Spring 2024 The Hinkley Point C community magazine

Pluggedin





ROB'S WELCOME

Welcome to the Spring 2024 issue of Plugged in.

In our first issue of 2024, we recap the key milestones completed last year while looking ahead to the activities over the coming months.

At the end of 2023, we celebrated the installation of the domed roof onto the first reactor building. You can read about the dome lift on pages 8-9.

In March, we celebrated Women in Construction Week, and you can read about women working across Hinkley Point C throughout this magazine.

On page 13, we meet two female firefighters and learn how they keep people safe inside and outside of Hinkley Point C.

Rob Jordan

Project Construction Director

GET IN TOUCH

Have an interesting story you'd like to share, or know someone who has?

- **VISIT:** edfenergy.com/hpc
- EMAIL: hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com
- (ii) CALL US: 0333 009 7070
- Name of the control o
- (iii) INSTAGRAM: hinkleypointc

Sign up to Pluggedin

To receive Plugged in straight to your inbox, sign up to the email distribution list by heading to: edfenergy.com/pluggedin

SUPPORTED EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR SHORTLISTING

Congratulations to the employment team for being shortlisted in Bridgwater & Taunton College's Apprenticeship and Placement

The team has been nominated for the Supported Employer of the Year Award celebrating the Supported Traineeship programme, which you can read more about on page 7.

Skills Development Specialist Donna Brown said: "The traineeship delivers hugely positive change for local people with special educational needs and disabilities.

"It provides them with training, experience and confidence to help them realise their potential while highlighting their strengths and showcasing how employable they are.

"As part of this, there's a significant commitment from our Hinkley Point C contractors to offer work placements. They pull out all the stops to ensure that training and development is embedded throughout the placement and that employment is offered where possible.

"The opportunities have a huge transformational effect and we have amazing success stories as a result."

We wish the team all the luck at the awards ceremony on Thursday 02 May.



Editor's note



Welcome back to Plugged in! In this issue, we are excited to share the latest developments and achievements from Hinkley Point C.

This edition updates on the crucial Mechanical, Electrical, and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (MEH) stage and the new opportunities it brings to Hinkley Point C and our community. Plus, we are pleased to

introduce Ben Ring, our new Project Director, and learn more

We celebrated Women in Construction Week in March, shining a spotlight on the contributions of women across the Hinkley Point C project.

The input of our readers is invaluable, so please contact us with questions, stories, or suggestions for future editions. Your feedback helps us improve.

As always, thank you for your continued support and engagement with Plugged in.

Stacy Walker, Plugged in Editor



BUILDING FUTURES

Apprenticeship programmes are bringing bright new talent to Hinkley Point C.

Apprenticeships at Hinkley Point C provide remarkable learning opportunities, allowing individuals to develop key skills, gain qualifications and work vital jobs while earning a salary.

Collaborating with partners across the project, they allow people of all ages and backgrounds to get involved and gain new skills.

Opportunities and options



Natasha Robertson, Digital Engineer Apprentice, joined Bylor after completing her A-levels. She said: "Currently, I'm acting as a Site Engineer

while completing my Civil Engineering degree. This apprenticeship has provided me with brilliant opportunities and challenges to shape my professional career, equipping me for life."



For Supervisor Electrical Technician Ryan Andrews, it was the need for a career change that prompted his decision to start an

apprenticeship. "I transitioned from a role in retail finance to my electrical apprenticeship as I had limited

development in retail," he explained.

"Over four years. I have experienced substantial growth in relation to not only pay, but qualifications and experience too. I currently lead innovations within the electrical team to enhance safety and efficiency. It's changed my life and I strive to keep that momentum going."



Joshua Caswell, Digital Engineer Apprentice, describes being part of Hinkley Point C as a "thrilling adventure".

He said: "Immersing myself in a new sector and contributing to a longstanding project that holds such significance for the community where I grew up is a privilege. This experience has broadened my understanding and I've diversified my skillset by taking on a range of roles."

FIND OUT MORE Scan the QR code for more information about apprenticeships at Hinkley Point C.



