

Spring 2025 Plugged in



The Hinkley Point C community magazine



The impact of funding

Supporting great local causes P6-7

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Excellence P8

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boost at peak P10

Operating a huge
crane P12-13



Rob's welcome

Welcome to the Spring 2025 issue of Plugged in.

We have had an excellent start to 2025, achieving our first Project Goal of the year.

It's for the 'First level concrete poured around Spent Fuel Pool', and you can read about this - and other important construction activities - on page 3.

We recently celebrated National Apprenticeship Week, and I had the honour of speaking with more than 130 apprentices during their annual conference.

It was a privilege to engage with the future leaders of the nuclear industry!



Rob Jordan

Project Construction Director

Walking tours

Ever wanted to find out more about the Southern Landscape area? Now's your chance!

Hinkley Point C will be running walking tours in small groups to show people the beautiful natural habitat in Shurton.

The space was previously used for soil storage and is now a 16-hectare habitat made up of grasslands, ponds, hedgerows, scrub and

woodland.

It's a sanctuary for local wildlife, from hedgehogs and kingfishers to grass snakes and barn owls.

And with the walking tours, you can admire this beautiful environment while engaging in practical sessions about how to identify wildflowers and butterfly species.

Tour Guides will run events on:

TUESDAY
03 JUNE
13:15

WEDNESDAY
09 JULY
09:15

WEDNESDAY
13 AUGUST
13:15



BOOK A TOUR

Each tour is limited to 14 spaces, so contact Sacha Hawthorne via **07813 232258** or **sacha.hawthorne@nbn-edfenergy.com** today to reserve your place.

Editor's note

Mounia Miguil



Welcome to the first issue of Plugged in for 2025.

There's a lot happening at Hinkley Point C, and we're excited to share some

of the latest updates. We've had the chance to meet some of the fantastic workers making it all happen, and we're

highlighting how the HPC Community Fund is supporting local projects.

This magazine is for you, so we'd love to hear your feedback. Please get in touch using the details below.

With Easter just around the corner, we hope you're enjoying the brighter days ahead. Happy reading!

GET IN TOUCH

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

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- TWEET US: @hinkleypointc
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Construction updates

The year ahead

Here's a look at the key construction goals that teams at Hinkley Point C will be working towards in 2025.

Complete primary circuit welding in the first reactor building

The primary circuit is located inside the reactor building and transfers water from the reactor core to the steam generators. After installing the Reactor Pressure Vessel inside the reactor building at the end of 2024, the next steps are to complete complex and highly skilled welds.



Lift the dome onto the second reactor building

This goal will be achieved when the dome is lifted onto the second reactor building. Learning from the first reactor building, the second unit is progressing 20-30% faster than the first.



Complete the safeguard buildings

The safeguard buildings have been described as the 'central nervous system' of the power station. The four buildings include components that are needed to keep the reactor operating safely, which includes the Main Control Room and cooling systems. This goal will be achieved once the structural work is complete.



