

# Hinkley INQUIRER

*The only complete and clear account*

## Bristol Says "No"

"Hinkley C - I don't like it, I don't want it". Ruth Williams summed up her arguments, and probably the feeling of the entire audience at the Wills Memorial Building last week in Bristol, where the Inquiry had moved lock, stock and photocopier for two days.

The Inspector had steadfastly refused to hold a session in Bristol despite numerous requests from individuals and organisations ever since October. However, two petitions with a total of over 13,000 signatures finally tipped the balance, bringing the Inquiry to Bristol for July 17th and 18th.

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Outside the Wills Building, an impressive cathedral-like structure, the sun was shining. The entrance to the hall was bright with banners and posters, and the lawn was decorated with a giant eighty-foot banner of signatures from some 6,000 Bristol people opposed to Hinkley C. Many people stood handing out leaflets or explaining to shoppers what was going on.

It seemed more like a festival when the Bristol Ambling Band and a team of morris dancers played outside to attract passers-by, who responded by cheering or beeping car horns. This was in striking contrast to the atmosphere inside the hall, which resembled a church with its leaded

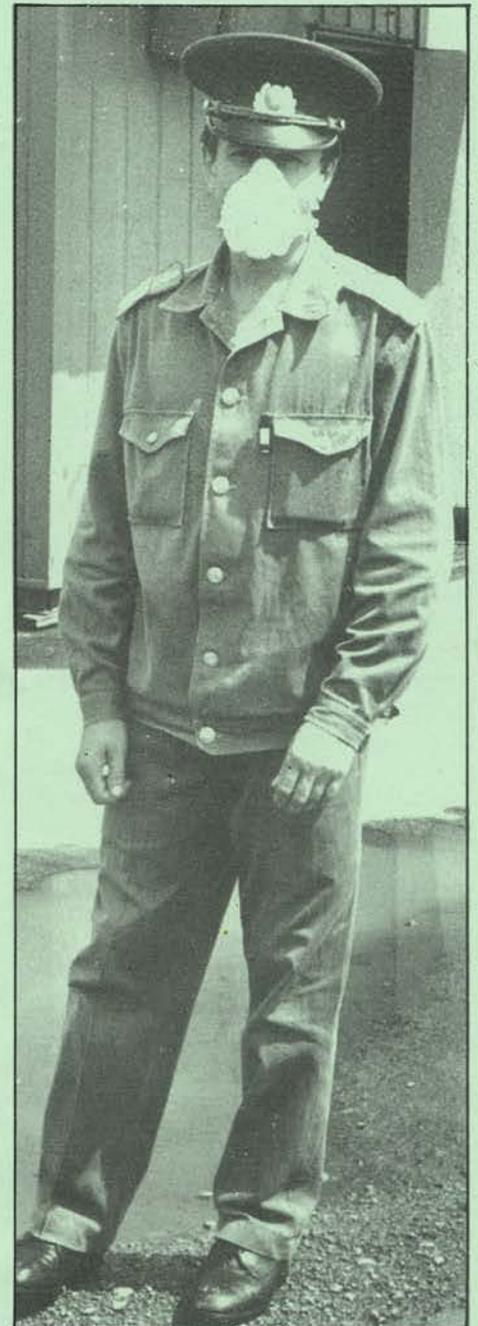
windows and high vaulted ceiling. Here were the court-like arrangement, the familiar ranks of grey suits and the solemn faces of the CEGB, the Inspector and his assessors.

Over the two days, an astounding number of people climbed the stairs to the platform to speak, totalling 82 - probably a record for two Inquiry days. The wide range of ages, cultures, class and professions was matched by the subjects covered and style of speeches. A common message which stood out in nearly all submissions was that Bristol people should have been given more time; two days were just not enough.

It would be impossible to mention all the people who spoke or to attempt to describe everything that was said. All that can be done here is to pinpoint some of the highlights and some of the most frequently expressed concerns.

Several objectors pointed out that, even though the Inquiry had moved to Bristol, it was still not really public, as access to it was denied to many people. Cristel Amiss, on behalf of *Black Women for Wages for Housework*, said that many people were excluded because translation facilities were not provided and there was a lack of facilities for people with disabilities. Many speakers urged the Inspector to hold another evening session to cater for objectors who had to be work during the day.

Flasks carrying nuclear waste through built-up residential areas and near schools in Bristol were a source of worry for many objectors, including the *Bedminster Residents Group*, whose statement was supported by 70 signatures. Another



A soldier in protective mask guards the empty town of Chernobyl after the explosion.

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competition

common theme was the lack of adequate emergency planning for a serious accident, and concern that chaos would result in Bristol in the event of such an accident.

*Dr Kate Nichols*, a local GP, described how she would be expected to deal with "a number of worried callers" in the event of an emergency. She has never been given any training to deal with a nuclear emergency in spite of living in an area surrounded by nuclear reactors. Yet, on a Sunday, as the only doctor available, she would be responsible for several thousand people.

On a lighter note, *Phil Morris* wondered if the *CEGB* had a secret means of fitting radioactive particles with a homing device, thus preventing them ever straying far from home!

\* \* \*

The health risks of low level radiation were constantly raised. *Sally Mollard* told how her mother, who had died of myeloid leukaemia, had lived a few miles downwind of Hinkley Point. While there was uncertainty about the connection between nuclear power stations and cancer, she asked, who had the right to recommend any more be built?

*Suzie Fleming*, of the *Bristol Women's Peace Collective*, spoke for the many inner city residents who had attended a recent public meeting to voice their opposition to Hinkley C. The power station would add further stress to the lives of people already struggling against poverty and a polluted environment.

While many objectors looked at the special problems or fears Bristol people have when thinking about

Hinkley C, the session could not be described as parochial. *Patrick Knight*, speaking on behalf of the *World Development Movement*, showed that nuclear power had not helped poor people in this country nor poor people anywhere in the world. In fact, investment in nuclear power programmes took money away from essential health services and created debt. *Mary Hazelwood* spoke about the indigenous communities affected by uranium mining, the forgotten end of the nuclear chain.

\* \* \*

There was overwhelming support for investment in energy efficiency. Numerous objectors described how this would be more cost-effective as well as less damaging to the environment. Measures such as loft insulation and passive solar heating would contribute to this, whilst cutting people's electricity bills. By sharing the world's resources more fairly, said *Lynette Archer* and others, we could all enjoy a better quality of life. However, *Martin Fodor's* request to start saving energy by turning off the lights which were burning in the naturally-lit hall was ignored.

\* \* \*

On Tuesday afternoon, there was speculation about the Inspector's unexpected decision to adjourn for ten minutes. Was it precipitated by evidence presented at the last minute by *Martyn Thomas*? As chairman of the *British Computer Society*, he stated that computer design safety systems cannot be relied upon in nuclear power stations. The Inspector agreed to ask the *CEGB* to present

evidence on this at Cannington.