Simon Lafferty started Electrician for Balfour Beatty in 1986 and



Programme Director. He said: "My apprenticeship gave me the opportunity to meet amazing people all over the world and, more importantly, it's given me friends forever. It's never too early to think about where your career could go mine has taken me to Australia and back so far. An apprenticeship is a brilliant foundation to build on. want to achieve if you grasp opportunities with both hands when you're given them."

DID YOU KNOW?

The number of apprentices on the project

number of apprenticeship standard types they've enrolled on



range from level 2 (equivalent to GCSEs) to level 7 (equivalent to a university degree)

The age you can start an apprenticeship there's no upper age limit.

02 Pluggedin Pluggedin 03



MEH GEARS UP FOR **MOMENTOUS YEAR**

It's set to be a big year for the MEH Alliance, who are playing a vital role delivering Mechanical, Electrical, and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (MEH) works.

Since 2019, MEH Alliance, a joint venture made up of Balfour Beatty Bailey. Cavendish Nuclear, Doosan Babcock and Altrad, in partnership with EDF, has gone from strength to strength. Work is set to ramp up for the team, resulting in new opportunities for local people and businesses.

The team's work is already boosting the local supply chain. Bridgwater-based City Electrical Factors is supplying the MEH Alliance with the small power and lighting package, as well as labelling. The team has expanded its facility, moving into a new

refurbished unit with dedicated storage, and has doubled its workforce thanks to increasing opportunities on the next phase of the project.

Looking ahead, the key focus this year includes installing the electrical equipment in the Electrical Building, allowing Hinkley Point C to receive a permanent supply of electricity. Elsewhere, the team is also working on safety equipment to support the installation of the Reactor Pressure Vessel, which will help power around six million British homes.

of ducting

of pipework

lights

valves

pumps

tanks

switchboards

filters

transformers

heat exchangers

MEH welcomed more than 100 apprentices in 2023.

Hinkley Point C: a key stop for Destination Nuclear

Destination Nuclear is a new national recruitment campaign that's encouraging people to consider careers in the nuclear industry.

Hinkley Point C is at the heart of it. As the first new nuclear power station built in a generation, there are thousands of job opportunities for everyone, no matter their skills, qualifications, or life experience.

Philippa Burt, HR Director -Hinkley Point C project, EDF, said: "There is a fantastic range of jobs and training opportunities, both construction-related and otherwise, available. With so many routes into the project, getting involved today could be the first step of a long and successful career."

The UK's nuclear industry is

poised to grow further as the country moves to a low-carbon energy future. This includes the development of Hinkley Point C's sister station, Sizewell C, in Suffolk and further new nuclear power stations across the country.

Visit hpcjobsservice.edfenergy. com to take your first step and check out destinationnuclear.com

HINKLEY POINT C The latest construction activity at Hinkley Point C and what's next on the agenda.

What's already happened...



POLAR CRANE SUCCESS

In preparation for dome lift (see pages 8-9), the Polar Crane was positioned inside the first reactor. Over 500 components had to be assembled as part of its mechanical fit-out.

TAKING CONTROL

The Main Control Room for the first reactor has been installed within the Safeguard Building. This pivotal room will be home to a team of operators monitoring the reactor's power, temperature, pressure and coolant flow. The room acts as a shield to protect sensitive equipment.



FUEL MANAGEMENT

The Transfer Compartment Pool, weighing 1,200 tonnes, has been installed inside the Fuel Building. This pool ensures the safe handling of fuel as it moves in and out of the reactor building. The system prevents overheating and reduces corrosion.

What's coming up...



THE HEART OF THE REACTOR

Focus will shift to the installation of the Reactor Pressure Vessel in the first reactor building. This contains the reactor core which will create the heat to produce the steam needed to power the world's largest turbines.

RING, RING, RING

Preparations are underway for the second dome lift on the second reactor building. This involves lifting the third and final steel ring into place. The rings form part of the building's steel barrier, known as its 'inner containment'. The barrier provides protection for the reactor.



BACK IT UP

The power station can't be commissioned until there's adequate back-up power in place. This is where the installation of heat exchangers comes in. These components form part of the Emergency Diesel Generator systems that will provide back-up power should the electrical supply into the power station be lost.

