

STOP HINKLEY EXPANSION

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1988



SHE SUPPORTERS PACK CANNINGTON PRE-INQUIRY MEETING

The government-appointed Inspector, Michael Barnes QC, can have been in no doubt by the end of the Pre-Inquiry Meeting in Cannington on June 1 and 2 about the strength of feeling in Somerset about Hinkley C. 500 people packed the main hall at Cannington Agricultural College to overflowing, and the entrances and walkways leading to the hall were filled with banners and placards opposing the building of another nuclear station.

Although the morning of the first day started quietly, with the polite formality of an official tribunal, by the afternoon the mood was transformed, as speaker after speaker walked to the microphone to deliver their demands for a fair and thorough public inquiry - and in turn received a round of applause from the audience. As the Somerset County Gazette report put it, there was plenty of interest in the issue, and the Inquiry proper 'hasn't even started yet'.

Most of the points raised both by organisations (like SHE, Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, Somerset County Council) and a long list of individual objectors, fell into two categories. Firstly, there were calls for proper facilities for objectors at the full Inquiry in October - from a creche to office space to free copies of the proceedings to the fundamental issue of state funding to balance out the overwhelming advantage of the CEGB's millions. Secondly, there were demands that the Inquiry should cover all the crucial aspects of nuclear power, especially all safety aspects, the comparative economics with other sources, and the entire waste disposal cycle.

This second area was really the hidden agenda of the meeting,



An exclusive view inside the Pre-Inquiry meeting (photography is forbidden) by one of the youngest members of the audience - Nancy Mendoza (6)

in other words exactly what the Inspector would allow to be discussed at the Inquiry, and how much weight he would attach to certain arguments. The CEGB argued at the end of the second day (through its lawyer, Lord Silsoe) that 1. There was no need for a full debate on safety, because the Sizewell Inquiry had settled most of that, and 2. Hinkley C need only be compared on economic grounds with other 'non-fossil fuel' sources of electricity generation, and not with coal, because that was what government privatisation policy now dictated. Many objectors had already disagreed strongly with that view, especially requesting the Inspector to consider the vital comparison between coal and nuclear costs.

There were also some dramatic moments to relieve the sometimes ponderous proceedings. Ann England from the Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance delivered her speech in both English and Welsh to emphasise that many objectors from Wales would like the Inquiry translated into their native language. One speaker suggested that one of the Inspector's 'site visits' should be to Chernobyl. George Pritchard from Cornwall asked for an adjournment until it was clear whether a privatised owner of the CEGB would want to build Hinkley C. The record for longest speech went to Brian Rome, representing the Bristol Conservation Society, who kept the meeting occupied for about 1½ hours with enough procedural and other points to fill a library, and ended with a suggested motto to be emblazoned in gold letters above the Inspector - 'Never Believe Anything Until It Has Been Officially Denied'.

The Inspector was on his best behaviour, rarely trying to limit what anyone said, and smiling cautiously when people made their more outrageous comments. At the conclusion of the two days he said that he would be issuing a letter summarising his views on what he had heard on both facilities and the scope of evidence - in about three weeks (the end of June). This should give the first indication of how much he intends to limit evidence to satisfy government and CEGB preference for a short, sharp Inquiry.

**Gloves are off
as N-plant
battle hots up**
W.D.P. 20.5.88
THE GLOVES came off yesterday in the fight to stop the CEGB building Britain's second pressurised-water nuclear reactor in Somerset.

THE GUARDIAN
Monday May 30 1988
**Battle opens
over Hinkley
nuclear plan**

A shorthand note was taken of everything said, and a full transcript will be available soon. Copies cost £2 each from

Hinkley Point C Secretariat,
Room 770, Thames House South,
Millbank,
London SW1 4 QJ.

