

Hinkley Point C Shelduck Monitoring Update

DATE:	20 October 2025	CONFIDENTIALITY:	Confidential
SUBJECT:	August Update		
PROJECT:	Hinkley Point C Nuclear New Build	AUTHOR:	██████████
CHECKED:	██████████	APPROVED:	██████████

PROGRESS IN THE PERIOD

The following six surveys were completed during Visits 4 and 5, in August 2025:

- Shelduck distribution and disturbance monitoring on 11/08/2025 (Visit 4, three surveyors) and 26/08/2025 (Visit 5, two surveyors);
- Shelduck mitigation monitoring on 13/08/2025 (Visit 4, two surveyors) and 26/08/2025 (Visit 5, one surveyor), 27/08/2025 (Visit 5, one surveyor);
- Shelduck population monitoring on 12/08/2024 (Visit 4, three surveyors) and 28/08/2025 (Visit 5, three surveyors).

KEY UPDATES IN THE PERIOD

The key updates this month were:

- There were three observed breaches of the mitigation at Wall Common during Visit 4, including a walker with six on-lead dogs. Disturbance was caused to four shelduck on one occasion, when two uncontrolled dogs were within the mitigation area for half an hour. Repeated disturbances of other species (dunlin, ringed plover and black-headed gull) were also noted during the Visit 4 breaches.
- There were four observed breaches of the mitigation at Wall Common during Visit 5, including an instance of five uncontrolled dogs, though no disturbance of shelduck was recorded.
- Three mitigation breaches also occurred at Stert Point during Visit 4. Most notably, Level 3 disturbance was caused to 500 shelduck for over 10 minutes on Stert Point, due to a sailboat manoeuvring between Stert Point and Stert Island and out into Bridgwater Bay. Additional breaches were of uncontrolled dogs loose on the grass to the west of the Tower Hide and toward the coastal path. However, no birds were disturbed at the time.
- The early (Visit 4) 2025 August population survey revealed a population count of 8,970. This is the highest recorded population count since shelduck monitoring surveys commenced in 2012. This represents a 36.1% increase from the previous high of 6,591 birds, recorded in late July 2022. The second highest count for an early August Visit is 5,647 birds, recorded in 2021. Peak population counts for each year are displayed in **Figure 1**.
- The late (Visit 5) 2025 August population survey saw a small decline to 6,055 individuals. Despite the drop, this number is the second highest count since surveys began with the highest late August count recorded in 2020 with 6,174 individuals.
- The August Population Trigger Point (PTP) has not been reached, as the average population count grew by 69% from 3,657 individuals in August 2024 to 7,513 in August 2025.

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- No vessel transits were undertaken or monitored in August 2025.

Figure 1 - Peak Population Counts 2012-2025

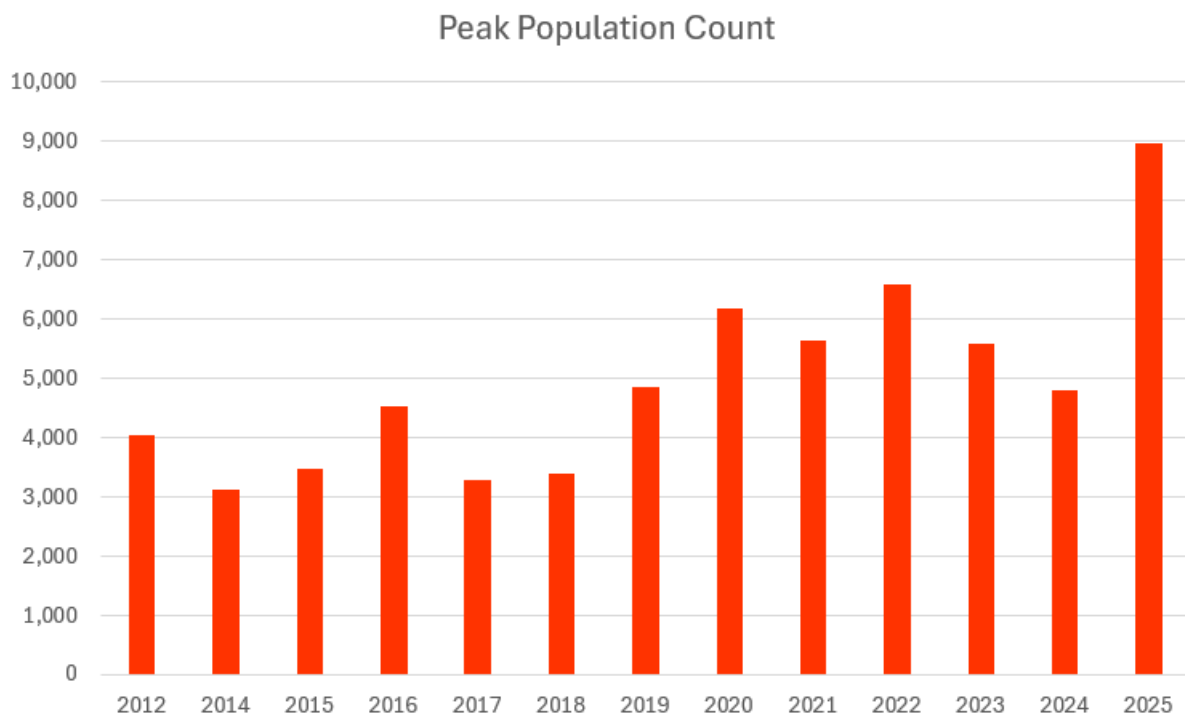


Table 1 – Action

Item	Description	Actions	Who is responsible	Date for completion
H & S observations	There were no H&S incidents recorded during the period	N/A	N/A	Ongoing
Breaches of mitigation measures or notable disturbance observations	Seven mitigation breaches at Wall Common fence line through the period, with disturbance caused by uncontrolled dogs. Three mitigation breaches at Stert Point, notably 500	WSP will engage with EDF and WWT regarding Wall Common fence line breaches. Updates will also be shared with Natural England.	WSP / EDF	Ongoing.

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	<i>shelduck disturbed for over 10 minutes by sailboat between Stert Island and Stert Point.</i>			
<i>Wardening</i>	<i>WWT volunteers continue to carry out wardening on an ad-hoc basis.</i>	<i>WSP to continue to provide WWT with vessel delivery schedule, in order to target wardening at the key sensitive locations for wintering waterbirds (e.g. Stockland Reach and Huntspill Sluice) and moulting shelduck (e.g. Wall Common and Stert Point) during vessel delivery days.</i>	<i>WSP / EDF</i>	<i>Ongoing.</i>