

Schedule of Responses – Appendix H.1

Habitats Regulations Assessment Theme

When reading this schedule, it is useful to have read the following complementary documents:

- **Chapter 5 of the Consultation Report** – the main chapter which describes how EDF Energy has analysed the consultation responses and details how the schedule of responses works
- **Schedule of Responses Framework** from Appendix H – the categorisation framework used by EDF Energy when analysing the consultation responses
- **Consultee Comment Key** from Appendix H – to allow consultees who returned a response to consultation to identify which topics contain their comments

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Where this is not possible there should be consideration of alternatives and, if relevant, information on 'overriding public interest' and compensation.	89124-196-4116			/	Following the Stage 2 Consultation, EDF Energy began to prepare the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) report for the Hinkley Point C Project in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (Habitats Regulations). In addition, the four stage process outlined in IPC Advice Note Ten 'Habitats Regulations Assessment Relevant to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' was followed.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We are especially concerned that it may not be possible to avoid adverse impacts on these European sites and as such we advise that in accordance with the IPC guidance (detailed above) you should consider at this pre application stage the preparation of information to support the consideration of the scheme under Article 6.4 of the Habitats Directive, namely the questions of alternative solutions, imperative reasons of over-riding public interest and compensatory measures.	89124-196-5785			/	The first step of the process identifies the likely impacts of a project upon a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. The second stage (the Appropriate Assessment) considers the impacts on the integrity of the European site, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, with regard to the site's structure and function and its conservation objectives. In the case of Hinkley Point C, no adverse effect on integrity of the European sites was identified. Therefore, it was not considered necessary to progress to stage 3 (Assessment of Alternative Solutions) and stage 4 (Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest) of the HRA process.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Cooling towers have been used extensively at nuclear generating stations in both the United States and France. As this is essentially a French reactor, we presume that the technical knowledge required should already be present with EDF?	89128-196-2977			/	However, it should be noted that it is a requirement of an Environmental Impact Assessment to consider alternatives to a development during the assessment. The alternatives have been presented in Chapter 5 in Volume 1 and Chapter 6 in Volumes 2 to 10 of the Environmental Statement (ES). The development of the Hinkley Point C Project has been an iterative process based on the selection of designs that have had regard to the views and comments received during the extensive consultation undertaken by EDF Energy during the development of the project. This has resulted in some changes to the project proposals and the adoption of a range of specific measures to mitigate for identified impacts on environmental interests, particularly those on designated international nature conservation interests. As a result, alternative design options and ways of working have been tested and assessed on an ongoing basis throughout the development of the project. The project activities and development as assessed in the ES and HRA report therefore represent the culmination of a process of the examination of options and alternatives to avoid and reduce potential adverse environmental impacts where feasible.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Certain U.S. plants are being required to retro fit closed circuit cooling by state Departments of Environmental Protection on environmental impact grounds under the Clean Water Act. We refer you to the U.S Supreme Court ruling on the "River keeper" case (2009), where it agreed with EPA that cost benefit analysis is not essential when determining reduced risk to the environment and that BAT for water use should be required. (http://www.riverkeeper.org/news-events/news/stop-polluters/power-plant-cases/u-s-supreme-court-decides-riverkeeper-case/).	89128-196-3217			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The intake volumes are expressed as cubic metres per second, and they are extremely high (116-134 m3s-1). Given the various potential impacts, we reiterate our recommendation to consider alternatives to once through cooling.	89128-196-4483			/	
Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - local authority and consultee with an interest in land (Sedgemoor)	Stage 2	There is concern that at this stage in the EIA process these key issues including the HRA are still to be resolved. This is especially concerning given the implications under the Habitats Regulations if the project is found to be likely to give rise to negative effects on the European designated sites. Implications could be that alternatives would have to be considered and only if no alternative exists can an option which is likely to give rise to negative effects be proceeded with if there are reasons of overriding public interest. Further it is essential these potential effects are fully understood in order to inform mitigation measures and, if found to be required as a result of a HRA, compensation measures.	89430-196-15005			/	

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Sedgemoor District Council & West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - Local Authority and Consultee with an Interest in Land (Sedgemoor only)	Stage 1	Appropriate Assessment The baseline and terms of reference associated with the Appropriate Assessment are deemed adequate for this scope of work. It is recognised that the potential need to prepare an Appropriate Assessment will be determined during the Environmental Impact Assessment process. An Appropriate Assessment would need to be prepared if the works are likely to or it cannot be ascertained whether they would, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, have a significant adverse effect on a qualifying feature of a European site. External references to this Stage 1 Consultation document (including the meetings of the Marine Authorities Liaison Group (MALG) indicate that there is a high degree of exchange of information around the AA requirements between EDF and statutory consultees.	88560-191-25	/			Given the location, nature and scale of the proposed Hinkley Point C Project it has been recognised that the proposals may have the potential to affect a number of European designated sites. Following Stage 2 Consultation, an assessment was undertaken in accordance with The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and the findings of this assessment have been presented in the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) report. The main activities and effects of the development of a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point, that have the potential to affect the screened in European designated sites, have been identified for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. This assessment included the associated development that had the potential to affect a European designated site. A cumulative assessment of these elements has been undertaken and the findings presented in the HRA report.. In addition, the in-combination effects of the Hinkley Point C Project and other plans and projects on European designated sites and their interest features has been assessed.
Natural England	Dual - Statutory Consultee and Consultee with an Interest in Land	Stage 1	4.Off-Site Associated Development 4.1.1. Each off-site associated development proposal will need to be assessed in relation to its impact on protected/designated sites, biodiversity, landscape, access and land management. Appropriate mitigation should be designed into each proposal and reflected in the DCO application ES.	8737-197-1409			/	Where concerns have been raised by consultees in relation to cumulative and in-combination impacts that have the potential to affect environmental parameters, these have been addressed in Volume 11 of the Environmental Statement (ES).
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	2.9 - 2.13 & Appendix 2: CCW welcomes the inclusion of this comprehensive list of plans and projects to be assessed as part of the 'in combination' assessment.	87830-197-1104			/	With respect to the inclusion in the HRA process of the River Wye and River Usk Special Areas for Conservation (SAC) and their interest features, initial screening of sites that could be affected by the works at Hinkley Point was based on the Government's HRA of the Hinkley Point site and incorporated all sites within a 20km radius. However, the River Usk SAC, the River Wye SAC and River Twyi SAC, which lie outside of this boundary were included in the HRA screening on the basis that they are intrinsically linked to the Severn Estuary designations due to their shared and designated migratory fish populations. Potential effects on the migratory fish features of these sites have not been considered directly as part of the assessment as it was determined to first establish if effects would arise with regard to the Severn Estuary
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	2.16 - 2.20: These sections represent a comprehensive consideration of the potential impacts of the development on the aquatic ecology of the Severn, Usk and Wye. We particularly welcome the inclusion of the Wye and Usk in this element of the assessment and the recommendation for further appropriate assessment on the basis of the potential impacts on the migratory fish species, particularly the shad and lamprey features.	87830-197-1685			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	2.29: In principle, CCW agrees with this report's recommendation for further assessment in terms of habitat loss and fragmentation on the River Usk and River Wye SACs and Severn Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar.	87830-197-2564			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	2.37: While we accept that the factors affecting the behaviour of shad within the estuarine system are not as well understood as within freshwater systems, there is a great deal of evidence that shad (both Allis and twit) are particularly vulnerable to disturbance associated with low frequency vibration, high sediment loading, physical barriers and temperature. Therefore, we welcome the recognition that the proposals have the potential to affect at least some of these factors and the intention to take both the River Usk and River Wye SACs, in addition to the Severn Estuary suite of sites, forward for appropriate assessment	87830-197-3520			/	SAC and Ramsar fish species and assemblage. As it was apparent through the screening stage that the construction and operation of the proposed nuclear power station could have a potential effect on the designated migratory fish populations of the Severn Estuary SAC, the potential implications have also been considered in further detail within the appropriate HRA assessment and in the cumulative and in-combination assessments) with respect to these riverine SACs.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	This is a thorough and comprehensive analysis of the potential issues with the potential to have significant effects. Other than the need to consider the potential 'in combination' effects resulting from water quality/resources, habitat (and species) loss/fragmentation and disturbance on the Usk and disturbance on the Wye, CCW would in principle support this element of the assessment.	87830-197-4710			/	Concerns were also raised during the Stage 2 Consultation with regard to the plans and projects included in the in-combination assessment of the HRA. The full list of the plans and projects considered in this assessment were agreed through consultation with relevant organisations at the screening stage. It can be confirmed that the assessment includes consideration of potential in-combination effects with the North Devon – Somerset and Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plans .
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	3.8: Effects 'in combination' with other plans and projects: We welcome the comprehensive assessment of potential 'in combination' effects with the plans and projects listed. We would have ideally wished to see a consideration of the developing Shoreline Management Plans (SMP2) but appreciate that the timing of this document does not fall within the remit of this consultation exercise.	87840-197-0			/	The Stage 2 Consultation also generated comments from consultees with regard to the temporary jetty and how this element of work is considered in-combination with other plans and projects in the ES and HRA. The temporary jetty has been proposed by EDF Energy as part of the Preliminary Works to the Hinkley Point C Project. Separate applications have been made to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Secretary of State for Transport for consent for this element of work to be granted. An Addendum to the ES submitted as part of the separate jetty application has also been submitted. The jetty is also included within the Development Consent Order application for Hinkley Point C in the event that the separate applications are unsuccessful. Therefore, the temporary jetty's construction, operation and dismantling and restoration phases are included in the HRA.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	3.11 - 3.15: This is a very comprehensive review of the potential adverse effects of developing a major energy generation plant and associated infrastructure at the Hinkley Point site. Habitat (and species) loss and coastal squeeze are perhaps the most obvious impacts that are likely to occur immediately at and around the development itself. We welcome, therefore, the acknowledgement that these effects can also be transmitted to a much wider area due to the nature of the sites affected.	87840-197-625			/	The Turnpenny and Liney (2006) report 'Review and development of temperature standards for marine and freshwater environments' is available for viewing on the UKTAG web site, at the following link: http://www.wfduk.org/LibraryPublicDocs/temperature_standards_review_and_development/
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	3.20: Effects 'in combination' with other plans and projects. We note that there is the potential for some conflict with the assessments carried out for the Severn Estuary CHaMP and Shoreline Management Plan. We would strongly recommend that any further assessment, either as part of the NPS proposals or as part of the detailed project level assessment, considers these implications, particularly in the context of the developing Severn Estuary SMP2.	87840-197-1124			/	The HRA assesses the toxic risk to the designated interest features of relevant European sites of all potentially harmful chemicals likely to arise during construction and operation of the new nuclear power station. Assessment has been undertaken of the
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	3.21: CCW agrees with this Report's findings regarding the potential for the proposals to have adverse effects. See also comments on avoidance and mitigation.	87840-197-1586			/	

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Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	3.28: CCW agrees with this Report's findings regarding the potential for the proposals to have adverse effects. See also comments on avoidance and mitigation.	87840-197-2022			/	discharge concentrations of these chemicals (in combination with other known discharge footprints) against accepted Environmental Quality Standards and the Environment Agency's Predicted No Effect Concentration criteria.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	In the context of this AoS, we acknowledge that the suite of mitigation measures proposed to address the significant environmental effects identified has the potential to address the majority of concerns; However, we particularly note this report's conclusions in relation to possible 'in combination' effects with the Oldbury and the Severn Tidal Power proposals and the uncertainty over the capacity of mitigation measures to address the potential impacts of these schemes combined should they all proceed.	87860-197-5143			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	4.61: We are somewhat surprised with the statement "There are no water related Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas or Sites of Special Scientific Interest in close proximity to the site" and can only assume this to be a drafting error. Water quality is a key element of the conservation objectives for the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar, which lies immediately adjacent to the proposed site, and the Estuary is hydrologically connected to the River Wye and River Usk European sites. This is acknowledged elsewhere in this assessment and covered in detail in the separate HRA for Hinkley Point.	87880-197-2514			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	5.10: We welcome the clear identification and consideration of the potentially significant environmental effects that could result from the proposed development.	87890-197-649			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	5.14: We welcome the identification of thermal water discharges as a significant issue in this report. It should also note that the possible effects on migratory fish features of the Severn Estuary SAC and Ramsar and the River Usk and River Wye SACs are a specific issue identified in the HRA and this should also be acknowledged in this section. 5.15: We welcome the identification of potential significant environmental effects associated with proposed new wharf infrastructure at the site on the features of the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar.	87890-197-1764			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	We look forward to a more detailed set of recommendations, linked to key indicators and monitoring framework, to be incorporated both into the NPS and the detailed site proposals which will show how the significant effects will be avoided, cancelled and/or reduced and how this will be monitored. We would particularly emphasise that where these measures are intended to avoid adverse effects on European and/or international designated sites they will need to address the issues identified within the accompanying HRA and be compliant with the	87900-197-4459			/	

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Somerset County Council	Dual - Local Authority, Statutory Consultee and Consultee with an Interest in Land	Stage 1	<p>6. Ideally, since the development has potential to affect sites designated for their significance at an international level for nature conservation, any ES that is produced should contain sufficient information to satisfy the requirements not only of the EIA Regulations(2) but also of other UK legislation relating to such international sites. The most important legislation of this kind is the Habitats Regulations(3) which requires that:</p> <p>"A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which -</p> <p>is likely to have a significant effect on a European site in Great Britain (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and</p>	87960-197-4417			/	
Somerset County Council	Dual - Local Authority, Statutory Consultee and Consultee with an Interest in Land	Stage 1	<p>7. Competent authorities taking decisions in relation to these proposals will need to be mindful of the requirement within the Habitats Regulations that any proposal be considered in the light of possible 'in combination effects' that may be caused by the interaction between the development being considered and other plans or projects. One possible corollary of this is that it may not be possible to consider the impact on the Severn Estuary SPA(4) and/or SAC(5) of building the power station in isolation from the impact of, for example, refurbishing the Combwich Wharf. Other plans or projects that are less clearly associated with the power station development than the Combwich Wharf proposal may need to be taken into account also.</p>	87970-197-204			/	
Somerset County Council	Dual - Local Authority, Statutory Consultee and Consultee with an Interest in Land	Stage 1	<p>8. EDF has indicated to SCC's ecological specialists that the firm wishes to press ahead with certain site clearance and preparation works at Hinkley Point and that this may precipitate a planning application to West Somerset District Council (WSDC). Other works (such as the temporary jetty development) may need consent from a body other than either WSDC or the IPC. This raises potential problems with respect to how (a) the EIA is to be conducted and (b) any appropriate assessment(s) that may be necessary is (are) to be conducted.</p>	87970-197-951			/	
Tractivity 476	Public	Stage 1	<p>1. Any other ideas or comments?</p> <p>One of the main concerns is environmental impact and so this aspect should always be at the forefront of planning and development considerations.</p>	9152-197-348			/	

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Tractivity 62473	Dual - Consultee with an Interest in Land and Public	Stage 2	<p>The construction & operation of massive wind turbines across the flight path to the moors at Pawlett will obstruct the flight path of wildfowl between the estuary and the Somerset levels. I realise that this is a separate proposal but it is at the same time by the same company and both should be considered together for collective impact.</p> <p>The construction & operation of new super grid power lines across the Somerset levels flight lines from Bridgwater to Avonmouth, again a separate company but done at the same time for the new station.</p> <p>The collective disruption & disturbance will be devastating to wildfowl in the area over a long period of time. These schemes will create a barrier to bird migration patterns which are in the large part learned so could lead to a permanent effect to the detriment of the Somerset environment.</p>	10091-197-6678			/	
The Bristol Port Company	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>In combination and cumulative impacts</p> <p>EDF, TBPC and the Agency are required to assess the potential for cumulative environmental effects of our developments together on the Severn Estuary, Steart Peninsula and surrounding area. The Environmental Statements for each development will therefore need to assess the combined effects of these proposals, paying particular attention to any synergistic effects, which might include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - impacts on the Severn Estuary European Marine Site, including the possible disturbance of birds during construction activities; - changes along the coast arising from marine works, including the proposed temporary jetty, sea wall, the construction of new cooling water tunnels, works at Combwich Wharf and breaching sea defences in the Severn and Parrett Estuaries; - potential impacts of increased traffic in the vicinity of the Steart Peninsula particularly during EDF's prolonged temporary construction period, but also as a result of ongoing increased visitor traffic in the area; - possible impacts on amenity and access as a result of the closure and diversion of public rights of way, with the associated requirement to provide new footpaths and improvements and/or links to existing footpaths. <p>There are potential benefits and cost savings for TBPC, EDF and the Agency to work together to assess the possible cumulative impacts of our proposed developments. There is potential here for duplication of effort and the possibility of inconsistent or conflicting results arising from cumulative impact studies. At a minimum, it would seem sensible to liaise to ensure consistency in approach and outputs from the cumulative impact studies. However, there may be an opportunity to undertake a single cumulative impact study funded jointly by developers in the area.</p>	10204-197-5242	/			

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Taunton Deane Borough Council	Local Authority	Stage 2	The proposals must look in greater detail at the broader social and quality of life issues and the cumulative effects on local communities as well as impact upon a number of Internationally Designated habitats within the Somerset Levels and Moors area. An enhanced Environmental Appraisal/Comprehensive draft Environmental Statement is required prior to submission.	10213-197-3453			/	
Bristol City Council	Local Authority	Stage 2	Bristol City Council is minded to maintain its objection to the proposal to locate an additional nuclear power station on the Hinkley Point site and has serious concern on a number of issues, including the following: - inefficient use of resources in face of alternative and safer sources of energy; - constraint placed on the effective delivery of alternative renewable energy to the energy network in the Hinkley Point area; - impact of the proposed use on the environment of the Severn Estuary in combination with other proposed developments and any proposed mitigation;	10214-197-891			/	
Somerset Councils and SNEG	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Furthermore, we consider that the assessment of the effects focussing on individual projects leads to an inaccurate assessment of the overall significance of effects as it does not take into account the cumulative or in-combination effects that may arise. Cumulative effects are not independently assessed	10240-197-8359			/	
Somerset Wildlife Trust	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	It is with great disappointment the Trust finds itself Repeating comments made in response to the Stage 1 consultation: little by way of detailed information is available at this juncture with which to fully appraise the potential discrete, in-combination and cumulative effects of the entire development upon local wildlife.	10263-197-2021			/	

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Somerset Wildlife Trust	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>Cumulative impact assessment</p> <p>As discussed above, EDF has not presented stakeholders with a confident, verified analysis of the likely scale, longevity and severity of impacts to Somerset's protected and priority species, habitats and sites possibly arising from their development. In light of insufficient baseline data on coastal, marine and terrestrial ecology at the ancillary development sites, the cumulative impact assessment is hardly a convincing document. EDF's consideration of cumulative and in-combination impacts is premature, as discrete site-based impacts are currently unknown. The Trust has no confidence in the level of impacts predicted by the Cumulative Impact Assessment for this reason, and must again adopt a precautionary approach to considering EDF's preferred proposals.</p>	10263-197-13928			/	
Somerset Wildlife Trust	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>Overall, the Trust is not confident that the preferred proposals presented by EDF will have anything other than a detrimental impact upon local wildlife. Until the full extent of discrete, cumulative, and in-combination impacts upon priority species, habitats and protected sites has been assessed in the light of up to date survey work, and a convincing mitigation strategy presented, the Trust holds and will advocate a position of precautionary objection.</p>	10263-197-14729			/	
Tractivity 62469	Public	Stage 2	<p>v) It makes a mockery of the designations of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, National Nature Reserve and the Ramsar Convention. Hinkley A and B should never have been sited there in the first place. Their presence does not justify more, even bigger development. All your development plans constitute a serious disregard for the environment.</p>	89470-197-1957			/	
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>- Cumulative Impact Assessment: As surveys and modelling are still ongoing, we are aware that assessment of cumulative impact still needs to be carried out and completed. We have particular concerns over this issue and on the potential impacts to the Seven Estuary. A completed assessment on this issue is required as a matter of priority.</p>	89069-197-641			/	
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>- Under Regulation 61 of the 'Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010', if the combined impacts cannot be concluded to have no adverse effect on the integrity of the 'Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation' (SAC) (Annex II fish species), then compensation may be required under Regulation 66. This needs to be considered as a potential outcome. At this time adverse effects cannot be ruled out and as a consequence compensation should be considered.</p>	89069-197-984			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	- In-combination Impacts: There needs to be more clarity on the nature, duration, and location of all discharges to the marine environment that will arise during the construction, commissioning, operation and decommissioning of the plant. The combined effects of all discharges will need to be considered in relation to their impact on the marine environment. When all relevant discharges have been assessed in relation to their combined effects, appropriate mitigation measures will need to be investigated in order to minimise these combined impacts.	89069-197-1456			/	
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	The proposals do not appear to assess the loss of shrimp and small fish from entrainment/impingement on other fish and organisms that depend on them for a food source. Entrainment/impingement has the potential to impact on the food web of marine species and therefore it should be looked into further.	89077-197-2695			/	
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Comment: Under Regulation 61 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010, if the combined impacts cannot be concluded to have no adverse effect on the integrity of the Severn Estuary SAC (Annex II fish species), then compensation may be required under Regulation 66. This needs to be considered as a potential outcome.	89077-197-8639			/	
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Topic: In combination / cumulative assessment of impacts Issue: The in combination assessment of impacts has not been assessed. Comment: Consideration needs to be given to the cumulative impacts of what current plans and projects are likely to impact on the European Habitat sites, as well as plans and future projects. This includes the operation of Hinkley Point B together with the on-site construction and operation impacts of Hinkley Point C. Action: Assessments are required to include cumulative and in combination impacts .	89078-197-844			/	

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Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>Comment: It is stated that the EPR units will be delivered on the same timescale (15.10.1 Page 50). However this is not the case and the environmental statement is required to reflect this as this will have implications on the extent and scope of the in combination and cumulative impacts assessment.</p> <p>Action: The impacts of building one EPR at a different rate to the other will need to be considered within the environmental assessment process.</p>	89087-197-101			/	
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>We are concerned by the lack of information relating to the potential impact of further development at Hinkley Point on internationally important habitats. We also would like to remind you again of the importance attached to considering your effects in combination with other developments affecting the estuary e.g. Hinkley B.</p> <p>We recognise your commitment to undertake further studies and modelling to address this matter. This will be a key area of interest for all Defra agencies involved (NE, CCW, EA and MMO). This information will also be a critical element in our permitting work due to the likely need for Appropriate Assessments under the Habitats Regulations.</p>	89097-197-3630			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>- On the basis of the information presented in the Environmental Appraisal part of the consultation and supporting documents and the recommendation for the Hinkley Point C site within the draft National Planning Statement(NPS) for new nuclear power, Natural England considers that the above proposed development will have a likely significant effect on the following European interest features associated with the Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar sites (forthwith referred to collectively as the European Sites). Ramsar sites are also treated as European sites as a matter of Government policy.</p>	89098-197-951			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>2) In-combination effects as a result of disturbance to birds identified in the SPA and Ramsar designations including migratory species; wintering and moulting shelduck and the waterfowl assemblage before, during and after construction of the main site development, Comwich Wharf development (including the freight logistics and storage facility), as well as the decommissioning of Hinkley A & B Stations.</p>	89098-197-2915			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	4) Entrainment and impingement effects from the Hinkley Point C water cooling system on specific SAC & Ramsar listed fish species including Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon and Eel and River and Sea Lamprey and the Ramsar fish assemblage alone and in-combination with Hinkley Point B and current and proposed Oldbury Power Nuclear Power Stations.	89098-197-3564			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Based on the information presented in the stage 2 consultation, Natural England considers it is not possible to rule out the development adversely affecting the Bridgwater Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) features including: - Aggregations of non-breeding birds including the following species: Wigeon, Teal, Mallard, Curlew, Whimbrel, Black-Tailed Godwit, Knot, Turnstone, Common Snipe, Ringed Plover. (while these species could be considered to form a part of the assemblage of waterbirds identified as a component of the SPA they are specifically listed in the SSSI citation); - Intertidal mudflats supporting the above species;	89098-197-8630			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	1) The effects of the thermal and chemical discharges alone from Hinkley Point C, taking into account the prevailing environmental conditions created by discharges from Hinkley Point B on designated site interest features, especially the non-breeding bird species listed above which are dependent upon the invertebrate communities associated with the intertidal mudflats.	89098-197-9583			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Figure 1.2 shows a hatched area described as an 'area for cooling water tunnels and associated infrastructure' covering a zone around 300m wide along the shore and out into the estuary. This Figure also shows the area for the temporary jetty. Disturbance is discussed in Section 18.7, with particular mention of the construction phases of the temporary jetty and seawall extension; however, there is no mention of the tunnels and associated infrastructure. In contrast, Volume 2, Chapter 3 mentions 'cooling water tunnel arisings', suggesting some kind of digging activity and potential for substantial disturbance.	89103-197-1431			/	

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Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Some data is identified as lacking, and some results as provisional, pending further data. This creates confusion and makes it difficult to come to any really firm conclusions. On that basis, we must err on the precautionary side, and advise that we cannot rule out likely significant effects on the European Sites, on the basis of direct impacts from the plume and habitat changes, entrainment in the cooling system, and also from current uncertainty over in-combination impacts.	89106-197-59			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	We consider the assessment of cumulative impacts (HPC and Off-Site Associated Development) to be far from comprehensive, simply collating impact significance judgements from the various sections of the EA. The assessment should include a clear discussion of additional change to the components in the landscape, landscape character and viewpoints.	89110-197-3216			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	1.64) The cumulative impact assessment has not considered the changes in both the view and in landscape character of: - The in-combination effects (standing at each viewpoint and looking only one way) - The effects in succession when standing at a viewpoint and looking in different directions - The sequential effects (travelling through the landscape).	89110-197-3567			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	1.65) Night time cumulative impacts need also to be considered.	89110-197-3934			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in	Stage 2	Paragraph 1.2.1 states "there is no legislation that specifically applies to cumulative assessment". We draw your attention to following: 1) Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Circular 06/2005 Biodiversity and geological conservation - statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system	89115-197-5064			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
	land		<p>2) Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states " Any plan or project not directly necessary for the management of the (European) site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with or plans and projects shall be subject to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site's conservation objectives</p> <p>3) Regulation 61(1) of the Conservation Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 states " A competent Authority, before deciding to undertake, or give consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which is</p> <p>a) Is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects) and</p> <p>b) Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site must make an appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of its conservation objectives</p> <p>4) Managing Natura 200 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (European Commission 2000) states " A series of individually modest impacts may in-combination produce a significant effect .. it is important to note that the underlying intention of this in combination provision is to take account of cumulative impacts"</p> <p>5) Assessing Projects under the Habitats Directive - Guidance for Competent Authorities produced by (Personal information removed) for Countryside Council for Wales, 2008 states " if a project alone is checked and it is concluded that it would not likely to have a significant effect on European site alone it should be subject to an appropriate assessment on its own. In checking the need for an appropriate assessment, it may be concluded that the project could affect the site in some way, but alone the effects are unlikely to be significant . In such cases, the competent Authority should check whether the significant effects would be likely if the project was combined with other plans and projects. An in combination assessment is required in order to comply with the Habitats Regulations and should include other plans and projects that have been checked for the need for an appropriate assessment and where the following applies:</p> <p>a) It has been concluded that the other plan or project may affect the site but the effects are not significant on there own. A number of plans and projects with effects individually have been determined to by insignificant may still result in a significant effect on the site if all the effects are combined</p> <p>b) It has been concluded that the other plan or project may have significant effect alone and where measures have consequently been included to reduced the effect to a level where it no longer considered to be significant when the plan or project alone, but where the measures applied will not remove the effect completely. Such residual effects could still contribute to a significant effect when combined with other effects, 2008 further states:</p> <p>An in combination assessment does need to include any plans or projects that have been checked for the need for an appropriate assessment and</p>					