As the day wore on it became clear that many people were not going to have a chance to speak. Frustrated at this, a woman tried to ask her question from the floor, and when she did not obey Mr Barnes's curt "Be quiet!" the proceedings were adjourned for a further fifteen minutes.

On resuming, any applause was likely to be interpreted as disruption and liable to cause further adjournment. The minutes ticked quickly by and at five o'clock, the Inspector closed the meeting, finally squashing any hopes that he might make a concession to at least some of the remaining speakers by allowing more time that day.

\* \* \*

The atmosphere in the hall as the machinery of the Inquiry was wheeled away was one of frustration, anger and disappointment. Eighty two people had spoken, but at least another seventy who had put their names down had not. Many people had taken time off work and waited for hours to speak. Their only opportunity to make their views heard now was to send in a written submission.

One was reminded of the question posed early on in the proceedings by *Alistair Sawday*: the Inspector described the Inquiry as quasi-judicial. Does that mean that only quasi-justice will be done? *Stan Hayward* from Nailsea, who had not had a chance to speak, was rather more blunt. "It's a sham", he said.

*Nicola Ramsden*

## Wilcock Postponed

Considerable confusion was caused on Day 145 when the Inspector announced that *Christopher Wilcock*, the Department of Energy's policy witness, would not be appearing as scheduled the following day.

The argument put was that the Electricity Bill was still going through the House of Commons and it would be better if Wilcock came when the Bill had, hopefully, completed its passage. In fact, the timetable for the Bill has been known for some weeks, if not months.

Wilcock has now been rescheduled for Wednesday July 26 and Thursday July 27. Whether all those who had intended to cross-examine him will be able to make the revised date is unclear.



# A Nightingale Sang ... At Hinkley Point

**Dr. Janet Rowe (SHE 10), a senior lecturer at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, gave evidence on ecological issues on Day 146 for Stop Hinkley Expansion.**

According to Dr. Rowe, damage from the proposed development would accrue as follows:

- direct losses of terrestrial habitats and species.
- disruption of the aquatic environment.
- direct and indirect effects of disturbance during the construction period on terrestrial and aquatic species.
- direct and indirect effects of the operation of the proposed power station on terrestrial and aquatic species.

Rowe pointed out that the foreshore frontage to Hinkley Point was part of the Bridgwater Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and designated as a National Nature Reserve (NNR) by the Nature Conservancy

Council and a Ramsar site (a wetland of international importance).

"Populations of wild plant species... locally and nationally would be significantly diminished", Rowe said. There would also be "immediate effects on one third of the nightingale population." Nightingales nest in six sites locally.



Dr. Rowe also believed that the CEGB had underestimated the risks to aquatic ecosystems. Bridgwater Bay supports internationally and nationally important numbers of overwintering and passage migrant wading birds and waterfowl - over 20,000 wading birds and thousands of duck, geese and swans. Together

with the ditches and ponds it is an integral part of the Severn Estuary system as well as being linked ecologically to the Somerset Levels. "Thus any factor which deleteriously affects the ecology... would have far-reaching consequences for the national and international heritage," she said.

Rowe pointed to attempts made by the CEGB to measure the exposure to radioactivity of Shelduck. "They had been almost laughable in the extent of their scientific validity involving... whole body counts of a few live specimens."

During the construction period a heavy burden would also be placed on the river Parrett. "Pollutants from accidental spillages would readily penetrate the rhynes," she said.

Dr. Rowe was in no doubt that the impact of a third nuclear power station had the potential for great ecological damage. "I conclude that the ecological risks are unacceptable and that there should be no further development of nuclear power installations at Hinkley Point," she said.

## Democracy Ignored

**Hugh Richards returned to the Inquiry (Day 141) to give evidence about public opinion and democracy on behalf of Ecoropa.**

On public opinion, Richards said: "The nuclear industry, parliamentary Select Committees and successive Governments have asserted - particularly at certain thresholds in its further development - that public opinion in favour of nuclear power was a prerequisite."

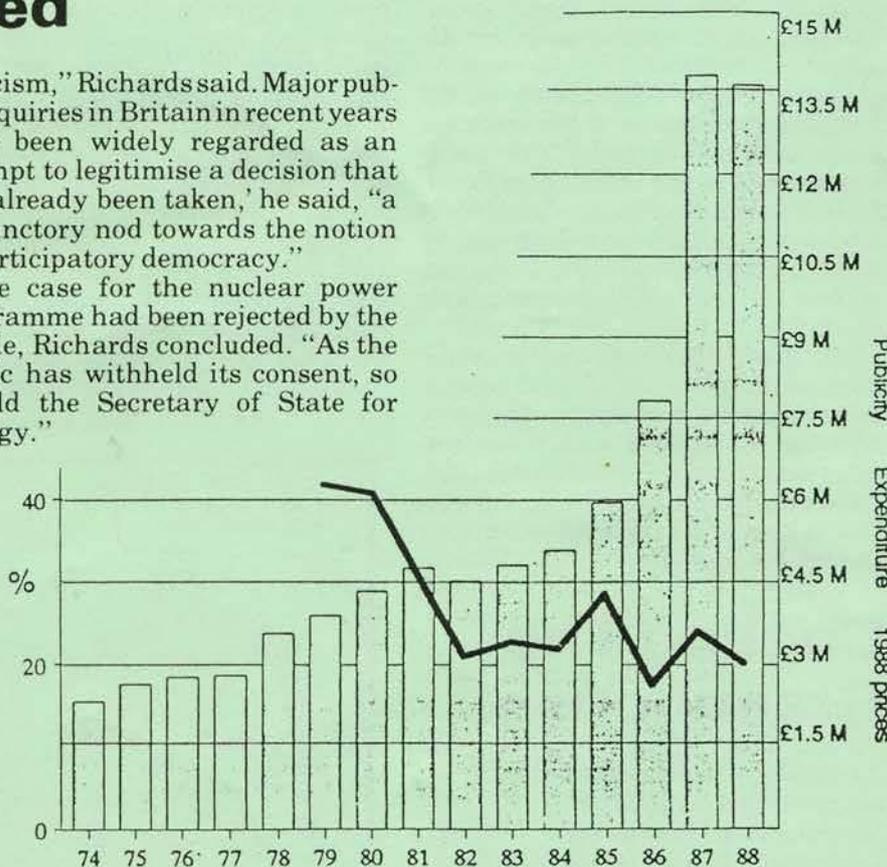
Richards said that Ecoropa had traced the history of "a deliberate and sustained public relations exercise" to counter a sceptical general public. Over £22 million was spent in 1987/88 by organisations promoting civil nuclear power, including the CEGB, the UK AEA and BNFL, he said.

There was a problem for democracy in that the PWR, with its complex, costly and risky technology, was being forced through despite evidence from reputable and reliable public opinion polls "that a clear and growing majority of people do not want it."