(Tel: 01 211 3627)

There will also be a second Pre-Inquiry meeting on July 12, 10.30 am at Cannington College again. This will be when the issue of what will be allowed officially to be said at the Inquiry will come to a head. So, please try and come if you can, especially to show the Inspector that June 1 wasn't a freak. Get in touch with SHE if you'd like details of public transport or where to stay the night.

INQUIRY PROCEDURES UPDATE: A number of points have emerged in connection with objectors and the Public Inquiry. These are:

1. New Objectors: Both West Somerset District Council and the Department of Energy are still accepting new objectors. Please get in touch with them by letter or using the postcards

available from SHE. The addresses are:

The Planning Officer
West Somerset District Council
Killick Way
Williton
Somerset TA4 4QA

Electricity Division
Department of Energy
Thames House South,
Millbank,
London SW1P 4QJ

2. Registration Forms: At the last count (mid-May) over 1,300 registration forms had been returned by objectors to the Dept. of Energy, an excellent response. If you do fill in this form (sent to all objectors) you will be certain to receive information on the progress of the inquiry (dates of meetings etc.) and it doesn't firmly commit you to giving evidence if you later change your mind. The April 29 deadline has now been abandoned, so please send back your form if you haven't already.

3. Outline Statements of Case: Both the CEGB and Somerset County Council (on behalf of the 21 local councils in the Consortium of Opposing Local Authorities) have produced their Outline Statements of Case, which means the main points they want to make at the Inquiry. The CEGB's is about 70 pages, the County Council's about 25. You can get copies of both from the Hinkley C Secretariat (see above for address). The CEGB has also produced a leaflet summary, which you can get from CEGB Information Dept, Sudbury House, 15, Newgate Street, London EC1A 7AU.

About 150 organisations and individuals will also have been asked to produce Outline Statements. This doesn't have to go into a lot of detail and need only include the main points you would like to make, much as in your original letter of objection. For further advice on this, please contact the SHE office.

Public Inquiry Workshop

Saturday June 18th 10.00am - 4.00pm

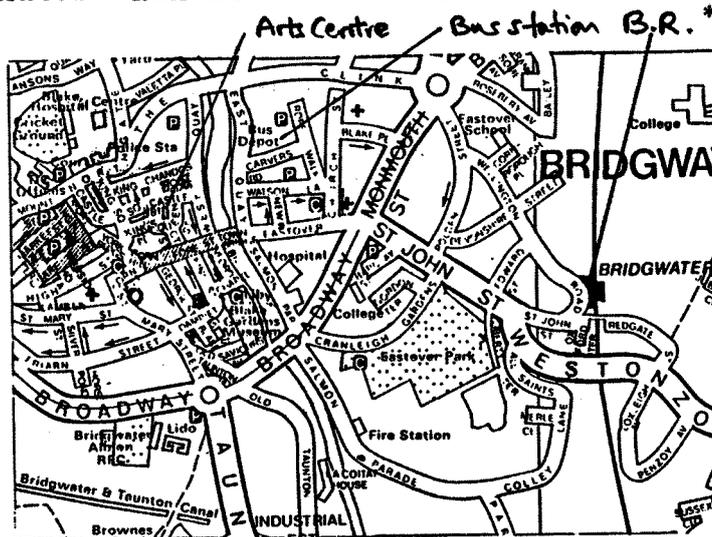
Bridgwater Arts Centre, Castle Street, Bridgwater

Your chance to find out how a Public Inquiry works and how you can prepare for giving evidence. Speakers include John Valentine, who assisted the equivalent of SHE at the Sizewell Inquiry. The morning will discuss the procedures, the afternoon will be a chance to talk about what you would like to say in informal groups. Drinks and snack food available.

+ Castle Street is a few minutes walk from the main Police Station in Bridgwater and close to the river at West Quay (see map). Use the car park near the Police Station.

+ Even if you've filled in a form, please let the SHE office know by phone or brief note that you are definitely coming.

+ If you have time, try to read the CEGB's Outline Statement (see above) before the workshop.