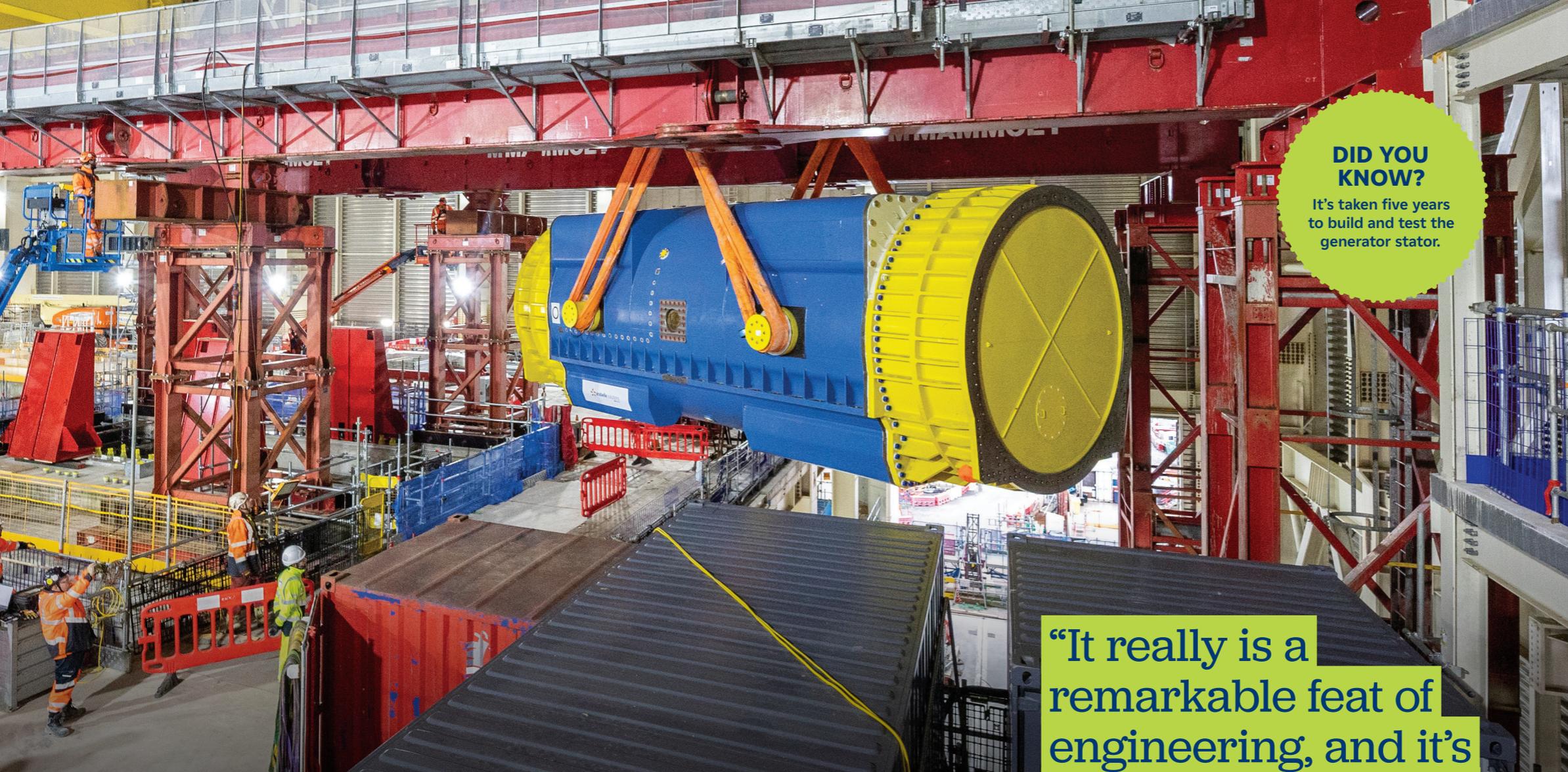
ACHIEVED



Pour first level concrete around the Spent Fuel Pool in the first fuel building

The first Spent Fuel Pool is located inside the fuel building next to the reactor building. It holds the cooling water that stores up to 1,350 fuel cells after they have generated zero carbon energy.

This is the first Project Goal of the year and was achieved when the first level of concrete was poured around the base of the Spent Fuel Pool. Bringing fuel to Hinkley Point C is one of the most crucial activities in preparation for becoming an operational nuclear power station.



DID YOU KNOW?
It's taken five years to build and test the generator stator.



The big picture

The generator stator was designed and built in Belfort in eastern France.



A month-long, 500-mile journey saw it travel from the factory to the port of Rotterdam in the Netherlands, via train and barge on the Rhine River.



Due to its size, special arrangements had to be made with France's state-owned railway company, SNCF, to adjust stations and tracks for the transport.



The journey from Rotterdam to Avonmouth by sea took more than two weeks.



The generator travelled by barge and road from Avonmouth to the Hinkley Point C construction site.

A heavyweight lift

A key part of the new power station - the stator - has been installed in one of Hinkley Point C's biggest lifts to date.

It was a significant moment when the team at Hinkley Point C set the generator stator into position at the end of 2024.

Firstly, because it's one of the biggest and heaviest lifts completed on the project so far. And secondly, because it's a key piece of equipment, forming part of the system that will create the power to provide low carbon electricity for three million homes for the next 60 years.