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			<p>where the following applies:</p> <p>i) It has been concluded that the other plan or project will not have any effect at all on the site and thus it cannot have an effect either alone or in combination.</p> <p>ii) If it has been concluded that the plan or project on the site and the necessary measures have been put in place to completely remove the likelihood of any effects (that is avoidance measures are an integral part of the project).</p>					
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	The current environmental baseline should always be considered in any Habitats Regulations Assessment, because the current condition of the site may influence whether an effect is likely to be significant and may influence whether an adverse effect upon ecological integrity will occur. In view of this, we consider that the thermal and chemical discharges from Hinkley B Nuclear Power Station have created environmental baseline whereby it is not possible to rule out Hinkley C Power Nuclear Power Station alone having a likely significant effect.	89115-197-9167			/	

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Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>(Editor's note: text from attachment dated 04/10/2010)</p> <p>Our role</p> <p>As you are aware, CCW is a member of Marine and Water Liaison Group set up by EDF Energy for this project. Through this and associated groups we have been providing detailed advice you and to other regulators, for the main proposals, temporary works and for various survey and ground investigation works. For your information we have provided scoping advice to Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) about the information to be provided in an Environmental Statement for the proposals for a nuclear power station at Hinkley Point. A copy of this advice, dated 13 April 2010, is attached for your reference. We have also provided scoping advice to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) on the preliminary works. A copy of this advice, dated 13 May 2010, is attached for your reference.</p> <p>CCW has also provided advice to Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) on the proposed Nuclear National Policy Statement, also attached for your reference (7 December 2009, 2 December 2009).</p> <p>Please note that our advice with respect to the EIA is limited to those sites and other countryside interests which lie wholly or partly within Wales. It does not cover those interests which lie entirely within England. However, our advice should be read in conjunction with comments from Natural England and the Environment Agency as the issues raised may be relevant to the assessment as a whole.</p> <p>Please note that our comments are made without prejudice to any comments we may wish to make when consulted on any subsequent planning, Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) or other applications related to this development.</p> <p>Main points</p> <p>We welcome the information provided for this Stage 2 consultation. We note that the proposals are still at a 'formative stage' (Environmental Appraisal 1.8) and hope that our comments will aid the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process and production of the associated Environmental Statement (ES) and other documents required as part of the IPC application process, such as the Habitats Regulations report.</p> <p>Our main points are that -</p>	89124-197-0			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>On the basis of the information provided so far, and the recommendation for the Hinkley site within the NPS for new nuclear power, we consider that the development as currently proposed is likely to have a significant effect on the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site, in particular from the cooling water intake structure, and the temperature and quality of the discharge. The basis for that view is set out in more detail in the attached annexes.</p>	89124-197-2161			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	we advise that there is a distinct possibility that the proposed development will have impacts that cannot be mitigated sufficiently to remove the risk of adverse effects on the integrity of the Natura 2000 and Ramsar interests.	89124-197-2911			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We strongly recommend that the ES addresses these concerns, and in particular supplies sufficient information in an easily accessible form to allow the competent authorities, particularly the IPC, to carry out their Habitats Regulations Assessments when considering any formal applications. A copy of the advice we provided on this document, dated 11 May 2010, is attached for your reference.	89124-197-6682			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We strongly recommend that the ES addresses these issues of presentation, particularly with respect to that information required to allow the competent authorities to carry out their Habitats Regulations Assessments.	89124-197-7419			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Our main concern is that the ES does not contain sufficient information to allow us to assess the implications of the proposals on the integrity of the Severn Estuary SPA, SAC, River Usk SAC and River Wye SAC.	89126-197-975			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	1.2 Need for Nuclear Power The "Towards a Nuclear National Policy Statements" clearly set out the arguments in support of the building of new nuclear power generation facilities in the context of the wider UK energy generation mix. As part of the justification for building new nuclear power generation facilities the NPS carried out an Assessment of Sustainability (AoS) and Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) on the proposals. These identified a number of significant environmental effects (AoS) and likely significant effects (HRA) that could only be partially addressed at the level of the NPS and would need further assessment at the Project development stage. The ES should make reference to these points and how it is taking them forward.	89126-197-1950			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The HRA for the Hinkley Point NPS clearly identifies a number of likely significant effects relating to the proposal site. These include potential impacts on the adjacent Severn Estuary suite of sites (SAC, SPA and Ramsar) and the River Usk SAC and River Wye SAC. The likely significant effects identified related to water quality (including thermal plume and oxygen depletion effects resulting from cooling water discharge in addition to chemical and radioactivity effects), water abstraction, potential habitat loss and fragmentation, coastal squeeze, disturbance and air quality. We reiterate that the ES should address these issues in detail.	89126-197-2775			/	

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Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	b) Assessment of Potential Impacts 5.4.5 We remind you of the importance of considering the impacts of the proposals on the conservation objectives for the European sites. This information will be required by the competent authorities when they carry out their HRA. The lack of this information has been consistently identified as a concern in the draft ES chapters already seen. We recommend that this omission is address partly through a 'policies and legislation' chapter (as referred to above for 5.3.11) and partly through a specific consideration in the individual topic chapters.	89127-197-2105			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We recommend that the ES includes a of a specific paragraph on cumulative impacts in the context of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and how these will be addressed, to aid the competent authorities in their HRAs.	89127-197-3035			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Environmental Impact Assessment and associated documents such as the Habitats Regulation report (HR report) should include sufficient information to enable the Competent Authorities to carry out their Habitats Regulation Assessments (HRAs) for the Severn Estuary SPA, SAC, River Usk SAC and River Wye SAC as required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Similarly, sufficient information should be included to decide whether the development is likely to damage any of the SSSI features, in which case the provisions of Section 28 G and I of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, as amended, apply.	89128-197-329			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	1.2.32 We refer you to the formal classification of the Severn Estuary SPA, or Table 4 in the Regulation 33 Advice for the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar Site from Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales, link: http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape--wildlife/managing-land-and-sea/search-results.aspx?txtSearchTerms=severn+estuary&submit=Go , for the correct list of classified features of the SPA.	89128-197-1944			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	With the UCB sewer near Bridgwater passing to stage 4 of the Environment Agency Review of Consents (RoC) process, an increase in temperature from Hinkley C may have implications for environmental and human health. The ES HR report should consider this over the lifetime of the project, particularly climate change predictions of temperature rise which may exacerbate the problem further.	89128-197-2586			/	

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Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Drainage 2.13.7 We refer you to our comments on drainage issues relating to the preliminary works. The HR report should consider the possible cumulative and in-combination issues with the preliminary works.	89128-197-5727			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Construction of temporary jetty 2.13.12 We refer you to our comments on the temporary jetty relating to the preliminary works. The HR report should consider the possible cumulative and in-combination issues with the preliminary works	89128-197-5940			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Construction of sea wall 2.13.41 In addition to direct impacts such as those arising from, for example, stockpiling material 'on site', the HR report should also consider the possible cumulative and in-combination issues with the preliminary works.	89128-197-6180			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The HR report will need to assess impacts on the conservation objectives for the European sites, not just against EQS.	89131-197-804			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The beginning of the chapter demonstrates that current sediment levels have elevated levels of contaminants. But the "impact" sections (17.7 on) do not consider these in-combination with all associated site preparation works - each piece of preparatory work has been considered alone. The HR report should address this issue.	89131-197-926			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	It is unclear if the dredging associated with vertical shaft construction separate to dredging listed earlier. The HR report will need to address this issue	89131-197-2040			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The HR report will need to consider in-combination effects.	89131-197-2597			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	17.7.57 We welcome the proposal to raise the discharge head above the seabed to minimise localised sediment mobilisation and seabed scour. However, the residual impact needs to be assessed and described in the ES and HRA.	89131-197-2661			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	See also our comments above on temperature limits used to determine effects in the Review of Consents. 12.5oC is well over the limit but the limit is at the edge of the mixing zone, so some assessment on this issue is required in the HR report.	89131-197-3550			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Also, if chlorination is to remove unwanted sabelleria, the HR report will need to consider the potential impacts to local populations.	89131-197-4313			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Table 5.1.3 The wildlife and nature conservation issues should include consideration of potential effects on the features of the Severn Estuary European sites. For example, the impacts of activities such as of the removal of the jetty, the creation of the berthing bed on the tidal prism and therefore SAC estuary feature. For example the potential for contamination being released into the European sites and affecting the biotope, bird and fish features when carrying out works within the European sites.	89136-197-906			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The consideration of cumulative and in- combination impacts is an integral part of the HRA process and will need to be addressed fully in the HR report. We strongly recommend that all the information on these issues for the Severn Estuary and other European sites is clearly presented in one place (the HR report and/or the ES), along with the other information necessary to allow the competent authorities in carrying out their HRAs. Of particular relevance will be issues such as possible in- combination impacts from the thermal plumes from Hinkley B and Hinkley C, and impacts on water quality	89137-197-651			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We have serious concerns about the conclusions presented in this document. In view of the fact that as yet there is no full and detailed analysis of the effect of the HPC development on the designated features of the European sites, we have considerable concern over the statement in 1.6.60 'these in the context of the Severn Estuary, are expected to be minor or negligible'. On the basis of the information provided to date we are of the view that it is not possible to state this at this time.	89137-197-1795			/	

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Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>On the basis of the information provided so far, and the recommendation for the Hinkley site within the NPS for new nuclear power, we consider that the development as currently proposed is likely to have a significant effect on the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site, in particular from the cooling water intake structure, and the temperature and quality of the discharge. The basis for that view is set out in more detail in the attached annexes.</p> <p>Again on the basis of the information provided so far, and without prejudice to any advice we may give in relation to an appropriate assessment, or to the findings of an appropriate assessment, carried out by the competent authorities in accordance with the Habitats Directive and Regulations, we advise that there is a distinct possibility that the proposed development will have impacts that cannot be mitigated sufficiently to remove the risk of adverse effects on the integrity of the Natura 2000 and Ramsar interests.</p>	89137-197-2353			/	
Somerset County Council	Dual - local authority, statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	The ecological appraisal of the impacts of the whole development package is done in a piecemeal fashion without due and proper consideration of 'in combination' and 'cumulative' effects. A lack of assessment of impacts in combination with other aspects of the development means the Ecological Impact Assessment should be considered as incomplete and therefore not currently fit for purpose. Potentially the most major ecological impact is upon bird populations of the Special Protection Area (SPA)/Ramsar site, these impacts need full assessment and justification. Survey data collected during 2010 is not included in the documentation.	89251-197-606			/	
Somerset County Council	Dual - local authority, statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	The conclusions that have been drawn are that the cumulative impacts upon marine ecology and upon terrestrial ecology are in the range negligible to minor adverse at worst (see Table 4.2). However, there is no detail in Volume 4 concerning how these assessments have been arrived at in relation to ecology. With regards to the cumulative impact of the station plus associated development, the approach that seems to have been followed, if section 4.2 is understood properly, is that of summing together the impacts of separate developments as they have been assessed in other chapters and sections of the appraisal. If this is the basic methodology that has been adopted, then it needs to be pointed out that some impacts have the capacity to interact in such a way as to produce impacts that are greater than the simple sum of their parts.	89251-197-2078			/	

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Somerset County Council	Dual - local authority, statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>3.6 Recommended additions</p> <p>A Chapter that deals in detail with 'in-combination' and/or additive impacts on terrestrial ecology that are likely to arise due to the whole power station project. (SCC does not regard the material in Volume 4 to be sufficiently detailed at the present to fulfil this function.)</p> <p>SCC would regard it as helpful if a distinction could be drawn between effects that will be permanent for all intents and purposes (e.g. the loss of grassland and woodland habitats within the station footprint) and those that will be more temporary in nature.</p>	89255-197-10578			/	
Stop Hinkley	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>Proximity to Protected Areas</p> <p>The coastline bordering the Hinkley C site is part of the Bridgwater Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Bridgwater Bay's shallow waters and mudflats are a sanctuary for thousands of waders, ducks and other sea birds, especially in winter.</p> <p>The site is also bordered by Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and a National Nature Reserve. Bridgwater Bay is designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.</p> <p>Part of the construction site itself falls within a County Wildlife Site designated because of its conservation value.</p>	89451-197-6227			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>Our main interest in this scheme relates to potential adverse impacts arising from the development on the Severn Estuary Natura 2000 site, especially on the internationally important Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Cumulative disturbance impacts on feeding and roosting waterbirds at Hinkley Point and Comwich Wharf due to construction works and operational activities; 2) Cumulative impacts of thermal plume and chemical discharges on feeding waterbirds, most notably in Bridgwater Bay; 3) Cumulative impacts of the above with other elements of the project; 4) In combination impacts of this proposal with other relevant plans or projects. 	89457-197-321			/	

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RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	In addition we note that the period of overlap between Hinkley C and B may extend 'a few years' beyond 2019. These comments provide no assurance that the full magnitude and likelihood of thermal impacts have been properly assessed. We also seek clarification of the status of the Turnpenny & Liney 2006 guidance in relation to the EU Habitats Directive.	89458-197-2169			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The account of potential impacts on benthic communities in 18.8.26-31 does not address the likely response of the ecosystem as a whole, which is likely to be complex, with impacts on community structure and benthic productivity which may be very difficult to predict.	89458-197-2526			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Chapter 17 provides an account of the use of hydrazine, ammonia, morpholine/ethanolamine and potentially chlorine (4.3.22) in secondary systems. We note that 'a number of chemicals' would also enter the estuary via waste water discharge system (4.3.24). We remain concerned about the cumulative impact of these chemicals on the Severn Estuary Natura 2000 site, in particular bioaccumulation of toxic materials in the benthic ecosystem and consequent impacts on feeding waterbirds.	89458-197-5245			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	It is crucial that a rigorous Habitats Regulations assessment of the toxic risk of all potentially harmful chemicals likely to enter the Natura 2000 site is carried out, and in particular to assess concentrations (in combination with other known discharge footprints) against the Environment Agency's Predicted No Effect Concentration (PNEC) criteria. We are not aware that this has been carried out.	89458-197-5729			/	
Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - local authority and consultee with an interest in land (Sedgemoor)	Stage 2	The authorities do not believe that there is a complete and robust assessment of the effects of the project on internationally designated habitats and bird communities.	89297-197-5390			/	
Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - local authority and consultee with an interest in land (Sedgemoor)	Stage 2	One of the main issues which the Executive Summary of the IPC's Scoping Opinion draws attention to is 'potential impacts of the proposals on adjacent internationally and nationally designated sites':	89297-197-5559			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - local authority and consultee with an interest in land (Sedgemoor)	Stage 2	Initial modelling work indicates that under certain circumstances (e.g. when running Hinkley B and C in combination there is potential for temperature changes in excess of the 2 degree threshold). The authorities review also indicates that there is potential for cumulative low level disturbance effects on the cited features of interest (passage and wintering birds) associated with a range of activities and project phases both at the main development site, at a number of the Associated Development sites and also potentially other projects that might run concurrently. These effects appear not to be assessed, although the content of the HRA is incomplete.	89353-197-7385			/	
Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - local authority and consultee with an interest in land (Sedgemoor)	Stage 2	<p>Marine Ecology:</p> <p>Marine Ecology is noted as being potentially a cumulative issue with other major projects in the Severn Estuary. The issue of the thermal plume affecting water quality and, consequently, marine ecology from the potential overlap of HPC and HPB is noted. However, the report also notes that the degree of overlap will not be resolved for many years. This remains an uncertainty, as noted above. The potential interaction of the thermal plume of HPC with the cooling water system of the new Oldbury power station is noted at the Severn Estuary level, and this is dependent on phasing.</p> <p>In relation to the above point the EDF Energy assessment provides the introductory and baseline sections for a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) that is required for the European designated sites which needs to consider the cumulative issues with the other major projects. (There is concern that at this stage in the EIA process these key issues including the HRA are still to be resolved. This is especially concerning given the implications under the Habitats Regulations if the project is found to be likely to give rise to negative effects on the European designated sites.)</p>	89410-197-3718			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	- We welcome the commitment to provide mitigation, in the form of a fish recovery and return system but reiterate that this may not necessarily be sufficient to rule out likely significant effects on the migratory fish features of the European sites.	89833-197-3108			/	
RSPB	Non-statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	It is critical to us that there is consistent application of the HRA process to all major development proposals in the Severn, and that the need or otherwise for compensatory habitat provision is discussed in an open and transparent way with all major stakeholders. As you know the RSPB employs a number of experienced technical staff to support its planning casework, including specialist ornithologists, policy and planning staff. We would be happy to discuss the complex SPA waterbird impacts arising from the HPC proposal with EDF.	89898-197-2076			/	

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Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>4.3.20/21</p> <p>Hydrazine and ammonia will be used. We have concerns about the elevated temperature shifting ammonia to the harmful un-ionised form in the estuary. This issue should be addressed in the HR report.</p> <p>In addition, as the proportion of un-ionised ammonia increases with pH and temperature but decreases with salinity, we have concerns that considerations to date appear only to have considered the pH range of (average) 7.83 up to 8.05 with an average salinity of 30.4 ppt (full saline 32-34) (chapter 17). Again this should be addressed in the HR report.</p> <p>Additionally, the HR report should consider the potential in-combination effects of Hydrazine, ammonia, and potentially morpholine or ethanolamine. It appears from this EA that each chemical has been looked at in isolation only.</p> <p>4.3.22 -</p> <p>The HR report will need to provide the details and possible impacts of the biocide.</p> <p>Even though it is "possible that routine power station operation would not need Chlorination" the building of the facilities to allow this mean that the possible impacts on the European sites should be considered.</p> <p>Chapter 5 decommissioning of Hinkley point C</p> <p>See also our comments on the decommissioning of the preliminary works. The HR report should consider the possible in-combination issues</p> <p>Chapter 6 spent fuel and radio active waste management</p> <p>See comments above</p>	89129-365-730	/			

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Natural England	Dual - Statutory Consultee and Consultee with an Interest in Land	Stage 1	<p>Cooling Water Tunnels and Associated Infrastructure</p> <p>3.2.14. We are concerned over the potential likely significant impact of the outfall tunnel and associated thermal plume and chemical deposition, resulting from cooling water outflow, on the Severn Estuary SPA, SAC and Ramsar site. It is important that detailed modelling and assessment work is undertaken to inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) of this proposal.</p>	8737-198-481			/	Following Stage 2 Consultation, an assessment was undertaken in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (Habitats Regulations) and the findings of this assessment have been presented in the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) report. The four stage process outlined in IPC Advice Note Ten 'Habitats Regulations Assessment Relevant to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' was adhered to and EDF Energy has had regard to comments and views received during consultation, thus ensuring a robust and compliant HRA report. As no adverse effect on integrity of the European sites was identified, it was not considered necessary to progress to stage 3 (Assessment of Alternative Solutions) and stage 4 (Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest) of the HRA process. Full information to enable the Competent Authority to undertake an HRA of the Hinkley Point C Project has been provided with the Development Consent Order application to the Infrastructure Planning Commission.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	<p>Other issues</p> <p>Our concerns for the Severn Estuary SSSI, River Usk (lower Usk) and River Wye SSSIs are similar to our concerns for the European sites. We will continue to raise these matters at the liaison meetings as appropriate.</p>	87810-198-4455a			/	Detailed modelling and assessment have been undertaken to inform the HRA and details of the environment baseline are provided in the HRA report. The HRA report provides the baseline environment conditions for the following parameters: coastal hydrodynamics and geomorphology, marine ecology, terrestrial ecology and ornithology, water and sediment quality and air quality.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	<p>There are other issues, such as coordination with the relevant Shoreline Management Plans and compliance with the Water Framework directive, that are also relevant to these proposals. However, as for the European sites, more detail than can be provided in the Stage 1 consultation is required before we can provide more detailed comments.</p>	87810-198-4455b			/	The potential effects of the Hinkley Point C Project have been informed through considerable amounts of technical studies. This work includes specific modelling work to determine the effects of the cooling water discharge from Hinkley Point C when operating and the potential changes in water temperature that may occur if Hinkley Point C operates together with Hinkley Point B. Detailed modelling of the thermal
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	<p>3.20 - 3.26: We welcome the identification of disturbance as an issue for migratory fish features, as well as the SPA and Ramsar bird features, and the comprehensive way that this has been dealt with in this Report.</p>	87840-198-1799			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	<p>4.10: We welcome the cross-reference to the HRA for Hinkley Point. However, to be consistent with that HRA you should also include the River Wye SAC and River Usk SAC in this assessment as they are in hydrological connectivity with the Severn Estuary and should be considered within the baseline scope, particularly in relation to potential impacts on migratory fish species.</p>	87880-198-35	/			

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Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	<p>Table 6.1: We note the overall assessment of significant strategic sustainability effects summarised in this table and the large number of negative evaluations identified. While we feel that a large number of these can be avoided, cancelled or reduced by appropriate mitigation measures there are two key points that must be emphasised;</p> <p>The need to consider these proposals in the context of other developing plans, programmes and policies, notably the developing Local Plans and Local Development plans, Shoreline Management Plans and Flood Risk Management Strategies, The Environment Agency Review of Consents Process, and Severn Tidal power feasibility studies.</p> <p>The requirements of meeting the Habitats Directive and particularly Section 85C of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007</p> <p>6.13 : We welcome the clear recommendations in relation to developing and progressing mitigation measures as set out in this paragraph.</p>	87900-198-3209			/	<p>plume resulting from the cooling water discharge has been undertaken using a modelling approach agreed with the Environment Agency. The results of this work are provided in a series of technical reports produced under the British Energy Estuarine and Marine Science (BEEMS) programme run by Cefas. The modelling outputs have been used, as reported in the HRA report, to determine the potential implications of the thermal plume on the designated features of the Severn Estuary Special Protection Area, Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar site.</p> <p>The effects that the project may have on hydrodynamics and sediment transport processes were raised during consultation. It can be confirmed that these issues are covered in the HRA report. Where changes in these processes may arise, the implications of these changes for the designated ecological features of the European sites have been assessed.</p>
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	<p>We note the comprehensive list of potential effects and mitigation measures identified in the report and summarised in this table. We look forward to a more detailed set of recommendations, linked to key indicators and monitoring framework, to be incorporated both into the NPS and the detailed site proposals which will show how the significant effects will be avoided, cancelled and/or reduced and how this will be monitored. We would particularly emphasise that where these measures are intended to avoid adverse effects on European and/or international designated sites they will need to meet the criteria set out within the Habitats Directive and identified within the accompanying HRA.</p>	87901-198-138			/	<p>Comments during the Stage 2 Consultation were made by some consultees in relation to the inclusion of the River Wye and River Usk SACs in the HRA. It can be confirmed that potential impacts, arising as a result of the Hinkley Point C Project, on these European designated sites and their interest features have been considered in the HRA. This concern is considered in more detail in the response provided in Habitats Regulations Assessment - Marine - Cumulative / In-Combination Impacts. It is not expected that there would be any specific issues concerning Sites of Special Scientific Interest that are not covered through consideration of the potential effects on these European sites.</p>
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>HRA Report Chapter 19 Annex - It is noted that this is not an assessment and can only be used to inform the Appropriate Assessment. We note your intention to undertake the required iterative process and to produce the information required for the Appropriate Assessment in parallel with your submissions to the IPC. Until complete a view on the effect of the HPC Development on the integrity of the designated features of the European sites is not possible.</p>	89078-198-0			/	<p>In-combination effects between the Hinkley Point C Project and implementation of relevant policies under the Severn Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) and North Devon – Somerset SMP are dealt with in the HRA report. Water quality and ecological standards developed for the Water Framework Directive are considered where appropriate and relevant within the</p>

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Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>In accordance with Regulation 61 of the Conservation Objectives 2010 Natural England advises that the competent authorities (in this case the Infrastructure Planning Commission, Environment Agency and Marine Management Organisation) must undertake appropriate assessment of the implications of the project for the European sites affected in view of those sites' conservation objectives. Furthermore, Regulation 61(2) requires the applicant to provide all the necessary information that the competent authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the assessment.</p> <p>If the appropriate assessment(s) concludes that the Hinkley Point C development will have or cannot rule out an adverse effect on integrity, then it will be necessary to look at ways of mitigating for these effects including the operation of the Nuclear Power Station.</p> <p>If it cannot be demonstrated through the provision of objective scientific evidence and appropriate mitigation that the development will avoid an adverse effect on the integrity of European Sites then the development can only proceed further if the Secretary of State is satisfied that there are no alternative solutions and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, which would allow the development to proceed. It should be noted that while the Government concluded that these tests were met for the draft nuclear NPS this does not automatically mean that these tests have been met for individual projects.</p> <p>If after meeting these tests, consent is approved for this development, then compensatory measures must be provided to maintain the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network (European sites) and be in place at the commencement of the project. We consider that it will very difficult to offset losses/damage through compensation particularly in relation to provision of alternative intertidal bird feeding habitat and losses of fish species. The opportunities for coastal realignment around the Severn Estuary, to create new intertidal habitat are limited. The creation of mudflats being especially difficult to achieve, without having an impact on the estuary's geomorphology. Equally, compensation for the loss of SAC and Ramsar fish species will be challenging. We would therefore encourage EDF to enter in early discussions with Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation, in order to find and agree ways of providing mitigation that will avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the European Sites and a package of possible compensation measures on without prejudice basis.</p>	89098-198-4429			/	<p>assessment presented in the HRA report. Further detail of the methodology for consideration of other plans and projects has been provided in the response to Habitats Regulations Assessment - Marine - Cumulative/In-Combination Impacts.</p> <p>Where required to avoid or reduce significant effects on designated features of European and/or international designated sites, mitigation measures are proposed and described in the HRA report. These mitigation measures are taken into account in the determination of whether the activities and processes of the Hinkley Point C Project would have an adverse effect on the integrity of the designated sites under consideration. An appropriate monitoring programme to measure the effectiveness of these mitigation measures will be developed and agreed with the relevant parties.</p>
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>Given the volume and presentation of the information currently provided in the Public Consultation, it is difficult to ensure that the assessments undertaken satisfy the requirements of the aforementioned guidance.</p>	89098-198-11915			/	