Out of eleven major nuclear inquiries there had been ten consents to build. "Public cynicism about inquiries has its source in official

cynicism," Richards said. Major public inquiries in Britain in recent years have been widely regarded as an attempt to legitimise a decision that has already been taken, he said, "a perfunctory nod towards the notion of participatory democracy."

The case for the nuclear power programme had been rejected by the people, Richards concluded. "As the public has withheld its consent, so should the Secretary of State for Energy."



CEGB & Electricity Council Public Relations and Publicity Expenditure £ Millions (Right Hand Scale)  Versus Public Opinion in Favour of Nuclear Power (Left Hand Scale in %)

## The Uranium Factor

**Nigel Mortimer, an independent energy consultant speaking on behalf of Friends of the Earth (Day 145), outlined the effect of nuclear power and alternative energy options on the greenhouse effect.**

He said that nuclear power had been offered as a solution to the greenhouse effect, and quoted the House of Commons Energy Committee as saying that 'non-CO<sup>2</sup> producing technologies, such as nuclear power and the renewables, offer the best long term solution'. Hinkley was in part '... being justified as a means of reducing carbon dioxide emissions.'

However, Mortimer said he was going to show the Inquiry that nuclear power indirectly produced CO<sup>2</sup> and that other energy options could be used more effectively. At present, nuclear power only contributes 10% to global electricity production, he said. To make a significant impact on reducing CO<sup>2</sup> emissions nuclear power must grow, creating an enormous uranium demand.

Lower grades of uranium would have to be used, and if the uranium oxide was .01% or under, CO<sup>2</sup> emissions would be the same as for fossil-fuelled stations. He also said that when low grades of uranium ore are used '...the nuclear power system will consume as much electricity as it produces.'

Mortimer also compared nuclear power with hydro, wind, tidal, insulation schemes and high efficiency lighting. Compared with these, nuclear was found to produce more CO<sup>2</sup>. He concluded that nuclear power was 'irrelevant as a long term solution to the greenhouse effect'.

## Cooling The Greenhouse

**Timothy Jackson (FOE10), a consultant at Earth Resources Research speaking for Friends of the Earth examined (Day 145) the relationship of nuclear power to proposals for reducing the threat of global warming from the greenhouse effect.**

'The warming effect of (greenhouse) gases is now a reality,' he warned. Concern had been voiced at both national and international levels, and debate continued on urgent measures to combat the emission of the gases - especially CO<sup>2</sup>.

'Since 60-65% of the greenhouse gases are produced... as a result of energy consumption, recognition of the need to take action has profound implications for energy policy,' he said. There was need for co-operation between different energy sectors, including domestic, commercial, public, industrial and transport.

After explaining the greenhouse effect, and analysing current and future emissions of CO<sup>2</sup> (and the reduction which might be required) Jackson considered the technologies and plans in the UK for dealing with this problem. He compared combined heat and power, gas-fired combined cycle, nuclear power and the renewables. He said that CO<sup>2</sup> emissions from gas-fired combined cycle plant could be less than half those from conventional plant, but gas supply may be limited. He included the environmental and social costs of radioactive waste when considering the nuclear option, and found nuclear power to be the least cost effective. He quoted an international conference in Toronto which recommended a reduction by 20% (of CO<sup>2</sup>) by the year 2005 '... through improved energy efficiency, altered energy supply and energy conservation'.

Cost effectiveness is very important, given the scale of the problem, said Jackson. He cited Keepin and Kats of the Rocky Mountain Institute, who suggest that energy efficiency in the USA is around seven times more cost effective than nuclear power in terms of CO<sup>2</sup> reduction.

He concluded by saying that due to the scale of global warming and the ensuing environmental problems, the proposed PWR at Hinkley C would constitute a misallocation of resources in any serious attempt to ameliorate the greenhouse effect.

## Rome On Secrecy

**Brian Rome (Bristol Conservation Society), who is now third behind the CEBG and COLA in length of Inquiry appearances, presented another compendious proof of evidence on Day 139 stretching to 92 pages on local issues.**

The main themes of CONSOC 7 were the potential harm of Hinkley C to a beautiful and ecologically valuable coastline, the over-riding of local concerns in the "national interest", the hidden agenda that the CEBG would like to build a Hinkley D as well and continue "working on the Hinkley site virtually forever" (Lord Marshall on BBC TV in 1987), and Rome's familiar charge against the Board of secrecy.

He pointed out, for instance, that the figure for CEBG expenditure on public relations could no longer be found in the Board's own accounts, and the £12 million annual budget he quoted was in fact from the Electricity Council annual report.

Questioned by the Inspector, Rome said he thought that no public organisation with a monopoly position should spend such vast sums on advertising.



# Journey Into The Danger Zone

*Two weeks ago Inspector Michael Barnes visited the scene of the worlds worst nuclear accident. Crispin Aubrey of Stop Hinkley Expansion was one of two objectors invited to join him. This is his account of the visit.*

**"I think if there was a national referendum tomorrow, there would be a clear majority against more nuclear power."**

It could be a spokesman from Greenpeace or the Green Party. In fact it was a senior official from the Russian Ministry of Nuclear Power speaking in Moscow to the official delegation from the Hinkley C Public Inquiry.

The willingness of the Soviet nuclear authorities to talk so honestly about the depth of public opposition which has swept across the country in the wake of Chernobyl was one of the major surprises to greet the British visitors.

In a week in which the Soviet parliament was being televised live for the first time, the evidence of perestroika was striking.

There were none of the glossy brochures and slick videos with which the French greeted the only previous foreign excursion by the Hinkley team. Instead, the Russians were disarmingly honest in their admission that, three years after the disaster, the Chernobyl chickens were coming home to roost.

This was the first time that a British public inquiry had travelled so far to gather evidence. Alongside the Inspector during the 4,000-mile round trip were the Inquiry Secretary, "Sam" Collett, two assessors - Dr. Kenneth Duncan and Professor Hugh Simpson - Bob Tivey, the CEGB's Consent Team Manager, myself and Humphrey Temperley, chairman of COLA.

The Hinkley visitors were also treated to a fair helping of glasnost. In Kiev, we clinked glasses through the traditional series of vodka and champagne toasts. In Moscow, Barnes and his advisers spent an hour with the British Ambassador.

**At the centre of the five day visit was a guided tour round the Chernobyl disaster area. The Russians now treat this as a national wound to be exposed to the world, and encourage a steady trail of foreign visitors to see the full horror with their own eyes.**

But although heroic efforts have clearly been made to handle the aftermath, it is impossible to disguise the continuing scale of the problems.

It took over two hours to travel the 70 miles by road from the Ukrainian capital of Kiev to the "exclusion zone" round Chernobyl. This still stretches to a distance of about 20 miles radius round the stricken plant, and covers an acreage almost as large as the county of Somerset.

