



Somerset
Council

Hinkley Point B

2026 Emergency Planning

Public Information Factsheet

Section A: emergency planning arrangements and proposed changes

Background

In August 2022, [Hinkley Point B Nuclear Power Station](#) stopped generating electricity permanently and moved into its “defueling phase”. The site was declared fuel free in January 2026 and will enter into its decommissioning phase.

[Hinkley Point B - Inspection ID: 53890 | Office for Nuclear Regulation](#)

Decommissioning will involve dismantling and demolition of plant and buildings on the Hinkley Point B site and will be managed by the [Nuclear Decommissioning Authority](#).

In March 2026, EDF Energy delivered a new 2026 Consequences Report to Somerset Council and the Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR) which provided updated information about the impact of potential radiation emergencies at Hinkley Point B.

Somerset Council is required by Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations ([REPIIR 2019](#)) to use the Site Operator’s Consequence Report as the basis for determining the requirements of any detailed emergency planning arrangements including zones which may require urgent protective actions near to the site.

The new EDF [Hinkley Point C](#) site is under construction and is currently expected to become operational around 2030/2031.

What is a Radiation Emergency?

In simple terms, a radiation emergency is an unexpected event at a site using ionising radiation (e.g., a nuclear site, industry, or medical facility) that could have serious harmful impacts and requires immediate action to protect people or the environment.

What is the risk of Radiation Emergency Response at Hinkley Point B Nuclear Power Station?

Following the shutting down of the reactors in 2022, an assessment of the hazards that may cause a radiation emergency were evaluated at Hinkley Point B and recognising that the risk had reduced, the size of the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (*DEPZ*) was also reduced to 800m in 2023 by Somerset Council.

Now in 2026, with the site having been declared free of nuclear fuel, the risk profile has reduced further still to bring it more in line with the decommissioning neighbouring station at Hinkley Point A.

Does this apply to me?

This fact sheet has been produced to inform all communities who may live or work in near Hinkley Point in Somerset.

The information is particularly relevant to local people who live close enough to the nuclear licensed site and affected by any emergency planning arrangements that are required e.g. living within a Detailed Emergency Planning Zone or within an Outlying Planning Zone (OPZ).

Current off-site emergency planning arrangements

Since 2023, Hinkley Point B has the following zones which inform the emergency planning arrangements.



Figure 1a: 800m Detailed Emergency Planning Zone

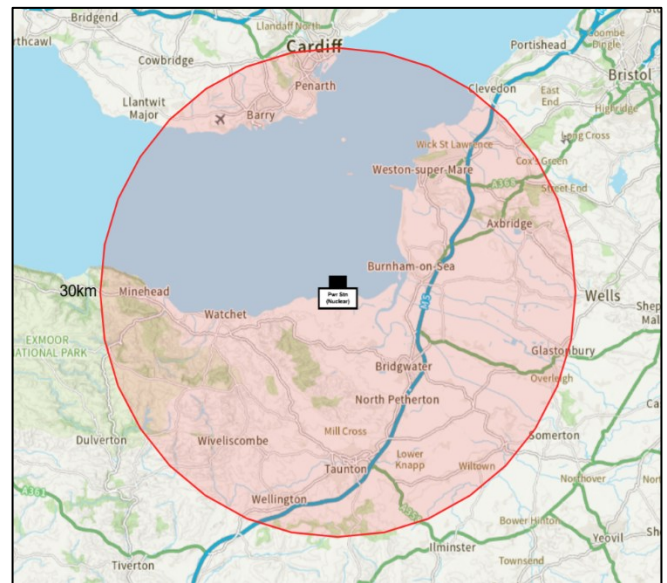


Figure 1b: 30km Outlying Planning Zone

What is a Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ)?

Over many years the UK has developed, and refined, detailed plans for how the response to a nuclear emergency should be managed. There has never been a nuclear incident in the UK that required the activation of these plans, but it is important they exist and are reviewed.

