height.
- 7.4 The proposed building will largely be screened by its site being excavated into the ground, by the remaining structures on the Hinkley Point 'A' site, and the structures on the 'B' site (and possibly the 'C' site if developed). No significant impact on the landscape character of the area would result. The passive ILW storage facility is not expected to impact on the nearby sites of ecological importance.
- 7.5 No substantive reason to refuse planning permission has been identified in respect of the appropriateness of the building for the storage of radioactive waste or the visual appearance of the proposed structure.
- 7.6 There are no other relevant material considerations and my recommendation is that the decision should be made in accordance with the development plan, and I recommend approval.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 **It is recommended that planning permission be GRANTED subject to the imposition by the Group Manager Environmental Management of the following conditions and that authority to undertake any minor non-material editing which may be necessary to the wording of those conditions be delegated to the Group Manager – Planning Control:-**

- 1. Planning permission no. 3/32/04/009 shall remain valid and continue to apply to the decommissioning works at Hinkley Point A nuclear power station except in respect of the construction and design of the radioactive waste storage building (Building A) which shall be constructed in accordance with the drawings listed below:**

- "Plan Showing Locations of Proposed New Buildings, Plan App**

Fig. HPA/PA/31”, Scale 1/1000 (Job No. 217291, Drawing No. A-001, Issue S2);

- **“Building A, Radioactive Waste Storage Building, Roof Plan and Elevations, Plan App Fig. HPA/PA/40”, Scale 1/200 (Job No. 217291, Drawing No. A-002, Issue S2);**
- **“Building A, Radioactive Waste Storage Building, Building Plan & Sections AA BB, Scale 1/200 (Job No. 217291, Drawing No. A-005, Issue S2);**
- **“Elevation of Site after Demolition of Other Buildings, Plan App Fig. HPA/PA/121”, Scale 1/1000 (Job No. 217291, Drawing No. A-003, Issue S2).**

(Reason: For the sake of clarity and to maintain planning control over the works and structures permitted.)

Relevant Development Plan Policies

1. The following is a summary of the reasons for the County Council’s decision to grant planning permission.
2. In accordance with Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 the decision on this application should be taken in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The decision has been taken having regard to the policies and proposals in:
 - Regional Planning Guidance for the South West, published in September 2001 (“the Regional Guidance”);
 - Somerset & Exmoor National Park Joint Structure Plan Review 1991 – 2011 adopted in April 2000 (“the Structure Plan”);
 - West Somerset Local Plan (“the Local Plan”).

Also taken into account are the policies and proposals in:

- Non-statutory Somerset Waste Local Plan 2001-2011, adopted in February 2005 (“the Waste Local Plan”).

The policies in those Plans particularly relevant to the proposed development are-

Regional Guidance:

EN/1 – The proposed passive storage of ILW as proposed is not expected to impact of the nearby ecologically important Bridgwater Bay SSSI.

Structure Plan policies:

STR1 – The development is of acceptable design, minimises journey distances, has no adverse impacts on biodiversity and environmental assets, and uses previously developed land.

STR6 – The proposal provides limited economic benefits, in the context of its surroundings it has no significant adverse impact on the environment, and does not foster growth in the need to travel.

1 – The proposed passive storage of ILW as proposed is not expected to impact of the nearby ecologically important Bridgwater Bay SSSI.

5 – The proposed development is contained within a nuclear power stations complex containing numerous buildings and other structures. In

this context, the development is not expected to significantly harm local landscape character.

15 – The development is appropriate to this coastal location, and has no significant impact on natural beauty and biodiversity.

66 – The development site is on previously developed land, is close to the source of the waste, and nuisance to neighbouring land uses would be minimised. The facility has satisfactory access and the landscape character of the area will not be affected.

Local Plan policies:

SP/5 – The proposal provides limited economic benefits, has no significant adverse impact on the environment, and does not foster growth in the need to travel.

BD/1 – The proposal is appropriate in scale and layout and will have no significant adverse impact on the surrounding area.

BD/2 – The development is considered acceptable in scale and character bearing in mind its location within the nuclear power station facilities at Hinkley Point.

CO/2 – The identified coastal location is an appropriate location to deal with in-situ radioactive waste. The proposed development will not significantly detract from the beauty of the area, the local environment or biodiversity.

NC/1 – The passive ILW storage development is not considered to be harmful to nature conservation interests in the adjacent SSSI.

LC/3 – The proposed development will not unduly detract from the scenic quality or local landscape character of the area.

Waste Local Plan policies:

W14 – The proposal does not involve the disposal or permanent storage of nuclear waste.

W15 – The proposed radioactive waste storage facility is considered to be the best and safest manner to store ILW an LLW material pending the identification of a site and construction of a national repository.

3. The County Council has also had regard to all other material considerations and, in particular, that the Hinkley Point A site needs to deal with its ILW and LLW in the best and safest manner possible whilst awaiting the identification of a site for a national repository and its construction. The only practical solution, which echoes national policy, is to store the treated/encapsulated waste so as to facilitate the decommissioning process and eventual clearance of the site.

Background Papers

Application file no. 3/32/12/030

Development Plan documents listed.

Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: Implementing Geological Disposal Annual Report April 2010-March 2011 [DECC, June 2011]

Interim Storage of Higher Activity Waste Packages, Industry Guidance – Extended Summary [Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, August 2011]

(Regulation Committee – 5 July 2012)

Joint Regulatory Guidance on Radioactive Waste Management [Office for Nuclear Registration (HSE), revised November 2011]
Integrated Waste Management Strategy Development Programme [Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, May 2012]

DM# 535971