

Hinkley Point C – Site Appraisal



Fig 1: Proposed Hinkley point C Nuclear Power Station Site.

Site Context

The Hinkley point C nuclear power station development is located on the West Somerset coast, 12km north-west of the town of Bridgwater, TA5 1UF (refer to Figure 1).

The site is approx. 69ha in size and is bounded to the north by Bridgwater Bay. The west is bounded by a number of irregular, undeveloped, agricultural fields. The southern portion of the site is bounded by the village of Shurton. Immediately to the east of the Hinkley Point C site, is land occupied by 2 existing nuclear power stations, Hinkley Point A and Hinkley Point B.

Site Constraints

Flood Risk

The site is predominantly in Flood Zone 1, indicating a low probability of flooding from rivers and the sea (refer to Figure 2).

However, the northern boundary of the site is identified as being in Flood Zone 3 which indicates a high probability of flooding.

An existing flood defence is located to the east of the site, running along the northern boundary of Hinkley Point A and Point B. Land to the south and east of the site, outside the boundary, is in Flood Zone 3: Areas benefitting from flood defences.

There are no main rivers or watercourses identified in the development site.

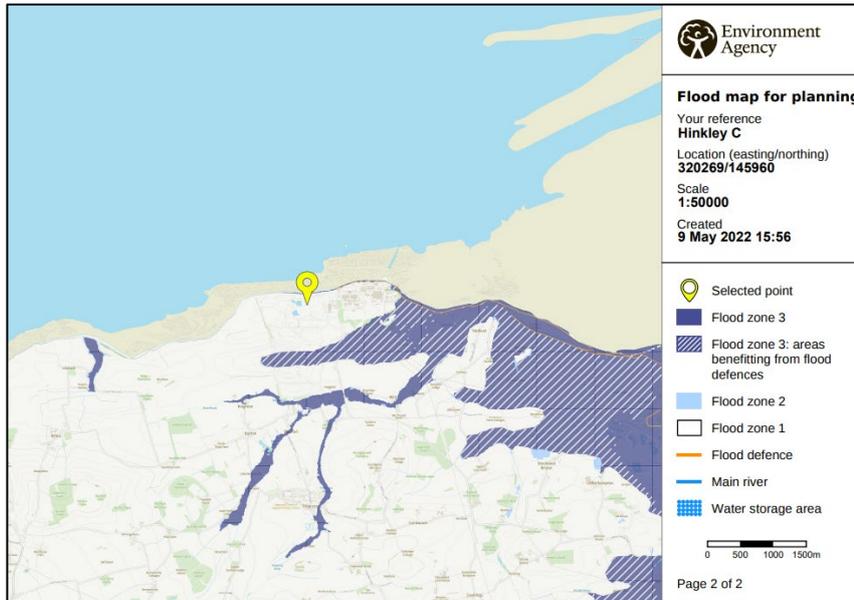


Fig 2: Hinkley Point C and surrounding area Flood Risk Map

Sea Level Rise

From a desk top review, the Climate Central Sea Level Rise and Coastal Flood Map shows the northern boundary and land to the south are predicted to be at below annual flood level by the year 2030, although the site itself is not in this prediction (refer to Figure 3).