04 Pluggedir Pluggedin 05

FIVE MINUTES WITH... BEN RING



Introducing the new Project Director at Hinkley Point C.

Can you tell us about your background?

"I trained to be a mechanical engineer before switching to law. After eight years I realised that law wasn't for me. I wanted to have the opportunity to lead businesses that matter – and energy really matters. I was employed by Shell and was fortunate to work all over the world, in places such as Denmark and Nigeria, but the time came when it was right for my family and I to move back to the UK."

What prompted you to join Hinkley Point C?

"The role appealed to me because energy – especially clean energy – is critical to societies and communities. My initial impressions of the project were on the scale and complexity of it, and the quality of the people. Everywhere I look, I see the strength of teams collaborating to solve the challenges we face."

How have you found it so far? "Incredible. I've been so impressed by the many milestones achieved. Without doubt my highlight last year was standing in the dark watching in awe at the first reactor's dome lift! There's a real sense of pride in doing the extraordinary every day. We've achieved so much already, and so much work goes into every single structure, from design to installation. The fact that we safely coordinate thousands of activities every day is remarkable."

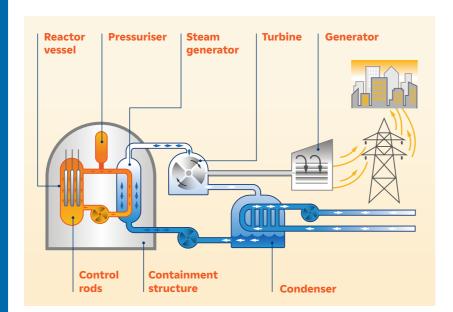
What are your priorities? "Safety, first and foremost. Then quality – what we build today sets the standard for nuclear safety tomorrow. From a community perspective, it's important that we continue to be a good neighbour through supporting local businesses and employment, enabling local projects via the Community Fund, and supporting volunteer days across the project."



A SPOTLIGHT ON: STEAM GENERATORS

It takes many components to generate electricity. The steam generator is one of the essential parts. Four steam generators will sit within each reactor building, taking the heat generated in the core and turning it into steam to power

the turbine (see diagram below). Each steam generator weighs 560 tonnes and is 25 metres tall – manufactured by Framatome in France. Now they've been built and rigorously tested, they will be shipped to Hinkley Point C.



"These steam generators are integral to the production of safe, low-carbon electricity. They have been designed to the highest quality, which will ensure that nuclear safety is maintained for a design life of 60 years. Their completion moves the UK one step closer to achieving net zero."

Dr. Wim Vorster, Integrity and Compliance Team Lead



TRANSFORMING LIVES

Young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are benefitting from a work experience scheme organised by Hinkley Point C.

The Supported Traineeship programme, delivered in partnership with Bridgwater & Taunton College and specialist job coach provider Discovery, recently provided a group of 18-24-year-olds with on-the-job learning, including a work placement with a Hinkley Point C contract partner. Most of the trainees secured paid employment after completing the scheme.

This includes Callum Organ, who now works with contractor Wilson James. He said: "The programme really helped me. This is not a job I would have expected to get on my own."

Trainee Joe Bryant, who now works at catering company Somerset Larder, said: "My placement gave me an understanding of how it all works and made me feel really happy."

The 2024 programme has now been launched. Find out more at btc.ac.uk/courses/adult-learning/foundation-studies/hpc-supported-traineeship.

Stepping back into



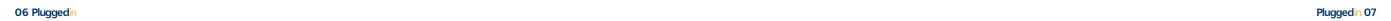
Hinkley Point C has opportunities for all - including those looking to get back into employment.

The project has recently launched its second programme helping people return to work after a career break. Those with a science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) background can gain work experience at Hinkley Point C.

The programme, which is held in partnership with STEM Returners, offers placements for positions such as Project Quality Engineer, Document Controller and Business Architect.

Candidates are identified by STEM Returners, offering the potential for a full-time position upon successful completion of their placement.

For a list of vacancies, visit stemreturners.com/placements.





WHAT IS IT?

The dome is the top part of the reactor building's 'inner containment', which is a steel barrier encased in concrete. It prevents radioactive particles from escaping in the unlikely event of an incident and has been built to withstand an aircraft impact or an earthquake.

