INSIDE:
- Hinkley Point C’s socio-economic benefits
- Local learner in project placement first
- How a nuclear reactor works

Delivering our nuclear future
NIGEL’S WELCOME

Welcome to the spring edition of Plugged in.

The last couple of months have seen some significant announcements relating to energy and the importance of nuclear power for Britain.

In April, Prime Minister Boris Johnson visited the Hinkley Point C site, joined by the Business and Energy Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng, to launch the Government’s British Energy Security Strategy. Choosing Hinkley Point C as the backdrop for this underlines the importance of the project and the role of nuclear within the strategy. With wind and solar, reliable nuclear electricity will help Britain cut its reliance on the imported gas that is driving today’s record prices.

April also saw Energy Minister Greg Hands open one of three new Training Centres of Excellence for Hinkley Point C. It’s part of a continued investment for education, skills and employment support by providing training routes for people of all backgrounds – developing the next generation of skilled workers.

At the same time we also published our 2022 Socio-Economic Impact Report, which shows how we’re making a difference to people in the South West.

In April, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced £4.1 billion spent with South West companies. This year we have continued our work with the Hinkley policing team, with Police Community Support Officer Jake Dade focusing on traffic and speeding in the community. Meanwhile, our Community Safety Officer, Nicola Hale, has been out and about understanding the issues at the heart of the community. Read more on page 11.

I’ve also been heartened to learn about the amazing work undertaken by the Minehead Eye (see page 6) and how our funding has helped to support young people. Vicki Dingwall, Plugged in Editor

DELIVERING LOCAL BENEFITS

Hinkley Point C’s 2022 Socio-Economic Impact Report highlights the wider benefits being delivered by the project in the South West. Here’s just some of what we’ve delivered so far:

£4.1 BILLION spent with South West companies

922 apprentices trained

5,800 British suppliers

£123 million community investment

£23 million in community investment

Vicki’s welcome

In this issue, it has been a real pleasure to speak with some of the young people benefitting from the opportunities available at Hinkley Point C. Turn to page 5 to find out more about Will Rose, our first-ever Digital Engineer T Level student, and page 10 for our interview with Meg Moore, who will be one of the Reactor Operators keeping the project running.

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Many trainees live in the surrounding area and will take advantage of the 4,000 jobs being created for Hinkley Point C’s next phase, which will see miles of pipes and electrical cables being fitted across the power station.

Sustained investment improves social mobility

The opportunities provided by Hinkley Point C are playing an important role in improving social mobility in the South West – making a difference to people who need support.

The welding facility is the latest Centre of Excellence to be opened in support of the Hinkley Point C project, which has now invested a total of £24 million into education, skills and employment support. A fourth facility, the Mechanical Centre of Excellence, is also due to open in Cannington this summer.

The centres will provide new routes to people who are looking to start a career in construction, regardless of their background or skill set. New training courses have been launched, including the government’s Skills Bootcamp scheme, T Level work experience placements and supported traineeships.

SKILLS BOOST FOR SOMERSET

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“It’s really heartening to see the positive socio-economic benefits of Hinkley Point C continuing to be delivered right here in Somerset – driving levelling up of our communities and making a difference to the lives and future prospects for thousands of people.”

Paula Hewitt, Deputy Chief Executive at Somerset County Council

MAJOR MILESTONE ACHIEVED

The minister also visited Hinkley Point C to officially open the Hinkley Point C Training Centre. The building contains a suite of reactor control room simulators, which will be instrumental in training the reactor operators who will oversee the generation of low-carbon energy for millions of homes.

Andrew Pappin, Training Facility and Simulator Manager, said: “This is a hugely significant moment and a big step forward towards running an operational power station.

“We’ll be training a group of people with the secure generation of low-carbon electricity for six million UK homes at their fingertips.

“It’s a big responsibility, which is why handing over this high-quality and authentic training facility was such an important milestone.”
BRINGING MEMORIES TO LIGHT

People living with dementia are being supported at a memory cafe made possible by the HPC Community Fund. A £5,000 grant allowed Sedgemoor Dementia Action Alliance to create the weekly cafe for local people living with dementia, their carers and relatives.