ANONYMOUS PHOTOGRAPHER: Does any reader know who took the evocative photograph of Hinkley Point (with seaweed-draped crosses on the beach in the foreground) which features on the cover of 'Greenpeace News' for May 1988? It was apparently submitted anonymously. Any information to the SHE office please.

campaign
NEWS

GREENPEACE MOBY DICK TOUR: The Greenpeace boat 'Moby Dick' spent a week in the Severn Estuary (May 30-June 5) publicising the Hinkley C issue, linking in with the Cannington Pre-Inquiry meeting, and gaining some excellent publicity.

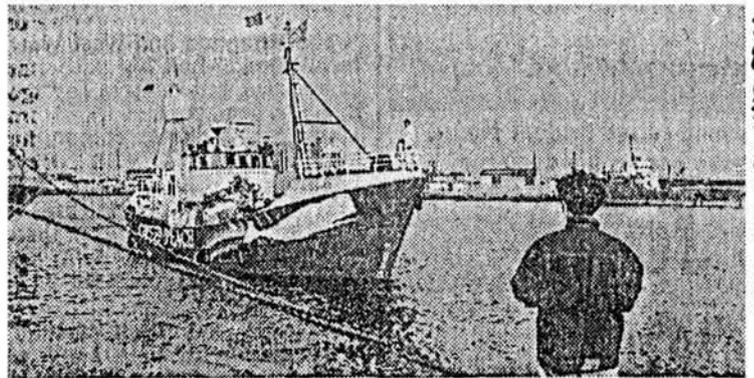
The main events of the week were:

Monday May 30: Moby Dick arrived in Cardiff Docks to be greeted by Lord Mayor.

Tuesday May 31: Greenpeace report 'Emergency at Hinkley Point', which criticises the lack of proper emergency procedures for the power station, and details the risks for people around the Severn Estuary, launched at Cardiff press conference. Extensive media coverage in South Wales, Bristol and Somerset. Public meeting in the evening.

Wednesday June 1: Greenpeace public meeting in Cannington Village Hall followed immediately on from the Pre-Inquiry session. Excellent panel of speakers included Pete Addie (fireman), Charlotte Webster (GP), Penny Cross (Stogursey resident), Sidney Brown (West Somerset District councillor), Jeff Bright (Welsh Anti-Nuclear Alliance) and Stewart Boyle (Friends of the Earth).

Thursday June 2: Greenpeace action at Bridgwater railhead. A giant banner reading 'End Radwaste - Say No to Hinkley C' was draped from the gantry which loads spent fuel flasks on to waiting trains just as the flask transporter lorry arrived from Hinkley Point. Video film by a Greenpeace crew was rushed to Bristol and used on lunch-time and evening TV bulletins. The protest was entirely peaceful and there were no arrests. A Greenpeace statement pointed out that the transport of nuclear spent fuel was not guaranteed to be discussed at the Hinkley C public inquiry, despite concern about the dangers. Moby Dick off Hinkley Point in the evening.



Western Mail 31.5.88

Friday June 3: Moby Dick arrives in Bristol harbour, moors outside Watershed gallery.

● The Greenpeace ship Moby Dick arriving in Cardiff.

Sat and Sun June 4-5: Moby Dick open to visitors in Bristol. Exhibition inside Watershed included SHE displays and materials, attracting a steady stream of interested people. Theatre group performed dramatic stunts on both days, on the second pretending to be pro-nuclear campaigners. The Moby Dick was due to leave the next day for North Wales on the next leg of its 'Irish Seas' tour.

JOHN PRESCOTT VISIT: Labour Party Energy Spokesman John Prescott met members of SHE and representatives of Somerset County Council on June 3 to hear details of their opposition to Hinkley C. He had earlier been shown round Hinkley Point by top management from the CEGB. In the evening he addressed a meeting organised by Woodspring Labour Party in Nailsea, and told the audience that he had been very impressed with the County Council's case - and not very impressed by the CEGB's incapacity to appreciate the massive opposition to its plans.