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Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	In addition to the issues relating to the European sites to be addressed in the Habitats Regulation report, the ES should contain sufficient information to decide whether the development is likely to damage any of the SSSI features, in which case the provisions of Section 28 G and I of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, as amended, apply.	89124-198-7876			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	There is also the potential for the proposals to affect the River Usk SAC and River Wye SAC. These possible impacts should be fully addressed in the ES to allow the competent authorities to carry out their Habitats Regulation Assessments	89125-198-1438			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	5.4.19 We note the comments about not applying a significance rating to some impacts such as hydrodynamic processes. We remind you that where such impacts are fundamental to European site features (for example the hydrodynamics of the Severn Estuary) significance will need to be considered as part of the HRA process.	89127-198-2698			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	19.8 and 19.10- Assessment of Impact: Construction/operation- as raised under Chapter 16 (16.2.2 and 16.6.1) and 17.4 above: because the EA has placed no intrinsic value on the hydrodynamic environment no impact assessment has been performed for the conservation objectives for the estuary feature which state the required physical and hydrodynamic conditions for the SAC or Ramsar (the estuary and the habitats and species it supports).	89134-198-2314			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The proposals also have the potential to affect the River Usk SAC and the River Wye SAC	89135-198-404			/	
Somerset County Council	Dual - local authority, statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	The report of the HRA identified international sites other than the Severn Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar with the capacity to be affected by the construction of a nuclear power station at Hinkley Point. These were the River Wye SAC and the River Usk SAC, both of which were considered by DECC to be potentially susceptible to harm due to impacts upon migratory fish moving through the Estuary and into the SAC river systems.	89251-198-9464			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Stop Hinkley	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Construction activity of this extent, covering a total area of 435 acres and running over a period of up to seven years, and then the installation and operation of the largest nuclear power station ever proposed in the UK, will inevitably impinge on these protected areas and the wildlife which inhabits them.	89451-198-6854			/	
Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - local authority and consultee with an interest in land (Sedgemoor)	Stage 2	The EDF Energy assessment provides the introductory and baseline sections for a Habitat Regulations Assessment (HRA) that is required for the European designated sites. The assessment acknowledges that further work is required to inform the evaluation of effects, in particular in relation to the modelling of the thermal plume dispersal and potential for impacts on the intertidal habitats to the east. Initial modelling work indicates that under certain circumstances (e.g. when running Hinkley B and C in combination) there is potential for temperature changes in excess of the 2 degree threshold.	89430-198-13947			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	<p>On the basis of the information so far available, CCW is unable to state that the proposed development would not be likely to have a significant effect on the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA, Ramsar site, River Usk SAC and/or River Wye SAC. We anticipate that further information will be provided with the formal application(s) but remind you that it will be necessary for the 'competent authority/ies' to carry out an HRA of the proposals when the application(s) is submitted. As discussed, it may be necessary for the 'competent authority/ies', to carry out an 'appropriate assessment' of the proposals in accordance with Regulation 48 of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994.</p> <p>The purpose of the appropriate assessment would be to assess the implications of the proposed development with respect to the conservation objectives of the European sites. The conclusions of the appropriate assessment should enable the competent authorities to ascertain whether or not the proposed development would adversely affect the integrity of the European sites. The conservation objectives for the Severn Estuary, River Usk and River Wye can be found on our web site:</p>	87810-420-2012	/			

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	3.44 - 3.48: CCW welcomes the suite of mitigation measures identified and look forward to advising on their implementation as part of the developing NPS process and at detailed project development. We would strongly recommend that any further consideration of mitigation measures, either as part of the NPS proposals or as part of the detailed project level assessment, be considered in the context of the developing Severn Estuary SMP2. If it is not already the case, then we would urge DECC, the licensing authorities and the applicants to engage with the SMP2 process at the earliest opportunity to ensure a consistent approach is adopted for all such plans when considering how to assess (and address) potential impacts associated with habitats & Species loss/fragmentation/coastal squeeze along the Severn Estuary.	8784-19-3614			/	Full consideration has been given to the effectiveness of mitigation measures where these have been proposed to deal with potential adverse effects. Monitoring of proposed mitigation measures will also be undertaken where such monitoring would be useful to demonstrate the effectiveness of mitigation measures and to determine whether adjustments or further measures need to be put in place. These measures are detailed in the Habitats Regulation Assessment report (HRA) . EDF Energy has maintained regular consultation with Natural England, the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation during the production of the Habitats Regulation Assessment report. These discussions have involved specific consideration of the need for and the practicalities of creating compensatory habitat in the Severn Estuary. The role of mitigation and the approach taken by EDF Energy in dealing with potentially adverse effects on the designated European sites has also been discussed with and influenced by consultation with the above organisations.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	Disturbance (noise, light, visual) 3.49: CCW welcomes the suite of proposed mitigation measures but it should be noted that where a particular mitigation measure is identified, but implementation is not practicable (first bullet point), then alternatives should be identified to adequately avoid, cancel or reduce any adverse effects as set out in section 3.50. We look forward to advising further on the implementation of these mitigation measures as part of the developing NPS process and at detailed project development.	8784-19-4447			/	The in-combination effects of the Hinkley Point C Project have been considered and assessed in light of the policies (and their implementation) set out in the Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) and the North Devon and Somerset SMP.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	CCW welcomes this clear and informative table. See previous comments in relation to individual proposals. Summary of HRA Findings and Recommendations 3.53: We agree with this HRA's findings that significant effects can not be ruled out for the Nuclear NPS proposals for Hinkley Point in respect of the identified European sites 3.54 - 3.59: CCW agrees that the suite of mitigation measures identified by this assessment have the potential to address the adverse effects on the European sites that could result from these proposals. We would also strongly support the caveat that the effectiveness of the measures proposed can only be ascertained with certainty through HRA at a project level, and we look forward to advising on these at the appropriate time.	8785-19-0			/	

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Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	CCW notes that the AoS objectives (with the exception of economic objectives) still place emphasis on the avoidance of adverse impacts on environmental topics, despite our comments on previous iterations of this document. While this may not necessarily be inappropriate, given the nature of the proposals and the requirements of the SEA Directive, it does represent a “negative” approach to the assessment process, which should also aim to identify positive contributions to the environment and promotion of high levels of environmental protection. In setting AoS objectives which just seek to minimise harm, it is likely that the ancillary indicators will also tend to be negative, (ie measuring the degree of negative impact) as measuring “zero change” is often extremely difficult. This is both a lost opportunity to measure the potentially positive contributions of the NPS and may also be inappropriate in relation to protected sites. AoS objectives should ideally have been amended to take on a more positive approach, for example, indicator (2) could be redrafted to say “To reverse fragmentation of ecological networks and promote ecosystem functionality”.	8786-19-1292			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	We note the identification of a number of strategic environmental effects likely to result from the development of the Hinkley Point proposals. We also note that while potential positive effects have been identified for economic and social measures (primarily related to enhanced employment prospects), a number of potential negative environmental effects have also been identified. Significantly, these effects are largely associated with potential adverse effects on the Severn Estuary suite of European and international sites (SAC, SPA and Ramsar) and, although not mentioned, the River Usk SAC and the River Wye SAC. These have been more fully addressed in the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for Hinkley Point and we refer you to our comments on this document.	8786-19-4370			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	There is a difference between cumulative effect and altered environmental baseline. Residual effects from any plan or project, or indeed any other impact will inevitably continue to affect the environmental baseline of a European site's interest features.	8911-17-8906			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	We consider that it will very difficult to offset losses/damage through compensation particularly in relation to provision of alternative intertidal bird feeding habitat and losses of fish species. The opportunities for coastal realignment around the Severn Estuary, to create new intertidal habitat are limited. The creation of mudflats being especially difficult to achieve, without having an impact on the estuary's geomorphology. Equally, compensation for the loss of SAC and Ramsar fish species will be challenging. We would therefore encourage EDF to enter in early discussions with Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation, in order to find and agree ways of providing mitigation that will avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the European Sites and a package of possible compensation measures on without prejudice basis.	8909-19-6152			/	

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Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>Chapter 17 Marine and Water sediment quality</p> <p>Please see our comments on the draft chapters for the ES relating to water quality, hydrology and drainage for site preparation and the temporary Jetty.</p> <p>There should also be reference to the European birds and species directives and to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.</p> <p>We also refer you to our comments on Chapter 16, and remind you that 'Estuaries' is a feature of both the Severn Estuary SAC and the Severn Estuary Ramsar site. We refer you to the relevant conservation objectives for the estuaries feature of the SAC to be found at http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape--wildlife/managing-land-and-sea/search-results.aspx?txtSearchTerms=severn+estuary&submit=Go. In particular we refer you to conservation objective 4.1.1.</p> <p>The HR report will need to assess impacts on the conservation objectives for the European sites, not just against EQS.</p> <p>The beginning of the chapter demonstrates that current sediment levels have elevated levels of contaminants. But the "impact" sections (17.7 on) do not consider these in- combination with all associated site preparation works - each piece of preparatory work has been considered alone. The HR report should address this issue.</p> <p>We refer you to the guidance in JNCC piling guidelines released in august 2010.</p> <p>17.7.17</p> <p>Disturbed sediment may result in a temporary breach of EQS (or be very close to), therefore works would be better done outside fish migration periods where possible.</p> <p>17.7.18</p>	8913-19-0	/			
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>17.7.30</p> <p>Unlike the dredging, no calculations of worst case scenarios have been included. Again here if this occurs at same/close time to dredging then in-combination effects may be of concern. The HR report will need to address this matter.</p>	8913-19-1584			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>17.7.39 The HR report should consider the possibility of in-combination issues arising from discharging waste from tunnel construction to foreshore, along with the waste/sediments from seawall construction.</p>	8913-19-1831			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	17.7 There should be assessment against the conservation objectives for the sites, not just the EQSs.	8913-19-2200			/	
Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - local authority and consultee with an interest in land (Sedgemoor)	Stage 2	The authorities remain concerned as to how the EDF Energy strategy fits with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and namely the ongoing outcomes of the Habitats Regulation Assessment. This will identify the mitigation measures for the European Designated Habitats and Bird Communities and, if found to be required as a result of an HRA, possibly compensation measures.	8931-19-3016			/	
Tractivity 62992	Public	Stage 2 Update	Question 6 I am pleased to see your proposal to return fish to the sea - I trust alive and unharmed? Can you say more on this point in your next documents?	89691-199-662	/			
Countryside Council for Wales	statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	- We welcome the commitment to provide mitigation, in the form of a fish recovery and return system but reiterate that this may not necessarily be sufficient to rule out likely significant effects on the migratory fish features of the European sites.	8983-19-3108			/	

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Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	CCW notes that this AoS identifies in several instances, the potential for significant adverse effect on Ramsar Sites e.g. the Severn Estuary. Under Article 2 of the Ramsar Convention 'if a human induced change to the ecological character of a Ramsar Sites has occurred, is occurring or is likely to occur, under Article 3.2 it is the obligation of the Party concerned to report this without delay to the Ramsar Secretariat. CCW would suggest that the findings of this suite of AoS's and the results of the HRA process for this National Policy Statement might indicate 'likely occurrence of human induced change'. CCW would therefore welcome confirmation that the Ramsar Secretariat has been informed of these matters.	8786-20-3509			/	An assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (Habitats Regulations) and the findings of this assessment have been presented in the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) report. The HRA report (and its references) contains the relevant information that should enable the Competent Authority to carry out its HRA. The relevant cumulative and in-combination effects are dealt with in the HRA.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	We note the identification of a number of strategic environmental effects likely to result from the development of the Hinkley Point proposals. We also note that while potential positive effects have been identified for economic and social measures (primarily related to enhanced employment prospects), a number of potential negative environmental effects have also been identified. Significantly, these effects are largely associated with potential adverse effects on the Severn Estuary suite of European and international sites (SAC, SPA and Ramsar) and, although not mentioned, the River Usk SAC and the River Wye SAC. These have been more fully addressed in the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) for Hinkley Point and we refer you to our comments on this document. In the context of this AoS, we acknowledge that the suite of mitigation measures proposed to address the significant environmental effects identified has the potential to address the majority of concerns; However, we particularly note this report's conclusions in relation to possible 'in combination' effects with the Oldbury and the Severn Tidal Power proposals and the uncertainty over the capacity of mitigation measures to address the potential impacts of these schemes combined should they all proceed.	878-2-4370			/	It was highlighted by consultees that further consultation with EDF Energy would be required to enable full understanding of the effects of the Hinkley Point C Project on the designated features and integrity of the European sites relevant to the project. As a result, consultation with relevant parties including Natural England, the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment Agency, Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the Marine Management Organisation has been undertaken throughout the HRA process to date and has involved regular meetings and workshops. This consultation effort has enabled EDF Energy to work collaboratively with consultees to develop the HRA and determine and agree appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects on the designated interests of European sites and the wider environment. The following paragraphs deal with specific issues raised by consultees during the consultation phases which have been addressed through technical studies and assessments and are addressed in the HRA report.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	5.19: We welcome the reference to the accompanying Hinkley Point HRA but where there specific issues raised in that assessment they should also be included, for the sake of clarity, in the relevant sections of this report.	878-2-2582			/	Comments have been raised by some consultees about the potential implications of the cooling water intake on biodiversity. Specific design measures have been incorporated into the cooling water intake to reduce potential fish entrainment at the point of abstraction. These measures include the design of a low velocity intake head and the installation of an acoustic fish deterrent device at the intakes. These measures are described and their functions assessed in greater detail within the HRA report.
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	The RSPB continues to seek to work positively with EDF to avoid and minimise impacts on the European site. However, we consider it is likely that there will be significant effects on the SPA and that consequently a full appropriate assessment under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 will be necessary.	87-2-3019			/	Comments raised by consultees in relation to the potential impacts on the hydrodynamic regime from the abstraction of large volumes of water have been addressed in Chapter 17 in Volume 2 of the Environmental Statement. Relevant outputs have been used in the HRA where it is apparent that
Tractivity 1244	Public	Stage 2 Update	Hinkley C will be a massive construction site. I would assurances that EDF will do their utmost to reinstate lost hedgerows, woodland and trees removed from site as soon as possible to not impact on any flora and fauna in the area. We have a unique bird population with the West Somerset area and do not want to lose that. Other companies come in and say they will replace hedgerows and dont.	895-2-2371			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Action: Given the developer's position on the HRA, and the need to assess the outcome of the outstanding studies, there will be a requirement for further engagement with ourselves, Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales to address the effect of the Hinkley Point C Development on the designated features and integrity of the European sites relevant to the project.	890-2-461			/	hydrodynamic change may have implications for the status of the designated features of the Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area and Ramsar site. In response to comments about the methodology for assessment of water temperature changes associated with the cooling water discharge into the Severn Estuary, the current water temperature standards that apply to SACs have been used in the assessment process as set out in the HRA report.
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	We consider that it will very difficult to offset losses/damage through compensation particularly in relation to provision of alternative intertidal bird feeding habitat and losses of fish species. The opportunities for coastal realignment around the Severn Estuary, to create new intertidal habitat are limited. The creation of mudflats being especially difficult to achieve, without having an impact on the estuary's geomorphology. Equally, compensation for the loss of SAC and Ramsar fish species will be challenging. We would therefore encourage EDF to enter in early discussions with Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation, in order to find and agree ways of providing mitigation that will avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the European Sites and a package of possible compensation measures on without prejudice basis.	890-2-6152			/	Furthermore, there would be no loss of suspended sediment as a result of abstraction during the operation of Hinkley Point C, as water (along with sediment) would be returned to the Estuary. In response to the query raised about the exposure of the toe of the seawall, detailed information on the design and construction of the seawall is provided in the HRA report. The seawall has been designed so as to allow for some down cutting of the platform over time but to avoid exposure of the toe. The potential impact of the project on designated migratory fish populations, including twaite shad, is detailed in the HRA report.
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	We suggest that Natural England and the Environment Agency have further dialogue with EDF and the relevant Competent Authorities to clearly agree on the scope of the necessary assessments required under the Habitats Regulations and Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. At this stage though, it is possible to identify some key concerns and knowledge gaps.	890-2-12130			/	Comments were also raised during the Stage 2 Consultation with respect to the in-combination impacts from the thermal plumes and impact on water quality from the combined operation of the two operational Hinkley stations. The in-combination impacts of Hinkley Point C and Hinkley Point B are considered and assessed in greater detail within HRA report.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We understand that the IPC will require the submission of a separate Habitats Regulation report (HR report) with any application. We refer you to the last paragraph of IPC GUIDANCE NOTE 2 that can be found at: http://infrastructure.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/04/IPC-app-docs-guidance-note-2.pdf .	891-2-3318			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We therefore recommend that the HR report and/or ES includes sufficient information to allow all the competent authorities to carry out their Habitats Regulations Assessments (HRAs) for the Severn Estuary SPA, SAC, River Usk SAC and River Wye SAC, including appropriate assessments.	891-2-3750			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	It should also include measures to avoid and reduce impacts on the European sites.	891-2-4033			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The HRA Screening and Appropriate Assessment Report for the 'Towards a Nuclear National Policy Statement' for Hinkley C clearly stated the need for more detailed project level HRA to determine the exact nature and scope of the likely significant effects identified.	891-20-6266			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We strongly recommend that the ES addresses these concerns, and in particular supplies sufficient information in an easily accessible form to allow the competent authorities, particularly the IPC, to carry out their Habitats Regulations Assessments when considering any formal applications.	8912-20-6682	/			
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We therefore welcome the statement that the options in the EA should be treated as 'topics for discussion'.	8912-20-4670			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We have concerns with the potential implications of the cooling water intake not only for fish but for other biota such as invert larvae. We recommend that the ES includes detailed information on measure to minimise fish entrainment at the abstraction points.	8912-20-3791	/			
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	For the RoC an acceptable deviation from ambient of 2°C as a Maximum Allowable Concentration (MAC) at the edge of the mixing zone was agreed for estuaries. In addition, for SACs the maximum temperature of 21.5°C as a 98 percentile at the edge of the mixing zone was agreed. We recommend that the ES and HR report addresses how this work has been included in the assessment of impacts on the European sites.	8912-20-4063			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Regarding the volumes, in order to assess potential impact on the hydrodynamic regime, we recommend that the ES and HR report provide an assessment of how the abstraction of such volumes would affect the tidal prism and hydrodynamic conditions.	8912-20-4711			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	At the abstraction/discharge rates described, even a very small percentage loss of suspended sediments could be significant over the period of operation of this development. This potential impact needs to be assessed in the HR report.	8912-20-5096			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We refer you to our comments on the temporary jetty relating to the preliminary works. The HR report should consider the possible cumulative and in-combination issues with the preliminary works	8912-20-5983			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Construction of sea wall 2.13.41 In addition to direct impacts such as those arising from, for example, stockpiling material 'on site', the HR report should also consider the possible cumulative and in- combination issues with the preliminary works.	8912-20-6180			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The HR report will need to provide information on impacts from these sources on the features of the European sites to enable the competent authorities to carry out their HRAs.	8912-20-3478	/			
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We note the comments about considering potential changes rather than defining impacts but remind you that the HR report will have to address impacts, at least with respect to the European sites and their conservation objectives to enable the competent authorities to carry out their HRAs.	8913-20-1682	/			
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We note the comments about considering potential changes rather than defining impacts but remind you that the HR report will have to address impacts, at least with respect to the European sites, to enable the competent authorities to carry out their HRAs.	8913-20-2866	/			
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The HR report will need to demonstrate that this and related objectives are being met, as well as looking at impacts on marine ecology.	8913-20-3899			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We recommend that this statement is supported by a reference, and that clarification is provided in the HR report on whether this statement is intended to be relevant generally or only to the study area.	8913-20-4318			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We recommend that the HR report provides further clarification on this point, in particular explaining whether the toe of the defence structure would be exposed over time.	8913-20-4713			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	It is also not clear whether the process of construction of the defence, i.e. construction of the foundations/protection of the toe of the structure would adversely affect the wave cut platform. We recommend that this is covered in the HR report.	8913-20-4888			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	As stated above (comments on section 16.2.2), the hydrodynamic and sediment budget/sediment transport features are specifically included in the conservation objectives for the Estuary feature for the Severn Estuary SAC, Ramsar site.	8913-20-5170			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Therefore, contrary to the assertion made here, they do have an intrinsic value and should be fully assessed in terms of impact in the HR report.	8913-20-5404			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Minor adverse impact noted. The HR report will need to include further justification for assessment on shad.	8913-20-2971			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We welcome the inclusion of this information. However, we strongly recommend that this information is included in the HR report. In addition it should include all the HRA issues that have been identified throughout the Environmental Appraisal. Our comments on all of the Stage 2 consultation are relevant in this context	8913-20-71			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We reiterate that the ES will need to contain an assessment of the likely effects of the proposals on all the relevant European sites.	8913-20-612	/			
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	A.3 If we were consulted on any formal application that included only the information presented to date, we would have no option but to object to the proposals and recommend that the competent authority (ies) carried out an appropriate assessment. In addition, it is not clear at this time if adverse impacts on the integrity of the European sites can be avoided.	8913-20-750			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We therefore strongly recommend that the ES contains all the necessary information to allow all the competent authorities to carry out their HRAs, including an appropriate assessment if required.	8913-20-1416	/			

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	A.8.6 Condition ix should be included	8913-20-1615			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	A.10 We note that at this stage a full and detailed analysis of the effected of the HPC development on the designated features of the European sites has not been advanced. However, we reiterate our advice that EIA and associated ES should include sufficient information to enable the Competent Authorities to carry out an appropriate assessment of the implications of the proposal on the integrity of the Severn Estuary SPA, SAC, River Usk SAC and River Wye SAC under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 as amended should this be required.	8913-20-1660	/		/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Table A1.11.1 We welcome the inclusion of this table, and the indication of where the impacts on the various features are address.We would strongly recommend that a similar 'look up ' table is included in the ES and HR report,	8913-20-2228			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	However, the table misses the effect on the hydrodynamic regime of the estuary and physico-chemical impacts as referred to under 16.2.2, 16.6.1, 17.4 and 19.8 and 19.10 above.	8913-20-2523			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The consideration of cumulative and in- combination impacts is an integral part of the HRA process and will need to be addressed fully in the HR report. We strongly recommend that all the information on these issues for the Severn Estuary and other European sites is clearly presented in one place (the HR report and/or the ES), along with the other information necessary to allow the competent authorities in carrying out their HRAs.	8913-20-651	/		/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Of particular relevance will be issues such as possible in- combination impacts from the thermal plumes from Hinkley B and Hinkley C, and impacts on water quality with both Hinkley B and Hinkley C operating together.	8913-20-1086	/			
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We fully support the need for further survey work and analysis to better understand the functioning of the Bridgwater Bay ecosystem and the potential cumulative impacts of a thermal plume on SPA waterbirds with other impacts (18.8.31).	8945-20-4963			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - local authority and consultee with an interest in land (Sedgemoor)	Stage 2	There is concern that at this stage in the assessment process these key issues including the HRA are still to be resolved. This is especially concerning given the implications under the Habitats Regulations if the project is found to be likely to give rise to negative effects on the European designated sites. Implications could be that alternatives would have to be considered and only if no alternative exists can an option which is likely to give rise to negative effects be proceeded with if there are reasons of overriding public interest. Further it is essential these potential effects are fully understood in order to inform mitigation measures and, if found to be required as a result of a HRA, compensation measures.	8935-20-8049			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	2.34: We note that potential disturbance impacts have been identified for the River Usk and River Wye SACs and the suite of Severn Estuary European and international sites (SAC, SPA and Ramsar).	8783-20-3318			/	The potential effects of the Hinkley Point C Project on the 'shared' designated migratory fish populations of the Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC), River Wye SAC and River Usk SAC are considered and assessed in the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) report.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	2.37:_ While we accept that the factors affecting the behaviour of shad within the estuarine system are not as well understood as within freshwater systems, there is a great deal of evidence that shad (both Allis and twaite) are particularly vulnerable to disturbance associated with low frequency vibration, high sediment loading, physical barriers and temperature. Therefore, we welcome the recognition that the proposals have the potential to affect at least some of these factors and the intention to take both the River Usk and River Wye SACs, in addition to the Severn Estuary suite of sites, forward for appropriate assessment	8783-20-3520			/	The likely significant effects relating to water quality (including thermal plume and oxygen depletion effects resulting from cooling water discharge in addition to chemical and radioactivity effects), water abstraction, potential habitat loss and fragmentation, coastal squeeze, disturbance and air quality are also all dealt with in the HRA report.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	3.8: Effects 'in combination' with other plans and projects: We welcome the comprehensive assessment of potential 'in combination' effects with the plans and projects listed. We would have ideally wished to see a consideration of the developing Shoreline Management Plans (SMP2) but appreciate that the timing of this document does not fall within the remit of this consultation exercise. 3.9: CCW agrees with this Report's findings regarding the potential for the proposals to have adverse effects. See also comments on avoidance and mitigation. Habitat (and species) loss and fragmentation/coastal squeeze 3.11 - 3.15: This is a very comprehensive review of the potential adverse effects of developing a major energy generation plant and associated infrastructure at the Hinkley Point site. Habitat (and species) loss and coastal squeeze are perhaps the most obvious impacts that are likely to occur immediately at and around the development itself. We welcome, therefore, the acknowledgement that these effects can also be transmitted to a much wider area due to the nature of the sites affected. 3.20: Effects 'in combination' with other plans and projects. We note that there is the potential for some conflict with the assessments carried out for the Severn Estuary CHaMP and Shoreline Management Plan. We would strongly recommend that any further assessment, either as part of the NPS proposals or as part of the detailed project level assessment, considers these implications, particularly in the context of the developing Severn Estuary SMP2. 3.21: CCW agrees with this Report's findings regarding the potential for the proposals to have adverse effects. See also comments on avoidance and mitigation.	8784-20-0			/	Potential in-combination impacts with other developments have been assessed in the HRA report. Consideration has also been given to the potential implications of the policies for the relevant frontages as set out in the Shoreline Management Plans. The HRA report contains the relevant information and reference to supporting technical documentation (where appropriate) that will enable the Competent Authority and its advisors to understand the implications of the project on the designated features of the Severn Estuary SAC, Special Protection Area and Ramsar site, River Usk SAC and River Wye SAC. The Environmental Statement (ES) covers all of the potentially significant impacts of the Hinkley Point C Project on terrestrial and marine fauna and flora. The information for the HRA report assesses, on the basis of the information contained in the ES (and other technical reports), the potential impacts of the project on the relevant European and international sites for nature conservation. A significant amount of survey work in Bridgwater Bay has been undertaken and the results of that work is set out in a number of technical reports including detailed bird surveys and analysis of faecal material to determine the prey species that birds in Bridgwater Bay utilise. The findings of these studies have been summarised in the information for the HRA report and the full studies have been made available to relevant parties, including the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Annex 1 Habitat Regulations Assessment Table A1.7.2 Gadwall is missing from this table. A.7.7 The first sentence is not correct. The conservation objectives are set at European Marine Site level, not at SSSI level. We do not understand why the conservation objectives, for the SPA, are not included here, as have been for all the habitats and species of the SAC, in section A.8.	8910-20-13659	/			
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	A.9.3 This section refers to the Ramsar review criteria, rather than the current criteria on which the Regulation 33 advice is based. As a result, the species list is wrong. We recommend this section lists species currently designated (see Table 6 of the Reg. 33 package), plus any added under the Ramsar review (on the JNCC website).	8910-20-14051			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Our main concern is that the ES does not contain sufficient information to allow us to assess the implications of the proposals on the integrity of the Severn Estuary SPA, SAC, River Usk SAC and River Wye SAC.	8912-20-975	/			
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	1.4 Location of Hinkley Point C and off site associated development The HRA for the Hinkley Point NPS clearly identifies a number of likely significant effects relating to the proposal site. These include potential impacts on the adjacent Severn Estuary suite of sites (SAC, SPA and Ramsar) and the River Usk SAC and River Wye SAC. The likely significant effects identified related to water quality (including thermal plume and oxygen depletion effects resulting from cooling water discharge in addition to chemical and radioactivity effects), water abstraction, potential habitat loss and fragmentation, coastal squeeze, disturbance and air quality. We reiterate that the ES should address these issues in detail.	8912-20-2704	/			

