Dear Sir/Madam,


Location: Hinkley Point C, Bridgwater, Somerset, TA5 1UD

Thank you for your consultation on the above dated 28 September 2017, which was received by Natural England on 03 November 2017.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

Natural England has considered the application and has the following comments for the non-material changes:

The redesign of some of the permanent buildings

Natural England advises that the proposed changes to some of the permanent building designs described are unlikely to result in a significant effect on designated nature conservation sites and landscapes. Due to the proximity of the Quantock Hills AONB, we recommend the Quantock Hills AONB Service is consulted, if not already.

The erection of additional pipework along the underside of the temporary jetty to enable discharges from the site

We advise that we will provide our full detailed comments on the temporary jetty discharges and the submitted documents ‘TR443; Cefas Report HPC Assessment of Construction Discharges from the Jetty – Shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA)’ and ‘TR428; Hinkley Point C construction discharge modelling assessment at the temporary jetty location Edition 3’ through the formal consultation from the Environment Agency for the variation to the Construction Water Discharge Activity permit.
An alteration to the alignment of the sea wall

We do not consider the proposed changes described to the alignment of the sea wall are likely to result in a significant effect on designated nature conservation sites and landscapes. This is based on the assumption that there is no further habitat loss as a result of the alignment changes to the sea wall. Post-construction gravel monitoring will assess whether the sea wall has had any impact on longshore transport and we will comment on the outputs of that assessment if required. Natural England also advises that measures are in place so that altering the line of the sea wall would not leave the contaminated material potentially exposed to erosion, which could pose the risk of contaminated material entering the Estuary.

Providing no significant effects on designated sites are identified through the variation to the Construction Water Discharge Activity permit, Natural England has no objection to the non-material changes to the DCO.

Please don't hesitate to get in contact if you have any queries,

Yours sincerely,

Nick Hartley
Severn, Avon & Mendip Team