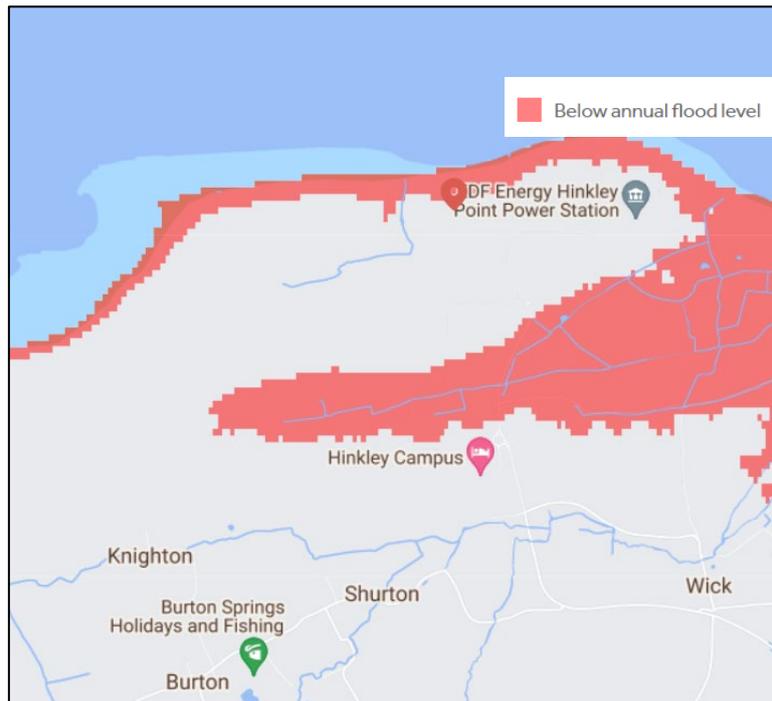


Fig 3: Hinkley point C Land Projected to be Below Annual Flood Level in 2030 Map [Climate Central | Land projected to be below annual flood level in 2030](#)

Heritage

In regard to heritage assets, there are no listed buildings or scheduled monuments within the site. The closest and potentially impacted by the development are:

- Round cairn known as Pixie's Mound - approx. 0.2km east of the eastern site boundary.
- Wick Pond House (Grade II) - approx. 1.5km southeast of the site.
- Zine Farmhouse (Grade II) - approx. 1.7km southeast of the site.

Public Rights of Way (PRoWs)

There is an extensive public rights of way (PRoW) footpath network within the main development site, this includes:

- Footpath 40UF32 WL 23/48 – Along the western boundary.
- Footpath 40UF32 WL 23/56 – Along the eastern boundary.
- Footpath 40UF32 WL 23/68 – Across the centre of the development site.
- Footpath 40UF32 WL 23/70 – Along the eastern boundary.
- Footpath 40UF32 WL 23/95 – England Coast Path along the northern boundary.
- Footpath 40UF32 WL 23/105 – Across the centre of the development site.
- Footpath 40UF32 WL 23/110 – Southern boundary.

Landscape

The site is located in Somerset on the north coast of Bridgwater Bay, adjacent to the existing Hinkley Point A and B power stations.

The site is located in the western boundary of National Character Area 142: Somerset Levels and Moors, a flat landscape extending across parts of the north and centre of the historical county, Somerset. The local area consists of a flat open landscape.

From a desk top review, the site appears to be bounded to the west by a number of irregular shaped undeveloped agricultural fields. The south of the site is bounded by well-defined hedgerows and undeveloped fields, further south is the village of Shurton. To the east of the site are the existing Hinkley Point A and B power stations.

It is difficult to determine from desk top review how visible the site is within the wider landscape; however, the local area has demonstrated that power stations can be successfully assimilated into the landscape.

As noted, there are 2 existing power stations adjacent to the development site, suggesting that the cumulative impact on the landscape of the proposed development will not be significant.

Ecology

The site is in proximity to nature conservation designations including Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Special Areas of Conservation, National Nature Reserves and Ramsar sites. Those closest to and potentially impacted by the development are:

- Bridgwater Bay (NNR)
- Bridgwater Bay (SSSI)
- Severn Estuary (Ramsar)
- Severn Estuary (SAC)

Conclusions – Key Points:

- There is evidence that nuclear power plants can be assimilated into the local landscape and surrounding area, as is evidenced by the existing Hinkley Point A and B stations, immediately east to the site.
- The site itself is located in Flood Zone 1 however, the northern, eastern and southern boundaries are in Flood Zone 3.
- The site has an extensive network of PRow footpaths.
- Land surrounding the site is projected to be below annual flood level from 2030 onwards.
- The site is bounded by several nature conservation designations.