Inside the zone, the dead straight road is lined with red radiation warning signs which tell you not to

ganising radiation checks, and dumping the radioactive waste produced by the accident. 9,000 people work for Kombinat on a shift system of 15 days in the zone, then 15 days off. All provisions have to be brought in from outside.

Kombinat's current priority is to decontaminate the thousands of tonnes of steel and concrete from two reactors on the site (Nos. 5 and 6) which were almost complete but have now been abandoned.

The statistics of the catastrophe are stunning. During the past three years, over 260,000 people have been involved in the clean-up work, new workers having to be brought in to replace those whose dose limit has been reached. 136 dams were built across small streams to stop contaminated water flowing into the nearby Pripyat river. 200 hectares of dying woodland were bulldozed away.

One of Kombinat's jobs is to continually monitor the area for radiation. Over 100 automatic meters feed into a central control, and a fleet of cars and helicopters is available to check for hot spots.

In order to keep specialists around the world up to date on the situation, they have even established an international hot line. They joke that it's now easier to phone Chernobyl from abroad than Moscow.

## Special Report



## Chernobyl

stray from the tarmac. Lorries continually spray the surface with water to stop people breathing in the dust.

Nobody will be able to live permanently again within this area for at least 50 years, we were told. Farms and entire villages lie empty, gardens overgrown, apple trees collapsed into one another. "These are scenes you usually only see in wartime", our Russian guide remarked sadly.

In fact, despite security fences, over 1000 people *have* now moved back into their evacuated houses, running the risk of dangerous exposure. These are mostly elderly people who simply couldn't stand the thought of leaving their homes forever. The authorities are now uncertain whether to let them stay or mount a second evacuation.

At the town of Chernobyl, about ten miles from the power station, we were given a briefing by members of the special Kombinat organisation which handles the vast task of controlling the exclusion zone, or-

**Eventually we were taken to within 200 yards of the Sarcophagus, as the Russians call the concrete encased wreck of Chernobyl's No. 4 reactor. In a steaming temperature of over 90°, we stared up at the white concrete of its casing, the familiar red and white striped chimney, and then took photos of each other in a grim parody of tourist snaps.**

It all looked deceptively harmless as an ITN film crew which had travelled with us "shot" the Inspector at the scene of the crime - until you were reminded that, three years ago, the radiation would have been 300 times higher.

Further back from the station, a forest of still standing dead trees is another reminder of the disaster. A solitary "partisans' pine" has been left close to the reactor as a memorial to those who died. On the horizon you can see the jutting antennae of a satellite tracking station, now a million roubles' worth of radioactive junk.



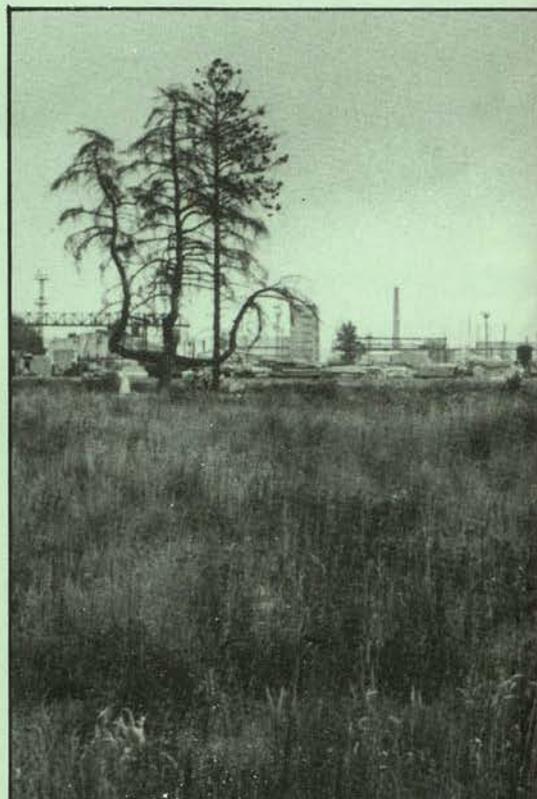
Above:  
 Lenin looks down on the deserted main square of Pripyat, once home to 50,000 nuclear workers and their families. Now grass grows in the streets.

All photographs by Crispin Aubrey



Above:  
 Nikolai Sorokin, chief engineer at Chernobyl power station, in his office.

Right:  
 Michael Barnes with assessors Hugh Simpson and Kenneth Duncan outside the "sarcophagus" of the wrecked reactor No.4





## Special Report



## Chernobyl

Nearby, we were shown the ghost town of Pripyat, which once housed 50,000 people. The ubiquitous face of Lenin stares down on the deserted main square, whilst long grass sprouts through the pavements. On the ground you can still see traces of the green plastic film used to bind the surface radioactivity before it was scraped off.

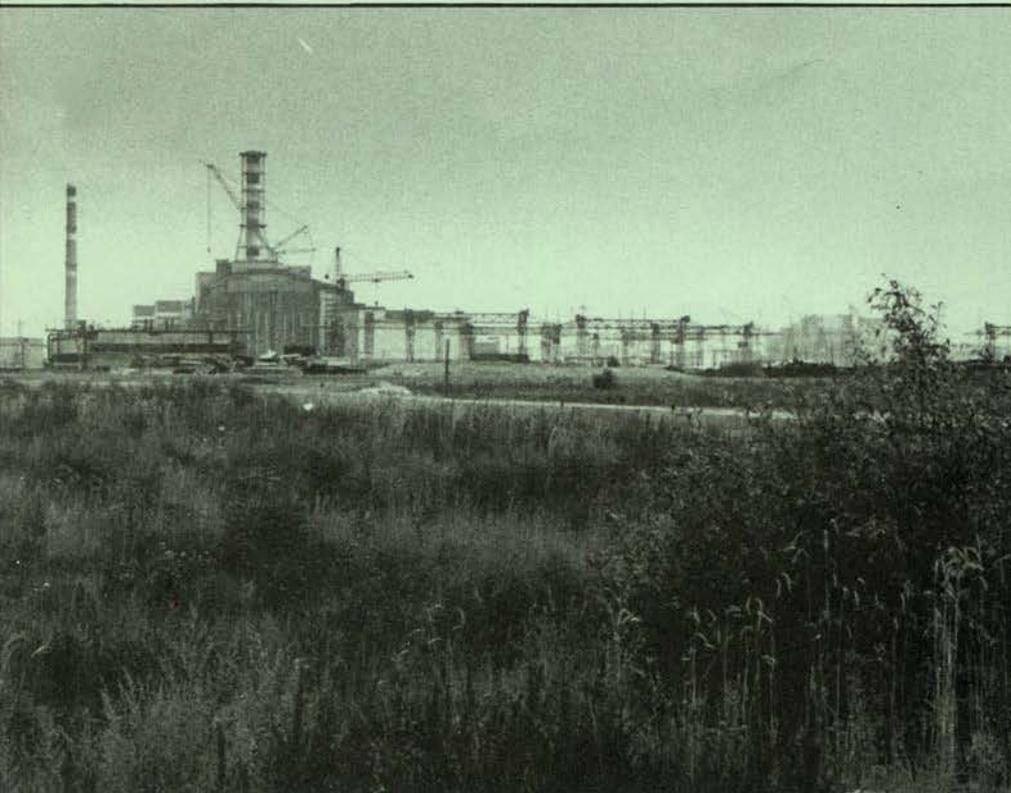
Around the square are empty tower blocks, public offices and even the ferris wheel of an abandoned fair-ground. Some of the tall flats are already beginning to crack, and many soon have to be demolished.