Councils with nuclear facilities in their areas have been required to review these plans and create strategic level plans for the immediate areas around these sites. These are known as Detailed Emergency Planning Zones.

The definition of a detailed emergency planning zone is a defined zone around premises where it is proportionate to pre-define protective actions which would be implemented without delay (e.g. within a few hours) to mitigate the most likely consequences of a radiation emergency.

Such urgent protective actions should provide prompt protection to those who may be affected, maximising effectiveness which would be reduced if time was taken to consider and implement appropriate action.

Examples of recommended protective actions are evacuation from the area, sheltering inside buildings or taking stable iodine tablets.

What is an Outlying Planning Zone (OPZ)?

An Outline Planning Zone (OPZ) is a strategic-level emergency planning area established beyond any DEPZ for nuclear sites where analysis shows a possible potential, however *extremely unlikely* incident occurring.

OPZs were introduced in REPPIR 2019 as part of post-Fukushima legislative improvements, to ensure the UK plans not only for realistic accidents (DEPZ) but also for **very low-probability, high-impact scenarios**.

An OPZ does *not* require a fully detailed operational emergency plan.

Instead, it requires **strategic preparedness**, such as:

- Considering how mass evacuation or sheltering *might* be handled
- Understanding which communities and infrastructure might be impacted
- Integrating OPZ considerations into regional resilience planning

The OPZ is therefore **conceptual and strategic**, not tactical.

Section B: Proposed changes to off-site emergency planning arrangements

As part of the Hinkley Point B decommissioning process and the changes of site hazards, the operator – EDF Energy has carried out an evaluation of the risks and has documented these in a Consequences Report. This report is provided to the Office of Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and the Local Authority with assessment and recommendations to inform the off-site emergency planning arrangements for the area.

EDF Energy is recommending that the significant reduction of the hazards at Hinkley Point B no longer justify the site requiring a Detailed Emergency Planning Zone. An Outlying Planning Zone of 1km (1000 metres) is also now recommended.

There are no residential properties within 1km of the site.



Figure 2a: 1km Outlying Planning Zone

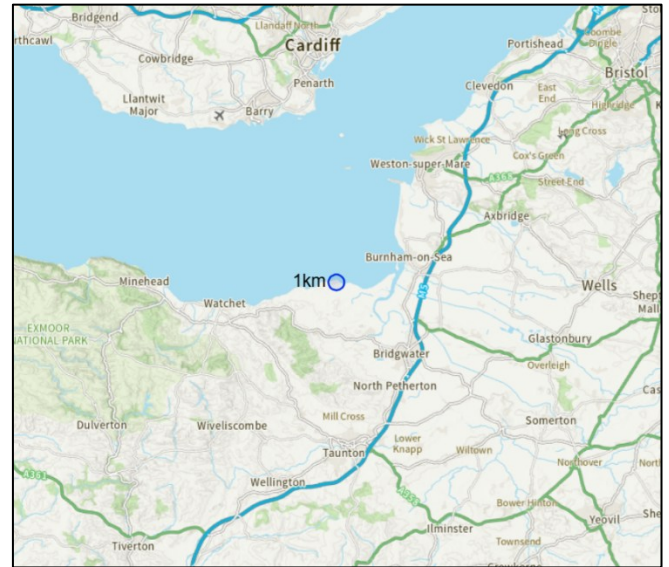


Figure 2b: 1km Outlying Zone area comparison

Reasons for proposed changes

With Hinkley Point B now being declared fuel free and entering its decommissioning phase, the risk of a radiation emergency at the site is now substantially less. This means a proportionate change is required in the emergency arrangements on the site and off the site. EDF Energy has concluded the below.