UNDERSTANDING

The closing of the roof now allows the installation of vital equipment that can't be exposed to the weather. The domed roof has been placed onto the first reactor building, taking advantage of a weather window so the lift could be completed in calm conditions.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Now the dome is in place, progress can be made in a weatherproof building, a pivotal shift to focusing on the installation of the mechanical and electrical phase of the power station - including its heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. This phase will also involve fitting the necessary pipes and cables.

Cathedral

It's made up of 38 prefabricated panels that were shipped to Hinkley Point C and welded together on site...

...using around

PREPARATION INVOLVED?

Before the lift, key equipment needed to be fitted. The Reactor Pressure Vessel support ring was installed. This will keep the reactor in position. The tanks that hold cooling water were also fitted. The installation of the Polar Crane was another essential step (you can read more about this on page 5).

onto the reactor building before landing safely on a set of adjustable jacks. The dome was levelled up using the jacks before the crane equipment was released.

WE HAVE LIFT-OFF! Scan the QR code to watch the dome lift in action.



08 Pluggedin Pluggedin 09



Hinkley Point C is bringing opportunities to people and businesses across Somerset and beyond. It's generating jobs, supporting projects and organisations, and boosting the local economy. An annual Socio-economic Impact report provides insights into these benefits. Here are some of the latest highlights...

A STEPPING STONE TO SUCCESS

Opening doors

Keen to kickstart her career as soon as possible, 17-year-old Evie Holdsworth from Bridgwater joined Hinkley Point C aged 16. As a Geospatial Surveying Apprentice for the MEH Alliance, she's part of the team installing equipment, pipes and cables across the site.

Evie said: "Starting so soon after school meant that I didn't get the six-week summer holiday - but it was totally worth it! I've been working, with the project's surveyors and I'm being given more responsibility to which feels great. Getting an continue living at home, which is a big bonus. I'd like to get a job on the construction site when I qualify. It has really opened doors for me."





Bringing opportunities

Sarah Fawcett faced redundancy as a HR Manager, but the Jobs Service supported her in finding a new role

Sarah said: "Following the closure of my previous company, I organised a job fair for over 100 employees. During the event, I spoke with the Jobs Service team, discussing various roles, including HR positions recommended setting up an account with them, assuring me that I would receive alerts for HR roles. True to their word, I received an update on an opportunity and wasted no time in applying. Within a few days, I was delighted to get an interview and the offer of a new job on this very exciting project."



HELPING BUSINESSES FLOURISH

AMS Nuclear is just one company benefitting from a partnership with Hinkley Point C.

The Bridgwater-based business specialises in the design and manufacture of electrical instrumentation and control systems and environmental monitoring

A long-term, multi-million-pound contract for Hinkley Point C is providing stability for AMS to support its investment in its future - expanding its facilities and workforce to handle larger projects.

The team has relocated from a smaller site to new headquarters, employing 21 people including four locally based apprentices and trainees.



"As a former apprentice, I know that lifelong learning and skills development plays a

vital role in lifting workers and communities out of a cycle of low growth. Our investment is a 100-year commitment to the area. I'm pleased we are making a difference."

Stuart Crooks CBE, Managing Director, Hinkley Point C

SIZING UP THE IMPACTS



of people being trained today are from Britain's most deprived areas

Hinkley Point C has invested £24 MILLION

in education, skills and employment, including the creation of three Centres of Excellence, which have now provided training to

more than 8,000 people



More than 3,500 people from within 90 minutes of the construction site are helping to build Hinkley Point C, with job opportunities growing twice as fast as anywhere else in the South West



10,000

local people registered on the Hinkley Point C jobs portal

23,500 new jobs have been created so far

of apprentices trained are from within 90 minutes of Hinkley Point C

£5.3 billion has been **spent** directly with local businesses so far, exceeding a target of £1.5 billion

READ THE REPORT

For further details on how Hinkley Point C is making a positive impact, read the full report by scanning the QR code.



10 Pluggedin Pluaaedin 11



How large loads make their way to Hinkley Point C...