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>Preliminary Works</p> <p>Welcome the setting out of the legislative framework. We note the letter of 16 July 2009 from the Department of Communities and Local Government and the department of Energy and Climate Change informing local authorities that where sites have been nominated into the Government's strategic siting assessment for new nuclear development it would be possible for developers to seek planning permission for preliminary or preparatory works ahead of an application to the IPC.</p> <p>Our understanding is that with respect to the Severn Estuary SPA, SAC and other European sites, West Somerset Council and the Marine Management Organisation as competent authorities will need to carry out an HRA when considering these applications and as part of this process will need to consider possible in- combination impacts with the main proposals. We therefore strongly recommend that the ES contains sufficient information to allow all the competent authorities to carry out their HRAs.</p>	8912-20-3425	/			
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We reiterate our concern that the EA does not contain sufficient information to allow us to assess the implications of the proposals on the integrity of the Severn Estuary SPA, SAC, River Usk SAC and River Wye SAC.	8912-20-4456			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Correct to refer to correct regulation of Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010	8913-20-504			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Our understanding is that the IPC is the competent authority with respect to the IPC application, but that there are other competent authorities, for example the Environment Agency and the local authorities, with respect to other authorisations required for these proposals to go ahead.	8913-20-1129			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Although an assessment of likely changes to benthic communities is provided in chapter 19, it is clear that further work needs to be carried out urgently in order to understand the magnitude and likelihood of potential impacts on the Bridgwater Bay ecosystem, including feeding waterbirds.	8945-20-774	/			

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - local authority and consultee with an interest in land (Sedgemoor)	Stage 2	There is concern that at this stage in the EIA process these key issues including the HRA are still to be resolved. This is especially concerning given the implications under the Habitats Regulations if the project is found to be likely to give rise to negative effects on the European designated sites. Implications could be that alternatives would have to be considered and only if no alternative exists can an option which is likely to give rise to negative effects be proceeded with if there are reasons of overriding public interest. Further it is essential these potential effects are fully understood in order to inform mitigation measures and, if found to be required as a result of a HRA, compensation measures.	89430-208-15005			/	<p>Following Stage 2 Consultation, EDF Energy began to prepare the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) report for the Hinkley Point C Project in accordance with The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (Habitats Regulations). The four stage process outlined in IPC Advice Note Ten 'Habitats Regulations Assessment Relevant to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' was followed.</p> <p>The first step of the process identifies the likely impacts of a project upon a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. The second stage, known as the Appropriate Assessment considers the impacts on the integrity of the European site, alone or in combination with other plans and projects, with regard to the site's structure, function and conservation objectives.</p> <p>In the case of Hinkley Point C, the conclusion reached in the HRA report is that no adverse effect on integrity of the European sites would arise as a result of the project alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Therefore, it has not been considered necessary to progress to stage 3 (Assessment of Alternative Solutions) and stage 4 (Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest) of the HRA process.</p> <p>However, it should be noted that it is a requirement of an Environmental Impact Assessment to consider alternatives to a development during the assessment. The alternatives have been presented in Chapter 5 in Volume 1 and Chapter 6 in Volumes 2 to 10 of the Environmental Statement (ES).</p> <p>The development of the Hinkley Point C Project has been an iterative process based on the selection of designs that have had regard to the views and comments received in response to EDF Energy's extensive consultation undertaken during the development of the project. This has resulted in some changes to the project proposals and the adoption of a range of specific measures to mitigate against identified impacts on environmental interests, particularly those on designated international nature conservation sites. As a result, alternative design options and ways of working have been tested and assessed on an ongoing basis throughout the development of the project. The project activities and development as assessed in the ES and HRA report therefore represent the culmination of a process of the examination of options and alternatives to avoid and reduce potential adverse environmental impacts where feasible.</p>

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Sedgemoor District Council & West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - Local Authority and Consultee with an Interest in Land (Sedgemoor only)	Stage 1	Appropriate Assessment The baseline and terms of reference associated with the Appropriate Assessment are deemed adequate for this scope of work. It is recognised that the potential need to prepare an Appropriate Assessment will be determined during the Environmental Impact Assessment process. An Appropriate Assessment would need to be prepared if the works are likely to or it cannot be ascertained whether they would, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, have a significant adverse effect on a qualifying feature of a European site. External references to this Stage 1 Consultation document (including the meetings of the Marine Authorities Liaison Group (MALG) indicate that there is a high degree of exchange of information around the AA requirements between EDF and statutory consultees.	8856-19-25		/		Given the location, nature and scale of the proposed Hinkley Point C Project it has been recognised that the proposals may have the potential to affect a number of European designated sites. Following the Stage 2 Consultation, an assessment has been undertaken in accordance with The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (Habitats Regulations) and the findings presented in the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) report. A full Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA) has been undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment. The outcomes of this CIA are reported in Volume 11 of the Environmental Statement (ES) . The cumulative impact of the works (taking account of additive effects and interactions between project components) on internationally designated interests and sites is assessed in the HRA report. This utilises information from the ES, but is specific to those aspects of the project (e.g. screened in associated development sites) where the potential for interaction and cumulative effects on designated features may arise.
Natural England	Dual - Statutory Consultee and Consultee with an Interest in Land	Stage 1	4.Off-Site Associated Development 4.1.1. Each off-site associated development proposal will need to be assessed in relation to its impact on protected/designated sites, biodiversity, landscape, access and land management. Appropriate mitigation should be designed into each proposal and reflected in the DCO application ES.	873-20-1409			/	As required under Regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations, the potential in-combination effects of the Hinkley Point C Project with other plans and projects are assessed in the information for HRA report. Specific technical studies have been undertaken to determine the potential in-combination effects that could result from the operation of Hinkley Point B and Hinkley Point C, notably with respect to the effects of the interaction between the cooling water discharges from both power stations and the impact of the cooling water abstraction on designated migratory fish populations. Comments have also been raised with regards to the ecological importance of intertidal mudflat and saltmarsh habitat that could be affected by the Hinkley Point C Project (including the refurbishment of the wharf at Combwich). This has been fully recognised in the assessment process.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	2.9 - 2.13 & Appendix 2: CCW welcomes the inclusion of this comprehensive list of plans and projects to be assessed as part of the 'in combination' assessment.	8783-20-1104			/	The full list of the plans and projects considered in this assessment was agreed through consultation with relevant organisations at the screening stage. In particular comments were raised in relation to impacts arising from the Hinkley Point C cooling system on Special Areas of Conservation/Ramsar species, alone
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	3.28: CCW agrees with this Report's findings regarding the potential for the proposals to have adverse effects. See also comments on avoidance and mitigation.	8784-20-2022			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	In the context of this AoS, we acknowledge that the suite of mitigation measures proposed to address the significant environmental effects identified has the potential to address the majority of concerns; However, we particularly note this report's conclusions in relation to possible 'in combination' effects with the Oldbury and the Severn Tidal Power proposals and the uncertainty over the capacity of mitigation measures to address the potential impacts of these schemes combined should they all proceed.	8786-20-5143			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	We look forward to a more detailed set of recommendations, linked to key indicators and monitoring framework, to be incorporated both into the NPS and the detailed site proposals which will show how the significant effects will be avoided, cancelled and/or reduced and how this will be monitored. We would particularly emphasise that where these measures are intended to avoid adverse effects on European and/or international designated sites they will need to address the issues identified within the accompanying HRA and be compliant with the	8790-20-4459			/	and in combination with other plans and projects, including proposed and existing Oldbury Nuclear Power Stations. Detailed modelling and assessment has been undertaken using the most up to date information to inform the HRA and details of the environment baseline are provided in the HRA report. A significant amount of survey work in Bridgwater Bay has been undertaken and is reported upon in a number of technical reports. The findings of these studies have been summarised in the information for HRA report and the full studies have been made available to relevant parties. Potential nutrient increases, and temperature and water quality changes, resulting from the Hinkley Point C proposals are dealt with in the HRA report. The full implications of the influence of the thermal plume have been assessed including impacts on intertidal mudflat habitat and invertebrate fauna.
Somerset County Council	Dual - Local Authority, Statutory Consultee and Consultee with an Interest in Land	Stage 1	a) Further information should be provided by EDF on in-combination and cumulative environmental and socio-economic impacts of the Hinkley project along with other infrastructure projects, plans and programmes in the wider area (including the decommissioning of the stations at Hinkley Point).	8794-20-2871			/	The potential for disturbance effects on waterbirds during construction and operation of the Hinkley Point C is fully assessed in the HRA.
Somerset County Council	Dual - Local Authority, Statutory Consultee and Consultee with an Interest in Land	Stage 1	6. Ideally, since the development has potential to affect sites designated for their significance at an international level for nature conservation, any ES that is produced should contain sufficient information to satisfy the requirements not only of the EIA Regulations(2) but also of other UK legislation relating to such international sites. The most important legislation of this kind is the Habitats Regulations(3) which requires that: "A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which - is likely to have a significant effect on a European site in Great Britain (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and	8796-20-4417			/	Programme and sequencing of the individual elements of the Hinkley Point C Project are presented in the ES and HRA report. The impact of programming of the EPR unit construction is also dealt with in the HRA report. Impacts to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and their interest features are dealt with in the specific ES chapters. However, it is not expected that there would be any SSSI specific issues that are not covered through consideration of the potential effects on these European sites. The HRA assesses the toxic risk to the designated interest features of relevant European sites of all potentially harmful chemicals likely to arise during construction and operation of the new nuclear power station. Assessment has been undertaken of the discharge concentrations of these chemicals (in combination with other known discharge footprints) against accepted Environmental Quality Standards.
Somerset County Council	Dual - Local Authority, Statutory Consultee and Consultee with an Interest in Land	Stage 1	7. Competent authorities taking decisions in relation to these proposals will need to be mindful of the requirement within the Habitats Regulations that any proposal be considered in the light of possible 'in combination effects' that may be caused by the interaction between the development being considered and other plans or projects. One possible corollary of this is that it may not be possible to consider the impact on the Severn Estuary SPA(4) and/or SAC(5) of building the power station in isolation from the impact of, for example, refurbishing the Comwich Wharf. Other plans or projects that are less clearly associated with the power station development than the Comwich Wharf proposal may need to be taken into account also.	8797-20-204			/	Full consideration has been given to the effectiveness of mitigation measures where these have been proposed to deal with potential adverse effects. The Turnpenny and Liney (2006) report 'Review and development of temperature standards for marine and

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Somerset County Council	Dual - Local Authority, Statutory Consultee and Consultee with an Interest in Land	Stage 1	8. EDF has indicated to SCC's ecological specialists that the firm wishes to press ahead with certain site clearance and preparation works at Hinkley Point and that this may precipitate a planning application to West Somerset District Council (WSDC). Other works (such as the temporary jetty development) may need consent from a body other than either WSDC or the IPC. This raises potential problems with respect to how (a) the EIA is to be conducted and (b) any appropriate assessment(s) that may be necessary is (are) to be conducted.	8797-20-951			/	freshwater environments' is available for viewing on the UKTAG web site, at the following link: http://www.wfduk.org/LibraryPublicDocs/temperature_standards_review_and_development/
Tractivity 476	Public	Stage 1	1. Any other ideas or comments? One of the main concerns is environmental impact and so this aspect should always be at the forefront of planning and development considerations.	915-20-348			/	
Tractivity 62473	Dual - Consultee with an Interest in Land and Public	Stage 2	The construction & operation of massive wind turbines across the flight path to the moors at Pawlett will obstruct the flight path of wildfowl between the estuary and the Somerset levels. I realise that this is a separate proposal but it is at the same time by the same company and both should be considered together for collective impact. The construction & operation of new super grid power lines across the Somerset levels flight lines from Bridgwater to Avonmouth, again a separate company but done at the same time for the new station. The collective disruption & disturbance will be devastating to wildfowl in the area over a long period of time. These schemes will create a barrier to bird migration patterns which are in the large part learned so could lead to a permanent effect to the detriment of the Somerset environment.	1009-20-6678			/	

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The Bristol Port Company	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>In combination and cumulative impacts</p> <p>EDF, TBPC and the Agency are required to assess the potential for cumulative environmental effects of our developments together on the Severn Estuary, Steart Peninsula and surrounding area. The Environmental Statements for each development will therefore need to assess the combined effects of these proposals, paying particular attention to any synergistic effects, which might include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - impacts on the Severn Estuary European Marine Site, including the possible disturbance of birds during construction activities; - changes along the coast arising from marine works, including the proposed temporary jetty, sea wall, the construction of new cooling water tunnels, works at Comwich Wharf and breaching sea defences in the Severn and Parrett Estuaries; - potential impacts of increased traffic in the vicinity of the Steart Peninsula particularly during EDF's prolonged temporary construction period, but also as a result of ongoing increased visitor traffic in the area; - possible impacts on amenity and access as a result of the closure and diversion of public rights of way, with the associated requirement to provide new footpaths and improvements and/or links to existing footpaths. <p>There are potential benefits and cost savings for TBPC, EDF and the Agency to work together to assess the possible cumulative impacts of our proposed developments. There is potential here for duplication of effort and the possibility of inconsistent or conflicting results arising from cumulative impact studies. At a minimum, it would seem sensible to liaise to ensure consistency in approach and outputs from the cumulative impact studies. However, there may be an opportunity to undertake a single cumulative impact study funded jointly by developers in the area.</p>	1020-20-5242			/	
Taunton Deane Borough Council	Local Authority	Stage 2	<p>The proposals must look in greater detail at the broader social and quality of life issues and the cumulative effects on local communities as well as impact upon a number of Internationally Designated habitats within the Somerset Levels and Moors area. An enhanced Environmental Appraisal/Comprehensive draft Environmental Statement is required prior to submission.</p>	1021-20-3453			/	

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Bristol City Council	Local Authority	Stage 2	<p>Bristol City Council is minded to maintain its objection to the proposal to locate an additional nuclear power station on the Hinkley Point site and has serious concern on a number of issues, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inefficient use of resources in face of alternative and safer sources of energy; - constraint placed on the effective delivery of alternative renewable energy to the energy network in the Hinkley Point area; - impact of the proposed use on the environment of the Severn Estuary in combination with other proposed developments and any proposed mitigation; 	1021-20-891			/	
Somerset Councils and SNEG	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>Furthermore, we consider that the assessment of the effects focussing on individual projects leads to an inaccurate assessment of the overall significance of effects as it does not take into account the cumulative or in-combination effects that may arise. Cumulative effects are not independently assessed</p>	1024-20-8359			/	
Somerset Wildlife Trust	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>It is with great disappointment the Trust finds itself Repeating comments made in response to the Stage 1 consultation: little by way of detailed information is available at this juncture with which to fully appraise the potential discrete, in-combination and cumulative effects of the entire development upon local wildlife.</p>	1026-20-2021			/	
Somerset Wildlife Trust	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>The Trust has refrained from commenting in detail on impacts to estuarine ecology and the integrity of this Natura 2000 site as we are aware Natural England has provided a comprehensive, detailed response examining these issues. We fully support Natural England's comments, and hope a responsible and exemplary approach will be adopted by EDF towards working with Natural England to avoid harm to the internationally important estuary.</p>	1026-20-9815			/	

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Somerset Wildlife Trust	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>Cumulative impact assessment</p> <p>As discussed above, EDF has not presented stakeholders with a confident, verified analysis of the likely scale, longevity and severity of impacts to Somerset's protected and priority species, habitats and sites possibly arising from their development. In light of insufficient baseline data on coastal, marine and terrestrial ecology at the ancillary development sites, the cumulative impact assessment is hardly a convincing document. EDF's consideration of cumulative and in-combination impacts is premature, as discrete site-based impacts are currently unknown. The Trust has no confidence in the level of impacts predicted by the Cumulative Impact Assessment for this reason, and must again adopt a precautionary approach to considering EDF's preferred proposals.</p>	1026-20-13928			/	
Somerset Wildlife Trust	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>Overall, the Trust is not confident that the preferred proposals presented by EDF will have anything other than a detrimental impact upon local wildlife. Until the full extent of discrete, cumulative, and in-combination impacts upon priority species, habitats and protected sites has been assessed in the light of up to date survey work, and a convincing mitigation strategy presented, the Trust holds and will advocate a position of precautionary objection.</p>	1026-20-14729			/	
Tractivity 62469	Public	Stage 2	<p>v) It makes a mockery of the designations of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, National Nature Reserve and the Ramsar Convention. Hinkley A and B should never have been sited there in the first place. Their presence does not justify more, even bigger development. All your development plans constitute a serious disregard for the environment.</p>	8947-20-1957			/	
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>- Cumulative Impact Assessment: As surveys and modelling are still ongoing, we are aware that assessment of cumulative impact still needs to be carried out and completed. We have particular concerns over this issue and on the potential impacts to the Seven Estuary. A completed assessment on this issue is required as a matter of priority.</p>	8906-20-641			/	
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>- Under Regulation 61 of the 'Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010', if the combined impacts cannot be concluded to have no adverse effect on the integrity of the 'Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation' (SAC) (Annex II fish species), then compensation may be required under Regulation 66. This needs to be considered as a potential outcome. At this time adverse effects cannot be ruled out and as a consequence compensation should be considered.</p>	8906-20-984			/	

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Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	- In-combination Impacts: There needs to be more clarity on the nature, duration, and location of all discharges to the marine environment that will arise during the construction, commissioning, operation and decommissioning of the plant. The combined effects of all discharges will need to be considered in relation to their impact on the marine environment. When all relevant discharges have been assessed in relation to their combined effects, appropriate mitigation measures will need to be investigated in order to minimise these combined impacts.	8906-20-1456			/	
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Topic: In combination / cumulative assessment of impacts Issue: The in combination assessment of impacts has not been assessed. Comment: Consideration needs to be given to the cumulative impacts of what current plans and projects are likely to impact on the European Habitat sites, as well as plans and future projects. This includes the operation of Hinkley Point B together with the on-site construction and operation impacts of Hinkley Point C. Action: Assessments are required to include cumulative and in combination impacts .	8907-20-844			/	
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Comment: It is stated that the EPR units will be delivered on the same timescale (15.10.1 Page 50). However this is not the case and the environmental statement is required to reflect this as this will have implications on the extent and scope of the in combination and cumulative impacts assessment. Action: The impacts of building one EPR at a different rate to the other will need to be considered within the environmental assessment process.	8908-20-101			/	
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	We are concerned by the lack of information relating to the potential impact of further development at Hinkley Point on internationally important habitats. We also would like to remind you again of the importance attached to considering your effects in combination with other developments affecting the estuary e.g. Hinkley B. We recognise your commitment to undertake further studies and modelling to address this matter. This will be a key area of interest for all Defra agencies involved (NE, CCW, EA and MMO). This information will also be a critical element in our permitting work due to the likely need for Appropriate Assessments under the Habitats Regulations.	8909-20-3630			/	

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Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	2) In-combination effects as a result of disturbance to birds identified in the SPA and Ramsar designations including migratory species; wintering and moulting shelduck and the waterfowl assemblage before, during and after construction of the main site development, Combwich Wharf development (including the freight logistics and storage facility), as well as the decommissioning of Hinkley A & B Stations.	8909-20-2915			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	4) Entrainment and impingement effects from the Hinkley Point C water cooling system on specific SAC & Ramsar listed fish species including Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon and Eel and River and Sea Lamprey and the Ramsar fish assemblage alone and in-combination with Hinkley Point B and current and proposed Oldbury Power Nuclear Power Stations.	8909-20-3564			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	1) The effects of the thermal and chemical discharges alone from Hinkley Point C, taking into account the prevailing environmental conditions created by discharges from Hinkley Point B on designated site interest features, especially the non-breeding bird species listed above which are dependent upon the invertebrate communities associated with the intertidal mudflats.	8909-20-9583			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	There is further potential for indirect impacts to bird food availability via changes to thermal regime. Comments are provided separately with regard to Combwich and intertidal bird food availability. Effects can occur from any of these activities either individually or cumulatively/in-combination. Furthermore, there may be other plans and projects occurring in the wider vicinity, not linked with this particular proposal, which might also need to be taken into account when considering cumulative/in-combination effects.	8910-20-7153			/	

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Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>In particular, the peak numbers of 200 Shelduck using CS3 in both July and August 2007 are of concern, albeit with much lower numbers occurring during the other months and during the entire moult period in 2008. It appears that these birds were loafing on the sea around high tide (Page 96, Entec, 2010). They were also at times located at more than 500m away from the shore. At this distance, it is unlikely that moulting loafing birds will be unduly affected by the construction activities on the land.</p> <p>However, at closer distances, it is not possible to rule out disturbance impacts to moulting Shelduck loafing on the sea around high tide. During flightless periods, it will be more difficult for such flocks to move readily away to other areas. Further consideration should therefore be given to providing appropriately tailored mitigation proposals for when flocks of moulting Shelduck are close to the shore around high tide.</p>	8910-20-8155	/			
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>The count sector that will receive the largest disturbance is CS2, with both sea wall construction and temporary jetty activity occurring both adjacent to and across the intertidal area. We agree that it appears that there is infrequent and low-level use of moulting Shelduck in this area. Excluding one flock of 500 birds loafing on the sea at high tide (see comments above); numbers were often in single figures only.</p> <p>Low numbers of moulting Shelduck use CS1 on a regular basis, apparently using this area for foraging and loafing. The likely feeding areas in the intertidal area appear to be around 500m away from the location of the temporary jetty. Although there may be some effect on these birds, the numbers and distance is such that impacts can be considered to be of a low magnitude.</p>	8910-20-9094			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>We consider that the relatively large numbers of feeding birds using CS5 regularly through the winter are at a sufficient distance away to be unaffected by the construction disturbance, subject to the same assumption above i.e. that there will be no increase in people/traffic/machinery movements across the frontage of this area.</p>	8910-20-10717			/	

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Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Other SPA and SSSI species features (not including the SPA wintering waterbird assemblage) Based on the information provided, the SPA features; Bewick's Swan, European White-fronted Goose, Dunlin, Redshank and Gadwall are present in very low or zero numbers on both the intertidal areas and the terrestrial footprint of the development site. We do not consider that these species will be affected by any disturbance/displacement impacts from the construction phase and also the operational phase. The same conclusion can be drawn for Dunlin as a Bridgwater Bay SSSI feature.	8910-20-0			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Pintail are using areas of the foreshore in CS 4 and 5 for foraging and loafing on the sea on a regular basis during the winter, in numbers representing up to 8% of the pSPA population. Based on the assumptions already discussed regarding disturbing activities (no disturbance on the foreshore from cooling water tunnel construction/operation and no access routes along this zone of frontage along the foreshore), it is unlikely that these birds, located around 600-800m away from the main areas for disturbance (sea wall and temporary jetty construction) will be substantially affected by the main development site (construction and operational phases). Use of CS1, 2 and 3 by Pintail appears to consist mainly of infrequent loafing on the water close to high tide, usually in small numbers which also will not cause a substantial impact.	8910-20-805			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Ringed Plover occurred across all count sectors, foraging and roosting, but not in any apparent regular patterns of use or numbers. CS1 seems to be most frequently used, with some very small roosts noted and regular use by foraging birds in generally single figure numbers, but up to 33 on one occasion. The focus of the disturbance for CS1 will be the construction and use of the temporary jetty located some 500m away. This distance is such that displacement is unlikely but not impossible. However, given the relatively small numbers and the temporary status of the jetty, it is unlikely that this pSPA feature will be substantially adversely affected.	8910-20-1665			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Curlew appear to regularly use, in varying numbers, most areas of the foreshore for foraging (mainly CS5) and roosting (mainly CS4). Small numbers also regularly use the coastal fields to be lost to the main development site. Assuming CS5 and CS4 remain relatively undisturbed (the same assumptions as for Pintail), there is potential to temporarily disturb around 20 birds on the foreshore and lose around 10 birds on the coastal fields permanently. It is unclear whether these are different birds or the same birds, but assuming they are different, this represents less than 1% of the pSPA population and is unlikely to represent a substantial adverse effect.	8910-20-2334			/	

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Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	These species features occur infrequently and in very low numbers (less than 5 individuals in total) on the areas of foreshore and terrestrial land that will be most disturbed and likely impacts to these SSSI and SPA (within the wintering waterbird assemblage) features can be discounted.	8910-20-3035			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Of particular note are reasonable numbers of low-tide foraging Wigeon (up to circa 200) birds apparently using CS4 and CS5 fairly regularly. These birds are circa 600- 800m from main areas of disturbance and subject to the assumptions already discussed are unlikely to be substantially affected at either SPA or SSSI feature level.	8910-20-6375			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Lapwing occur on both the foreshore in CS5 (assumed to be unaffected by disturbance as previously discussed) and on the terrestrial fields. They appear to be distributed fairly evenly across the terrestrial fields, with the exception of the arable fields closest to the coast. The arable fields further south hold small numbers of Lapwing and although this area is not subject to permanent land take, the landscaping of the site post-construction suggests some mosaic of grassland with woodland planting, and therefore unlikely to attract Lapwing. Although numbers are relatively small (between 50 and 150 birds), it should be kept in mind there will be habitat loss for Lapwing as a result of the main development site activity, although not at a level likely to affect the SPA assemblage feature.	8910-20-7325			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - more detailed assessment of the disturbance impacts to moulting Shelduck, separate to wintering Shelduck, taking into account the reduced ability for dispersal for flightless, moulting Shelduck; - further consideration of mitigation proposals for when groups of moulting Shelduck are present loafing on the water at high tide close to the shore; - further consideration of mitigation proposals for when groups of wintering Shelduck are present close to the temporary jetty in CS2; and - further consideration of the magnitude of adverse effects on coastal birds when displacement occurs as a result of disturbing activities, taking into account that such dispersal is generally disadvantageous to birds. 	8910-20-640	/			

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Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	As a general principle, it is crucial that the potential for indirect impacts to food availability for all the SSSI and SPA, Ramsar site features are assessed.	8910-20-4511			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Section 4.3.1 describes the optimal thermal regime for <i>Macoma balthica</i> and suggests some direct and indirect effects of temperature increases on the biology of this species, using evidence derived from research in various parts of Europe. This provides a useful context but the analysis that <i>M. balthica</i> is present in the estuaries of northern Brittany, and that this latitude represents similar thermal conditions that will be experienced by the areas of 2°C uplift within the Severn Estuary as a result of the thermal plume, is too simplistic. Initial evidence that population density is very high in comparison with other estuaries has been presented in the previous section. Although this species is present in estuaries at more southerly latitudes, it does not follow that they occur at the same high density. There may also be a specific size distribution of prey items that might be important to feeding birds that thermal loading may have an effect on.	8910-20-6522			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	The potential for adverse impacts to intertidal bird food availability has been identified; the magnitude and exact nature of which has not been assessed in detail for SSSI, SPA, Ramsar site features. We are therefore unable to conclude at the present time that there will be no adverse impact on site integrity for the Severn Estuary SPA, Ramsar site features, either alone or in-combination with other aspects of these proposals or other plans and projects in the area. Similarly, we are unable to conclude that the Bridgwater Bay SSSI bird features will be unaffected by these proposals.	8910-20-7714			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	We consider the assessment of cumulative impacts (HPC and Off-Site Associated Development) to be far from comprehensive, simply collating impact significance judgements from the various sections of the EA. The assessment should include a clear discussion of additional change to the components in the landscape, landscape character and viewpoints.	8911-20-3216			/	

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Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	1.64) The cumulative impact assessment has not considered the changes in both the view and in landscape character of: - The in-combination effects (standing at each viewpoint and looking only one way) - The effects in succession when standing at a viewpoint and looking in different directions - The sequential effects (travelling through the landscape).	8911-20-3567			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	1.65) Night time cumulative impacts need also to be considered.	8911-20-3934			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Paragraph 1.2.1 states "there is no legislation that specifically applies to cumulative assessment". We draw your attention to following: 1) Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Circular 06/2005 Biodiversity and geological conservation - statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system 2) Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states " Any plan or project not directly necessary for the management of the (European) site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with or plans and projects shall be subject to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site's conservation objectives 3) Regulation 61(1) of the Conservation Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 states " A competent Authority, before deciding to undertake, or give consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which is a) Is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects) and b) Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site must make an appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of its conservation objectives 4) Managing Natura 200 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (European Commission 2000) states " A series of individually modest impacts may in-combination produce a significant effect .. it is important to note that the underlying intention of this in combination	8911-20-5064			/	