<p>Recommended Minimum Geographical Extent – Detailed Emergency Planning (DEPZ)</p>	<p>The assessments conducted for the site Fuel Free Verified state (FFV) conclude that no Detailed Emergency Planning Zone is required.</p>
<p>Recommended Distances for Urgent Protective Actions</p>	<p>The assessments required under REPPiR indicate urgent protective actions are not justified for the protection of the public.</p>
<p>Recommended Minimum Geographical Extent – Outlying Emergency Planning (OPZ)</p>	<p>It is recommended that the Outline Planning Zone for the site be set as per REPPiR regulation 9(1)(a) and schedule 5 – (Category 4) – at 1km</p>

The full EDF Energy Hinkley Point B 2026 Consequences Report can be found on our survey portal [page](#).

The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and the ONR have independently reviewed this report and are happy that the recommendations within are appropriate to the revised risk at Hinkley Point B.

The ONR will continue to regulate Hinkley Point B until such time in the future that the site falls outside of the REPPiR legislation.

What do these changes mean for people living in the region of Hinkley Point?

This is the important question which is considered by Somerset Council.

Hinkley Point is a long-standing nuclear hub on the Somerset coast, home to three distinct sites representing the **past (HPA), present transition (HPB), and future energy generation (HPC)**. Collectively, they help to shape the region's economy, infrastructure and communities.

HPC is still under construction and will require a separate review process and will be documented under a separate consequence report at some stage in the future.

The current DEPZ determination process is to review how the changes of hazards and the significant reduction of the radiation risks at HPB should now affect the emergency planning for the area. The presumption being that less radioactive materials means less risk overall for the site itself and for the surrounding area.

Nuclear Restoration Services is expected to take responsibility for HPB later in 2026 with EDF Energy confirming that the current services of the community annual free calendar and Public Emergency Telephone Information Scheme (PETIS) will be withdrawn for HPB.

How will I know if there is an incident at a Hinkley Point site?

Hinkley Point B, much like its next-door neighbour at Hinkley Point A will remain as a decommissioning nuclear licensed site regulated and overseen by the Office of Nuclear Regulation. However, due to the removal of radioactive materials from the site, the risk of an off-site radiation emergency is now extremely low.

Similar to many other industrial sites, strict Health and Safety regulations must be followed and in the event of a safety incident which occurs on-site, it is for the operator to manage in line with its normal processes.

External agencies such as the Emergency Services or the Local Authority would only need to become involved if an on-site incident starts to develop beyond the boundaries of the site into an off-site incident thereby potentially causing concern or possible risk to public safety.

As a Category One responding agency under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, Somerset Council has established and well tested lines of communication with the Emergency Services and other Category One responders.

Utilising the [JESIP](#) principles of working together and saving lives, when any incident occurs which may require the participation and co-ordination of responding agencies, a conference call is quickly setup to assess the situation, share information and then decide on the appropriate response actions. The organisations operating all the Hinkley Point sites would be invited to join any such conference calls 24/7.

If a need to warn, inform or advise the general public is identified, agency Communications staff will send out messages via various established media routes including TV/radio agencies and local press organisations as well as popular social media channels.

Similar to other countries, the UK now also has a [National Alert Notification System](#) which could be used for any major incident where there is a need for the mass notification of people quickly for a developing situation.

Although you may have experienced a [test](#) of the system, there is a strict threshold process that needs to be followed before any alert is sent out and it is only used where absolutely necessary. Some additional information can be found [here](#).

How to Keep Updated

Towards the end of 2026, EDF Energy is expected to transfer ownership of Hinkley Point B to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority under the operational management of Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS).

Site stakeholder groups (SSGs) represent the viewpoints of Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) site communities. Everyone is welcome to attend SSG meetings to share their views, ask questions and be a part of the conversation.

Web - nrsssg.com

Email - hinkley.ssg@nrsservices.uk

Other Useful Links:

[Community Risk Register | Avon and Somerset Police](#)

[Somerset Prepared – Helping Somerset prepare, respond and recover from emergencies](#)

[Weather Ready - Met Office](#)