Over-sized and heavy pieces of equipment are moved from storage to Hinkley Point C when they are needed. This involves planning and logistics – using Combwich Wharf to bring in the equipment by sea.

The Hinkley Point C Freight and Marine team plans the movement of these abnormal indivisible loads (AlLs) from the port of Avonmouth down the Bristol Channel to Combwich Wharf, before organising the five-mile journey by road.

Important deliveries



Claire Warner-Blackman, Planning Delivery Lead, is one member of the team. She said: "Our role

consists of liaising with suppliers and project managers at Hinkley Point C to understand delivery needs. This is critical, so that we're ready to receive equipment. Due to the size and weight of the items, we will need to organise cranes and specialist equipment to off-load them from the vessel.

"The weather can affect delivery dates if the vessel can't sail or the cranes can't operate. Our first priority is ensuring the safety and security of the operations and equipment during shipments. Offloading smoothly requires technical engineering and highly skilled operatives."

Using the wharf brings sustainability benefits, reducing the number of journeys required on local roads. Claire estimates the facility will handle more than 300 journeys which would cause traffic disruption.

Being good neighbours

As a local resident herself, Claire is aware of the importance of sharing updates: "I've received a lot of interest and support in what we do," she said. "Clear communication is key, as is ensuring our local community are kept up to date ahead of time. We've also put plans in place to ensure minimal disruption – for instance, we aim to transport equipment over weekends when less people are using this route."

COMBWICH WHARF IN NUMBERS:

11m-wide

HXA tanks are the widest equipment delivered to the wharf

52m-long

Polar Crane beams are the longest equipment delivered to the wharf

560-tonne

steam generators will be the heaviest pieces handled by the wharf



FROM THEN TO NOW

1959: Evidence of the wharf dates back to Roman times. It was upgraded in preparation for the Hinkley Point A Power Station build.

2017: Hinkley
Point C signed
a contract to
begin work at the
Combwich freight
management facility.

2019: Combwich Wharf was refurbished to bring in large deliveries by sea more efficiently.

2022: The berth bed was revamped to allow the barge to conduct roll-on, roll-off deliveries safely and securely.

2024: In May, the AIL team will be overseeing the delivery of the project's four steam generators.

FIRED UP

Recently recruited Catherine Williams and Zara Davis are part of the Firefighting team on hand to respond to emergencies at Hinkley Point C.

Tell us about your background.

CATHERINE: "I worked as a Logistics Manager before I started in Fire Control, assigning crews and taking 999 calls and radio messages."

ZARA: "I studied Sports Therapy at university and joined my local fire station before securing a role as an Aviation Firefighter at Gloucestershire Airport. I was recently placed at Hinkley Point C as a Firefighter Technician."

How did you get into firefighting?

CATHERINE: "I had to consider fire safety as part of my role in Logistics. When I saw my local fire station was looking for retained firefighters, I thought I had transferable skills, and I wanted to support my community."

ZARA: "My interest in firefighting came from my old football coach as a child.

I loved hearing about his firefighting – he was my inspiration."

What does your role involve?

CATHERINE: "As a Firefighter at Hinkley Point C, I provide on-site emergency response. This includes firefighting, rescue from height, confined space recovery and water rescue. I support with road traffic collisions, chemical spills, medical emergencies, and any other incidents that require emergency response."

ZARA: "It involves prevention by carrying out visits to check rescue plans, hydrants and emergency arrangements. And I also provide on-site emergency response."

What are the main challenges?

CATHERINE: "Finding my way around

he site."

ZARA: "The site is a world of its own. There are so many moving parts that you have to be aware of what's going on constantly."

What sort of skills does it take?

CATHERINE: "You must be physically fit and pull your weight." **ZARA:** "Teamwork and perseverance."

How do you find working in a male-dominated industry?

CATHERINE: "I'm not fazed – I can give the guys a good run for their money!"

ZARA: "I grew up playing sports with boys and my initial roles within the fire service saw me being the only female on the watch. Though the guys make me feel like I belong, I like to think I could hold my own against them!"

Why is it important to celebrate women working in these roles?

CATHERINE: "Young women need to see women in the fire service to know it's a role that's open to them. Otherwise, they may not consider it as an option."