TIDE IS TURNING: About 30 people attended the SHE/WANA workshop on the Severn barrage and the renewables in Bristol on May 21. There were excellent sessions in the morning about the general advance of the renewables (by Dave Elliott of NATTA) and the Milford Haven Energy Park project (by Brian John), and a somewhat inconclusive afternoon about the barrage, with speakers from the Severn Tidal Power Group and Severnside Friends of the Earth. A good source of basic information about the renewables is NATTA, c/o Energy and Environment Research Unit, Faculty of Technology, Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, Bucks.

The first of two Sponsored Walks in aid of SHE will take place on July 10 in the Quantock Hills. The ten mile long route starts at Staple Plain, West Quantoxhead (11.00 am) and takes a scenic trail through the hills and back to the starting point.

The walk organisers are Jamie Gill and Dick Johns from Bristol (see right) and you can get sponsorship forms and an excellent map of the route from them. (Anyone planning to come to the SHE general meeting in Bridgwater in the afternoon should bear in mind they may not be able to complete the whole route.)

SPONSORED WALK



STOP HINKLEY C

Walk Organizers

Jamie Gill, 39 ASHLEY HILL,
MONTICLOTTON, BRISTOL BS6 5JA
Tel: 0272 552602

OR: Dick Johns: 0272 557059

The second walk is more ambitious - all the way from Coventry to Hinkley Point (180 miles) over the week July 16 to July 29. Five walkers from Coventry have already signed up, but the organisers need help on a number of fronts: 1. More walkers to join the whole walk, or just a day's stage. 2. People from the Midlands to see them off on day one from Coventry or join a coachtrip to Hinkley on the day of arrival, July 29. 3. Offers of accommodation or camping space along the route. 4. Help with publicity and sponsorship by getting sponsors on sheets or distributing leaflets and posters.

The route of the walk is as follows: July 16 - Coventry to Leamington Spa; July 17 Leamington to Stratford; July 18 - Stratford to Evesham; July 19 - Evesham to Cheltenham; July 20 - Cheltenham to Gloucester; July 21 - Gloucester to Stroud; July 22/23 - Stroud to Bristol; July 26 - Bristol to Cheddar; July 27 - Cheddar to Bridgwater; July 28 - Bridgwater to Cannington; July 29 - Cannington to Hinkley.

Further details from and offers of help to Phil Norton (Coventry 448274 or 466691 (work)) or Nick Ayres (Coventry 57765).



RAFFLE TARGET: Over £400 worth of raffle tickets have already been sold, in just four weeks! Please keep them coming in. All the money will go towards SHE's presence at the Public Inquiry. Enclosed with this newsletter is a publicity sheet explaining the prizes, which can be copied for use in a friendly shop window, a local magazine which might run a free advert or to pass on to friends. There must be lots of events over the summer where you could also get tickets on sale. All ideas and requests on the raffle to the organiser, Mary Newton, The Garden Cottage, Flaxley, Newnham, Gloucs. (0452 76575). Let's see if we can't make the target at least £1,000.

SHE INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY MATERIALS: SHE's range of information leaflets now includes: 1. Basic (green) 'What Does Hinkley C Stand For?' recruitment leaflet, with objection and MP insert postcards; 2. More detailed (grey) 'The Facts Behind Hinkley Point C' leaflet; 3. A4 information sheet 'What Does Stop Hinkley Expansion Stand For?'; 4. A4 sheet 'Chernobyl - Two Years After' with list of incidents at Hinkley since 1986 on reverse; 5. A4 sheet comparing costs, advantages and disadvantages of a PWR, the Severn barrage and a windfarm.

Also available: Bright green car or window stickers with the slogan 'Say No To Hinkley C' at 40p each; Red lettering on white background badges reading 'Hinkley Point? No Thanks' around the Smiling Sun at 30p each.