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			<p>provision is to take account of cumulative impacts"</p> <p>5) Assessing Projects under the Habitats Directive - Guidance for Competent Authorities produced by (Personal information removed) for Countryside Council for Wales, 2008 states " if a project alone is checked and it is concluded that it would not likely to have a significant effect on European site alone it should be subject to an appropriate assessment on its own. In checking the need for an appropriate assessment, it may be concluded that the project could affect the site in some way, but alone the effects are unlikely to be significant . In such cases, the competent Authority should check whether the significant effects would be likely if the project was combined with other plans and projects. An in combination assessment is required in order to comply with the Habitats Regulations and should include other plans and projects that have been checked for the need for an appropriate assessment and where the following applies:</p> <p>a) It has been concluded that the other plan or project may affect the site but the effects are not significant on there own. A number of plans and projects with effects individually have been determined to by insignificant may still result in a significant effect on the site if all the effects are combined</p> <p>b) It has been concluded that the other plan or project may have significant effect alone and where measures have consequently been included to reduced the effect to a level where it no longer considered to be significant when the plan or project alone, but where the measures applied will not remove the effect completely. Such residual effects could still contribute to a significant effect when combined with other effects, 2008 further states:</p> <p>An in combination assessment does need to include any plans or projects that have been checked for the need for an appropriate assessment and where the following applies:</p> <p>i) It has been concluded that the other plan or project will not have any effect at all on the site and thus it cannot it cannot have an effect either alone or in combination.</p> <p>ii) If it has been concluded that the plan or project on the site and the necessary measures have been put in place to completely remove the likelihood of any effects (that is avoidance measures are an integral part of the project.</p>					
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	The current environmental baseline should always be considered in any Habitats Regulations Assessment, because the current condition of the site may influence whether an effect is likely to be significant and may influence whether an adverse effect upon ecological integrity will occur. In view of this, we consider that the thermal and chemical discharges from Hinkley B Nuclear Power Station have created environmental baseline whereby it is not possible to rule out Hinkley C Power Nuclear Power Station alone having a likely significant effect.	8911-20-9167			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	As far as the component parts of these particular proposals, it should be made clearer that the 'Combwich Wharf' element includes a very large freight, logistics and storage facility in addition to the wharf upgrade. As the potential impacts to birds from the freight facility have not been sufficiently assessed (see separate comments), it is difficult to reach a view at this stage about cumulative impacts for all designated site features. Similarly, the work on the thermal plume is incomplete and therefore we cannot rule out that cumulative or in-combination impacts might be operating on bird features, that includes this element.	8911-20-440			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	The geographical separation of the main development site from Combwich Wharf and the results of the intertidal bird survey work at both sites suggest that it is likely that any disturbance/displacement impacts will be operating on different groups of birds and therefore cumulative impacts can be considered to be additive, should the most disturbing construction activities occur at the same time. Therefore, the relative timing of the most disturbing activities may be an important factor to take into account. Ideally, these should be timetabled at different times, which would be useful mitigation. However, Section 4.4.24 suggests that: 'works [at the main development site and Combwich Wharf] could be ongoing at the same time'.	8911-20-1081			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Sections 4.4.23 to 4.4.28 consider cumulative impacts to coastal birds in a rather generalised manner. Whilst we agree that there is particular concern with regard to the designated features of the Severn Estuary SPA, Ramsar site, this concern may also operate at Bridgwater Bay SSSI level.	8911-20-2154			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	On the basis of the information provided so far, and the recommendation for the Hinkley site within the NPS for new nuclear power, we consider that the development as currently proposed is likely to have a significant effect on the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site, in particular from the cooling water intake structure, and the temperature and quality of the discharge. The basis for that view is set out in more detail in the attached annexes.	8912-20-2161			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We strongly recommend that the ES addresses these issues of presentation, particularly with respect to that information required to allow the competent authorities to carry out their Habitats Regulations Assessments.	8912-20-7419			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Our main concern is that the ES does not contain sufficient information to allow us to assess the implications of the proposals on the integrity of the Severn Estuary SPA, SAC, River Usk SAC and River Wye SAC.	8912-20-975			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	1.2 Need for Nuclear Power The "Towards a Nuclear National Policy Statements" clearly set out the arguments in support of the building of new nuclear power generation facilities in the context of the wider UK energy generation mix. As part of the justification for building new nuclear power generation facilities the NPS carried out an Assessment of Sustainability (AoS) and Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) on the proposals. These identified a number of significant environmental effects (AoS) and likely significant effects (HRA) that could only be partially addressed at the level of the NPS and would need further assessment at the Project development stage. The ES should make reference to these points and how it is taking them forward.	8912-20-1950			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The HRA for the Hinkley Point NPS clearly identifies a number of likely significant effects relating to the proposal site. These include potential impacts on the adjacent Severn Estuary suite of sites (SAC, SPA and Ramsar) and the River Usk SAC and River Wye SAC. The likely significant effects identified related to water quality (including thermal plume and oxygen depletion effects resulting from cooling water discharge in addition to chemical and radioactivity effects), water abstraction, potential habitat loss and fragmentation, coastal squeeze, disturbance and air quality. We reiterate that the ES should address these issues in detail.	8912-20-2775	/			
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	b) Assessment of Potential Impacts 5.4.5 We remind you of the importance of considering the impacts of the proposals on the conservation objectives for the European sites. This information will be required by the competent authorities when they carry out their HRA. The lack of this information has been consistently identified as a concern in the draft ES chapters already seen. We recommend that this omission is address partly through a 'policies and legislation' chapter (as referred to above for 5.3.11) and partly through a specific consideration in the individual topic chapters.	8912-20-2105	/			
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We recommend that the ES includes a of a specific paragraph on cumulative impacts in the context of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and how these will be addressed, to aid the competent authorities in their HRAs.	8912-20-3035			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Environmental Impact Assessment and associated documents such as the Habitats Regulation report (HR report) should include sufficient information to enable the Competent Authorities to carry out their Habitats Regulation Assessments (HRAs) for the Severn Estuary SPA, SAC, River Usk SAC and River Wye SAC as required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Similarly, sufficient information should be included to decide whether the development is likely to damage any of the SSSI features, in which case the provisions of Section 28 G and I of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, as amended, apply.	8912-20-329	/			
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	1.2.32 We refer you to the formal classification of the Severn Estuary SPA, or Table 4 in the Regulation 33 Advice for the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar Site from Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales, link: http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape--wildlife/managing-land-and-sea/search-results.aspx?txtSearchTerms=severn+estuary&submit=Go , for the correct list of classified features of the SPA.	8912-20-1944			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Drainage 2.13.7 We refer you to our comments on drainage issues relating to the preliminary works. The HR report should consider the possible cumulative and in-combination issues with the preliminary works.	8912-20-5727			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Construction of temporary jetty 2.13.12 We refer you to our comments on the temporary jetty relating to the preliminary works. The HR report should consider the possible cumulative and in-combination issues with the preliminary works	8912-20-5940			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Construction of sea wall 2.13.41 In addition to direct impacts such as those arising from, for example, stockpiling material 'on site', the HR report should also consider the possible cumulative and in-combination issues with the preliminary works.	8912-20-6180			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The consideration of cumulative and in- combination impacts is an integral part of the HRA process and will need to be addressed fully in the HR report. We strongly recommend that all the information on these issues for the Severn Estuary and other European sites is clearly presented in one place (the HR report and/or the ES), along with the other information necessary to allow the competent authorities in carrying out their HRAs. Of particular relevance will be issues such as possible in- combination impacts from the thermal plumes from Hinkley B and Hinkley C, and impacts on water quality	8913-20-651	/			
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We have serious concerns about the conclusions presented in this document. In view of the fact that as yet there is no full and detailed analysis of the effect of the HPC development on the designated features of the European sites, we have considerable concern over the statement in 1.6.60 'these in the context of the Severn Estuary, are expected to be minor or negligible'. On the basis of the information provided to date we are of the view that it is not possible to state this at this time.	8913-20-1795	/			
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	On the basis of the information provided so far, and the recommendation for the Hinkley site within the NPS for new nuclear power, we consider that the development as currently proposed is likely to have a significant effect on the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site, in particular from the cooling water intake structure, and the temperature and quality of the discharge. The basis for that view is set out in more detail in the attached annexes. Again on the basis of the information provided so far, and without prejudice to any advice we may give in relation to an appropriate assessment, or to the findings of an appropriate assessment, carried out by the competent authorities in accordance with the Habitats Directive and Regulations, we advise that there is a distinct possibility that the proposed development will have impacts that cannot be mitigated sufficiently to remove the risk of adverse effects on the integrity of the Natura 2000 and Ramsar interests.	8913-20-2353			/	
Somerset County Council	Dual - local authority, statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	The ecological appraisal of the impacts of the whole development package is done in a piecemeal fashion without due and proper consideration of 'in combination' and 'cumulative' effects. A lack of assessment of impacts in combination with other aspects of the development means the Ecological Impact Assessment should be considered as incomplete and therefore not currently fit for purpose. Potentially the most major ecological impact is upon bird populations of the Special Protection Area (SPA)/Ramsar site, these impacts need full assessment and justification. Survey data collected during 2010 is not included in the documentation.	8925-20-606			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Somerset County Council	Dual - local authority, statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	The conclusions that have been drawn are that the cumulative impacts upon marine ecology and upon terrestrial ecology are in the range negligible to minor adverse at worst (see Table 4.2). However, there is no detail in Volume 4 concerning how these assessments have been arrived at in relation to ecology. With regards to the cumulative impact of the station plus associated development, the approach that seems to have been followed, if section 4.2 is understood properly, is that of summing together the impacts of separate developments as they have been assessed in other chapters and sections of the appraisal. If this is the basic methodology that has been adopted, then it needs to be pointed out that some impacts have the capacity to interact in such a way as to produce impacts that are greater than the simple sum of their parts.	8925-20-2078			/	
Somerset County Council	Dual - local authority, statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	An example that is not considered in any detail in Volume 4 is that of the potential impacts of disturbance upon bird populations in the Severn Estuary Special Protection Area (SPA). In relation to Combwich Wharf, the assumption is made that if birds do suffer some minor disturbance, they will be able to relocate themselves to available habitat a short distance away (see, for example, paragraph 5.10.130 in Chapter 5 Volume 3 where this is stated explicitly). Elsewhere in the Environmental Appraisal, it is predicted that the impacts due to disturbance upon birds using inter-tidal habitat caused by development of the main station site will also be minor/negligible adverse. Yet, if the habitat to which it is anticipated the birds will re-locate is also subjected to disturbance, such as Combwich, then it is possible that the in-combination effect could be greater than that predicted simply by adding two minor adverse impacts together. Birds displaced from their feeding areas by disturbance from one source may not be able to readily find alternative feeding locations due to disturbance from another which could mean that SPA populations are deprived of effective usage of significant parts of the Estuary.	8925-20-2922			/	
Somerset County Council	Dual - local authority, statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	3.6 Recommended additions A Chapter that deals in detail with 'in-combination' and/or additive impacts on terrestrial ecology that are likely to arise due to the whole power station project. (SCC does not regard the material in Volume 4 to be sufficiently detailed at the present to fulfil this function.) SCC would regard it as helpful if a distinction could be drawn between effects that will be permanent for all intents and purposes (e.g. the loss of grassland and woodland habitats within the station footprint) and those that will be more temporary in nature.	8925-20-10578			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Stop Hinkley	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>Among the bird species which breed in or frequent this area are Peregrine Falcon, Cetti's Warbler, Lesser Whiethroat, Nightingale, Reed Bunting and a range of other songbirds and warblers. A number of bat species, including the relatively rare Lesser Horseshoe, have also been registered.</p> <p>All this habitat will be erased and the wildlife displaced if the Hinkley C proposal goes ahead. In addition, there is no proposal to create any alternative habitat for these or other species until well after the construction period has passed and the power station has become operational.</p>	8945-20-5640			/	
Stop Hinkley	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>Proximity to Protected Areas</p> <p>The coastline bordering the Hinkley C site is part of the Bridgwater Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Bridgwater Bay's shallow waters and mudflats are a sanctuary for thousands of waders, ducks and other sea birds, especially in winter.</p> <p>The site is also bordered by Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and a National Nature Reserve. Bridgwater Bay is designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention.</p> <p>Part of the construction site itself falls within a County Wildlife Site designated because of its conservation value.</p>	8945-20-6227			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>Our main interest in this scheme relates to potential adverse impacts arising from the development on the Severn Estuary Natura 2000 site, especially on the internationally important Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Cumulative disturbance impacts on feeding and roosting waterbirds at Hinkley Point and Comwich Wharf due to construction works and operational activities; 2) Cumulative impacts of thermal plume and chemical discharges on feeding waterbirds, most notably in Bridgwater Bay; 3) Cumulative impacts of the above with other elements of the project; 4) In combination impacts of this proposal with other relevant plans or projects. 	8945-20-321			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>Table 18.5.6 (chapter 18, EA vol 2) sets out peak waterbird counts by sector but does not provide an assessment of their significance within the context of the SPA. The environmental assessment of impacts of the project on estuary waterbirds should be based on an understanding of the significance of levels of use of the adjacent SPA by key species. We have calculated the significance of use for each species by count sector, as set out below. The data shows that count sectors 1-5 support a significant proportion of shelduck, wigeon, mallard, pintail, passage ringed plover, black-tailed godwit, passage whimbrel, curlew, little egret and herring gull.</p> <p>1) CS1-5 together support significant numbers of key SPA species(1):</p> <p>>1% of the estimated SPA populations of the following internationally important species: shelduck (35.1%), pintail (17.6%), shoveler (1.4%) and ringed plover (5%);</p> <p>>1% of the estimated SPA populations of the following nationally important species: wigeon (6.5%), black-tailed godwit (24.4%) and curlew (5.5%)</p> <p>>1% of the following SPA assemblage species: mallard (2.7%), whimbrel (15.8%), little egret (13.2%) and herring gull (17.9%).</p> <p>CS1-3, where the greatest disturbance impacts are predicted, together support:</p> <p>>1% of the estimated SPA populations of the following internationally important species: shelduck (17.1%), pintail (7.7%), ringed plover (4%);</p> <p>>1% of the estimated SPA populations of the following nationally important species: wigeon (1.5%) and curlew (2.1%);</p> <p>>1% of the following SPA assemblage species: whimbrel (4%), little egret (13.2%) and herring gull (11.2%).</p> <p>CS4 which lies on the edge of the suggested disturbance zone supports the following species, and is therefore in a highly sensitive location:</p> <p>>1% of the estimated SPA populations of the following internationally important species: shelduck (1.7%) and pintail (4.2%);</p> <p>>1% of the estimated SPA populations of the following nationally important species: wigeon (2.6%) and curlew (1.3%);</p> <p>>1% of the following SPA assemblage species: whimbrel (2.3%), little egret (6.6%) and herring gull (4.4%).</p>	8945-20-2821			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Although the stage 2 documents include a lot of information about likely construction and operational works, information is dispersed and critical information seems to be missing. We would like a full account of the type, scale, duration, timing and potential overlap of all activities likely to contribute to disturbance at both Hinkley and Combrich Wharf, in order to fully assess the combined disturbance impacts on waterbirds and to agree a comprehensive series of suitable mitigation measures.	8945-20-6191			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	There is recognition at 18.7.55 that construction and operational activities would cause disturbance within the SPA in the absence of effective mitigation. We agree that noise, lighting and human activity are likely to provide the main sources of disturbance to the SPA foreshore and functionally linked offshore areas. The jetty, sea wall extension and possibly onshore cooling water intake and outfall activity, are identified as major sources of disturbance, although future operational activities at the plant itself should be included.	8945-20-6691			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	It is not clear from the documentation whether there would be significant construction activity within the 300m corridor for the intake/outfall tunnels in the vicinity of C1-3, and we seek clarification on whether the SPA foreshore and its environs are likely to experience any additional disturbance from this source.	8945-20-7237			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The list of vulnerable species should include mallard, little egret and herring gull. Although these are not cited SPA species they are important within the SPA assemblage, and the assessment of impacts should take this fully into account.	8945-20-7559			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The evidence presented at 18.7.59 onwards is limited and contradictory. The Cardiff Barrage study supports our view that displacement can have significant adverse effects on several waterbird species including curlew. Assessing the scale of disturbance is not an exact science and depends on the local site and the nature of the disturbance source. Distances of 250 - 500m are highlighted in chapter 18. We would be inclined as a precautionary approach to anticipate disturbance up to and beyond 500m.	8945-20-8586			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Comments to the effect that displaced birds would be accommodated elsewhere without any ecological consequences are repeated throughout chapter 18 (eg. 18.7.62, 18.7.66, 18.7.67 & 18.7.68). These assertions are highly speculative, and require a good understanding of the carrying capacity, including density-dependent factors, of alternative feeding and roosting areas, weather conditions, site fidelity and other factors. It is generally accepted that birds are disadvantaged when displaced and robust evidence needs to be presented in order for the developer to demonstrate otherwise.	8945-20-9091			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	It is recognised at 18.7.67 that birds could be displaced from the CS1-3 area, although no significant impacts are predicted. Again, we would disagree about the scale of potential displacement which in our view could be significant. The ecological consequences of displacement may be difficult to assess but nonetheless may be reasonably anticipated. We do not share the confidence expressed at 18.7.67 that CS5 provides a 'locally optimum foraging resource' for displaced birds.	8945-20-10016			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	There is an assumption in chapter 18 that CS4 and 5 would not be exposed to significant disturbance from this scheme. We are particularly concerned about the sensitivity of CS4 given its proximity to the proposed sea wall extension and cooling water tunnel corridor. We seek assurances that there would be no access through CS4-5 in order to carry out construction or operational activities for the sea wall extension, the jetty or any other works, or further traffic long the northern edge of the existing Hinkley A/B site. Any mitigation measures required to prevent significant disturbance need to be set out clearly.	8945-20-10845			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	It is stated at 18.7.71 that there are limited measures which can be taken to reduce construction disturbance effects. We do not believe that the measures listed are comprehensive or would prevent significant disturbance to SPA waterbirds in CS1-4. There is no information, for example, on how the timing of the commencement or completion of construction activities might be programmed to minimise activity during the critical months of December to February when SPA waterbird use is at its peak. We note that decommissioning of a jetty could [our emphasis] be undertaken from July but there is no information about eg the duration of decommissioning which might allow us to assess whether this is appropriate in relation to the SPA.	8945-20-11867			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The potential impacts of thermal regime change in Bridgwater Bay is a serious concern to us. Although an assessment of likely changes to benthic communities is provided in chapter 19, it is clear that further work needs to be carried out urgently in order to understand the magnitude and likelihood of potential impacts on the Bridgwater Bay ecosystem, including feeding waterbirds.	8945-20-681			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	It is therefore critical that the documentation provides an outline of the status of Turnpenny & Liney's 2006 work and a summary of the evidence regarding thermal impacts on benthic communities and waterbirds.	8945-20-1530			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We fully support the need for further survey work and analysis to better understand the functioning of the Bridgwater Bay ecosystem and the potential cumulative impacts of a thermal plume on SPA waterbirds with other impacts (18.8.31).	8945-20-4963			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>We remain concerned about the cumulative impact of these chemicals on the Severn Estuary Natura 2000 site, in particular bioaccumulation of toxic materials in the benthic ecosystem and consequent impacts on feeding waterbirds.</p> <p>It is crucial that a rigorous Habitats Regulations assessment of the toxic risk of all potentially harmful chemicals likely to enter the Natura 2000 site is carried out, and in particular to assess concentrations (in combination with other known discharge footprints) against the Environment Agency's Predicted No Effect Concentration (PNEC) criteria. We are not aware that this has been carried out.</p>	8945-20-5499			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>Cumulative effects refer to the combined impacts of the different project elements on the Natura 2000 site and other key biodiversity features. In our view, the impacts of a number of key elements of the project have not been fully assessed. This makes it impossible to provide a robust assessment of the cumulative impacts arising from the project on its own.</p> <p>We are particularly concerned about the lack of conclusions regarding the the cumulative impacts of a thermal plume with other impacts, eg biocide discharge, and the lack of information regarding the cumulative impacts of disturbance at Hinkley and Comwich. This undermines the assessment of cumulative impacts of the project as a whole.</p> <p>In our view, it is impossible to conclude a cumulative assessment of likely impacts on SPA waterbirds with the information provided in the stage 2 consultation</p>	8945-20-9260			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>From the information provided it is clear to us that this project is likely to have a significant effect on the Severn Estuary Natura 2000 site. The Conservation Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (Reg 61(1)) state that a plan or project which is likely to have a significant effect on a European site either alone or in combination with other plans and projects and is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site must make an appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of its conservation objectives.</p> <p>It is critical that any in combination assessment includes all relevant plans or projects. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Port of Bristol and Environment Agency managed realignment schemes at Steart; - The National Grid Hinkley C 400kV overhead powerline connection; - Strategic plans including the Severn Estuary and North Devon & Somerset Shoreline Management Plans and the Severn Estuary Flood management Strategy; - Other plans or projects likely to have a significant impact on the Natura 200 site. 	8945-20-10158			/	
Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - local authority and consultee with an interest in land (Sedgemoor)	Stage 2	<p>Failure to Assess the Effects on Internationally Designated Habitats</p> <p>The authorities do not believe that there is a complete and robust assessment of the effects of the project on internationally designated habitats and bird communities. One of the main issues which the Executive Summary of the IPC's Scoping Opinion draws attention to is 'potential impacts of the proposals on adjacent internationally and nationally designated sites': The Habitats Regulations Assessment and evaluation of potential impacts on the adjacent internationally designated habitats and birds communities is still ongoing. This work is critical to determining the potential significance of effects to these international designated habitats and bird communities.</p>	8929-20-5318			/	
Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - local authority and consultee with an interest in land (Sedgemoor)	Stage 2	<p>Notably one of the main issues which the Executive Summary of the Scoping Opinion draws attention to is 'potential impacts of the proposals on adjacent internationally and nationally designated sites': The Habitats Regulations Assessment and evaluation of potential impacts on the adjacent internationally designated habitats and birds communities is still ongoing. This work is critical to determining the potential significance to these international designated habitats and bird communities.</p>	8933-20-5270			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - local authority and consultee with an interest in land (Sedgemoor)	Stage 2	Further the cumulative effects section of the EnvApp (Volume 4) does not contain an assessment of the cumulative impact from the combined action of a number of different environmental topic specific impacts upon each local village and Bridgwater which would enable judgments' to be drawn on the residual social effects on these communities, particularly in relation to their quality of life and on vulnerable communities and sub-groups. For example, a cumulative assessment of the residual effects of the combination of noise, air quality, visual, transport, recreational and amenity impacts on villages such as Shurton appear to be omitted from the appraisal. These omissions need to be fully explained in the methodology for the appraisal to enable the key limitations of this study to be understood.	8933-20-6607			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	<p>- On the basis of the information provided, the development as currently proposed is likely to have a significant effect on the Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site.</p> <p>- Again on the information provided, and without prejudice to any advice we may give in relation to an appropriate assessment, we advised that there was a distinct possibility that the proposed development would have impacts that cannot be mitigated sufficiently to remove the risk of adverse effects of the Natura 2000 and Ramsar interests.</p>	8983-20-1347			/	
RSPB	Non-statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	None of the proposed changes materially affect the potential impacts of greatest concern to the RSPB, viz 'in combination' impacts of a thermal plume on Bridgwater Bay ecology, constructional and operational disturbance impacts on waterbirds and the indirect impacts of changes to coastal hydrodynamics on the Severn Estuary European site.	8989-20-208			/	
RSPB	Non-statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	<p>Our main interest in this scheme relates to potential adverse impacts arising from the development on the Severn Estuary Natura 2000 site, especially on the internationally important Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, including:</p> <p>1) Cumulative disturbance impacts on feeding and roosting waterbirds at Hinkley Point and Comwich Wharf due to construction works and operational activities;</p> <p>2) Cumulative impacts of thermal plume and chemical discharges on feeding waterbirds, most notably in Bridgwater Bay;</p> <p>3) Cumulative impacts of the above with other elements of the project;</p> <p>4) In combination impacts of this proposal with other relevant plans or projects.</p>	8989-20-277			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
RSPB	Non-statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	Comments to the effect that displaced birds would be accommodated elsewhere without any ecological consequences are repeated throughout chapter 18 (eg. 18.7.62, 18.7.66, 18.7.67 & 18.7.68). These assertions are highly speculative, and require a good understanding of the carrying capacity, including density-dependent factors, of alternative feeding and roosting areas, weather conditions, site fidelity and other factors. It is generally accepted that birds are disadvantaged when displaced and robust evidence needs to be presented in order for the developer to demonstrate otherwise.	8990-20-2971			/	
RSPB	Non-statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	<p>Cumulative effects refer to the combined impacts of the different project elements on the Natura 2000 site and other key biodiversity features. In our view, the impacts of a number of key elements of the project have not been fully assessed. This makes it impossible to provide a robust assessment of the cumulative impacts arising from the project on its own.</p> <p>We are particularly concerned about the lack of conclusions regarding the the cumulative impacts of a thermal plume with other impacts, eg biocide discharge, and the lack of information regarding the cumulative impacts of disturbance at Hinkley and Combwich. This undermines the assessment of cumulative impacts of the project as a whole.</p> <p>In our view, it is impossible to conclude a cumulative assessment of likely impacts on SPA waterbirds with the information provided in the stage 2 consultation.</p>	8990-20-2924			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	3.20 - 3.26: We welcome the identification of disturbance as an issue for migratory fish features, as well as the SPA and Ramsar bird features, and the comprehensive way that this has been dealt with in this Report.	8784-21-1799			/	Given the location, nature and scale of the proposed Hinkley Point C Project it has been recognised that the proposals may have the potential to affect a number of European designated sites. Following Stage 2 Consultation, an assessment was undertaken in accordance with The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (Habitats Regulations) and the findings of this assessment have been presented in the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) report.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	<p>Table 6.1: We note the overall assessment of significant strategic sustainability effects summarised in this table and the large number of negative evaluations identified. While we feel that a large number of these can be avoided, cancelled or reduced by appropriate mitigation measures there are two key points that must be emphasised;</p> <p>The need to consider these proposals in the context of other developing plans, programmes and policies, notably the developing Local Plans and Local Development plans, Shoreline Management Plans and Flood Risk Management Strategies, The Environment Agency Review of Consents Process, and Severn Tidal power feasibility studies.</p> <p>The requirements of meeting the Habitats Directive and particularly Section 85C of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007</p> <p>6.13 : We welcome the clear recommendations in relation to developing and progressing mitigation measures as set out in this paragraph.</p>	8790-21-3209			/	<p>Comments were raised by some consultees during the Stage 2 Consultation with regard to the plans and projects included in the in-combination assessment of the HRA. As a result, the full list of the plans and projects considered in the assessment were agreed through consultation with relevant organisations at the screening stage. The potential in-combination effects of the Hinkley Point C Project are considered at the designated site and feature level. A full cumulative and in-combination assessment is provided in the HRA report.</p> <p>Where required, to avoid or reduce significant effects on designated features of European and/or international designated sites, mitigation measures are proposed and described in detail within the HRA report. These mitigation measures are taken into account in the determination of whether the activities and processes of the Hinkley Point C Project would have an adverse effect on the integrity of the designated sites under consideration. In addition, an appropriate monitoring programme to measure the effectiveness of these mitigation measures will be developed and agreed with the relevant parties.</p>
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	We note the comprehensive list of potential effects and mitigation measures identified in the report and summarised in this table. We look forward to a more detailed set of recommendations, linked to key indicators and monitoring framework, to be incorporated both into the NPS and the detailed site proposals which will show how the significant effects will be avoided, cancelled and/or reduced and how this will be monitored. We would particularly emphasise that where these measures are intended to avoid adverse effects on European and/or international designated sites they will need to meet the criteria set out within the Habitats Directive and identified within the accompanying HRA.	8790-21-138			/	<p>Full consideration has been given to the effectiveness of mitigation measures where they have been proposed to deal with potential adverse effects. Monitoring will also be undertaken where it would be useful to demonstrate the effectiveness of mitigation measures and to determine whether adjustments or further measures need to be put in place.</p>
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>The importance of the mudflats in the area have not been recognised</p> <p>Comments: Mudflats should be given a 'high' value, because as the rationale states, they are part of the designated interest feature of the SAC and Ramsar site and whilst the Wharf is outside of the SAC/Ramsar area, the development is likely to encroach into the designated area either via dredging or via erosion from large vessels. The mudflat may be impoverished within the Wharf, but the mudflats around the local vicinity provide an important habitat for Severn Estuary designated birds.</p> <p>Saltmarsh should also be listed as of 'high' value (Table 5.10.11) because it is a designated feature of the SAC, Ramsar and SSSI and again, whilst there is no designated saltmarsh within the development site, there is quite a large swath of saltmarsh immediately to the north of the wharf. This patch</p>	8907-21-12173			/	<p>Regular consultation with Natural England the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation has taken place during the production of the HRA report. These discussions have involved specific consideration of the need for, and the practicalities of creating compensatory habitat in the Severn Estuary. The role of mitigation and the approach taken by EDF Energy in dealing with potentially adverse effects on the designated European sites has also been</p>