WHAT IS IT?

The stator is the static part of the generator - the equipment that is driven by the steam turbine to produce electricity. The moving part of the generator, the rotor, will arrive separately.

Weighing more than 450 tonnes and measuring 12 metres in length, the stator is an enormous piece of equipment, making its placement in the Turbine Hall a major operation.

HOW WAS IT POSITIONED?

The stator was carefully moved from the warehouse where it was being stored to the first reactor building using a special transporter.

A powerful crane then raised the stator into place before it was gently set down on a specially made temporary stand.

“It really is a remarkable feat of engineering, and it's the first of its type to be installed anywhere in the world.”

Jonathan Smith, Delivery Director

WHAT'S NEXT?

Teams will work around the stator on other jobs in the Turbine Hall until it's time to attach the other sections of the turbine, and power it up.

And because Hinkley Point C is building two power stations on the site, the same operation will happen in the second reactor building in 2026.

Scan the QR code to watch the stator being lifted into position. **FIND OUT MORE**

Supporting the community



A widespread impact

From supporting veterans to helping young dancers hit the London stage, the HPC Community Fund continues to invest in fantastic local causes, big and small.

The HPC Community Fund, managed by Somerset Community Foundation, helps organisations and communities in close proximity to the project. The fund supports many organisations, from large, essential services to grassroots projects...



Small grant

Young dancers leap from local stage to London

The HPC Community Fund also helps with smaller-scale initiatives. Since 2017, more than £1 million has been awarded through its Small Grants Programme.

One recipient is Stacked Wonky, a Porlock-based dance theatre company. They run youth academies that offer children professional-level training and build their confidence.

A £10,000 grant over three

years helped 14 talented dancers perform on London's renowned Sadler's Wells stage - a dream come true for the youngsters.

Sarah Shorten, Artistic Director at Stacked Wonky, said: "Without support from the HPC Community Fund, we would never have been able to create this piece of work by our young director, performers, and costume and lighting designers."



Large grant

Restoring purpose for Somerset's veterans

DID YOU KNOW?

Somerset has the UK's second-largest veteran population.

One organisation receiving a large grant is Acts of Random Kindness (ARK). The community organisation helps people of all ages and varying needs to improve their health and wellbeing, confidence and social connections.

The Somerset-based group recently received a £98,000 grant over three years to fund a full-time Armed Forces Link Worker, who will be based in Bridgwater.

Nigel Bell, CEO of ARK at Egwood CIC (pictured, right), said: "We are so pleased to receive this funding through the HPC Community Fund in furthering the support to the Armed Forces Community (AFC) in Somerset, alongside NHS Somerset ICB. The funding will help ensure that local AFC members receive the timely support they deserve."

Jon Richards, the Armed Forces Link Worker, added: "It's been incredible to see how our community has grown as we've welcomed more veterans into ARK. What they've valued most is being able to connect with others, share stories and enjoy road trips together."



Veterans' testimonials

"ARK is somewhere to chill with like-minded people without being judged or feeling out of place"

"I always feel welcome and comfortable with ARK - it really can pick you up"

"It gives me a purpose for the day. It's a safe place to go to be with kind, empathetic people"

"It's an amazing initiative that offers many opportunities with a positive and encouraging atmosphere. People can be in tune with nature while acquiring new skills and making friends"

Economic impacts

Skills for now and the future

Discover how the Welding Centre of Excellence at Bridgwater & Taunton College is continuing to help local people learn new skills.

The Welding Centre of Excellence, run in partnership with Bridgwater & Taunton College, has continued to grow to meet the skills needs at Hinkley Point C.

The purpose-built facility is designed to support local people in accessing highly-skilled welding careers through a variety of courses. These range from the basics for new welders to the advanced levels required for nuclear components.

With work continuing to ramp up on site, it's vital that the workforce is well-equipped to facilitate the requirements. That's why the Welding Centre of Excellence has expanded its offer to support a wider range of welding trials and demonstrations, along with more specialist modules.

Simon Brewer, Head of Infrastructure Projects at Bridgwater & Taunton College, said: "These developments reflect our commitment to adapting to the dynamic needs of Hinkley Point C and ensuring our programmes align with the latest industry standards.