WELCOME THE BALMORAL to Hinkley Point by coming to the main gate at 10.30 am on Sunday, June 19. With a giant banner we will then walk round to the sea side of the site in order to welcome the Balmoral when it arrives at about 11.00.

Tickets for the trip itself are £8.50 (waged) and £5.50 (unwaged).

PETITION FORMS against Hinkley C are now available from the SHE office (see below).

LOOSE TUBES jazz group will play a benefit concert for the Severnside Campaign Against Radiation's evidence at the Hinkley C Public Inquiry on Sunday, Oct. 2nd, 7.30 pm in the Colston Hall, Bristol. Tickets £5, £6, £7 from Colston Hall box office (0272 262957).

SUMMER EVENTS: Help is needed with stalls and displays about SHE at events throughout the summer. Please contact the SHE office if you can help.

NUCLEAR NEWS: 1. Radioactive iodine was found in the thyroid glands of sheep taken for slaughter at Devon and Somerset markets in May 1986 - the period of heavy rainfall soon after the Chernobyl accident. The findings were only revealed recently by Bristol veterinary scientist Dr. Kenton Morgan. 2. An opinion survey carried out by Plaid Cymru in Wales on May 14 showed 69% of those questioned were opposed to expansion at Hinkley Point. 3. Quote from the bulletin of the Association of Independent Electricity Producers: 'The equivalent of the entire output of Sizewell B (or Hinkley C) could come from fitting gas or diesel-driven mini-power stations to DHSS hospitals, at one twentieth of Sizewell B's cost, and with an efficiency 3 times as great.'

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June	11	Swansea	<u>Planning Inquiry Workshop</u> , YES Building, 20, The Strand, Swansea. 10 am. WANA/SHE event; details Karen Tunnah 0792 43932.
	12	Bristol	<u>SHE General Meeting</u> , Energy Centre, Philip St, Bedminster. 2.30 pm.
	18	Bridgwater	<u>SHE Inquiry Workshop</u> , Arts Centre, Castle St, Bridgwater. 10.00 am. See newsletter for map.
	19	Hinkley Pt	<u>Balmoral Protest Sailing</u> , leaves Penarth 9.30am. See newsletter for details.
	19	Caernarfon	<u>Planning Inquiry Workshop</u> , 1.00 pm. WANA/SHE event; Anne England (0443 690094) for details.
	25-6	Stirling	<u>Low Level Radiation Conference</u> : details from Harry Foster, Stirling Council (0786 79000).
July	10	Quantocks	<u>SHE Sponsored Walk</u> , 11.00 am. See newsletter.
		Bridgwater	<u>SHE General Meeting</u> , Unity House, Dampiet St, Bridgwater. 2.30 pm.
	12	Cannington	<u>Second Pre-Inquiry Meeting</u> , Agricultural College, Cannington, near Bridgwater. See newsletter.
	16-	Coventry	- <u>Sponsored Walk</u> from Midlands to Hinkley. See
	29	Hinkley	newsletter for details.

Sail aboard the S.S. Balmoral to Ilfracombe via Hinkley Point (landing only at Ilfracombe) and return via Steepholme and Flatholme. Enjoy a pleasant day out aboard this lovely old motor cruiser, with your fellows in the anti-nuclear movement, listen to live music and admire the beautiful coastline.

•Live Music • Bars open all day • Food

Sunday, 19th June, 1988

Depart Penarth Pier at 9.30 a.m. · Return at 6.30 p.m.

For further information tel 0633 64815 or 0982 4362

Tickets on sale at the Peace Shop, 56 Mackintosh Place, Cardiff.
Telephone: 0222 489260

**STOP HINKLEY
EXPANSION**

For further information on items in this newsletter, please write to SHE, Hockpitt Farm, Nether Stowey, Bridgwater Somerset TA5 1EX or phone Crispin Aubrey on 0278 732921 or Danielle Grunberg on 0278 422632.