At the entrance to the town, soldiers with white face masks check every car and point geiger counters into their boots. Radiation readings in Pripyat are still 20 times above normal background.

In the middle of this desolation, perhaps the strangest experience was to visit the control room of one of the other three Chernobyl reactors. In order to keep electricity flowing to the region, these have all gradually been brought back into action.

Left:

The deserted scene around the stricken Chernobyl nuclear plant. This area was once a forest: now only a lone tree, known as the "Partisan Pine", has been left to commemorate those who died fighting the 1986 fire. In the background is the familiar red and white striped chimney of reactor No.4.



Ten minutes walk from the sarcophagus, the chief engineer of the site, Nikolai Sorokin, sat in front of another portrait of Lenin and carefully explained the adaptations which have been made to the fated RBMK reactor design in order to avoid another accident. Even so, his workforce has to be bussed in from a brand new town built on decontaminated land 50 kilometres away.

Although the briefness of our visit apparently didn't warrant a detailed radiation check, there are plenty of reminders of the dangers. Outside every building you step through a tray of water to rinse the dust from your shoes. Having visited the power station we were all checked through a monitor like a weighing machine. The ITN cameramen failed the test and was told to wash his hands and feet.

The unpredictability of the aftermath has also meant that when a new lifetime radiation dose of 35 rems was set recently, several more villages outside the exclusion zone had to be evacuated.

One of the most chilling examples of the risks still being run by people living in the Ukraine was a map printed recently in a Kiev evening newspaper. This showed a series of designated areas round Chernobyl where different restrictions have been placed on the picking of wild berries and mushrooms - a favourite local pastime.

The area within which no berries or mushrooms could be gathered at all stretched in one direction about 125 miles from the power station. There were also restrictions in this area on the grazing of dairy cows, making hay, the use of animal manure, cutting wood for fuel and eating fish from the Kiev reservoir. Up to 20% of fish in the reservoir were said to exceed "the radiological norm".

How many of these rules were actually followed by people living in country areas seemed doubtful.

In Kiev, the Hinkley team also visited the special clinic set up to treat people exposed to radiation doses after the accident. Altogether, over 600,000 people are registered on its books, although a critical group of about 200 require six monthly check-ups lasting up to four weeks. We were introduced to a fireman who received one of the highest doses and many of whose colleagues had died fighting the fire. He was reluctant to talk about his experience and was now back at work.

Much of the clinics' time is devoted to treating the psychological effects of the disaster through various ther-

apies. "Even three years after, many of the patients are suffering severe emotional stress," a doctor told us. "They look pessimistically at the future, and they miss their towns and villages."

## Special Report



## Chernobyl

**Before flying the 500 miles south to Kiev, the Inquiry delegation spent a day in Moscow being given an overview of the state of the Russian nuclear industry.**

During discussions at the Ministry of Nuclear Power it quickly became clear that the damage caused by Chernobyl was far more widespread than just the direct effects of the accident.

Encouraged by the new liberalism of perestroika, public opposition has halted or delayed the construction of new nuclear stations in Odessa, Minsk, in the Caucasus and in the Baltic republics. A proposed underground waste dump in the Far East of the Soviet Union - a vast tunnel to be built under a river - is also under attack.

Many of the new delegates to the Russian Supreme Soviet are anti-nuclear, whilst TV stations have run several hours of open discussions on the subject. Such is the strength of feeling that central government has been reluctant to overrule objections from regional authorities.

"Before Chernobyl nuclear power was considered prestigious," one official told us. "the communities actually wanted them to be constructed in their area. Now it's even become more difficult to expand existing stations." On current form, the Ministry expects an original target of 20% nuclear electricity (up to 200 Gigawatts) by about the year 2005 to be cut in half.

The frustrations of the nuclear authorities in Russia in fact uncannily mirror those in Britain.

Faced with a hostile public, they criticise both the lack of public understanding of safety issues or of any viable alternatives.

At present, the majority of Soviet electricity (65%) comes from burning fossil fuels, mostly oil. About 20% is from hydro-electric schemes. New sources of renewable energy, like wind and solar, are still in their infancy, although research has been rationalised since Chernobyl. We were told about a 5MW solar power station in the Crimea, and of interest in geothermal, wind and tidal energy. We heard no evidence, however, of any great interest in conservation measures.

"I think the main opposition after Chernobyl is based on fear," one official said. "People talk about technical aspects, but the starting point is psychological. We don't see any alternative to nuclear power. Nobody wants to build such stations for fun."

The Ministry officials were hopeful that a national debate promised by Premier Gorbachev into the whole nuclear issue will eventually come down in their favour. They cited a recent straw poll among delegates to the Supreme Soviet which showed 65% in favour of continued nuclear development.

They were clearly envious of the British industry's ability to place large scale advertising in the media, and were also attracted by the French practice of providing cheap electricity to consumers round nuclear sites.

The Russians spent some time explaining the many adaptations and improvements which have been made to Soviet nuclear power stations since Chernobyl. All Chernobyl-style RBMKs have been adapted to avoid a sudden power surge at low temperature. Better shut-down systems have been installed, as well as new training systems for operators. However, no new RBMKs will now be built, and the industry has switched to PWRs.

In emergency planning, there is now an automatic alarm system round nuclear sites, and local people have been issued with advice leaflets.

Reports on the Russian visit will be prepared by representatives of all parties who went along, and submitted to the Inquiry. But two major lessons already stand out: that if a serious accident did happen at Hinkley C, its effects would be horrific; and that public opinion in the Soviet Union now mistrusts the assurances of safe nuclear power as much as it does in Britain.

## Living In The Shadow . . .

**Most of Week 37, and some of Week 38, was filled by objections, mostly from local people, under Topic Five (Local and Environmental Issues).**

On Day 139, *Stogursey Parish Council* presented evidence on the effect of an on-site hostel for workers during construction of Hinkley C.

Referring to the *CEGB's* own figures, they regarded the presence of 400-700 single unaccompanied workers (resulting in a population increase of 33-60% for at least 5½ years) as likely to cause "an overwhelming threat to disruption" - particularly as most of the workers would own cars, giving them five minutes access to the centre of Stogursey.

However, if the hostel was sited in Bridgwater, the population increase would only be 1.5-2.6% in a town with ample leisure facilities.