The Mechanical Centre of Excellence

Top training

There are other facilities linked to Hinkley Point C providing training opportunities for thousands of people:

Mechanical Centre of Excellence (Cannington)

This facility trains students in techniques including pipefitting, steel erection, plating and more.

Electrical Centre of Excellence (Bridgwater)

More than 70 different courses are on offer at the facility, which plays a vital role in preparing the workforce for the mechanical and electrical fit-out phase of the project.

Construction Skills and Innovation Centre (Cannington)

The centre provides skills training and apprenticeships for construction, civil engineering and nuclear new build, specialising in steel fixing, formwork, groundworks, lifting and more.

"We'll continue to collaborate with local and national industry partners and the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB) to ensure we continually deliver the skills needed by the engineering construction industry.

"This not only benefits Hinkley Point C, but also regional businesses that need access to high-quality training for their workforces."



Golden opportunity

Monika Czyz-Grzesik explains how the Hinkley Support Operative programme is changing her life.

Monika Czyz-Grzesik, who lives in Bridgwater, was working part-time roles while looking after her children when she saw the Hinkley Support Operative (HSO) programme advertised.

"I thought it would be a great opportunity to start a new career," she said.

The programme is a popular career option for locals looking to work at Hinkley Point C.

Launched in 2021, it's designed to support new entrants into the engineering construction industry and is a collaboration between Hinkley Point C and the Engineering Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB). It's open to anyone over 18 who lives within 90 minutes of the site and provides training for those aspiring to become general labourers at Hinkley Point C.

The programme has three stages: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. It begins with a two-week course covering topics including working at height and in confined spaces. After working on site, candidates can apply for HSO Silver Trade Labourer training. Following a further period of experience they can apply for the Gold training programme, which includes a day of study each week as well as working on site.



GREAT FLEXIBILITY

A key benefit of this training initiative is its flexible delivery, with some Bronze programmes being delivered in the evening, making it accessible for full-time workers and those with childcare responsibilities.

Monika is currently on the Gold stage. She said: "I'm now benefitting from a well-structured curriculum, guidance from instructors, and hands-on experience. And my husband has taken on more household responsibilities to support me."

AWARD WINNER

Having won ECITB New Entrant of the Year at last year's ECI Training and Development Awards, Monika said: "I never imagined I would win such an important accolade so soon. I'd recommend the programme to women who wish to change their career path or return to full-time work. As a wife, mother and woman in middle age, I feel incredibly fortunate to have this opportunity."

FIND OUT MORE

Visit hpcjobsservice.edfenergy.com and search 'Hinkley Support Operative' for more information on the programme.



CREATING CONNECTIONS

The Hinkley Point C Jobs Service team helps connect local job seekers with companies working on the project by organising recruitment events.

Recently, they hosted an event for Turnbull Infrastructure & Utilities in Bridgwater. The event gave local talent a chance to learn about job openings at Hinkley Point C and meet with team members.

Adam Williams, Resourcing Advisor, Turnbull Infrastructure & Utilities, said: "We are passionate about our recruitment process and continue to deliver an engaging, equitable and positive candidate experience. "By working with the Hinkley Point C Jobs Service, we can identify local talent and introduce them to the wonderful employment opportunities within our business."

Recruitment ramp-up

Over the next 18 months, Hinkley Point C is expected to create an additional 3,000 jobs as it reaches peak construction.

This will offer local residents the chance to be part of Europe's largest construction project, gaining new skills and joining a diverse workforce.

Many of the roles will support the Mechanical, Electrical, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (MEH) work, which involves fitting the power station with the necessary cables and pipes. However, a wide

variety of roles will be available.

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining the project, the Jobs Service team is ready to help.

SUPPORT INCLUDES:

- CV writing
- Helping people register for work
- Answering any queries

The team have strong community connections and regularly hold local recruitment events. For more information and to register for work, visit hpcjobsservice.edfenergy.com.

"Hinkley Point C has brought many social and economic benefits to Somerset. While we welcome this investment in jobs and skills, we are mindful of the impact and are committed to working with EDF to ensure appropriate mitigation measures are put in place to manage this increase."