Available in the Hub at Bridgwater’s Angel Place Shopping Centre, the cafe surrounds people with items they will be familiar with from their past. These unlock memories from yesteryear and help to spark conversations and stories.

The grant has also helped the group to fund a reminiscence worker, pay volunteers’ expenses and provide refreshments.

The HPC Community Fund Small Grants Programme is part of Hinkley Point C’s £20 million funding commitment and is managed by the Somerset Community Foundation (SCF).

Val Bishop, SCF Programmes Director, said: “We’re so pleased that this grant has enabled Sedgemoor Dementia Action Alliance to increase the level of support on offer to improve the lives of families impacted by dementia.”

SUPPORTING STOGURSEY SCHOOLCHILDREN

Hinkley Point C’s transport partner, Somerset Passenger Solutions (SPS), recently offered free transportation for local schoolchildren from Stogursey during an educational trip to Carymoor, a nature reserve and education centre. The schoolchildren donned their wellies and macs before heading out for a fun day of learning and participating in craft sessions after journeying to Castle Cary.

Jim Treadaway, Driver, SPS, said: “It was a unique learning experience for the children, who were buzzing on their way back. It is rare to get such enthusiastic ‘high fives’ as passengers disembark. It was a very enjoyable and rewarding day!”

£5,000 for refugee charity

Taunton-based CHARIS is the latest charity to benefit from the HPC Way Safe Day fund. CHARIS, which settles refugee families from countries including Ukraine, Syria and Afghanistan in the South West, has received £5,050. The total is determined by the number of days and months each quarter where a range of safety targets have been met at Hinkley Point C.

CHARIS’s Gordon East said: “The money will make such a difference and we’re excited to put it towards a transformative project to provide sustainable services and support to refugees in our local area.”

WILL ROSE

Digital Engineer T Level student

Will Rose from Cannington is keen to follow a career in construction and believes he’s found the ideal way to go about it.

Will, 16, is the first student from Bridgwater and Taunton College studying for a T Level (equivalent to three A Levels) in Design, Surveying and Planning. As part of this great new national T Level initiative, he spends two days per week on work placement as a Digital Engineer at Hinkley Point C.

He said: “I’m working under supervision, helping with modelling and problem-solving on real construction applications. I’m learning so much. It’s giving me a genuine insight into what a job in construction and engineering is all about. I can’t imagine getting this level of experience anywhere else at my age.”

Will has family members already working at Hinkley Point A and B. He’s excited to be part of Europe’s largest construction project and get a first-hand view of the scale of the operation. “It’s a fantastic thing to see,” he said. “The site is massive and so different to anything I’ve ever experienced before. It’s really opened my eyes to all the different areas of construction.”

Looking ahead, Will intends to sign up for a Degree Apprenticeship in Construction. He’d love that apprenticeship to be at Hinkley Point C, of course, but wherever he ends up, he believes his experience will give him a head start over other candidates who’ve followed a more traditional A Level course.

“If you know what you want to do in your career, then T Levels are an ideal route to follow,” he added. “I’m really enjoying it and learning things that are so useful and practical. It’s convinced me that my choice of a career in construction is the right one.”

DID YOU KNOW?

• T Levels were launched in September 2020 and come straight after GCSEs.
• These two-year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets industry needs and prepares students for work, further training or study.
• T Levels offer students a mixture of classroom learning and on-the-job experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days).

CONTACT

HPCEmploymentAffairsUnit
enquiries-edfenergy.com
for more details on T Levels.
Improving prospects for young locals

As part of the development of Hinkley Point C, we have committed £20 million of community funding to improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of communities that are affected by the construction of the new nuclear power station.

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES
One such group benefiting from community funding is Minehead Eye, a youth and community organisation. An award of £148,840 is helping the centre to put on a range of activities and host events for several clubs to ensure young people aren’t disadvantaged by lack of opportunity.

