

Spring 2026 Plugged in



The Hinkley Point C community magazine

Getting equipped



Installations
underway **P4**

Protecting
fish **P5**

Keeping local
roads moving **P9**

Join an
upcoming
nature walk **P16**



Rob's welcome

Welcome to the Spring 2026 issue of Plugged in.

Inside, you'll find updates on construction progress, as well as the many ways we continue to support local communities - from the HPC Community Fund to our commitment to working with local suppliers.

You can also learn more about the measures we're taking to protect the marine environment, including the different ways we are working to protect fish. Read more about this in our stories on pages 3 and 5.

For information on how Hinkley Point C keeps traffic moving when incidents affect local roads, turn to page 9 to find out more about 'Operation Harold'.

As always, thank you for your interest and support, and we hope you enjoy this edition.

Rob Jordan

Project Construction Director

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Understanding your views

Two-thirds of the local community support Hinkley Point C's construction, according to a recent survey. More than three-quarters agree it has boosted the local economy, provided new jobs and opportunities, and helped young people get into work.

Increased traffic, the affordability of accommodation, and parking issues are of greatest concern to local communities.

The project continues to respond to these challenges, working to lessen the impact of such a large project to the lowest level possible.

Andrew Cockcroft, Head of Stakeholder Engagement and Social Impact, said: "Research like this is vital in helping us understand your views on Hinkley Point C's construction."

"We continue to use this information to adapt our approach and ensure that we limit our impact as far as possible, while allowing everyone to benefit from the huge opportunities the project brings."



Tunnel vision

Hinkley Point C uses seawater to cool the steam that powers its turbines. While cooling is essential, making sure fish in the Severn are unharmed is equally important.

That's why the station has three fish protection systems - more than any other power station in the world. These include specially designed intake heads to slow the speed of water entering the cooling tunnels, and a new acoustic deterrent system to guide fish away.

There's also a fish return system, which returns any fish that may be drawn into the cooling pipes to the sea. Work to build the system is underway,



with an 80-tonne tunnel boring machine, called Sarah Guppy, creating a 620-metre tunnel beneath the seabed.

It was named by local schoolchildren to recognise a pioneering engineer who, in 1811, became the first woman to submit a patent for a bridge.

To mark its progress, a ceremony was held by Hinkley Point C's Lead Chaplain Ewen Huffman (left), who prayed for the work and workforce and blessed the statue of Saint Barbara, the patron saint of miners and engineers. Positioning the statue by the tunnel entrance is a tradition intended to help protect those working underground.

GET IN TOUCH

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

- VISIT: edfenergy.com/hpc
- INSTAGRAM: [hinkleypointc](https://www.instagram.com/hinkleypointc)
- CALL US: 0333 009 7070
- EMAIL: hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com

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Bite-sized news

CONSTRUCTION

Special delivery

The second reactor pressure vessel, sometimes known as the reactor core, arrived at Hinkley Point C in January. It's an 11.5-metre-long stainless steel chamber and sits at the very heart of the power station.

Inside it, nuclear fission generates intense heat, creating enough high-pressure steam to spin the turbines and produce low-carbon electricity.

The reactor pressure vessel was manufactured in France and travelled to site by sea, river and road.



Installation ramps up

Hinkley Point C is on a mission to install its pipes, cables, and equipment, and this activity is ramping up on site.

In all, there are 7,000 rooms to complete. This year alone, team members will be installing nearly 67,000 metres of pipe, around 30,000 supports, and more than 100 kilometres of electrical cable.

Work is already underway to boost parts supply and production. Two 'mini-factories' established on-site have been set up.

The workforce is also busy preparing more than 1,000 mechanical supports each week, which will be used to hold electrical cabling and pipework.

IN NUMBERS: The 2026 mechanical and electrical phase

67,000
metres of pipe

30,000
supports

102
kilometres of
electrical cable



ENVIRONMENT

Using sound to keep fish away

An innovative device to keep fish away from the water intakes at Hinkley Point C has proved 'highly effective' in trials. The acoustic fish deterrent is one of three systems to protect fish at the power station and has been developed by a firm based in the South West.