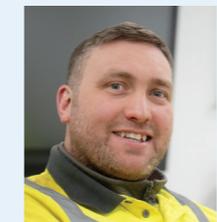
Clr Mike Rigby, Lead Member for Economic Development, Planning and Assets at Somerset Council

Voices of the workforce

Accessible apprenticeships

Hinkley Point C has gone above and beyond expectations by training more than 1,500 apprentices, far surpassing the original goal of 1,000. This is an incredible opportunity - especially for local residents - helping the UK move toward a cleaner, net zero future, while providing safe and reliable energy for millions of homes.

Hinkley Point C's training opportunities have attracted people from all walks of life - whether it's someone's first job or a career change. The programme is a stepping stone to a brighter, more rewarding future.



Take Andy Shaw (pictured, inset), for example. After 15 years in retail management, he was ready for a

change. Living nearby in Cossington, Bridgwater, he saw Hinkley Point C as the perfect opportunity to try something new. Now, he's thriving as a Steel Fixer Apprentice on site.

He said: "I have a family and wasn't sure if I could afford to switch careers, but the result is better than I'd expected. So don't be afraid to start again!"



FIND OUT MORE Find out more about apprenticeship opportunities at Hinkley Point C at hpcjobsservice.edfenergy.com.

MEET MOHAMMAD

Hinkley Point C has a group of chaplains providing pastoral care to people of all faiths and none.

Mohammad Musa Lone, the Muslim Community Chaplain, joined the project in 2023.

Born in Tibet and educated in India, Mohammad moved to the UK

and worked at a hospital in Taunton for 23 years before joining Hinkley Point C as a volunteer Chaplain, one day a week.

Mohammad said: "I love living here and being at Hinkley Point C and I really feel part of the community.

"Ramadan, between Friday 28

February - Sunday 30 March, is an important time for Muslims.

With special food provision and venues for prayers, the project has shown great consideration for those observing it."



In the driving seat

What's it like to operate the most powerful machines at Hinkley Point C with safety and precision? We spoke to two skilled professionals behind the controls to find out.



"I'm training to control a nuclear reactor"

Meet Rebecca Houghton, a 29-year-old Chemical Engineer and future Reactor Operator at Hinkley Point C. Rebecca, who lives in Street, is a great example for women exploring careers in nuclear, especially as we've just celebrated International Women's Day.

When Hinkley Point C begins generating electricity, Rebecca will be part of the team safely controlling the nuclear reactor, steam turbine, generator and supporting systems. And since the Main Control Room is still being built, they currently train in an exact replica of the finished room.

"The Main Control Room is important because it's the power

station's nerve centre," Rebecca said. "It's where we'll operate and monitor critical equipment, while coordinating with teams on the ground to ensure everything runs efficiently."

A recent highlight for Rebecca was meeting the Education Secretary on her recent visit to Hinkley Point C (page 15). She added: "It was thrilling to demonstrate the Main Control Room simulator to Bridget Phillipson. It was exciting to showcase the future of Hinkley Point C.

"The work we're doing today will ensure safe and reliable electricity production for decades. And being part of the team preparing to operate the UK's first new nuclear power station in a generation is incredible."



DID YOU KNOW?

The Main Control Room will be legally required to be staffed by at least three authorised operators 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.



"I drive the world's biggest crane"

Meet Shaun Doyle, a 31-year-old crane operator from Kildare, Ireland, who's responsible for operating 'Big Carl' - otherwise known as the Sarens SGC-250 - the largest land-based crane in the world, at Hinkley Point C.

Shaun is one of just two operators at Hinkley Point C capable of manoeuvring Big Carl, which travels across three different locations on site on 96 individual wheels. When fully extended, the crane stands at an impressive 250 metres tall and is supported by 52 counterweights, each weighing 100 tonnes.

Shaun is hugely proud of his role operating the colossal machine: "It's a fantastic job," he said. "The SGC-

250 is powerful and highly precise, ideal for lifting loads in tight spots."

He credits the teamwork on site for the success of the crane's operations: "The manufacturer, Sarens, provides great support and everyone on site is highly skilled. With teamwork and attention to detail, we make sure all lifts are safe and accurate, as they each require the same level of care."

