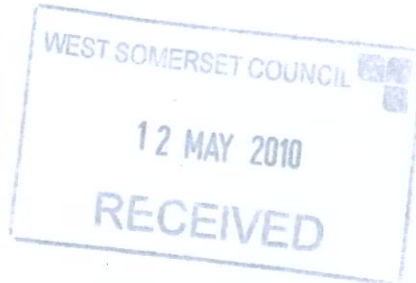


Date: 11 May 2010
Our ref :
Your ref:

Mr A Goodchild
Planning Manager
West Somerset District Council
West Somerset House
Killick Way
Williton
Taunton
Somerset.



Somerset & Dorset Team
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Dear Mr Goodchild

Hinkley Point C – Request for a Scoping Opinion

Thank you for your letter of 15 April and the enclosed Scoping Report. Natural England considers that it is not currently possible, on the basis of available information, to conclude that these works will not have a significant effect on the adjacent Severn Estuary SPA/SAC.

We therefore consider it necessary to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment and for EDF to present an Environmental Statement.

Once the ES is available the matter of significant effect and the need for Appropriate Assessment can be addressed.

It should be borne in mind that this development should not be considered in isolation but with others including the jetty.

With regard to the SPA/SAC there are two particularly relevant activities which might impact on the site. These are the disturbance to bird populations using the foreshore as a result of activities required to prepare the site and the discharge of drainage water from the site either to local watercourses or the foreshore.

Discharges to the foreshore could impact on colonies of the algae *Corallina* while discharge to local streams could impact on the freshwater invertebrate fauna in the coastal grazing marsh.

We consider the scoping report correctly identifies those key areas in which there may be environmental issues and will form the basis of an EIA and ES.

Yours sincerely

Bob Corns
Conservation Adviser
Natural England