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
			<p>of saltmarsh, and the patch opposite the wharf is currently in unfavourable declining status according to the SSSI assessment carried out in July 2010. (See Natural England's website under Bridgwater Bay SSSI unit numbers 94 and 99). The causes of its decline in quality has been linked to coastal squeeze and sea level rise. There is the potential for the development to impact on the saltmarsh habitat indirectly via erosion from the large vessels moving in and out of the wharf.</p> <p>Action: The status given to this area needs to be reassessed. .</p>					<p>discussed with and influenced by consultation with the above organisations.</p> <p>Comments have been raised by some consultees with regards to the ecological importance of intertidal mudflat and saltmarsh habitat that could be affected by the Hinkley Point C Project (including the refurbishment of the wharf at Combwich). This has been fully recognised in the assessment process. The potential for the project activities to have an adverse impact upon these habitat types is assessed in the Environmental Statement (ES) and the HRA report and, where appropriate, mitigation measures have been developed in order to deal with any significant adverse impacts.</p>
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>In accordance with Regulation 61 of the Conservation Objectives 2010 Natural England advises that the competent authorities (in this case the Infrastructure Planning Commission, Environment Agency and Marine Management Organisation) must undertake appropriate assessment of the implications of the project for the European sites affected in view of those sites' conservation objectives. Furthermore, Regulation 61(2) requires the applicant to provide all the necessary information that the competent authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the assessment.</p> <p>If the appropriate assessment(s) concludes that the Hinkley Point C development will have or cannot rule out an adverse effect on integrity, then it will be necessary to look at ways of mitigating for these effects including the operation of the Nuclear Power Station.</p> <p>If it cannot be demonstrated through the provision of objective scientific evidence and appropriate mitigation that the development will avoid an adverse effect on the integrity of European Sites then the development can only proceed further if the Secretary of State is satisfied that there are no alternative solutions and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, which would allow the development to proceed. It should be noted that while the Government concluded that these tests were met for the draft nuclear NPS this does not automatically mean that these tests have been met for individual projects.</p> <p>If after meeting these tests, consent is approved for this development, then compensatory measures must be provided to maintain the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network (European sites) and be in place at the commencement of the project. We consider that it will very difficult to offset losses/damage through compensation particularly in relation to provision of alternative intertidal bird feeding habitat and losses of fish species. The opportunities for coastal realignment around the Severn Estuary, to create new intertidal habitat are limited. The creation of mudflats being especially difficult to achieve, without having an impact on the estuary's geomorphology. Equally, compensation for the loss of SAC and Ramsar fish species will be challenging. We would therefore encourage EDF to enter in early discussions with Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation, in order to find and agree ways of providing mitigation that will avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the European Sites and a package of possible compensation measures on without prejudice basis.</p>	8909-21-4429			/	<p>The potential for disturbance effects on waterbirds during construction and operation of Hinkley Point C is fully assessed in the HRA report. This work has included; synthesis of the survey data for areas where disturbance effects may occur, review of available literature on the subject and the determination of a zone around activities in which disturbance effects could arise. Potential impact pathways are identified in the HRA report and assessment has focused on those where the potential for a significant impact could arise. Where appropriate, suitable mitigation measures have been proposed in order to reduce or avoid any identified and significant effects on birds that could arise as a result of disturbance. Impacts on particular bird species have been assessed where it is considered that such effects may occur. It was noted in comments received during the Stage 2 Consultation that pintail, ringed plover and curlew were listed in the Special Protection Area (SPA) Review as qualifying features and these have therefore be covered in the HRA report. In addition, the feeding preferences of all relevant species, including redshank and dunlin, are described in the HRA report. Additionally, the potential effects of the project on shelduck throughout the whole year, including the summer moult, have been considered and assessed in the ES and the HRA report. Disturbance effects are also fully discussed and assessed in the HRA report.</p> <p>Assessment of the influence of the thermal plume on intertidal mudflat habitat has been undertaken in relation to the invertebrate infauna. Any predicted changes in the invertebrate communities of the mudflat area influenced by the thermal plume have then been assessed in relation to the bird assemblage that utilises the mudflat habitat and the prey resource that the invertebrate populations present here</p>

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Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Table 4.1 in Ornithological Studies: Baseline Report (Entec UK Ltd, 29 January 2010) suggests that the 'moult/early migration and dispersal period' for the Shelduck population should be assessed as a SSSI feature. However, the principle exists that SPAs should protect their qualifying features year-round, rather than the specified period or peak time for that feature.	8910-21-5587			/	represent. This has ensured that a full assessment of the implications of the thermal plume on SPA designated interests has been undertaken. The full implications of the thermal plume are assessed in detail within the HRA report.
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	This is supported in the SPA Review site accounts which frequently include the following statement: 'sites selected for waterbird species on the basis of their occurrence in the breeding, passage or winter periods also provide legal protection for these species when they occur at other times of the year'. We therefore advise that any 'shadow' Habitats Regulation Assessment includes a consideration for moulting Shelduck separately from wintering Shelduck, as they are likely to be different species populations and subject to different sensitivities and pathways of effect. Natural England will similarly advise the Competent Authorities at the appropriate time.	8910-21-5961			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Pintail, Ringed Plover and Curlew are listed in the SPA Review as qualifying features and, as such, should be considered to be proposed SPA species and subject to assessment as SPA features in their own right.	8910-21-581	/			
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Shelduck, Pintail, Curlew and Whimbrel are all discussed here in some detail with regard to their feeding preferences in which we are in general agreement with. However, there is no such discussion for Dunlin and Redshank. Looking at WeBS Low Tide data, a peak number of 15,100 Dunlin were present across the some of the area potentially affected by the influence of the thermal plume (WeBS Low Tide count sectors BV691, 692 and 693) during the winter of 2002/03 and the corresponding figure for 2008/09 is 4,000; the lower figure representing around 20% of the current Severn Estuary SPA, Ramsar population. These are not low or inconsequential numbers as suggested in the introduction and we would expect to see the same level of discussion and analysis for Dunlin as has been provided for other species.	8910-21-3281	/			

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Similarly, looking at WeBS Low Tide data, a peak of 115 Redshank were present across some of the area (sectors BV691, 692 and 693) potentially affected by the influence of the thermal plume during the winter of 2008/09. Although numbers are not large; representing around 5% of the SPA population, this is a magnitude likely to be important for the SPA population and hence a full assessment should be undertaken.	8910-21-4094	/			
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Figure 4 shows the relationship between the location of the benthic sampling stations and some of the WeBS Low Tide sector count areas. For completeness, it would be useful to show the other count sectors, for example, BV687, 688 and 689. Although the influence of the plume may be lower in these areas further away from the source, configuration 6a (representing the worst-case scenario of both power stations operating) shows that the influence of a 1°C increase may stretch eastwards to these important feeding areas.	8910-21-4695			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Annex 1 Habitat Regulations Assessment Table A1.7.2 Gadwall is missing from this table. A.7.7 The first sentence is not correct. The conservation objectives are set at European Marine Site level, not at SSSI level. We do not understand why the conservation objectives, for the SPA, are not included here, as have been for all the habitats and species of the SAC, in section A.8.	8910-21-13659			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Impacts are considered here at a rather generic level. For example, 'birds' as a group is discussed, rather than individual species. We acknowledge that this might be expanded on at the next stage of the application, when further information regarding some elements of the proposal will be available. The Habitats Regulations Assessment will obviously have to consider in-combination impacts at feature level.	8911-21-27			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The list of vulnerable species should include mallard, little egret and herring gull. Although these are not are cited SPA species they are important within the SPA assemblage, and the assessment of impacts should take this fully into account.	8945-21-7559			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We do not accept the assessment at 18.7.68 that construction disturbance constitutes a low to medium magnitude impact for the reasons outlined above. We believe on the basis of the limited information supplied by EDF Energy that without effective mitigation disturbance activities have the potential to lead to serious effects within the SPA.	8945-21-10499			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	In relation to the SPA we believe there is no justification (based on the documentation provided) for the statement in 18.7.72 that mitigation suggested in 18.7.71 would lead to negligible or minor (adverse) residual disturbance impacts on coastal birds. Apart from the problems identified above in relation to assessing construction impacts, it is difficult to assess the residual impacts of operational disturbance because no mitigation for this phase appears to be included in the documentation (18.8.22-34), despite at 18.8.22 correctly identifying that there might be a number of operational effects on coastal birds.	8945-21-12636			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The assessment of possible impacts on shelduck, pintail, curlew whimbrel and wigeon is very brief and does not provide us with the assurance we would like that the impact pathways have been fully assessed. Impacts on mallard, black-tailed godwit (now present in nationally important numbers in the Severn), little egret and herring gull also need to be fully considered. The significance of all these species in the SPA context should also be reviewed since the figures are difficult to validate, for example, CS5 regularly supports 16.3% of the SPA total, 2.1% of curlew, 9.3% of whimbrel and 2.4% of wigeon.	8945-21-3057			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We fully support the need for further survey work and analysis to better understand the functioning of the Bridgwater Bay ecosystem and the potential cumulative impacts of a thermal plume on SPA waterbirds with other impacts (18.8.31).	8945-21-4963			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	In our view, it is impossible to conclude a cumulative assessment of likely impacts on SPA waterbirds with the information provided in the stage 2 consultation.	8945-21-9966			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	In our view, this document fails to address the potential need to offset impacts on the Severn Estuary Natura 2000 site, SSSIs and other features of local biodiversity interest. This document should be viewed as 'work in progress' pending the outcome of a final agreed environmental assessment, and if necessary an Appropriate Assessment of adverse effects on the Natura 2000 site. An Appropriate Assessment may conclude the need for compensatory habitat provision for any residual adverse impacts arising from the scheme, notwithstanding the need to address issues relating to alternatives solutions and IROPI.	8945-21-11280			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - local authority and consultee with an interest in land (Sedgemoor)	Stage 2	Our review also indicates that there is potential for cumulative low level disturbance effects on the cited features of interest (passage and wintering birds) associated with a range of activities and project phases both at the main development site, at a number of the Associated Development sites and also potentially other projects that might run concurrently. These effects appear not to be assessment, although the content of the HRA is incomplete.	8943-21-14548			/	
RSPB	Non-statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	It is critical to us that there is consistent application of the HRA process to all major development proposals in the Severn, and that the need or otherwise for compensatory habitat provision is discussed in an open and transparent way with all major stakeholders. As you know the RSPB employs a number of experienced technical staff to support its planning casework, including specialist ornithologists, policy and planning staff. We would be happy to discuss the complex SPA waterbird impacts arising from the HPC proposal with EDF.	8989-21-2077			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	3.44 - 3.48: CCW welcomes the suite of mitigation measures identified and look forward to advising on their implementation as part of the developing NPS process and at detailed project development. We would strongly recommend that any further consideration of mitigation measures, either as part of the NPS proposals or as part of the detailed project level assessment, be considered in the context of the developing Severn Estuary SMP2. If it is not already the case, then we would urge DECC, the licensing authorities and the applicants to engage with the SMP2 process at the earliest opportunity to ensure a consistent approach is adopted for all such plans when considering how to assess (and address) potential impacts associated with habitats & Species loss/fragmentation/coastal squeeze along the Severn Estuary.	8784-21-3614			/	Where required, to avoid or reduce significant effects on designated features of European and/or international designated sites, mitigation measures are proposed and described in detail within the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) report. These mitigation measures are taken into account in the determination of whether the activities and processes of the Hinkley Point C Project would have an adverse effect on the integrity of the designated sites under consideration. In addition, an appropriate monitoring programme to measure the effectiveness of these mitigation measures will be developed and agreed with the relevant parties.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	CCW welcomes this clear and informative table. See previous comments in relation to individual proposals. Summary of HRA Findings and Recommendations 3.53: We agree with this HRA's findings that significant effects can not be ruled out for the Nuclear NPS proposals for Hinkley Point in respect of the identified European sites 3.54 - 3.59: CCW agrees that the suite of mitigation measures identified by this assessment have the potential to address the adverse effects on the European sites that could result from these proposals. We would also strongly support the caveat that the effectiveness of the measures proposed can only be ascertained with certainty through HRA at a project level, and we look forward to advising on these at the appropriate time. (Editor's note: end of second submission. Third submission. see pdf attached. Submission contains 1 letter and 4 annexes. Entered into database: letter and Annex 3. Not entered into database Annex 1 (response to Draft Nuclear Policy Statement consultation), Annex 2 (site report for Oldbury) and Annex 4 (site report for Wylfa)	8785-21-0			/	Survey data for the Hinkley frontage has been analysed to determine its use throughout the year by shelduck and other waterbird species. The occasional presence of significant numbers of shelduck, offshore during their moulting phase, is noted in the HRA report and specific mitigation measures are proposed to deal with potential disturbance effects over this period during construction of the temporary jetty.

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	CCW notes that the AoS objectives (with the exception of economic objectives) still place emphasis on the avoidance of adverse impacts on environmental topics, despite our comments on previous iterations of this document. While this may not necessarily be inappropriate, given the nature of the proposals and the requirements of the SEA Directive, it does represent a “negative” approach to the assessment process, which should also aim to identify positive contributions to the environment and promotion of high levels of environmental protection. In setting AoS objectives which just seek to minimise harm, it is likely that the ancillary indicators will also tend to be negative, (ie measuring the degree of negative impact) as measuring “zero change” is often extremely difficult. This is both a lost opportunity to measure the potentially positive contributions of the NPS and may also be inappropriate in relation to protected sites. AoS objectives should ideally have been amended to take on a more positive approach, for example, indicator (2) could be redrafted to say “To reverse fragmentation of ecological networks and promote ecosystem functionality”.	8786-21-1292			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	There is a difference between cumulative effect and altered environmental baseline. Residual effects from any plan or project, or indeed any other impact will inevitably continue to affect the environmental baseline of a European site's interest features.	8911-17-8906			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	In general terms, we agree with the overall assessment that CS1 to 4 do not support wintering Shelduck in numbers that are likely to be significant for the SSSI and SPA wintering population. However, it appears that moderate numbers of greater than 30 infrequently used the intertidal area adjacent to CS2, but it is not clear whether they were foraging, loafing or roosting. Further consideration could be given to providing more tailored mitigation for these birds in the event that moderate numbers of wintering Shelduck are present in the vicinity of the temporary jetty.	8910-21-10140	/			
Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - local authority and consultee with an interest in land (Sedgemoor)	Stage 2	The authorities remain concerned as to how the EDF Energy strategy fits with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and namely the ongoing outcomes of the Habitats Regulation Assessment. This will identify the mitigation measures for the European Designated Habitats and Bird Communities and, if found to be required as a result of an HRA, possibly compensation measures.	8931-21-3016			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
RSPB	Non-statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	<p>Appendix 6 - planning requirements/obligations</p> <p>In our view, this document fails to address the potential need to offset impacts on the Severn Estuary Natura 2000 site, SSSIs and other features of local biodiversity interest. This document should be viewed as 'work in progress' pending the outcome of a final agreed environmental assessment, and if necessary an Appropriate Assessment of adverse effects on the Natura 2000 site. An Appropriate Assessment may conclude the need for compensatory habitat provision for any residual adverse impacts arising from the scheme, notwithstanding the need to address issues relating to alternatives solutions and IROPI.</p>	8990-21-89			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	CCW notes that this AoS identifies in several instances, the potential for significant adverse effect on Ramsar Sites e.g. the Severn Estuary. Under Article 2 of the Ramsar Convention 'if a human induced change to the ecological character of a Ramsar Sites has occurred, is occurring or is likely to occur, under Article 3.2 it is the obligation of the Party concerned to report this without delay to the Ramsar Secretariat. CCW would suggest that the findings of this suite of AoS's and the results of the HRA process for this National Policy Statement might indicate 'likely occurrence of human induced change'. CCW would therefore welcome confirmation that the Ramsar Secretariat has been informed of these matters.	8786-21-3509			/	<p>An assessment has been undertaken in accordance with The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (Habitats Regulations) and the findings of this assessment have been presented in the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) report. The HRA report (and its references) contains the relevant information that should enable the Competent Authority to carry out its HRA. The relevant cumulative and in-combination effects are dealt with in the HRA report.</p> <p>Assessment of the influence of the thermal plume on the intertidal mudflat habitat, the invertebrate infauna and the consequent feeding resource for birds has been addressed in the HRA report.</p>
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	It is stated that 'Dunlin were reported to be the most abundant intertidal bird species utilising the Severn Estuary, with numbers often exceeding 10,000' (Page 11). This is not accurate. The Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) five-year peak mean (standard method of monitoring wintering waterbird numbers) for the years 1988/89 to 19982/93 was 41,683. For comparison and reflecting a UK wintering population decline for this species, this figure is currently 21,309 (five-year peak mean for the winters 2004/05 to 2008/09) (Calbrade et al, 2010).	8910-21-2166			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Furthermore, although we agree that Dunlin were not recorded in significant numbers during the intertidal bird surveys for the proposed Hinkley C complex, the influence of the thermal plume will stretch wider than the geographic extent specifically surveyed for the main development site and will include areas where Dunlin feed around low tide in numbers of a magnitude likely to be significant for this Bridgwater Bay SSSI feature and Severn Estuary SPA, Ramsar site feature. This is discussed further below.	8910-21-2709			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Given the levels of uncertainty described in this report and the recommendations for further work (which we are in agreement with), we are unable to make any further substantive comments at this stage.	8910-21-7509			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	There should also be reference to the European habitats and birds directives, and also to the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010.	8913-21-1982			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Disturbance is discussed in Section 18.7, with particular mention of the construction phases of the temporary jetty and seawall extension; however, there is no mention of the tunnels and associated infrastructure. In contrast, Volume 2, Chapter 3 mentions 'cooling water tunnel arisings', suggesting some kind of digging activity and potential for substantial disturbance.	8910-21-1674			/	Comments were raised by some consultees during the Stage 2 Consultation that not all construction activities were identified that may result in the disturbance of waterbirds. It can be confirmed a full analysis of the activities during construction that may lead to significant disturbance effects on waterbirds has been carried out and their potential effects are assessed within the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) report.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>When the average number of dunlin as a percentage for the count sectors mentioned (BV 670 and BV 690-4) are considered, 22% of all the Dunlin during the low tide counts for that winter were located in these count zones. Dunlin have decreased in the SPA over the recent decades. The major cause is thought to be smaller waders such as Dunlin staying on the east coast due to milder winters although this reduction has also been exacerbated by the loss of Cardiff Bay.</p> <p>Count sector BV696 contained an average of 12 pintail of all the counts which works out as 4% of all those counted over the total SPA. In the low tide count from 2008/09 this count sector on average contained 3 times more pintail than the previous count so we can see that it is regularly used by this species found only on a few areas of the SPA. This should be addressed in the HR report.</p> <p>In the 2008/09 low tide count a peak of 35 pintail were counted in BV697.</p>	8913-21-2479			/	<p>The potential effects on the entire Special Protection Area (SPA) assemblage and all species populations designated in their own right, including dunlin have also been assessed in the HRA report,.</p> <p>The ornithological survey data for the different areas of the SPA has been fully analysed and the significance of the frontage at Hinkley Point C determined with respect to the defined SPA populations. This analysis is presented in the Environmental Statement and the results are summarised in the HRA report. This analysis indicates that in general the Hinkley Point c frontage supports relatively low numbers of birds. Regular usage by curlew and ringed plover occurs, but for all other species the presence of numbers of birds at levels >1% of the total SPA population is infrequent.</p>
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>These birds form part of the SPA assemblage feature</p> <p>We have analysed the data for the high tide counts in the Severn ranging from the years 1993/94 to 2008/09. This data has been meaned for the winter counts per year and then averaged over the 11 years. The average in each sector can then be looked at as a percentage compered to each other. Sector 13411 is a very important sector for birds at high tide holding 32% of all the Dunlin across the SPA over the years as well as 21% of all the curlews, 24% of all the shelduck, 13% of all the redshank and 17% of all the passage ringed plover. The impacts on dunlin will need to be addressed in the HR report.</p>	8913-21-3432			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	There are a number of references in the stage 2 documents which we have been unable to access to help shape our response. In particular, we should have liked to have seen the following reports: Forster et al 2010 - Impact of new nuclear build at Hinkley Point on intertidal food availability for birds; Turnpenny & Liney 2006 - Review and development of temperature standards for marine and freshwater environments; and BEEMS TR070 - Predicted effects of NNB on marine water quality. We would be grateful if you could forward copies of these reports and other information which may help us to evaluate the impacts of the scheme.	8945-21-1371			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The list of vulnerable species should include mallard, little egret and herring gull. Although these are not cited SPA species they are important within the SPA assemblage, and the assessment of impacts should take this fully into account.	8945-21-7559			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We do not agree with the general statements at 18.7.58 about the small-scale and ephemeral nature of displacement. This depends very much on the nature, extent and duration of the disturbance activity.	8945-21-7806			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	At 18.7.67 it is stated that use of CS1-3 is relatively limited for whimbrel, curlew, wigeon and pintail. At 18.7.68 it is also stated that bird usage in CS1-4 is low or small. However, the data presented in table 18.5.6 suggest that CS1-3 is significant for these species, as well as shelduck, pintail, little egret and herring gull.	8945-21-9681			/	
RSPB	Non-statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	We feel there are important gaps in the data provided in the stage 2 consultation and that the assessment of likely effects on the Natura 2000 is therefore incomplete.	8989-21-1045			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	- Biodiversity and ecosystem services - We would have anticipated European Protected Species and Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) to be included in this table but note that LBAPs have been covered in the baseline data assessment in appendix 4.	8787-17-4107			/	<p>Following Stage 2 Consultation, an assessment was undertaken in accordance with The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (Habitats Regulations) and the findings of this assessment have been presented in the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) report. The four stage process outlined in IPC Advice Note Ten 'Habitats Regulations Assessment Relevant to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' was adhered to by EDF Energy which has had regard to comments and views received during consultation, thus ensuring a robust and compliant HRA report. As no adverse effect on integrity of the European sites was identified, it was not considered necessary to progress to stage 3 (Assessment of Alternative Solutions) and stage 4 (Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest) of the HRA process.</p> <p>The information for the HRA report contains the relevant information and reference to supporting technical documentation (where appropriate) that will enable the Competent Authority and its advisors to understand the implications of the project on the designated features of the Severn Estuary Special Area for Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA and Ramsar site, River Usk SAC and River Wye SAC.</p> <p>Detailed descriptions of the main components of the Hinkley Point C Project are provided in the HRA report, along with programme and phasing for each of the elements. The cumulative effects of these individual elements have also been considered in the HRA, in addition to the in-combination effects of other plans and projects with the Hinkley Point C Project.</p> <p>During the Stage 2 Consultation, comments were raised with regard to the temporary jetty and how this element of work is considered in-combination with other plans and projects in the Environmental Statement and HRA report. The temporary jetty and site preparation works have been proposed by EDF Energy as part of the Preliminary Works to the Hinkley Point C Project. Separate applications have been made to the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) and Secretary of State for Transport (for the jetty) and West Somerset Council (for the site preparation works) for consents for these elements of work to be granted. The jetty and site preparation works are also included within the DCO application for Hinkley Point C.</p> <p>The Hinkley Point C Project associated developments, including the Combwich Wharf proposals, were</p>
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	2.22: In principle, CCW agrees with this report's the recommendation for further assessment on the River Usk and River Wye SACs and Severn Estuary SAC/SPA/Ramsar.	8783-160-2115			/	
Somerset County Council	Dual - Local Authority, Statutory Consultee and Consultee with an Interest in Land	Stage 1	<p>6. Ideally, since the development has potential to affect sites designated for their significance at an international level for nature conservation, any ES that is produced should contain sufficient information to satisfy the requirements not only of the EIA Regulations(2) but also of other UK legislation relating to such international sites. The most important legislation of this kind is the Habitats Regulations(3) which requires that:</p> <p>"A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which -</p> <p>is likely to have a significant effect on a European site in Great Britain (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and</p>	8796-160-4417			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	- We reiterate that assessment of the Combwich proposals will need to form part of the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)	8983-160-2980			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	- We remind you to include the Temporary Jetty in your in-combination assessment of impacts in the HRA work that forms part of your DCO application	8983-160-3362			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	With respect to Combwich Wharf, we note that no environmental information is provided as part of this round of consultation to enable any assessment of the impact of the proposed changes to this aspect of the development on the Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA), Wetland of International Importance (Ramsar Site) or Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). We look forward to receiving this additional information to enable us to advise further. We note that a number of changes to the design are proposed, as part of this consultation, at this location including a drainage channel to the River Parrett. We reiterate that the Combwich proposals will need to be subject to Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA), both alone and in-combination with other aspects of the overall Hinkley Point C project, and wider Severn Estuary proposals. Sufficient information will need to be provided to enable the relevant Competent Authority to undertake the HRA.	8983-160-858			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	Section 1.6 of the ES, states that in accordance with the EIA Directive and EIA Regulations, the ES reports on the potential environmental impacts arising during the construction, operation and dismantling / restoration phases or the construction and removal / reinstatement phases of the jetty development. However, it is not clear which information is relevant to the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) to be carried out by you. In our view, sufficient information has been provided in the ES to enable a HRA to be carried out by the competent authority.	8983-160-5274			/	screened as part of the HRA for their potential to have an effect on European sites. For those that were deemed to have the potential for a significant effect, potential impacts for the associated development sites alone and cumulative effects at the project level have been fully detailed in the HRA . It was highlighted by consultees that further and ongoing consultation with EDF Energy would be required to enable full understanding of the effects of the Hinkley Point C Project on the designated features and integrity of the European sites relevant to the project. Consultation with relevant parties, including, Natural England, the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment Agency, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the MMO has been undertaken throughout the HRA process to date and has involved regular meetings and workshops. This consultation effort has enabled EDF Energy to work with consultees to develop the HRA and determine and agree appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects on the designated interests of European sites and the wider environment.
Countryside Council for Wales	statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	- Section 1.6 of the ES, states that in accordance with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Directive and EIA Regulations, the ES reports on the potential environmental impacts arising during the construction, operation and dismantling / restoration phases or the construction and removal / reinstatement phases of the jetty development. However, it does not separate information to support a Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA). In our view, subject to clarification of assessment of future maintenance dredging requirements (see comments in the main letter and below) sufficient information is provided in the ES to enable a HRA to be carried out by the competent authority, and this should include identification of mitigation measures which are required to enable a conclusion of 'no significant effect' to be reached.	8983-160-628			/	The potential effects of the Hinkley Point C Project have been informed through considerable technical studies. The results of this work are provided in a series of technical reports produced under the British Energy Estuarine and Marine Science (BEEMS) programme. The modelling outputs have been used, as reported in the HRA report, to determine the potential implications on the designated features of the Severn Estuary SPA, SAC and Ramsar site, of the Hinkley Point C Project. These reports produced under the BEEMS programme have been made available to relevant parties.
Countryside Council for Wales	statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	- We recommend that these mitigation measures are set out as part of any HRA as a means of demonstrating how adverse effects can be avoided and are also then attached as conditions to any permission(s) given. There will also be a need to ensure that these conditions are fully implemented in order to demonstrate that there is unlikely to be a significant effect on any of the potentially effected European sites.	8983-160-1462			/	It should be noted that the report 'Impact of new nuclear build at Hinkley Point on intertidal food availability for birds' (Forster et al 2010) has been superseded by the following report: BEEMS technical report TR 184, 2011 'Hinkley Point Marine Ecology Synthesis'. In addition, BEEMS technical report TR070 referred to in the Stage 2 Consultation material has been superseded by BEEMS TR 186 (2011) 'Predicted effects of NNB on water quality at Hinkley Point'.
Somerset County Council	Dual - local authority, statutory and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2 Update	The Council have examined the reasons put forward by EDF for their conclusion that neither site is likely to be significantly affected (given in Table 7 of the document) and they seem reasonable. However, before the council agrees with the conclusions, it requires site of the data upon which the conclusions are based, especially in relation to the conclusion that aerial pollution due to the development is not an issue for the grassland SAC. The Council would expect to see the results of the any pollution modelling.	8985-160-461			/	
RSPB	Non-statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	We are increasingly worried at the lack of dialogue with you over these critical issues. We have sought and you have now agreed to a meeting next Tuesday 29th March between the RSPB and your consultants Atkins. We remain unsure whether a senior EDF staff member will be present, although we believe this would be very helpful. We have set out a series of specific issues which we would like to discuss with EDF and hope this meeting will provide a good basis for closer dialogue with EDF about the issues of greatest concern to the RSPB.	8989-160-699	/			