It uses ultrasound - high-frequency sound waves - to repel fish and keep them away from the entrance to the tunnels. It causes no harm and, by tuning into specific frequencies, avoids disturbing larger marine mammals, like dolphins or seals.

Sea tests were carried out on the equipment by Swansea University, with early results described as 'very encouraging'. The trial results should

be good news for local communities, as the system's performance means the power station will have met all its planning requirements and further compensation like a salt marsh shouldn't be needed. The project is now seeking approval for the system from its regulators. As part of Hinkley Point C's planning permission, its impact on fish will also be monitored during operation.

DID YOU KNOW?

Hinkley Point C has more fish protection measures than any power station in the world.

BOWLED OVER BY SUPPORT

Hinkley Point C contractor Bylor recently donated materials to help build a new pétanque terrain in Bridgwater. The HPC Community Fund helped fund the project in Victoria Park, which is backed by the Bridgwater Pétanque Club and Bridgwater Town Council. The area will allow families, casual players, and community groups to enjoy the popular sport.

DRIVING CLEAN CHANGE

Hinkley Point C has its own car-sharing scheme that is proving popular with team members. By encouraging the workforce to car share to and from park and ride sites, the project is cutting down the number of cars on nearby roads, reducing emissions in the local area.



DID YOU KNOW?

Pétanque is a sport where players throw metal balls with the aim of landing them as close as possible to a small wooden target ball or jack.

Winning causes

A charity aiding people through hardship, a community tennis club, and a local foodbank are benefitting from Hinkley Point C's Community Fund...

The Nelson Trust

Founded in 1985, The Nelson Trust supports individuals affected by trauma, addiction, involvement in the criminal justice system, and other disadvantages. Its services include a residential rehabilitation treatment programme and recovery housing.

In 2025, the charity received £71,000 to help fund staffing at its Women's Centre in Bridgwater. In total, almost £600,000 has been awarded to The Nelson Trust over the last eight years.

Christina Line, CEO of The Nelson Trust, said: "The women we support may be affected by domestic abuse, unsuitable accommodation, mental health challenges, unemployment, or limited education.

"They often have multiple and complex needs, and our mission is to help them to heal, recover and thrive - whatever that looks like for them individually. Ultimately, it's about enabling women to live stable, independent and fulfilling lives."

£600,000 GRANTED



Bridgwater Lawn Tennis Club

Over £65,000 has been awarded to the Bridgwater Lawn Tennis Club since 2023, including a recent £50,000 grant to replace its two clay courts with a tarmac surface. This will extend its playing season into the winter months and reduce the maintenance of the courts.

By installing a tarmac surface, there's a dedicated space for pickleball – a low-impact racket sport that's accessible to all players.

Carole Beach, from Bridgwater Lawn Tennis Club, said: "The proposed addition of floodlights will greatly extend what we can offer the local community."

"We can also provide a permanent home for the Bridgwater Pickleball Club, with four courts."

£65,000 GRANTED



We're very grateful for the significant grant towards two new courts, which can be played on all year round, even after heavy rain."

CAROLE BEACH,
BRIDGWATER LAWN
TENNIS CLUB

Highbridge Area Foodbank

Through the fund's Small Grants Programme, Highbridge Area Foodbank has been granted £20,000 over three years.

The foodbank will use the grant to deliver support through Citizens Advice Somerset around all aspects of household finances including debt and budgeting – a voluntary service for foodbank users which has seen a growing demand. This allows low-income families to access support in a safe environment.

David Dick, Chairperson of Highbridge Area Foodbank, said: "The grant will enable us to continue our Financial Inclusion Project for three years, helping people using the foodbank to address underlying causes of their food poverty."

"We project at least 150 people will be supported each year, and based on past experience, they could be enabled to access more than £150,000 in grants and benefit entitlements."