The Council went on to say that all of the coastline, and the immediate littoral West of the present stations, where Hinkley C would be built, and lying within the Council's parish, is of immense value as a recreational area. This was irrespective of its value as a nature reserve, which the *CEGB* regards as being of "generally low interest".

Similarly, on Day 140, *Kilve Parish Council* also advocated that the hostel should be sited in a large town such as Bridgwater. That way, the hostel and amenities for the construction workers could be taken over by the local council at the end of the construction period.

### A cathedral destroyed

*Janet White* (Day 139), a farmer from the Quantock Hills also referred to

the recreational impact of Hinkley C, to be built on the perimeter of an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. "Just because two carbuncles already threaten the scenery, there is no excuse for a third." Janet wondered why, if PWRs are as safe as the *CEGB* tell us, do they not site them on industrial ground that has already been spoilt? Why should landscape enjoyed and loved by many in Somerset be spoilt still further - "imagine the horror if the *CEGB* pulled down St. Paul's Cathedral and constructed a PWR there!" For Janet, and others, the Quantock hinterland is their cathedral and once destroyed, it cannot be rebuilt.

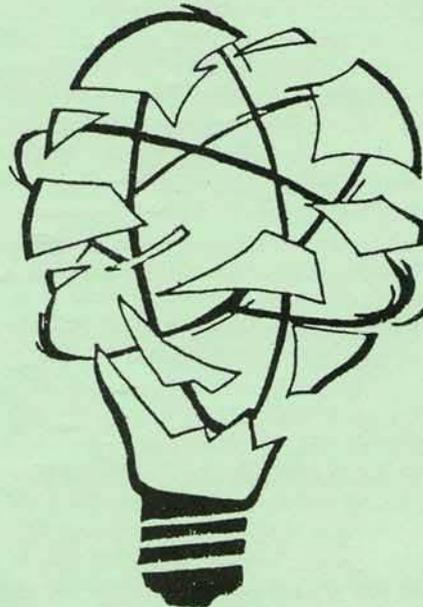
On Day 140, *Lynda Stahl* said that the Hinkley Point power stations had spoilt the beauty of the Quantocks area. "It was quite a shock when the rectangular shape of the first Hinkley station appeared." Lynda appreciated that there has to be change, but argued that large scale change forced on a place from the outside can disrupt and damage the physical and social fabric of an area to such an extent that it loses its unique identity.

### Government distortion

*May Morris* (Day 139) asked the Inspector to take into account not only the burden of the Inquiry on objectors, but also the continual burden that will have to be shouldered if Hinkley C is built. May also used the example of a Channel 4 programme to demonstrate how the Government distorts events to suit their own means. The programme referred to the Prime Minister's "Greenhouse Effect" meeting where, supposedly, scientists has backed up the government's view that nuclear power was the answer to global

warming. One of the scientists present, Michael Unsworth, said that he "was surprised at the emphasis and disappointed at the virtual unanimity in sticking to the nuclear issue".

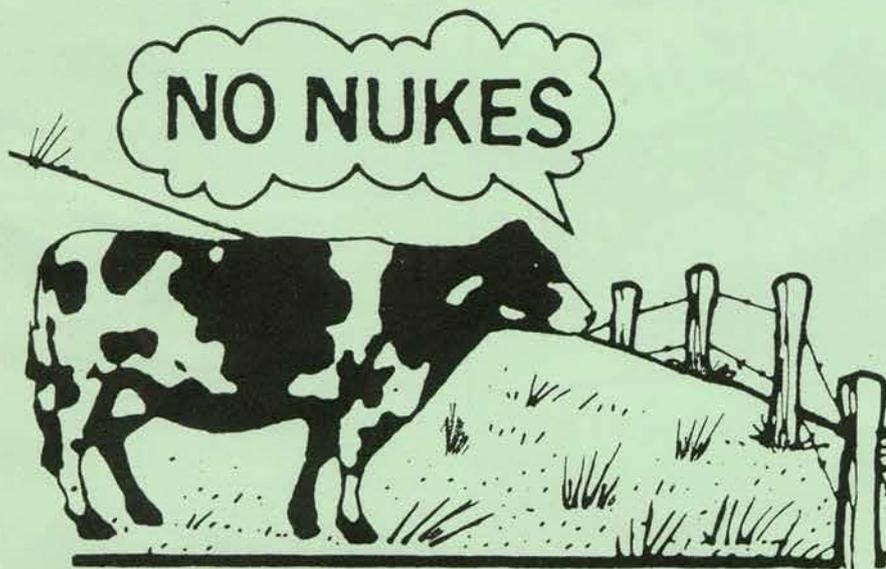
*Ian Seaton* from Mumbles, Swansea, gave evidence "of an overall nature" on Day 139. To local people of South Wales, the possibility of an accident is by far the greatest



concern, he said." The *CEGB* assures us that the British nuclear industry's safety record is second to none, yet it is impossible for the public at large to verify this due to the obsessive secrecy of the nuclear industry. There is also a moral issue, he said. What right have the government and the *CEGB* to continue with a nuclear power programme when it has been decisively rejected by the majority of people in the United Kingdom?

*Mary Thyne* (Day 140) lives in the shadow of Hinkley Point. Mary's evidence included concern about the level of noise during the construction period. Work will stop between midnight and 6 am, except in an emergency. "What constitutes an emergency?" she asked. Perhaps a contractor falling behind schedule and facing a penalty clause in his contract will regard this as an emergency - hence 24-hour, seven days a week construction work.

Day 139 heard *Katherine East* giving evidence on the impact of low level emissions of radioactivity on the local environment. Katherine referred to a 'higher than normal' level of airborne activity in April 1988, thought to have been caused by 'wind pressure affecting the ventilation system'. Wind is something that we expect from time to time, she said. "How much airborne radioactivity is now being dispersed across the countryside and how much will there be if



we allow nuclear power stations to proliferate?"

### Divided village

Roy Pumfrey gave evidence on Day 140 about how the proposal to build Hinkley C has divided local communities. Roy referred to Cannington in particular, where a referendum showed that the village was divided right down the middle. Roy also said how appalled he was at the callous attitude of the CEGB to local feelings. Their attitude seemed to be to throw money at a problem, he said, quoting the example of the £2000 to help restore Combwich church organ. "If only you or I had the opportunity to be so free with someone else's money, what good deeds wouldn't we carry out?"

Evidence on the proposal to transport large loads through the village of Combwich was given by Beryl Urquhart. Referring to the CEGB's plan to build a brand new road around the South of the village, Beryl believed that at a cost of over half a million pounds, it is not conceivable that the only use made of such a facility would be the transportation of 79 loads for construction of Hinkley C. The CEGB must be planning to use the road and the wharf for decommissioning and, following privatisation, commercial exploitation.