And those of us thinking how do you follow in Shaun's footsteps, he explained: "I spent four years working with heavy mobile cranes globally, before joining Sarens in 2019. There, I completed specialist giant crane training to operate this gigantic machine."

Big Carl's big stats

Safely performed over **1,000** lifts at Hinkley Point C

250m TALL that's 2.5 times the height of Big Ben!

POWERED BY **12** ENGINES



It can lift **5,000** tonnes - the equivalent of 25 blue whales

Education initiatives

BUILDING INTEREST

To help inspire the next generation onto the project, Hinkley Point C hosts workshops that engage schoolchildren in hands-on engineering activities.

The students learn about some of the practical challenges involved in such a large construction project and are asked to address these by building structures out of toys. For example, students are told about how cranes are used onsite to lift heavy installations to great heights. They are then asked to work in teams to build and pitch their own cranes.

James Mansfield, Education Visit Coordinator, said: "These activities make engineering principles such as structural stability more accessible. And they demonstrate to children that what they learn in the classroom can be applied to the real world. Most students enjoy the experience and see how a job in engineering could be an option for them."

DIVERSE APPEAL

For British Science Week, Hinkley Point C team members visited Cannington C of E Primary School to inspire 180 children aged 4-11. The aim was to raise awareness of the diverse career opportunities in the nuclear industry and promote gender balance.

For more information about school visits, email hinkleypointtours@nnbedfenergy.com.



Supported into work

Hinkley Point C's Supported Traineeship programme is making a real difference by helping young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities build key skills for employment.

Now, in its fifth successful year, the supported work experience programme has once again changed lives, with three recent participants securing jobs at Hinkley Point C.

The programme is designed for 18-24-year-olds. It is a partnership between Hinkley Point C, Bridgwater & Taunton College, and the Somerset Council job coaching provider Discovery.

Trainees spend six weeks preparing at college before starting an eight-week work placement with one of Hinkley Point C's contractors. For many, this placement leads to the opportunity for paid work.

"It's a really positive programme,"

said Donna Brown (pictured, above), Hinkley Point C Skills Development Specialist.

"It's so rewarding seeing the trainees thrive and the project fill vacancies with such hard-working young people."

Trainee talk

 "The experience has been one of the best of my life. It was fun and educational, and it improved my self-esteem, anxiety and confidence. I'm beyond grateful for the opportunity." **Kian**

 "I received lots of support. I've had struggles finding a job in the past. Completing this traineeship has made me and my family very proud."

Harrison



Apprentices welcome Education Secretary

Bridget Phillipson, the Secretary of State for Education, visited Hinkley Point C as part of National Apprenticeship Week, where she met a group of apprentices working at the construction site.

Ms Phillipson met with reactor operators and just some of the 1,500 apprentices trained so far to hear about their experiences

working on a project that is crucial to Britain's goal of achieving net zero.

The Education Secretary said: "We've met fantastic apprentices from different industries, showing how an apprenticeship can be the route into a brilliant career. Apprenticeships change lives and make such a big difference to so many businesses."

That difference includes developing future talent by creating a pipeline of skilled workers and fostering a culture of continuous learning and improvement. Apprentices also help bridge skills gaps and contribute to economic growth and productivity.

While in the area, Bridget visited the National College for Nuclear at Bridgwater & Taunton College.

Ask Sacha



Sacha Hawthorne, Visitor Centre Receptionist, manages all public enquiries at Hinkley Point C.

Q I'm interested in applying for a job at Hinkley Point C. How can I do this?

"The first step is to visit hpcjobsservice.edfenergy.com where you can register for free. You can find a list of available roles within EDF and Hinkley Point C online. If you need any support, you can contact our Hinkley Point C Jobs Service team by calling them

on **0800 029 4289**. One of our dedicated colleagues will be able to guide you.

"Additionally, under-21s interested in joining can apply for Young HPC, our exclusive skills programme, by emailing younghpc@nnbedfenergy.com."

GET IN TOUCH

If you have a question for Sacha, you can reach out via **0333 009 7070** or hinkley-enquiries@edfenergy.com.