ZARA: "Visibility is so important. I hope that people will see this and know that being in the minority in an industry doesn't mean you can't do it."

12 Pluggedin



Every three years EDF joins forces with a charity to help raise awareness of its

Alzheimer's Society, the UK's leading dementia charity, is the next charity of choice, as voted for by EDF employees across the country and team members at Hinkley Point C.

The organisation provides help and hope to those affected by the disease, which is associated with the decline of brain functionality and can affect the memory and language over time.

It's a charity close to Vivienne Hill's heart. The EDF Finance and

Communications Planning Coordinator said: "Alzheimer's Society was a lifeline for me and my family when my mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's aged 61, so I'm super pleased and excited about this partnership.

"I've seen Alzheimer's and dementia impact too many people. We need to do something to make a difference, to help raise money for a cure, and to support the many who are affected."

One in three people born in the UK will develop dementia in their lifetime. You can find out more about dementia and the Alzheimer's Society at alzheimers.org.uk.

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS **ON GIVING**

Did you know Hinkley Point C has an initiative which promotes safety by donating to charities? The Safe Day, Safe Month Fund adds a donation to charity for every successful Safe Day and Safe Month. Thanks to this fund, the project passed on

last year to local causes, contributing to the incredible total of £61,000 gifted so far since the initiative's launch.

Unite for a good cause

Team members from Hinkley Point C regularly join forces with a Unite the Union branch in aid of local charities. One of the organisations benefitting is the Bridgwater Foodbank.

across the year by providing vans to deliver food to the foodbank

Luke Panesar, Branch Treasurer, said: "Branch members dedicate their time to organise donation events. The team's commitment to making a positive difference and giving back to the community in which



KID'S CORNER

It's all fun and games on our children's activity page...

DON'T FORGET... ...to check out the solutions to the puzzles online at: edfenergy.com/ pluggedin.

IT'S ELECTRIC! (OR IS IT?)

Take a look at the images below and circle the ones which use electricity. Bonus points if you can add which uses mains or battery power (clue: some can use either!).











HINKLEY POINT C WORDSEARCH

We've hidden 12 words related to the project in the grid. Can you spot them all? They can be found across, down or diagonally.

APPRENTICE BARGE DIVERSITY DOME **FIREFIGHTER FUND**

GOALS MILESTONE PROGRAMME **STEM** TRAINEE WHARE

CAN YOU SPOT THEM ALL?

Did you know?

The dome, which was recently

lifted into position at Hinkley

Point C, weighs 245 tonnes -

the equivalent of around 82

female African elephants.

T G P R O G R A M M E L I E ORWDECITNERPPA I R N T D E N O T S E L I M AUFPDOMEREANSR F S H W H A R F I N I A M T IDIRROYFDOFFWC ILTFIREFIGHTER ENRFSESSRADHII V R I G R L S N G O A L S V U E R E D I V E R S I T Y E PEARAHMESPEBYS EIRBARGEOILITI T R A I N E E M E T S O H N F G I L U E E S R T O E M L

The steam generators that'll

be arriving on site in May

weigh 560 tonnes - that's

the same as approximately

160 male hippos.

? Quiz

Test your knowledge of Hinkley Point C!

- 1. Which project phase has recently ramped up at Hinkley Point C? A) MEH B) BAH C) RAH
- 2. How much money has the Safe Day, Safe Month Fund gifted to charities so far (in total)? A) £41,000 B) £51,000
- C) £61.000
- 3. What is the name of the specialist job coach provider partnering on the Hinkley Point C Supported Traineeship programme? A) Wonder B) Discovery C) Illuminate
- 4. Which of these is used as a means of delivering large equipment that will eventually end up at Hinkley Point C?
- A) Combwich Wharf **B)** Combwich Wagon
- C) Combwich Way
- The MEH team will be working on 7,500+ rooms across 75+ buildings.

14 Pluggedin Pluggedin 15



SOUTH BIG SOUTH BIG PICNIC

SATURDAY 11 OR SUNDAY 12 MAY

Plan your own picnic and come together to raise funds for local causes and celebrate the beauty, heritage and spirit of our county on **Somerset Day 2024**.



eDF