£20,000 GRANTED



Keeping local roads moving

If local traffic comes to a halt, what happens next – and how does Hinkley Point C help to keep the roads moving?

Behind the scenes, a well-practised plan comes into action.

If an incident affects local roads, Avon and Somerset Police contact Hinkley Point C's emergency control room to activate 'Operation Harold'.

While the name might sound unusual, it stands for 'Hinkley Alternative Routes Operating Local Diversions' and signals a coordinated response designed to

ease congestion and guide traffic safely, using five pre-planned diversion routes that can be put in place if needed.

Safety is a priority, and at Hinkley Point C, team members regularly take part in training exercises with the police.

Thankfully, road closures are rare. In many cases, such as a fallen branch blocking the road,

the action is simpler, with Hinkley Point C construction traffic held on the site while the road is cleared.

Stacy Walker, Stakeholder Relations Manager, said: "Fortunately, these situations don't happen often, but we want to be a good neighbour to our local community, and are ready to step in to keep people moving if needed."

STAY UPDATED

You can sign up for text alerts to receive notifications when Operation Harold goes live and for information on diversion routes.

Email hinkley-enquiries@nbn-edfenergy.com or call 0333 009 7070

GET IN TOUCH



TO VIEW THE ROUTES, SCAN THE QR CODE.



Wired for success

Mike Morgan's local business has grown alongside Hinkley Point C...

For Bridgwater business owner Mike Morgan, Hinkley Point C isn't just another project. Nuclear power has been a constant thread running through his working life.

Mike is the owner and Managing Director of Mike Morgan Electrical Services, a thriving electrical company with deep Somerset roots.

The company's work in the nuclear sector began on a smaller scale at Hinkley Point A and B in the 1970s and has been part of the story ever since.

When work began on Hinkley Point C in 2013, Mike and his small electrical team were there, installing some of the very first power supplies on what was then just a greenfield site.

From helping to provide electricity for those early cabins and earthworks, the business has grown into a team of 100 people and continues to play a key role across Hinkley Point C.

Mike's teams have supported everything from deep-dig excavation and sea wall construction to supplying electrical support for the power station's main control rooms.

But for Mike, the story isn't just about contracts or cranes - it's about people. The company has trained hundreds of apprentices and helped people progress into roles across Hinkley Point C - from engineering and project management to surveillance and site supervision.

Mike is proud that the project has

enabled young people to buy homes and build careers in the town he was brought up in.

"I want Mike Morgan Electrical Services to be a Bridgwater company forever," he said. "Hinkley has given us the opportunity to grow, train people and pass on skills to the next generation."

Now approaching 70, Mike plans to hand over to a new management team - but his connection to Hinkley Point C continues to shape both his company and his community.



"Hinkley has given Mike Morgan Electrical Services the opportunity to grow, train people and pass on skills to the next generation."

MIKE MORGAN, BUSINESS OWNER AND MANAGING DIRECTOR

A route into the project

Apprenticeships are kickstarting hundreds of rewarding careers and shaping the future of Hinkley Point C...

There's an apprenticeship for everyone at Hinkley Point C. From engineering to project management and procurement, there's a variety of specialisms available. In addition, the offering includes entry routes that are available to all - no matter their background or current skill set.

They aren't just for school leavers, either. They are also accessible to those aged over 21.

UNIQUE EXPERIENCES

From day one, apprentices gain hands-on experience and support from the Hinkley Point C Early Careers team. A packed programme of workshops, talks and conferences helps them build confidence, develop technical skills and grow their professional networks.

The team has also launched 'Insight' tours, which give apprentices the opportunity to experience different areas of site and expand their knowledge. Recent trips included exploring the



"The level of opportunity this project is creating for local people is outstanding."

MEGAN THOMAS, EARLY CAREERS LEAD

tunnels and seeing the amazing views from the top of the first reactor's dome.

