

Aberthaw Power Station Explosive Demolition Event

Public Q&A Document

1. What is happening?

An explosive demolition event will be carried out in February 2026 to safely bring down the DA Bay and Turbine Hall using controlled charges. This method has been extensively planned by qualified explosive & demolition engineers to ensure precision, safety, and minimal disruption to the surrounding community.

2. Why use explosive demolition instead of mechanical demolition?

Explosive demolition is chosen when it offers a safer, more efficient, or more environmentally beneficial solution compared with mechanical methods.

It can:

- Reduce the duration of demolition activities
 - Lower noise and vibration exposure compared to prolonged mechanical breaking
 - Reduce health and safety risks to our demolition operatives by limiting time spent working at height or around unstable structures
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3. Who is responsible for the demolition?

The demolition will be executed by a specialist team of qualified explosive engineers supported by demolition engineers, structural engineers, environmental specialists, and operational management. All work is carried out in line with UK regulations, industry best practice, and Health & Safety Executive (HSE) guidance.

4. How is safety ensured?

Safety is Erith's top priority and is managed through:

- Comprehensive risk assessments
 - Establishment of an exclusion zone around the demolition area
 - Pre-demolition structural assessments
 - Emergency and contingency planning in coordination with local authorities and emergency services
 - Use of protective measures to contain dust, debris, and air overpressure
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5. Will there be an exclusion zone?

Yes. A temporary exclusion zone will be established to ensure public safety. Only authorised personnel will be allowed inside this area during the demolition. The size of the zone is determined by explosive & demolition engineers and is based on the structure's design, collapse direction, and site surroundings.

6. How will local residents be notified?

A resident letter will be sent out to residents prior to the event.

The CCR Energy website will be updated once the explosive event has taken place.

7. Will there be noise during the demolition?

Yes. The detonation will be loud but extremely short in duration. Compared to mechanical demolition, explosive techniques often result in significantly less overall noise exposure because the process is much quicker.

8. Will there be dust or debris?

Some dust is expected immediately after the structure collapses.

Control measures will be in place, such as:

- Water suppression
- Protective mats or mesh to contain debris
- Monitoring air quality and dust migration
- The Western wall of the turbine hall has been left in position to act as a screen

Debris will remain within the controlled zone and will be cleared safely after the event.

9. Will roads or public spaces need to close?

In some cases, temporary road closures or diversions may be necessary. These will be planned in advance with local authorities and communicated widely beforehand.

Closures will be in place for a short time to keep disruptions to local residents at a minimum.

10. What should members of the public do during the event?

- Follow all published guidance and respect exclusion zones

- Avoid gathering at viewpoints, as this can create safety risks
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11. Can the public watch the demolition?

For safety reasons, public viewing areas are generally not provided. Footpaths and roads near the site will be temporarily restricted to prevent spectators entering exclusion areas.

12. What happens after the demolition?

Post-event activities will include:

- Structural assessment of the collapsed material
 - Safe mechanical removal of debris
 - Environmental monitoring
 - Reopening of roads and public spaces once safe
 - CCR Energy website updated
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