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
RSPB	Non-statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	We are conscious of EDF's intention to submit a proposal to the IPC this year. We are equally conscious of the limited amount of time this leaves to negotiate outstanding issues with us. Please understand, the RSPB seeks to work positively with EDF and its consultants to resolve all outstanding issues. However, the lack of engagement from EDF following the RSPB's consultation responses has delayed resolution of this complex situation.	8989-160-1240	/			
RSPB	Non-statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	It is critical to us that there is consistent application of the HRA process to all major development proposals in the Severn, and that the need or otherwise for compensatory habitat provision is discussed in an open and transparent way with all major stakeholders. As you know the RSPB employs a number of experienced technical staff to support its planning casework, including specialist ornithologists, policy and planning staff. We would be happy to discuss the complex SPA waterbird impacts arising from the HPC proposal with EDF. We therefore wish to be more closely involved in these discussions with EDF alongside other major stakeholders, including Natural England and the Environment Agency with whom we are working closely at Steart and elsewhere in the Severn.	8989-160-2077	/			
RSPB	Non-statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	Although the stage 2 documents include a lot of information about likely construction and operational works, information is dispersed and critical information seems to be missing. We would like a full account of the type, scale, duration, timing and potential overlap of all activities likely to contribute to disturbance at both Hinkley and Combrich Wharf, in order to fully assess the combined disturbance impacts on waterbirds and to agree a comprehensive series of suitable mitigation measures.	8990-160-71			/	
RSPB	Non-statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	We were unaware of the report Impact of new nuclear build at Hinkley Point on intertidal food availability for birds (Forster et al 2010), and so are unable to comment in full on the assessment of likely impacts of the project on waterbird feeding resources in Bridgwater Bay. This is a key issue for the RSPB and we would like a copy of the report and the opportunity to comment on its findings. We are also aware of a further report on food availability for birds (BEEMS TR070 - Predicted effects of NNB on marine water quality) and would like the opportunity to comment on this as well.	8990-160-88			/	
Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - local authority and consultee with an interest in land (Sedgemoor)	Stage 2	It would, perhaps, be useful to clarify the Imperative Reason of Overriding Public Interest supporting inclusion of the site (and all other sites in the draft NPS) within this discussion on the Governments Strategic Siting Assessment, in particular to stress the importance of the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) on the local European designated sites.	8933-18-3323			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	The Environment Agency (EA) and Natural England have jointly agreed technical and procedural guidance on how to evaluate permit/licence applications, including discharges, with respect to European sites (the Environment Agency Habitats Directive Handbook and subsequent guidance papers). In undertaking the necessary appropriate assessment required for this planning application, and the associated necessary licenses, we expect the Competent Authorities undertaking the appropriate assessments to take account of this guidance.	8909-18-11381			/	
Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - local authority and consultee with an interest in land (Sedgemoor)	Stage 2	<p>Sustainability Objective: To avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of wildlife sites of international and national importance</p> <p>It is noted with particular concern that the Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) is currently incomplete. In the absence of a complete HRA it is considered inappropriate to afford a score to achievement of this Sustainability Objective.</p>	8941-14-12351	/			

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - local authority and consultee with an interest in land (Sedgemoor)	Stage 2	There is concern that at this stage in the EIA process these key issues including the HRA are still to be resolved. This is especially concerning given the implications under the Habitats Regulations if the project is found to be likely to give rise to negative effects on the European designated sites. Implications could be that alternatives would have to be considered and only if no alternative exists can an option which is likely to give rise to negative effects be proceeded with if there are reasons of overriding public interest. Further it is essential these potential effects are fully understood in order to inform mitigation measures and, if found to be required as a result of a HRA, compensation measures.				/	<p>Following the Stage 2 Consultation, EDF Energy began to prepare the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) for the Hinkley Point C Project in accordance with The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (Habitats Regulations). In addition, the four stage process outlined in IPC Advice Note Ten 'Habitats Regulations Assessment Relevant to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects' was followed.</p> <p>The first step of the process identifies the likely impacts of a project upon a European site, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects. The second stage, known as the Appropriate Assessment, considers the impacts on the integrity of the European site alone or in combination with other plans and projects with regard to the site's structure, function and conservation objectives.</p> <p>In the case of Hinkley Point C, the conclusion reached in the HRA report is that no adverse effect on integrity of the European sites would arise as a result of the project alone or in combination with other plans or projects. Therefore, it has not been considered necessary to progress to stage 3 (Assessment of Alternative Solutions) and stage 4 (Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest) of the HRA process.</p>

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Sedgemoor District Council & West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - Local Authority and Consultee with an Interest in Land (Sedgemoor only)	Stage 1	Appropriate Assessment The baseline and terms of reference associated with the Appropriate Assessment are deemed adequate for this scope of work. It is recognised that the potential need to prepare an Appropriate Assessment will be determined during the Environmental Impact Assessment process. An Appropriate Assessment would need to be prepared if the works are likely to or it cannot be ascertained whether they would, either alone or in combination with other plans and projects, have a significant adverse effect on a qualifying feature of a European site. External references to this Stage 1 Consultation document (including the meetings of the Marine Authorities Liaison Group (MALG) indicate that there is a high degree of exchange of information around the AA requirements between EDF and statutory consultees.	8856-19-25	/			Given the location, nature and scale of the proposed Hinkley Point C Project it has been recognised that the proposals may have the potential to affect a number of European designated sites. As a result of this, and following the Stage 2 Consultation, an assessment was undertaken in accordance with The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (Habitats Regulations) with the findings of this assessment presented in the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) report. It was not considered necessary to progress to stage 3 (Assessment of Alternative Solutions) and stage 4 (Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest) of the HRA process as no adverse effect on the integrity of the European sites was identified.
Somerset County Council	Dual - Local Authority, Statutory Consultee and Consultee with an Interest in Land	Stage 1	is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site, shall make an appropriate assessment of the implications for the site in view of that site's conservation objectives."	8797-18-0	/			Detailed modelling and assessment using the most up to date information has been undertaken to inform the HRA report and details of the environment baseline are provided in the document. A significant amount of survey work in Bridgwater Bay has been undertaken. The findings of these studies have been summarised in the HRA report and the full studies have been made available to relevant parties. Potential nutrient increases and temperature and water quality changes resulting from the Hinkley Point C proposals are dealt with within the HRA report.
Natural England	Dual - Statutory Consultee and Consultee with an Interest in Land	Stage 1	4.Off-Site Associated Development 4.1.1. Each off-site associated development proposal will need to be assessed in relation to its impact on protected/designated sites, biodiversity, landscape, access and land management. Appropriate mitigation should be designed into each proposal and reflected in the DCO application ES.	873-20-1409			/	The main activities and effects of the development of a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point that have the potential to affect the screened in European designated sites have been identified for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. This assessment has also included the associated development that had the potential to affect a European designated site. A cumulative assessment of these elements has been undertaken and the findings presented in the HRA report. In addition, the in-combination effects on European designated sites and their interest features of the Hinkley Point C Project together with other plans and projects have been assessed in the HRA report.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	2.9 - 2.13 & Appendix 2: CCW welcomes the inclusion of this comprehensive list of plans and projects to be assessed as part of the 'in combination' assessment.	8783-20-1104			/	A full cumulative impact assessment has been undertaken as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment. The outcomes of this cumulative impact assessment are reported in Volume 11 of the Environmental Statement (ES) . The cumulative impact of the works (taking account of additive effects and interactions between project components) on internationally designated interests and sites is
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	3.34 - 3.36: CCW particularly welcome the identification and further consideration of impacts from potential nutrient increases and temperature changes resulting from the Hinkley Point proposals. We look forward to advising on these issues further as the detailed project level assessment is progressed.	8783-20-5144			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	3.11 - 3.15: This is a very comprehensive review of the potential adverse effects of developing a major energy generation plant and associated infrastructure at the Hinkley Point site. Habitat (and species) loss and coastal squeeze are perhaps the most obvious impacts that are likely to occur immediately at and around the development itself. We welcome, therefore, the acknowledgement that these effects can also be transmitted to a much wider area due to the nature of the sites affected.	8784-20-625			/	assessed in the HRA report. This utilises information from the ES, but is specific to those aspects of the project (e.g. screened in associated development sites) where the potential for interaction and cumulative effects on designated features may arise. As required under Regulation 61 of the Habitats Regulations, the potential in-combination effects of the Hinkley Point C Project with other plans and projects are also assessed in the HRA report. Specific technical studies have also been undertaken to determine the potential in-combination effects that could result from the operation of both Hinkley Point B and Hinkley Point C, notably with respect to the effects of the interaction between the cooling water discharges from both power stations and the impact of the cooling water abstraction on designated migratory fish populations.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	3.39: CCW welcome the acknowledgement that if, in the detailed studies carried out at local level it is found that there are significant environmental, technical or commercial limits to direct cooling, alternative cooling methods will be considered as an alternative. You should also note that, in addition to the thermal effects resulting from direct cooling, there are potential water quality (particularly nutrient enrichment) issues that may be associated with the treatment of this cooling water, such as use of anti-fouling agents. This must also be considered in any detailed project level assessment.	8784-20-2935			/	Comments were raised by some consultees during the Stage 2 Consultation with regard to the plans and projects included in the in-combination assessment of the HRA. As a result, the full list of the plans and projects considered in the assessment was agreed through consultation with relevant organisations at the screening stage. It can be confirmed that the assessment includes consideration of potential in-combination effects with the North Devon – Somerset and Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs). In particular, comments were made in relation to impacts arising from the Hinkley Point C cooling system on SAC/Ramsar species both alone and in combination with other plans and projects, including the proposed and existing Oldbury Nuclear Power Stations. Separate applications for consent have been made for the Preliminary Works (jetty and site preparation works) and are therefore considered in the in-combination assessment in the HRA report.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	In the context of this AoS, we acknowledge that the suite of mitigation measures proposed to address the significant environmental effects identified has the potential to address the majority of concerns; However, we particularly note this report's conclusions in relation to possible 'in combination' effects with the Oldbury and the Severn Tidal Power proposals and the uncertainty over the capacity of mitigation measures to address the potential impacts of these schemes combined should they all proceed.	8786-20-5143			/	The programme and sequencing of the individual elements of the Hinkley Point C Project are presented in the ES and HRA report. The impact of programming of the EPR unit construction is also dealt with in the HRA report.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	We look forward to a more detailed set of recommendations, linked to key indicators and monitoring framework, to be incorporated both into the NPS and the detailed site proposals which will show how the significant effects will be avoided, cancelled and/or reduced and how this will be monitored. We would particularly emphasise that where these measures are intended to avoid adverse effects on European and/or international designated sites they will need to address the issues identified within the accompanying HRA and be compliant with the	8790-20-4459			/	Impacts to Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) and their interest features are dealt with in the specific ES chapters. However, it is not expected that there would be any SSSI specific issues that are not covered through consideration of the potential effects
Somerset County Council	Dual - Local Authority, Statutory Consultee and Consultee with an Interest in Land	Stage 1	a) Further information should be provided by EDF on in-combination and cumulative environmental and socio-economic impacts of the Hinkley project along with other infrastructure projects, plans and programmes in the wider area (including the decommissioning of the stations at Hinkley Point).	8794-20-2871			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Somerset County Council	Dual - Local Authority, Statutory Consultee and Consultee with an Interest in Land	Stage 1	6. Ideally, since the development has potential to affect sites designated for their significance at an international level for nature conservation, any ES that is produced should contain sufficient information to satisfy the requirements not only of the EIA Regulations(2) but also of other UK legislation relating to such international sites. The most important legislation of this kind is the Habitats Regulations(3) which requires that: "A competent authority, before deciding to undertake, or give any consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which - is likely to have a significant effect on a European site in Great Britain (either alone or in combination with other plans or projects), and	8796-20-4417			/	on these European sites.
Somerset County Council	Dual - Local Authority, Statutory Consultee and Consultee with an Interest in Land	Stage 1	7. Competent authorities taking decisions in relation to these proposals will need to be mindful of the requirement within the Habitats Regulations that any proposal be considered in the light of possible 'in combination effects' that may be caused by the interaction between the development being considered and other plans or projects. One possible corollary of this is that it may not be possible to consider the impact on the Severn Estuary SPA(4) and/or SAC(5) of building the power station in isolation from the impact of, for example, refurbishing the Combwich Wharf. Other plans or projects that are less clearly associated with the power station development than the Combwich Wharf proposal may need to be taken into account also.	8797-20-204			/	
Somerset County Council	Dual - Local Authority, Statutory Consultee and Consultee with an Interest in Land	Stage 1	8. EDF has indicated to SCC's ecological specialists that the firm wishes to press ahead with certain site clearance and preparation works at Hinkley Point and that this may precipitate a planning application to West Somerset District Council (WSDC). Other works (such as the temporary jetty development) may need consent from a body other than either WSDC or the IPC. This raises potential problems with respect to how (a) the EIA is to be conducted and (b) any appropriate assessment(s) that may be necessary is (are) to be conducted.	8797-20-951			/	
Sedgemoor District Council & West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - Local Authority and Consultee with an Interest in Land (Sedgemoor only)	Stage 1	Given the relative proximity of the proposed Oldbury Power Station to the Hinkley C development, it is recommended that cumulative effects be considered in full (particularly associated with effects on coastal management and thermal plume). This process should be informed by and in turn inform the Habitats Regulations Assessment Appropriate Assessment.	8856-20-1942			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Tractivity 476	Public	Stage 1	1. Any other ideas or comments? One of the main concerns is environmental impact and so this aspect should always be at the forefront of planning and development considerations.	915-20-348			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	The current environmental baseline should always be considered in any Habitats Regulations Assessment, because the current condition of the site may influence whether an effect is likely to be significant and may influence whether an adverse effect upon ecological integrity will occur. In view of this, we consider that the thermal and chemical discharges from Hinkley B Nuclear Power Station have created environmental baseline whereby it is not possible to rule out Hinkley C Power Nuclear Power Station alone having a likely significant effect.	8911-17-9167			/	
Tractivity 62333	Public	Stage 2	This proposed site would be visible from our house and we are sure there is going to be associated noise and pollution to go along with this. Not to mention harm this will cause to the great deal of wildlife that we see daily, it's their home you will be digging up too!	1001-20-537			/	
Tractivity 62473	Dual - Consultee with an Interest in Land and Public	Stage 2	The construction & operation of massive wind turbines across the flight path to the moors at Pawlett will obstruct the flight path of wildfowl between the estuary and the Somerset levels. I realise that this is a separate proposal but it is at the same time by the same company and both should be considered together for collective impact. The construction & operation of new super grid power lines across the Somerset levels flight lines from Bridgwater to Avonmouth, again a separate company but done at the same time for the new station. The collective disruption & disturbance will be devastating to wildfowl in the area over a long period of time. These schemes will create a barrier to bird migration patterns which are in the large part learned so could lead to a permanent effect to the detriment of the Somerset environment.	1009-20-6678			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
The Bristol Port Company	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>In combination and cumulative impacts</p> <p>EDF, TBPC and the Agency are required to assess the potential for cumulative environmental effects of our developments together on the Severn Estuary, Steart Peninsula and surrounding area. The Environmental Statements for each development will therefore need to assess the combined effects of these proposals, paying particular attention to any synergistic effects, which might include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - impacts on the Severn Estuary European Marine Site, including the possible disturbance of birds during construction activities; - changes along the coast arising from marine works, including the proposed temporary jetty, sea wall, the construction of new cooling water tunnels, works at Comwich Wharf and breaching sea defences in the Severn and Parrett Estuaries; - potential impacts of increased traffic in the vicinity of the Steart Peninsula particularly during EDF's prolonged temporary construction period, but also as a result of ongoing increased visitor traffic in the area; - possible impacts on amenity and access as a result of the closure and diversion of public rights of way, with the associated requirement to provide new footpaths and improvements and/or links to existing footpaths. <p>There are potential benefits and cost savings for TBPC, EDF and the Agency to work together to assess the possible cumulative impacts of our proposed developments. There is potential here for duplication of effort and the possibility of inconsistent or conflicting results arising from cumulative impact studies. At a minimum, it would seem sensible to liaise to ensure consistency in approach and outputs from the cumulative impact studies. However, there may be an opportunity to undertake a single cumulative impact study funded jointly by developers in the area.</p>	1020-20-5242			/	
Taunton Deane Borough Council	Local Authority	Stage 2	<p>The proposals must look in greater detail at the broader social and quality of life issues and the cumulative effects on local communities as well as impact upon a number of Internationally Designated habitats within the Somerset Levels and Moors area. An enhanced Environmental Appraisal/Comprehensive draft Environmental Statement is required prior to submission.</p>	1021-20-3453			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Bristol City Council	Local Authority	Stage 2	<p>Bristol City Council is minded to maintain its objection to the proposal to locate an additional nuclear power station on the Hinkley Point site and has serious concern on a number of issues, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - inefficient use of resources in face of alternative and safer sources of energy; - constraint placed on the effective delivery of alternative renewable energy to the energy network in the Hinkley Point area; - impact of the proposed use on the environment of the Severn Estuary in combination with other proposed developments and any proposed mitigation; 	1021-20-891			/	
Somerset Councils and SNEG	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>Furthermore, we consider that the assessment of the effects focussing on individual projects leads to an inaccurate assessment of the overall significance of effects as it does not take into account the cumulative or in-combination effects that may arise. Cumulative effects are not independently assessed</p>	1024-20-8359			/	
Somerset Wildlife Trust	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>It is with great disappointment the Trust finds itself Repeating comments made in response to the Stage 1 consultation: little by way of detailed information is available at this juncture with which to fully appraise the potential discrete, in-combination and cumulative effects of the entire development upon local wildlife.</p>	1026-20-2021			/	
Somerset Wildlife Trust	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>Cumulative impact assessment</p> <p>As discussed above, EDF has not presented stakeholders with a confident, verified analysis of the likely scale, longevity and severity of impacts to Somerset's protected and priority species, habitats and sites possibly arising from their development. In light of insufficient baseline data on coastal, marine and terrestrial ecology at the ancillary development sites, the cumulative impact assessment is hardly a convincing document. EDF's consideration of cumulative and in-combination impacts is premature, as discrete site-based impacts are currently unknown. The Trust has no confidence in the level of impacts predicted by the Cumulative Impact Assessment for this reason, and must again adopt a precautionary approach to considering EDF's preferred proposals.</p>	1026-20-13928			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Somerset Wildlife Trust	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Overall, the Trust is not confident that the preferred proposals presented by EDF will have anything other than a detrimental impact upon local wildlife. Until the full extent of discrete, cumulative, and in-combination impacts upon priority species, habitats and protected sites has been assessed in the light of up to date survey work, and a convincing mitigation strategy presented, the Trust holds and will advocate a position of precautionary objection.	1026-20-14729			/	
Tractivity 62469	Public	Stage 2	v) It makes a mockery of the designations of Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, National Nature Reserve and the Ramsar Convention. Hinkley A and B should never have been sited there in the first place. Their presence does not justify more, even bigger development. All your development plans constitute a serious disregard for the environment.	8947-20-1957			/	
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	- Cumulative Impact Assessment: As surveys and modelling are still ongoing, we are aware that assessment of cumulative impact still needs to be carried out and completed. We have particular concerns over this issue and on the potential impacts to the Seven Estuary. A completed assessment on this issue is required as a matter of priority.	8906-20-641			/	
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	- Under Regulation 61 of the 'Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010', if the combined impacts cannot be concluded to have no adverse effect on the integrity of the 'Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation' (SAC) (Annex II fish species), then compensation may be required under Regulation 66. This needs to be considered as a potential outcome. At this time adverse effects cannot be ruled out and as a consequence compensation should be considered.	8906-20-984			/	
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	- In-combination Impacts: There needs to be more clarity on the nature, duration, and location of all discharges to the marine environment that will arise during the construction, commissioning, operation and decommissioning of the plant. The combined effects of all discharges will need to be considered in relation to their impact on the marine environment. When all relevant discharges have been assessed in relation to their combined effects, appropriate mitigation measures will need to be investigated in order to minimise these combined impacts.	8906-20-1456			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>Topic: In combination / cumulative assessment of impacts</p> <p>Issue: The in combination assessment of impacts has not been assessed.</p> <p>Comment: Consideration needs to be given to the cumulative impacts of what current plans and projects are likely to impact on the European Habitat sites, as well as plans and future projects. This includes the operation of Hinkley Point B together with the on-site construction and operation impacts of Hinkley Point C.</p> <p>Action: Assessments are required to include cumulative and in combination impacts.</p>	8907-20-844			/	
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>Comment: It is stated that the EPR units will be delivered on the same timescale (15.10.1 Page 50). However this is not the case and the environmental statement is required to reflect this as this will have implications on the extent and scope of the in combination and cumulative impacts assessment.</p> <p>Action: The impacts of building one EPR at a different rate to the other will need to be considered within the environmental assessment process.</p>	8908-20-101			/	
Environment Agency	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>We are concerned by the lack of information relating to the potential impact of further development at Hinkley Point on internationally important habitats. We also would like to remind you again of the importance attached to considering your effects in combination with other developments affecting the estuary e.g. Hinkley B.</p> <p>We recognise your commitment to undertake further studies and modelling to address this matter. This will be a key area of interest for all Defra agencies involved (NE, CCW, EA and MMO). This information will also be a critical element in our permitting work due to the likely need for Appropriate Assessments under the Habitats Regulations.</p>	8909-20-3630	/			
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>4) Entrainment and impingement effects from the Hinkley Point C water cooling system on specific SAC & Ramsar listed fish species including Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon and Eel and River and Sea Lamprey and the Ramsar fish assemblage alone and in-combination with Hinkley Point B and current and proposed Oldbury Power Nuclear Power Stations.</p>	8909-20-3564			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Based on the information presented in the stage 2 consultation, Natural England considers it is not possible to rule out the development adversely affecting the Bridgwater Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) features including: - Aggregations of non-breeding birds including the following species: Wigeon, Teal, Mallard, Curlew, Whimbrel, Black-Tailed Godwit, Knot, Turnstone, Common Snipe, Ringed Plover. (while these species could be considered to form a part of the assemblage of waterbirds identified as a component of the SPA they are specifically listed in the SSSI citation); - Intertidal mudflats supporting the above species; - Lowland ditch systems;	8909-20-8630			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	2) In-combination impacts as result of disturbance to non-breeding birds listed above before, during and after construction of main site development and the Comwich Wharf development including the freight logistics and storage facility, as well as the decommissioning of Hinkley A & B.	8909-20-9958			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	We are concerned that the site will be lost to commuting bats so fully support the retention of Benhole Lane and Green Lane as east-west corridors across the site, and would wish to see them protected from light spillage from the construction site.	8910-20-2078			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	A mitigation licence issued under Regulation 44(2)(e) is required to demolish the buildings and the tree. Our advice is that there should be no net loss in the local population status of the species concerned, taking into account factors such as population size, viability and connectivity. Hence, when it is unavoidable that an activity will affect an European Protected Species population, the mitigation should aim to maintain a population of equivalent status on or near the original site. Our licensing role is carried out through our Wildlife Management & Licensing Service. This is a national team with licensing units in Bristol and Peterborough plus regionally located Wildlife Advisers. The team assesses all licence applications for England for a range of species, including EPS, under various pieces of wildlife legislation. Wildlife Advisers also conduct compliance visits in relation to licences that we issue. Natural England enforces licence conditions including, where appropriate, legal action.	8910-20-2586			/	