The greenhouse effect and nuclear power was an issue raised by Celia Hadow on Day 141. "By using the fear of the greenhouse effect as a justification for increasing the use of nuclear power, the government may well be encouraging us to exchange the certainty of global warming for the chance of a nuclear catastrophe." She went on to add that the CEGB stressed the importance of fuel diversity as a reason for building more

nuclear power stations, but if diversity is so important should they not be developing other forms on an equal basis?

Also on Day 141, Gillian Lee (*Sedgemoor Green Party*) stated how the Toronto Conference on the changing environment recommended that nuclear power be given the lowest priority in combating global warming. On the problems of nuclear waste, she said that as it was so dangerous for such a long period of time, we would have to create a world where war, civil disturbance or climatic changes could not threaten our nuclear installations.

### Time bomb

On Day 141 Patricia Anne Michel asked how we could hide our heads in the sands and let future generations suffer from our waste for thousands of years. "We are bequeathing them a time bomb".

Anthony Grayson (Day 141) believed that it is narrow-minded to think that nuclearisation prevents wars and that nuclear energy will provide a large part of the energy source for this country. Man should recognise that he does not control nature, and should work with it, not against it. Large amounts of money for research into renewable energy would be an excellent starting point.

Day 142 saw Anna Doggart giving evidence on how power companies in the USA actively encourage their customers to conserve energy, even giving interest free loans. This was a long way from the British Government's "Save It" campaign. Anna addressed the moral question by saying that the government does not have the moral right to jeopardise human life by operating nuclear power stations.

The morality of nuclear power was also addressed by Christine Godfrey on Day 142. Christine believed that a decision not to build Hinkley C will "represent a major and crucial turning point in energy policy, and provide a focus for raising the level of awareness of moral responsibility that we must all acknowledge and share."

### Militant villagers

By her own admission, Elaine Kempsson (Day 142) and her fellow villagers are not a militant lot. However, when about 70 people got together and watched a CEGB film about Hinkley C, there was unanimous disapproval. It was the strength of feeling that persuaded Elaine to make a statement to the Inquiry.

Day 145 saw evidence from Peter Lanyon, who lives near Sizewell in Suffolk, on the hazards of low flying aircraft around nuclear power stations. Peter has tried to report dangerous incidents to the authorities but found "that there are yawning gaps in the safety procedure, and that civilians who report dangerous incidents are totally incapable of achieving any remedy". Such a situation produced a feeling of powerlessness which will only get worse with every new nuclear power station that is built.

Brin Edwards, also on Day 145, put forward the case for further study and monitoring of ecosystems that have been shown to accumulate radionuclide contamination because, in some cases, the exposure to flora and fauna is greater than exposure to man. The deficiency in data in this area begged a question: "How can we know the precise effects of Hinkley C on the wildlife of Bridgwater Bay?"

Hugh Flatt, retired farmer and Quaker, now practising as a homeopath in Wellington, Somerset, said (Day 141) that a number of people who came to see him expressed their deep unease about our increasing use of dangerous practices with insufficient knowledge of the outcome. Flatt's statement was endorsed by the Wellington branch of the Society of Friends.

The consequences of a severe nuclear accident on agriculture in the UK was presented by Dick Stow on Day 146. Using a comprehensive analysis of the agricultural effects of Chernobyl, Dick estimated that four million hectares (42%) of farmland in Britain would be affected. He concluded that in view of the uncertain effects of climatic change on world agriculture, any non-essential exposure of such land to the risk of contamination from nuclear expan-



sion must be seen as foolhardy in the extreme.

A review of past public inquiries in the UK was given by Brian Rome on Day 146, on behalf of the *Conservation Society of Bristol*. Brian gave a very detailed insight into the various idiosyncrasies of British inquiries, such as the gross imbalance of resources between the two sides. "Justice" with gross disparity of resources was justice mutilated, he said, and justice mutilated was justice denied.

In her overall statement on Day 146, *Anne Casey* put forward the suggestion that there must be a referendum on the whole question of building more nuclear power stations, particularly with privatisation looming on the horizon.

## Nuclear Neighbour

*Clive Knox*, who lives at *Knighon Farm*, 1.8 km from *Hinkley Point*, told the *Inquiry* (Day 141) that he farmed all the land which the *CEGB* wants to buy. His father had farmed the land before him.

"I have spent most of my life with a nuclear power station as a near neighbour", he said. Knox stands to lose over 200 acres from a farm of about 700 acres. This would involve major adjustment to his business.

On the *CEGB's* undertaking to return some of the land to agricultural use when it was no longer required, Knox said that he had some experience of this: "It consists mainly of poorly reclaimed sub soil tips, which contain the debris created during the construction of *Hinkley A* and *B*. One particular area had become "a reservoir of noxious weeds and vermin which contaminate and devalue adjoining farmland".

On the workers' hostel, Knox did not think it should be on site or in any rural setting which could not absorb 500 transient workers. "For all of my teenage years the village of *Stogursey* had an air of the Wild West about it."

Knox summed up by saying that he considered the land take to be excessive for *Hinkley C*. He had based his case on over 30 years' observation of *CEGB* performance in terms of land use, landscaping and general effects on the locality. "The *CEGB* should confine its demands strictly to the area needed for this development... not use it as a Trojan Horse to facilitate future developments."

## TRAVEL BY STEAM to the NUCLEAR AGE

EVERY  
MONDAY



Departing from Minehead at 10.15 each Monday, you can travel by steam train to Williton where you will be taken by coach through the foothills of the Quantocks to Hinkley Point. After a visit to the Information Centre you will be given a guided tour of one of the nuclear power stations before returning to Williton to catch the train to arrive back in Minehead at 3.39pm.

The latest idea from *Hinkley Point* power station for scooping in the tourists is to seduce them with a ride on a coal-fired steam train.

\* \* \*

*Dr. Kitty Little*: "I will introduce *Miss Pearce* from here so that I can hand her things. You see that we have got a very nice cabbage here."

*The Inspector*: "Yes indeed. It looks a bit like a church jumble sale at the moment!"  
(Day 141: 16F)

## Competition Answers

No correct answers were received to the *Inquirer* competition (Issue 16). So here they are:

1. How many fire engines were used at Chernobyl? *Answer: 81*
2. How long did the *Hinkley B* Inquiry take? *Answer: No time. There wasn't an inquiry.*
3. Who said "I'm the enemy" on entering the *Stop Hinkley Centre*? *Answer: Lord Marshall.*

Now, another test for your skill, with this time a bottle of *Russian vodka* as the prize. In no more than 50 words (or a simple illustration), describe an alternative use for the *Hinkley C* site apart from a nuclear power station. Entries to reach the *Inquirer* office by the end of August. Best entries will be printed in the (last?) *Inquirer* in early September.

## Of Cabbages And Things

The famous radioactive cabbage, now looked slightly bedraggled, featured again on Day 141 when *Dr. Kitty Little* presented her local and environmental evidence (KL 8).