Megan Thomas, Early Careers Lead, manages the apprenticeship programme. She said: "When we set out, we gave ourselves a target of training 1,000 apprentices. We have now kickstarted the careers of more than 1,700 people through our programmes - it's just incredible! And that number isn't slowing down any time soon."

"The level of opportunity this project is creating for local people is outstanding."

"Some of our first apprentices are now senior managers and have a very exciting future ahead of them in the nuclear industry."

DID YOU KNOW?

1,700+

apprentices at Hinkley Point C

68%

of apprentices on the project are from the South West.



FIND OUT MORE

For further information about the apprenticeships currently on offer, visit hpcjobsservice.edfenergy.com.

In conversation with...



Emma Rickards and Marsha Emery

From hospitality to construction, Emma and Marsha share their journeys...



Name: Emma Rickards
From: Bridgwater
Role: Assistant Manager, Somerset Larder
Joined Hinkley Point C: 2018

Marsha: Hi Emma. Why did you join Hinkley Point C?

Emma: I was looking for a job with some progression and training. And I've always enjoyed being around people!

Can you tell us about that career progression?

I was born and raised in Bridgwater. In 2018, I joined Sedgemoor Campus, one of our accommodation centres, as a General Assistant. I was promoted to Supervisor in 2021 when I joined Somerset Larder to work on site. At the end of 2025, I was promoted to Assistant Manager.

What do you enjoy most about your role?

I'm enjoying the challenge. I also love supporting my team and speaking to many different customers. The role can be demanding, but it's absolutely worth it.

Any advice for other women thinking of joining?

I would say that if you're looking to join the project, just go for it. You won't regret it!

AT A GLANCE



Two colleagues share insights into their different roles.



Emma works for Hinkley Point C's catering partner, who keep more than 12,000 team members fed every day.



After a stint in the Royal Navy, Marsha joined Bylor in the Heat Sink Area.

Name: Marsha Emery
From: Axminster
Role: Assistant Project Manager, Bylor
Joined Hinkley Point C: 2024

Emma: Hi Marsha. You joined the Royal Navy after school. How did you end up at Hinkley Point C?

Marsha: I spent four years working as a medic, both on base and on ships. I enjoyed my experience, but decided to leave and seek different career opportunities in project management. After a few years in this field, I jumped at the opportunity to join the biggest project in Europe.

Is it very different to the Royal Navy?

Well, I'm not on a ship! But the environment is similar. They're both fast-paced and you sometimes need to think on your feet.

What's it like being a woman at Hinkley Point C?

I have a great team and I'm treated the same as everyone else. Despite being in a minority, I feel accepted and respected.

Any advice for other women on the project?

Be bold and don't be afraid to speak up. You've got a lot to offer.

JOIN THE PROJECT

There are plenty of career opportunities at Hinkley Point C. Interested? Visit hpcjobsservice.edfenergy.com for more information.



Meet the team

Shaping your future

Whether you're starting out or want a career change, the Employment Affairs Unit team can provide support and signpost opportunities.

There is a wide range of jobs available on the project, and the Employment Affairs Unit plays a key role in connecting people to these opportunities.

The team helps raise awareness of Hinkley Point C, and you'll often see them out and about - delivering workshops, hosting drop-ins, or speaking at schools and colleges.

They provide assistance through a variety of schemes and support programmes:

YOUNG HPC

For young people planning their next steps after school or college

Through workshops, recruitment events and more, the team helps young people understand the range of roles available at Hinkley Point C and across the wider sector. The programme enhances employability skills and increases confidence as young people prepare for their

future careers. You can read more about Young HPC on page 14.

APPRENTICESHIPS

For those who are completing an apprenticeship on the project

The team supports all apprentices across the project. They provide ongoing assistance through the Apprentice Wellbeing Programme, acting as a key point of contact throughout an apprentice's time at Hinkley Point C.

