



# Environment Information Regulations

Discussions between EdF and JNCC over estuarine environmental considerations arising from the decision to dump/dispose of Hinkley C dredger arisings within the Mor Hafren SAC

For a Link to the FOI/EIR page visit: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=6077>  
For further information about the Joint Nature Conservation Committee visit:  
<http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/>

Number of EIR 201827

## Request

I am making inquiries about the disposal of marine dredging arisings from the Hinkley C site (Somerset) at disposal sites within the Bristol Channel/Mor Hafren SAC.

I am informed that EdF, who hold the licence to dispose of such dredged material within the SAC, had, prior to their receipt of the licence, been in consultation with JNCC concerning the disposal and I would be most grateful if you would provide me with contact details for the JNCC officer/officers/group/department who were involved in those consultations so that I might direct my queries to the most appropriate personnel.

I have a specific set of queries related to the discussions that EdF had with the JNCC over estuarine environmental considerations arising from the decision to dump/dispose of the dredger arisings within the Mor Hafren SAC.

## Reply

Thank you for your request for information received on Thursday 6 September 2018, which we have dealt with under the Environmental Information Regulations 2004.

You inquired regarding the disposal of marine dredging arisings from the Hinkley C site (Somerset) at sites within the Bristol Channel/Mor Hafren SAC and provided an expanded list of questions when requested:

- 1: on what date did EdF approach JNCC to initiate consultations on the proposals to use Cardiff Grounds as a dump site for the disposal of the 300,000 tonnes of Hinkley derived dredge arisings?
- 2: are minutes/notes of the ensuing discussions/ meeting available, is a summary of the deliberations available?
- 3: What does "the record" show with regard to the conclusions of the meetings/discussions of the EdF Cardiff Grounds proposals?

The Petitions Committee of the Welsh Senedd has been informed that it is imperative that sediments (dredged from within the Mor Hafren SAC) must be disposed of within the SAC in order to "maintain the SACs sediment budget".

- 4: Is this the view of the JNCC?
- 5: Is it the view of the JNCC that the fine sediment budget of the Mor Hafren SAC is at risk of depletion?
- 6: If so, can the JNCC confirm that it is the JNCCs understanding that the Mor Hafren SAC is **NOT** receiving major inputs of fine sediments from it's multiple estuarine/fluvial sources and that it exports fine sediments OUT of the Mor Hafren SAC.

We would respond under Regulation 12 (4) (a): *Does not hold that information when an applicant's request is received*, and would direct you to [JNCC's response to a consultation](#) from EDF on the Hinkley Point C Nuclear Development, which did not fall under the remit of the organisation. This was submitted on 15th December 2009.

As is indicated in our response to the consultation, JNCC co-ordinates nature conservation advice at a UK-level and advises UK Government on matters relating to nature conservation internationally. Within each UK country the separate statutory bodies are responsible for nature and landscape conservation these being: Natural England (NE), Natural Resources Wales (NRW), Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Council for Nature Conservation and the Countryside Northern Ireland (CNCCNI).

JNCC does have responsibility for the provision of nature conservation advice in the offshore area; 'offshore' being defined as beyond 12 nautical miles (nm) from the coastline, to the extent of the United Kingdom Continental Shelf (UKCS). Within territorial limits (<12nm) nature conservation advice is the responsibility of the relevant country bodies.

The EDF development proposal was not located within the offshore area, did not have any potential offshore nature conservation issues, so JNCC did not provide any comments to the consultation process beyond those in our submitted response.

Given the location of the Hinkley Point development and the inshore marine sites designated to receive the dredging spoil, you may need to direct your enquiry to both Natural England and Natural Resources Wales. Contact details for both are provided below:

Freedom of Information (FOI) and Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) requests  
Enquiry Service

**Natural England**

County Hall  
Spetchley Road  
Worcester  
WR5 2NP  
Email: [foi@naturalengland.org.uk](mailto:foi@naturalengland.org.uk)

**Natural Resources Wales**

Making a request for information

You can make a request for information from us by e-mail, fax or letter.

By telephone: 0300 065 3000 and ask to speak to an Access to Information Officer

By email: [accesstoinformationteam@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk](mailto:accesstoinformationteam@naturalresourceswales.gov.uk)

By post: ATI Team,  
Natural Resources Wales  
Maes y Ffynnon  
Penrhosgarnedd  
Bangor  
Gwynedd  
LL57 2DW

Please acknowledge receipt of this email. If you require any further detail please do not hesitate to contact us.

If you are unhappy with the service you have received in relation to your request and wish to make a complaint please contact Kirsty Meadows ([kirsty.meadows@jncc.gov.uk](mailto:kirsty.meadows@jncc.gov.uk)).

If you are still not satisfied following this, you can make an appeal to the Information Commissioner who is the statutory regulator. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
Telephone: 08456 30 60 60  
01625 54 57 45  
[www.ico.gov.uk](http://www.ico.gov.uk)

Yours sincerely,

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