*Gillian Pearce*, from the *Devon and Cornwall Prospecting Society*, speaking for *Dr. Little*, started by presenting the results of a straw poll she had conducted in *Bridgwater* town centre in April. Among 1,063 people questioned, 11% were in favour of *Hinkley C*, 16% against, and 71% unsure.

Further questioning to establish the source of people's uncertainty elicited that media reporting of dangers and inaccurate information were behind much of it, she said. "Because the anti-nuclear campaigns get so much media coverage people imagine them to have far greater support than they really have."

*Pearce* then produced the results of a radiation survey she had conducted round the *Hinkley Point* site which showed that the levels were minute when compared with, for instance, some parts of *Cornwall*.

At the end of her evidence, her "piece de resistance" was a geiger counter sweep across various objects, including a camping gas mantle, a watch, the infamous cabbage, a lump of coal and some sand from the beach at *Hinkley Point*. Highest reading, inevitably, came from some rock from a *Cornish* car park.

## News From Stop Hinkley Centre

After ten months, the *Hinkley C Inquiry* finally moved to *Bristol* for an informal session - and the *Stop Hinkley Centre* hit the road again and saw it all.

I am not sure what it is about informal sessions away from *Cannington*, but the sun always seems to appear with a vengeance. As in *Cardiff*, the temperature soared up into the 80s; thankfully though, the *Inquiry* hall was a bit cooler than in *Wales*!

Any concern about there being

enough people to fill the hall (it could hold around 700 people) turned out to be unnecessary - there was a plentiful supply of both speakers and spectators, hundreds of the latter on the Monday evening. The excellent turnout was largely a result of the hard work put in by the workers and volunteers of groups such as Bristol *Friends of the Earth*, the Bristol end of *Stop Hinkley Expansion* and the *Wages for Housework Campaign*.

Outside the Wills Building, entertainments were laid on, with a band playing on Monday evening and Morris Dancers on Tuesday. Bristol *FOE* and *SHE* had also got together an enormous petition which covered a large part of the lawn outside. I did not get around to counting the number of signatures, but it must have amounted to several thousand.

Back in Cannington, we have been preparing for the arrival of some Russian visitors. The *SHC* has been tidied from top to bottom... well almost, and Jo brought in a few flowers so the office now looks like a garden centre!

Stuart Purves

## Facilities For Objectors

### CRECHE

People with children under five are welcome to use the excellent creche at Cannington. Open each day of the Inquiry from half-an-hour before proceedings begin. Telephone in advance to book your place: (0278) 653081.

### TRANSPORT

There is a free bus service to and from Cannington, as below.

#### Use it or lose it!

#### Tuesday - Thursday

|         |                       |         |
|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| 9.00 am | Taunton BR Station    | 5.55 pm |
| 9.30    | Bridgwater BR Station | 5.25    |
| 9.40    | Inquiry Venue         | 5.15    |
| 9.45    | Creche                | 5.10    |

N.B. When the Inquiry starts at 9.30 am, all morning bus times are half an hour earlier.

#### Friday

|         |               |         |
|---------|---------------|---------|
| 8.00 am | Taunton       | 4.25 pm |
| 8.30    | Bridgwater    | 3.55    |
| 8.40    | Inquiry Venue | 3.45    |
| 8.45    | Creche        | 3.40    |

Creche on Fridays 8.30 am - 4 pm.

**STOP HINKLEY CENTRE,  
CANNINGTON COURT, CHURCH  
STREET,  
CANNINGTON, BRIDGWATER,  
SOMERSET TA5 2HA**

Tel: Bridgwater 652408 Fax: 652459

### LIBRARY

The Public Office at Cannington Court dealing with the Public Inquiry contains the whole gamut of documents being prepared in connection with the PWR proposals.

### TRANSCRIPTS

These can be obtained from the Secretariat, cost of weekly posting for four issues £2.00.

**The Hinkley Point C Public  
Inquiry Secretariat, Cannington  
Court, Church Street,  
Cannington, Bridgwater,  
Somerset TA5 2HA. Tele-  
phone: 0278 444005.**

## DIARY

The programme is provisional and subject to change, so keep in touch with the Programme Officer, Keith Parker (0278 444005, ext. 128) for up-to-date information.

On Tuesday July 25 there will be an evening session from 6.30 - 9.30 pm in the Clifford Hall at the agricultural college.

### Weeks 39, 40 and 41

The starting time is 9.30 am unless otherwise stated, finishing about 5.00 pm. Fridays start at 9.15 am and finish about 3.30 pm.

### Tuesday July 25

Procedural matters will be followed by the evidence and cross-examination of Mr. R. Allen, Mr. D. Fell, Mr. M. Birkin, Mr. Bedingfield (Friends of Quantock), Rev. D. Penney, Cmdr. R. Green, Mrs. A. White (Christian Ecology Group), Mr. D. Thorpe, Mr. J. Lucas (Avon Organic Group), Mrs. B. Vallely (Women's Environmental Network), Mr. R. Finlay, Mr. M. Crocker, Mrs. T. Crocker and Mr. M. Duane.

### Wednesday July 26

Mr. C. Wilcock (Department of Energy) evidence and cross-examination.

### Thursday July 27

When the cross-examination of Mr. Wilcock is finished, it will be followed by the evidence and cross-examination of Ms. M. Cox, Miss L. Troughton, Ms. W. Tippett, Ms. E. Mendoza, Mr. D. Spencer (Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union), Ms. L. Wetenhall, Mr. L. Kelson.

### Friday July 28

Evidence and cross-examination of Mr. R. Sadler (Stop Hinkley Expansion), Mr. I. Finlayson (Southend Friends of the Earth), Mr. S. Fairlie (Salisbury Rainforest Campaign), May Morris, Mr. S. Bishop, Mr. S. McSorley, Mrs. M. Randall (Combwich Residents Environmental Concern), Mr. M. Felstead (Otterhamp-ton Parish Council) and Mr. J. Randall.

### Tuesday August 1

Procedural matters will be followed by closing submissions by Bristol Energy Centre, Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance, David Ross and Irish Sea Project.

### Wednesday August 2

Closing submissions by Greenpeace,

Sevenside Campaign Against Radiation and Fairfield Estate.

### Thursday August 3

Closing submissions by the National Union of Mineworkers, Taunton Constituency Labour Party, Rodney Fordham, May Morris, Ron Preddy, Robert Green, Hinkley Area Interests Group and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

### Friday August 4

Closing submissions by Dr. K. Little and Brian Rome.

### Tuesday September 5

Closing submissions by Dr. R. Webb, Friends of the Earth and Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

### Wednesday September 6

Closing submissions by Town and Country Planning Association and Stop Hinkley Expansion.

### Thursday September 7

Closing submissions continued.

### Friday September 8

Closing submission by the Health and Safety Executive (Nuclear Installations Inspectorate).

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