JOBS SERVICE

For individuals seeking a new role or career change

The Jobs Service runs a recruitment service and jobs database that matches people with roles based on their skills and preferences. The team also supports workers whose contracts are ending, offering drop-in sessions and careers advice.



The Jobs Service team at Hinkley Point C

FIND OUT MORE

For further information, you can contact:

YOUNG HPC:
youthhpc@nnb-edfenergy.com

APPRENTICESHIPS:
megan.thomas@edf-energy.com

JOBS SERVICE:
jobsservice@nnb-edfenergy.com

Education Initiatives

Future thinking

Under 21 and considering your career options? Young HPC could help...

The Young HPC programme is a free skills and careers initiative linked to the Hinkley Point C project. It is designed to help people between 14-21 years old learn more about job opportunities, training routes, and the skills needed to work on a major local project.

Members can benefit from a range of opportunities - from careers workshops to priority booking for Hinkley Point C's recruitment events.

The programme also offers recognised digital badges as a



reward for learning, which can be added to a CV or included in future applications.

Maria Ison, Education Outreach Lead at the Hinkley Point C Employment Affairs Unit, said: "Young HPC is a fantastic programme for local people. We have more than 1,200 members, and it's really rewarding to help them get ready for their next career steps."

DID YOU KNOW?

1,200+
members have joined Young HPC.

GET IN TOUCH

To sign up and find out more, scan the QR code.



Experiences to educate and engage

Hinkley Point C is always looking for opportunities to engage with local communities and raise awareness of its important work.

The Education Visit programme is a big part of this. The team works with education providers - including schools, colleges and universities - to deliver a range of experiences that help build a clearer picture of the power station's build, operations and impact.

This includes site visits. A variety of guests are hosted throughout the year, with groups typically arriving at the Hinkley Point C Visitor Centre for a

presentation and interactive activities before enjoying a coach trip around the construction site.

Debbie Ison, Visitor Centre Guide, said: "We're working to inspire the next generation, and witnessing their excitement is great."

"We also help make those same visitors aware of the more 'unexpected' job opportunities at Hinkley Point C, such as catering and medical related positions."

If you're interested in booking an education visit, email hinkleypointtours@nnb-edfenergy.com.



Ask Sacha

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

Q. How can I get more involved in the Hinkley Point C conversation?

You are welcome to attend a public forum. These meetings enable us to answer your questions:

THE COMMUNITY FORUM covers the latest initiatives and developments at Hinkley Point C.

Next date: Thursday 14 May.

THE MAIN SITE FORUM addresses key issues and opportunities for those living closest to the construction site.

Next date: Thursday 04 June.

THE TRANSPORT FORUM discusses associated transport and logistical operations.

Next date: Thursday 25 June.

Scan the QR code for more.



CONTACT SACHA

0333 009 7070 or hinkley-enquiries@edfenergy.com.

PUZZLE TIME:



1> What sport is pétanque similar to?

- A Boules
- B Football
- C Chess

2> What body part is the reactor pressure vessel associated with?

- A Brain
- B Heart
- C Eyes

3> What is the name of the Hinkley Point C operation helping to manage traffic?

- A Harold
- B Gerald
- C Oswald

FUN FACTS

Since starting its contract with Hinkley Point C in 2014, food producer Somerset Larder has provided

17 million+ meals

Per month, they serve **50,000** slices of toast

Last year, they served **1.5 million** rashers of bacon.



Answers: 1) A 2) B 3) A

Step into nature

Take a walk along Hinkley Point C's very own nature trail. It's beautifully landscaped and offers close-up views of the bat house, flower meadows, ponds and more!

RESERVE YOUR PLACE:

0333 009 7070

sacha.hawthorne@nnb-edfenergy.com

UPCOMING NATURE TRAILS:

Wednesday 10 June: 13:30-16:30

Thursday 23 July: 13:30-16:30

Wednesday 19 August: 09:00-12:30

DID YOU KNOW?

4 miles

The walk, which is almost four miles long, takes around two and a half hours.

