



Press Release

7th February 2012

Concerned Locals Take to the Trees at Hinkley Point Near Bridgwater in Somerset on 7th February 2012

Early this morning concerned locals occupied threatened ancient oak trees at the proposed site for a new nuclear power station at Hinkley Point near Bridgwater in Somerset.

One of the tree occupiers said of their action - "We're here to stop work on this criminal development and to protect the ancient trees that are surrounded by a special conservation area but mysteriously excluded from it "

The protest was precipitated by last week's revelation in a report by Unlock Democracy and the Association for Conservation of Energy entitled 'A Corruption of Governance?'(1)

The report reveals in detail how MPs and Parliament based their decision to support new nuclear power stations on false information and half truths.

The report outlines that, on the basis of the Government's own evidence, new nuclear power stations are not needed to:

- Deliver energy security i.e. 'keep the lights on'
- To achieve 80% CO2 reduction by 2050

The building of new nuclear power stations to provide electricity will mean higher fuel bills.

The report concludes that this corruption of governance can only be rectified if Parliament re-opens this debate, and MPs vote on this issue having seen the correct information.

Katy Attwater, spokesperson for Stop Hinkley said. "Our understanding of the Deed of Planning Obligations was that EdF had to fulfil the first three phases of their obligations before they could start site preparation. This has not been done yet they are already starting to cut down ancient oak trees. The removal of trees and hedgerows was clearly described in their planning application as part of site preparation.

"This whole application has been characterised by lies, deceit, and corporate bullying. EdF has made a complete mockery of the British planning system. If they won't protect the trees until there is a proper decision about nuclear new build then we will."(2)

ENDS

Notes to Editors

1. Corruption of Governance report was published last week and presented to minsiters at Parliament. It can be found here www.ukace.org
2. The trees were subject to an emergency tree preservation order last March which was dropped by WSDC in October last year.

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