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Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	We consider the assessment of cumulative impacts (HPC and Off-Site Associated Development) to be far from comprehensive, simply collating impact significance judgements from the various sections of the EA. The assessment should include a clear discussion of additional change to the components in the landscape, landscape character and viewpoints.	8911-20-3216			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	1.64) The cumulative impact assessment has not considered the changes in both the view and in landscape character of: - The in-combination effects (standing at each viewpoint and looking only one way) - The effects in succession when standing at a viewpoint and looking in different directions - The sequential effects (travelling through the landscape).	8911-20-3567			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	1.65) Night time cumulative impacts need also to be considered.	8911-20-3934			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	Paragraph 1.2.1 states "there is no legislation that specifically applies to cumulative assessment". We draw your attention to following: 1) Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) Circular 06/2005 Biodiversity and geological conservation - statutory obligations and their impact within the planning system 2) Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive states " Any plan or project not directly necessary for the management of the (European) site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with or plans and projects shall be subject to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site's conservation objectives 3) Regulation 61(1) of the Conservation Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 states " A competent Authority, before deciding to undertake, or give consent, permission or other authorisation for, a plan or project which is	8911-20-5064			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
			<p>a) Is likely to have a significant effect on a European site (either alone or in combination with other plans and projects) and</p> <p>b) Is not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site must make an appropriate assessment of the implications for that site in view of its conservation objectives</p> <p>4) Managing Natura 200 sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive (European Commission 2000) states " A series of individually modest impacts may in-combination produce a significant effect .. it is important to note that the underlying intention of this in combination provision is to take account of cumulative impacts"</p> <p>5) Assessing Projects under the Habitats Directive - Guidance for Competent Authorities produced by (Personal information removed) for Countryside Council for Wales, 2008 states " if a project alone is checked and it is concluded that it would not likely to have a significant effect on European site alone it should be subject to an appropriate assessment on its own. In checking the need for an appropriate assessment, it may be concluded that the project could affect the site in some way, but alone the effects are unlikely to be significant . In such cases, the competent Authority should check whether the significant effects would be likely if the project was combined with other plans and projects. An in combination assessment is required in order to comply with the Habitats Regulations and should include other plans and projects that have been checked for the need for an appropriate assessment and where the following applies:</p> <p>a) It has been concluded that the other plan or project may affect the site but the effects are not significant on there own. A number of plans and projects with effects individually have been determined to by insignificant may still result in a significant effect on the site if all the effects are combined</p> <p>b) It has been concluded that the other plan or project may have significant effect alone and where measures have consequently been included to reduced the effect to a level where it no longer considered to be significant when the plan or project alone, but where the measures applied will not remove the effect completely. Such residual effects could still contribute to a significant effect when combined with other effects, 2008 further states:</p> <p>An in combination assessment does need to include any plans or projects that have been checked for the need for an appropriate assessment and where the following applies:</p> <p>i) It has been concluded that the other plan or project will not have any effect at all on the site and thus it cannot it cannot have an effect either alone or in combination.</p> <p>ii) If it has been concluded that the plan or project on the site and the necessary measures have been put in place to completely remove the likelihood of any effects (that is avoidance measures are an integral part of the project.</p>					

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	The current environmental baseline should always be considered in any Habitats Regulations Assessment, because the current condition of the site may influence whether an effect is likely to be significant and may influence whether an adverse effect upon ecological integrity will occur. In view of this, we consider that the thermal and chemical discharges from Hinkley B Nuclear Power Station have created environmental baseline whereby it is not possible to rule out Hinkley C Power Nuclear Power Station alone having a likely significant effect.	8911-20-9167			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	The geographical separation of the main development site from Combrich Wharf and the results of the intertidal bird survey work at both sites suggest that it is likely that any disturbance/displacement impacts will be operating on different groups of birds and therefore cumulative impacts can be considered to be additive, should the most disturbing construction activities occur at the same time. Therefore, the relative timing of the most disturbing activities may be an important factor to take into account. Ideally, these should be timetabled at different times, which would be useful mitigation. However, Section 4.4.24 suggests that: 'works [at the main development site and Combrich Wharf] could be ongoing at the same time'.	8911-20-1081			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	On the basis of the information provided so far, and the recommendation for the Hinkley site within the NPS for new nuclear power, we consider that the development as currently proposed is likely to have a significant effect on the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site, in particular from the cooling water intake structure, and the temperature and quality of the discharge. The basis for that view is set out in more detail in the attached annexes.	8912-20-2161			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We strongly recommend that the ES addresses these issues of presentation, particularly with respect to that information required to allow the competent authorities to carry out their Habitats Regulations Assessments.	8912-20-7419			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Our main concern is that the ES does not contain sufficient information to allow us to assess the implications of the proposals on the integrity of the Severn Estuary SPA, SAC, River Usk SAC and River Wye SAC.	8912-20-975			/	

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Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	1.2 Need for Nuclear Power The "Towards a Nuclear National Policy Statements" clearly set out the arguments in support of the building of new nuclear power generation facilities in the context of the wider UK energy generation mix. As part of the justification for building new nuclear power generation facilities the NPS carried out an Assessment of Sustainability (AoS) and Habitats Regulations Appraisal (HRA) on the proposals. These identified a number of significant environmental effects (AoS) and likely significant effects (HRA) that could only be partially addressed at the level of the NPS and would need further assessment at the Project development stage. The ES should make reference to these points and how it is taking them forward.	8912-20-1950			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The HRA for the Hinkley Point NPS clearly identifies a number of likely significant effects relating to the proposal site. These include potential impacts on the adjacent Severn Estuary suite of sites (SAC, SPA and Ramsar) and the River Usk SAC and River Wye SAC. The likely significant effects identified related to water quality (including thermal plume and oxygen depletion effects resulting from cooling water discharge in addition to chemical and radioactivity effects), water abstraction, potential habitat loss and fragmentation, coastal squeeze, disturbance and air quality. We reiterate that the ES should address these issues in detail.	8912-20-2775			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	b) Assessment of Potential Impacts 5.4.5 We remind you of the importance of considering the impacts of the proposals on the conservation objectives for the European sites. This information will be required by the competent authorities when they carry out their HRA. The lack of this information has been consistently identified as a concern in the draft ES chapters already seen. We recommend that this omission is address partly through a 'policies and legislation' chapter (as referred to above for 5.3.11) and partly through a specific consideration in the individual topic chapters.	8912-20-2105			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We recommend that the ES includes a of a specific paragraph on cumulative impacts in the context of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 and how these will be addressed, to aid the competent authorities in their HRAs.	8912-20-3035			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Environmental Impact Assessment and associated documents such as the Habitats Regulation report (HR report) should include sufficient information to enable the Competent Authorities to carry out their Habitats Regulation Assessments (HRAs) for the Severn Estuary SPA, SAC, River Usk SAC and River Wye SAC as required under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Similarly, sufficient information should be included to decide whether the development is likely to damage any of the SSSI features, in which case the provisions of Section 28 G and I of the Wildlife and Countryside Act, as amended, apply.	8912-20-329			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	1.2.32 We refer you to the formal classification of the Severn Estuary SPA, or Table 4 in the Regulation 33 Advice for the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar Site from Natural England and the Countryside Council for Wales, link: http://www.ccw.gov.uk/landscape--wildlife/managing-land-and-sea/search-results.aspx?txtSearchTerms=severn+estuary&submit=Go , for the correct list of classified features of the SPA.	8912-20-1944			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Drainage 2.13.7 We refer you to our comments on drainage issues relating to the preliminary works. The HR report should consider the possible cumulative and in-combination issues with the preliminary works.	8912-20-5727	/			
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Construction of temporary jetty 2.13.12 We refer you to our comments on the temporary jetty relating to the preliminary works. The HR report should consider the possible cumulative and in-combination issues with the preliminary works	8912-20-5940			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Construction of sea wall 2.13.41 In addition to direct impacts such as those arising from, for example, stockpiling material 'on site', the HR report should also consider the possible cumulative and in-combination issues with the preliminary works.	8912-20-6180			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	The consideration of cumulative and in- combination impacts is an integral part of the HRA process and will need to be addressed fully in the HR report. We strongly recommend that all the information on these issues for the Severn Estuary and other European sites is clearly presented in one place (the HR report and/or the ES), along with the other information necessary to allow the competent authorities in carrying out their HRAs. Of particular relevance will be issues such as possible in- combination impacts from the thermal plumes from Hinkley B and Hinkley C, and impacts on water quality	8913-20-651			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We have serious concerns about the conclusions presented in this document. In view of the fact that as yet there is no full and detailed analysis of the effect of the HPC development on the designated features of the European sites, we have considerable concern over the statement in 1.6.60 'these in the context of the Severn Estuary, are expected to be minor or negligible'. On the basis of the information provided to date we are of the view that it is not possible to state this at this time.	8913-20-1795			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	On the basis of the information provided so far, and the recommendation for the Hinkley site within the NPS for new nuclear power, we consider that the development as currently proposed is likely to have a significant effect on the Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar site, in particular from the cooling water intake structure, and the temperature and quality of the discharge. The basis for that view is set out in more detail in the attached annexes. Again on the basis of the information provided so far, and without prejudice to any advice we may give in relation to an appropriate assessment, or to the findings of an appropriate assessment, carried out by the competent authorities in accordance with the Habitats Directive and Regulations, we advise that there is a distinct possibility that the proposed development will have impacts that cannot be mitigated sufficiently to remove the risk of adverse effects on the integrity of the Natura 2000 and Ramsar interests.	8913-20-2353			/	
Somerset County Council	Dual - local authority, statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	The ecological appraisal of the impacts of the whole development package is done in a piecemeal fashion without due and proper consideration of 'in combination' and 'cumulative' effects. A lack of assessment of impacts in combination with other aspects of the development means the Ecological Impact Assessment should be considered as incomplete and therefore not currently fit for purpose. Potentially the most major ecological impact is upon bird populations of the Special Protection Area (SPA)/Ramsar site, these impacts need full assessment and justification. Survey data collected during 2010 is not included in the documentation.	8925-20-606			/	

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Somerset County Council	Dual - local authority, statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	The conclusions that have been drawn are that the cumulative impacts upon marine ecology and upon terrestrial ecology are in the range negligible to minor adverse at worst (see Table 4.2). However, there is no detail in Volume 4 concerning how these assessments have been arrived at in relation to ecology. With regards to the cumulative impact of the station plus associated development, the approach that seems to have been followed, if section 4.2 is understood properly, is that of summing together the impacts of separate developments as they have been assessed in other chapters and sections of the appraisal. If this is the basic methodology that has been adopted, then it needs to be pointed out that some impacts have the capacity to interact in such a way as to produce impacts that are greater than the simple sum of their parts.	8925-20-2078			/	
Somerset County Council	Dual - local authority, statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	3.6 Recommended additions A Chapter that deals in detail with 'in-combination' and/or additive impacts on terrestrial ecology that are likely to arise due to the whole power station project. (SCC does not regard the material in Volume 4 to be sufficiently detailed at the present to fulfil this function.) SCC would regard it as helpful if a distinction could be drawn between effects that will be permanent for all intents and purposes (e.g. the loss of grassland and woodland habitats within the station footprint) and those that will be more temporary in nature.	8925-20-10578			/	
Stop Hinkley	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Proximity to Protected Areas The coastline bordering the Hinkley C site is part of the Bridgwater Bay Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Bridgwater Bay's shallow waters and mudflats are a sanctuary for thousands of waders, ducks and other sea birds, especially in winter. The site is also bordered by Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation and a National Nature Reserve. Bridgwater Bay is designated as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. Part of the construction site itself falls within a County Wildlife Site designated because of its conservation value.	8945-20-6227			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>Our main interest in this scheme relates to potential adverse impacts arising from the development on the Severn Estuary Natura 2000 site, especially on the internationally important Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, including:</p> <p>1) Cumulative disturbance impacts on feeding and roosting waterbirds at Hinkley Point and Comwich Wharf due to construction works and operational activities;</p> <p>2) Cumulative impacts of thermal plume and chemical discharges on feeding waterbirds, most notably in Bridgwater Bay;</p> <p>3) Cumulative impacts of the above with other elements of the project;</p> <p>4) In combination impacts of this proposal with other relevant plans or projects.</p>	8945-20-321			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>The potential impacts of thermal regime change in Bridgwater Bay is a serious concern to us. Although an assessment of likely changes to benthic communities is provided in chapter 19, it is clear that further work needs to be carried out urgently in order to understand the magnitude and likelihood of potential impacts on the Bridgwater Bay ecosystem, including feeding waterbirds.</p>	8945-20-681			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>It is critical that any in combination assessment includes all relevant plans or projects. This should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Port of Bristol and Environment Agency managed realignment schemes at Steart; - The National Grid Hinkley C 400kV overhead powerline connection; - Strategic plans including the Severn Estuary and North Devon & Somerset Shoreline Management Plans and the Severn Estuary Flood management Strategy; - Other plans or projects likely to have a significant impact on the Natura 200 site. 	8945-20-10715			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	<p>- On the basis of the information provided, the development as currently proposed is likely to have a significant effect on the Severn Estuary Special Area of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site.</p> <p>- Again on the information provided, and without prejudice to any advice we may give in relation to an appropriate assessment, we advised that there was a distinct possibility that the proposed development would have impacts that cannot be mitigated sufficiently to remove the risk of adverse effects of the Natura 2000 and Ramsar interests.</p>	8983-20-1347			/	
RSPB	Non-statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	<p>Our main interest in this scheme relates to potential adverse impacts arising from the development on the Severn Estuary Natura 2000 site, especially on the internationally important Special Protection Area (SPA) and Ramsar site, including:</p> <p>1) Cumulative disturbance impacts on feeding and roosting waterbirds at Hinkley Point and Comwich Wharf due to construction works and operational activities;</p> <p>2) Cumulative impacts of thermal plume and chemical discharges on feeding waterbirds, most notably in Bridgwater Bay;</p> <p>3) Cumulative impacts of the above with other elements of the project;</p> <p>4) In combination impacts of this proposal with other relevant plans or projects.</p>	8989-20-277			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	<p>Table 5.1: We note that the wider assessment of alternative options (including an assessment of the development of the environment in the absence of the proposed facilities) and the cumulative, in combination and synergistic effects of the development, has been largely carried out within the AoS of the overarching NPS. We welcome the identification of clear potential impacts and the comprehensive suite of proposed mitigation measures to address them within this assessment, however, we still have some concerns over how the site specific options have been considered. The operational parameters and procedures for the site may or may not be flexible (such as the cooling method) but they are presented in the assessment in fairly fixed terms. For example, the potential impacts of building a new wharf are not compared against possible alternatives such as bringing all materials in by road or constructing a new rail link. When combined with the lack of cross-reference to the overarching strategy assessment, this results in what appears to be an overly restricted assessment in terms of dealing with the identified significant environmental effects.</p>	8788-13-4798			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	6.5: We welcome the clear identifications of the potential impacts on the protected conservation sites. For clarity and consistency these should be identified in this section and referenced to the accompanying HRA (Severn Estuary SAC, SPA and Ramsar, River Usk and River Wye SACs).	8790-13-2581			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	<p>Table 6.1: We note the overall assessment of significant strategic sustainability effects summarised in this table and the large number of negative evaluations identified. While we feel that a large number of these can be avoided, cancelled or reduced by appropriate mitigation measures there are two key points that must be emphasised;</p> <p>The need to consider these proposals in the context of other developing plans, programmes and policies, notably the developing Local Plans and Local Development plans, Shoreline Management Plans and Flood Risk Management Strategies, The Environment Agency Review of Consents Process, and Severn Tidal power feasibility studies.</p> <p>The requirements of meeting the Habitats Directive and particularly Section 85C of the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) (Amendment) Regulations 2007</p> <p>6.13 : We welcome the clear recommendations in relation to developing and progressing mitigation measures as set out in this paragraph.</p>	87900-204-3209			/	<p>Following the Stage 2 Consultation an assessment was undertaken in accordance with The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (Habitats Regulations) with the findings of this assessment presented in the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) report. The HRA report was produced in line with the four stage process outlined in IPC Advice Note Ten 'Habitats Regulations Assessment Relevant to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects'.</p> <p>Comments were raised by some consultees during the Stage 2 Consultation with regard to the plans and projects included in the in-combination assessment of the HRA. As a result, the full list of the plans and projects considered in this assessment was agreed through consultation with relevant organisations at the screening stage.</p> <p>Full consideration has been given to the effectiveness of mitigation measures where these have been proposed to deal with potential adverse effects. Monitoring of proposed mitigation measures will also be undertaken to demonstrate the effectiveness of mitigation measures and to determine whether adjustments or further measures need to be put in place.</p> <p>An assessment of the potential radiological impacts on relevant ecological receptors has been carried out and it has been concluded that there are no effects on Natura 2000 sites or features. Further detail on this assessment is located within Chapter 21 in Volume 2 of the ES</p>
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	<p>We note the comprehensive list of potential effects and mitigation measures identified in the report and summarised in this table. We look forward to a more detailed set of recommendations, linked to key indicators and monitoring framework, to be incorporated both into the NPS and the detailed site proposals which will show how the significant effects will be avoided, cancelled and/or reduced and how this will be monitored. We would particularly emphasise that where these measures are intended to avoid adverse effects on European and/or international designated sites they will need to meet the criteria set out within the Habitats Directive and identified within the accompanying HRA.</p>	87901-204-138			/	
Somerset Wildlife Trust	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>The Trust is satisfied with the scope of surveys undertaken at the HPC site, and welcomes measures proposed to minimise disturbance to habitats of importance for BAP and priority species.</p>	10263-204-5520			/	

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	<p>In accordance with Regulation 61 of the Conservation Objectives 2010 Natural England advises that the competent authorities (in this case the Infrastructure Planning Commission, Environment Agency and Marine Management Organisation) must undertake appropriate assessment of the implications of the project for the European sites affected in view of those sites' conservation objectives. Furthermore, Regulation 61(2) requires the applicant to provide all the necessary information that the competent authority may reasonably require for the purposes of the assessment.</p> <p>If the appropriate assessment(s) concludes that the Hinkley Point C development will have or cannot rule out an adverse effect on integrity, then it will be necessary to look at ways of mitigating for these effects including the operation of the Nuclear Power Station.</p> <p>If it cannot be demonstrated through the provision of objective scientific evidence and appropriate mitigation that the development will avoid an adverse effect on the integrity of European Sites then the development can only proceed further if the Secretary of State is satisfied that there are no alternative solutions and there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest, which would allow the development to proceed. It should be noted that while the Government concluded that these tests were met for the draft nuclear NPS this does not automatically mean that these tests have been met for individual projects.</p> <p>If after meeting these tests, consent is approved for this development, then compensatory measures must be provided to maintain the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network (European sites) and be in place at the commencement of the project. We consider that it will very difficult to offset losses/damage through compensation particularly in relation to provision of alternative intertidal bird feeding habitat and losses of fish species. The opportunities for coastal realignment around the Severn Estuary, to create new intertidal habitat are limited. The creation of mudflats being especially difficult to achieve, without having an impact on the estuary's geomorphology. Equally, compensation for the loss of SAC and Ramsar fish species will be challenging. We would therefore encourage EDF to enter in early discussions with Natural England, Countryside Council for Wales and the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation, in order to find and agree ways of providing mitigation that will avoid adverse effects on the integrity of the European Sites and a package of possible compensation measures on without prejudice basis.</p>	89098-204-4429			/	
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	It is not clear from the documentation whether an assessment has been carried out of potential radiological impacts on the Natura 2000 site. We seek further information on this.	89458-204-6157	/			

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	3.44 - 3.48: CCW welcomes the suite of mitigation measures identified and look forward to advising on their implementation as part of the developing NPS process and at detailed project development. We would strongly recommend that any further consideration of mitigation measures, either as part of the NPS proposals or as part of the detailed project level assessment, be considered in the context of the developing Severn Estuary SMP2. If it is not already the case, then we would urge DECC, the licensing authorities and the applicants to engage with the SMP2 process at the earliest opportunity to ensure a consistent approach is adopted for all such plans when considering how to assess (and address) potential impacts associated with habitats & Species loss/fragmentation/coastal squeeze along the Severn Estuary.	87840-205-3614			/	The full requirements of the Habitats Directive (Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the Conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora) and the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 have been taken into account by EDF Energy during project development. The outcomes of these considerations are reported in the Environmental Statement (ES) and the Habitats Regulation assessment (HRA) report. Full consideration has been given to the effectiveness of mitigation measures where these have been proposed to deal with potential adverse effects. Monitoring of proposed mitigation measures will also be undertaken where such monitoring would be useful to demonstrate the effectiveness of mitigation measures and to determine whether adjustments or further measures need to be put in place.
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	CCW welcomes this clear and informative table. See previous comments in relation to individual proposals. Summary of HRA Findings and Recommendations 3.53: We agree with this HRA's findings that significant effects can not be ruled out for the Nuclear NPS proposals for Hinkley Point in respect of the identified European sites 3.54 - 3.59: CCW agrees that the suite of mitigation measures identified by this assessment have the potential to address the adverse effects on the European sites that could result from these proposals. We would also strongly support the caveat that the effectiveness of the measures proposed can only be ascertained with certainty through HRA at a project level, and we look forward to advising on these at the appropriate time. (Editor's note: end of second submission. Third submission. see pdf attached. Submission contains 1 letter and 4 annexes. Entered into database: letter and Annex 3. Not entered into database Annex 1 (response to Draft Nuclear Policy Statement consultation), Annex 2 (site report for Oldbury) and Annex 4 (site report for Wylfa)	87850-205-0			/	Regular consultation with Natural England, the Countryside Council for Wales, the Environment Agency and the Marine Management Organisation has taken place during the production of the HRA report. These discussions have involved specific consideration of the need for, and the practicalities of creating compensatory habitat in the Severn Estuary. The role of mitigation and the approach taken by EDF Energy in dealing with potentially adverse effects on the designated European sites has also been discussed with and influenced by consultation with the above organisations. The in-combination effects of the Hinkley Point C Project have also been considered and assessed in light of the policies (and their implementation) set out in the Severn Estuary Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) and the North Devon and Somerset SMP.

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	CCW notes that the AoS objectives (with the exception of economic objectives) still place emphasis on the avoidance of adverse impacts on environmental topics, despite our comments on previous iterations of this document. While this may not necessarily be inappropriate, given the nature of the proposals and the requirements of the SEA Directive, it does represent a “negative” approach to the assessment process, which should also aim to identify positive contributions to the environment and promotion of high levels of environmental protection. In setting AoS objectives which just seek to minimise harm, it is likely that the ancillary indicators will also tend to be negative, (ie measuring the degree of negative impact) as measuring “zero change” is often extremely difficult. This is both a lost opportunity to measure the potentially positive contributions of the NPS and may also be inappropriate in relation to protected sites. AoS objectives should ideally have been amended to take on a more positive approach, for example, indicator (2) could be redrafted to say “To reverse fragmentation of ecological networks and promote ecosystem functionality”.	87860-205-1292			/	
Natural England	Dual - statutory consultee and consultee with an interest in land	Stage 2	There is a difference between cumulative effect and altered environmental baseline. Residual effects from any plan or project, or indeed any other impact will inevitably continue to affect the environmental baseline of a European site's interest features.	89115-179-8906			/	
Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - local authority and consultee with an interest in land (Sedgemoor)	Stage 2	The authorities remain concerned as to how the EDF Energy strategy fits with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and namely the ongoing outcomes of the Habitats Regulation Assessment. This will identify the mitigation measures for the European Designated Habitats and Bird Communities and, if found to be required as a result of an HRA, possibly compensation measures.	89317-205-3016			/	
Sedgemoor District Council and West Somerset Council Joint Council Response	Dual - local authority and consultee with an interest in land (Sedgemoor)	Stage 2	- With regards to the Guiding Question "Will it result in harm to internationally or nationally important or protected species", disturbance to the natural environment is affected to affect some nationally important species. As one example of this, during construction, habitat removal at the HPC site may result in loss of habitat or foraging grounds for bats.	89411-142-13076				

Respondent Reference	Respondent Type	Consultation Stage	Comment	Comment ID	Change	No Change	Noted	EDF Energy Response (Begins at first page of Topic)
Natural England	Dual - Statutory Consultee and Consultee with an Interest in Land	Stage 1	<p>Table 4.5, Ecology: The proximity of the Eastern route option (Cannington bypass) to the Severn Estuary SPA needs to be mentioned as a matter for consideration - this option would require a HRA.</p> <p>4.12. Combwich Wharf is located within/adjacent to the Severn Estuary SPA and Ramsar site. The proposed activities/development at Combwich Wharf will require a HRA.</p> <p>Junction 23 of M5, North Bridgwater (Junction 23 Search Areas)</p> <p>4.8.1. J23-A and J23-B are located roughly 750 metres and 1,800 metres respectively from the Severn Estuary SPA. The sites will be subject to a HRA.</p>	8737-206-1737			/	<p>The main activities and effects of the development of a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point that have the potential to affect the screened in European designated sites have been identified for the construction, operation and decommissioning phases. The assessment also included the associated developments, including the Combwich Wharf and Junction 23 developments, that form part of the Hinkley Point C Project.</p> <p>The implications of any changes in surface water or groundwater conditions (including discharges to waterbodies and water quality) on environmental parameters are fully assessed in the Environmental Statement (ES) and, where, appropriate included in the Habitats Regulation Assessment report.</p>
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 1	<p>CCW notes that this AoS identifies in several instances, the potential for significant adverse effect on Ramsar Sites e.g. the Severn Estuary. Under Article 2 of the Ramsar Convention 'if a human induced change to the ecological character of a Ramsar Sites has occurred, is occurring or is likely to occur, under Article 3.2 it is the obligation of the Party concerned to report this without delay to the Ramsar Secretariat. CCW would suggest that the findings of this suite of AoS's and the results of the HRA process for this National Policy Statement might indicate 'likely occurrence of human induced change'. CCW would therefore welcome confirmation that the Ramsar Secretariat has been informed of these matters.</p>	87860-206-3509			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>We strongly recommend that the equivalent chapter of the HR report sets out the implications for these sites (in the context of the conservation objectives) from any changes to the ground water arising from these proposals to aid the competent authorities carry out their HRAs.</p>	89130-206-842			/	
Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	<p>This chapter appears to focus only on flood risk issues arising form surface water. However, surface water and associated hydrological issues can have impacts on environmental parameters other than flood risk. These should be addressed in the HR report.</p>	89130-206-1151			/	
RSPB	Non-statutory consultee	Stage 2 Update	<p>Although the stage 2 documents include a lot of information about likely construction and operational works, information is dispersed and critical information seems to be missing. We would like a full account of the type, scale, duration, timing and potential overlap of all activities likely to contribute to disturbance at both Hinkley and Combwich Wharf, in order to fully assess the combined disturbance impacts on waterbirds and to agree a comprehensive series of suitable mitigation measures.</p>	89901-206-71	/			

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Countryside Council for Wales	Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	Chapter 1 description of the existing site and surroundings ii) Nature Conservation Our comments on the draft Environmental Statement (ES) for the preliminary works are also relevant to the section. For example with reference to Sabellaria the text and figures of the ES and HR report should state the Sabellaria species. Both S. alveolata and S. spinulosa are present in the estuary; S. alveolata reef is the Severn Estuary SAC feature.	89128-179-1497			/	The technical information provided within these reports has been used to inform the Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) and the full studies have been made available to relevant parties. The HRA specifically addresses important features including the species of the reef forming worm, Sabellaria. The report 'Impact of new nuclear build at Hinkley Point on intertidal food availability for birds' (Forster <i>et al</i> 2010) has been superseded by the following report: BEEMS technical report TR 184, 2011. Hinkley Point Marine Ecology Synthesis. In addition, BEEMS technical report TR070 has been superseded by BEEMS TR 186, (2011) 'Predicted effects of NNB on water quality at Hinkley Point'.
RSPB	Non-Statutory Consultee	Stage 2	We were unaware of the report Impact of new nuclear build at Hinkley Point on intertidal food availability for birds (Forster <i>et al</i> 2010), and so are unable to comment in full on the assessment of likely impacts of the project on waterbird feeding resources in Bridgwater Bay. This is a key issue for the RSPB and we would like a copy of the report and the opportunity to comment on its findings. We are also aware of a further report on food availability for birds (BEEMS TR070 - Predicted effects of NNB on marine water quality) and would like the opportunity to comment on this as well.	89458-207-88			/	