Paul Matcham, Minehead Eye Community Development Manager, is only too aware his home district of West Somerset was ranked lowest in the country for social mobility, and is working to change this.

The aim is to overcome the challenges of living in a rural community by increasing the wellbeing and resilience of the area’s younger residents and improving their prospects: “It’s tough because the majority of the work here is seasonal, in social care, or hospitality, so young people think that’s all that’s on offer,” said Paul.

As the primary youth and community service provider in West Somerset, the Eye works with social services, the police and local schools to help teach its young people about safety, resilience and taking opportunities.

Paul explained: “We deliver seven youth clubs across the area so young people can access the project and its workers within their own community, overcoming the transport barriers so many of them face.”

A COMMUNITY HUB
Hosting health visiting services, an employment hub, groups for young carers, home educators and after-school clubs, it functions as a community hub from 9am-3pm and a youth centre from 3pm-10pm. Its facilities include a climbing wall, recording studio and a popular skate park.

Minehead Eye’s youth workers visit schools and community hubs across the region, supporting the area’s most vulnerable young people.

“All our youth workers have professional qualifications,” said Paul. “That’s like our USP. It means that our climbing instructor is also a crisis worker, for example.”

Two of the youth workers responsible for this outreach programme, Charlie and Jules, have been funded by Hinkley Point C, something Paul is very proud of: “These two extra youth workers mean that we now work with every school across our region. That’s amazing. It’s so important to us, to reach all the young people in West Somerset.”

A TRUSTED FRIEND
Paul thinks the Eye’s relationship with Hinkley Point C is great for the area. “The Minehead Eye has a really good reputation and locals see us as a trusted friend. Our relationship with Hinkley Point C has enabled us to work as intermediaries between the project and the local people, to show them the opportunities for young people in the area to find work. By working with us, Hinkley Point C is becoming more embedded in a community that it’s now a very big part of.”
Hinkley Point C is committed to supporting the improvement of the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the local communities that are affected by the construction of the UK’s newest power station. So far, £123 million of community investment has been delivered to date against a target of £130 million. From supporting employment and skills opportunities, to investing in Somerset tourism and boosting the local economy, Hinkley Point C is committed to maximising the benefits the project can bring.

**INVESTING IN SOMERSET’S PEOPLE**

**CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY (Wider Somerset)**
When a local bus service closed down five years ago, Hinkley Point C stepped in to run a free community bus service connecting Somerset’s isolated rural villages. Through its transport provider, Somerset Passenger Solutions, the vital service has already made 3,000 trips for local people.

**HELPING PEOPLE INTO WORK (Somerset West and Taunton, and Sedgemoor)**
The Hinkley Point C Job Service has helped 1,434 local people into new roles. It works in partnership with EDF, Jobcentre Plus and other training providers to offer guidance to those affected by redundancies, prepare students for employment success with mock job interviews, and more. People are also taking advantage of the five employment hubs the project supports.

**INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION (Sedgemoor)**
£24 million has been invested directly into education, skills and employment support. That includes £8 million used to create three new Centres of Excellence in Bridgewater and Cannington that are equipping people with skills required for the complex work needed at Hinkley Point C and future low-carbon energy projects.

**BOOST FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES (Somerset West and Taunton)**
It takes a lot of people to build the first new nuclear power station in a generation. From the businesses getting the team to and from work or feeding hungry crews, to supplying specialist services or equipment. So far, £4.1 billion has been spent directly with companies based in the South West.

**CREATING JOBS ACROSS BRITAIN**

- **71,000 jobs** will be supported by the end of the construction
- **36%** of the people working on the project are local

- **5** full-time Hinkley Police Officers with Avon and Somerset Police
- **1** Community Safety Officer

**SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH SIGHT LOSS (Sedgemoor)**
Sedgemoor’s Somerset Sight charity has expanded its befriending service thanks to a £85,000 grant from the HPC Community Fund (managed by Somerset Community Foundation), awarded over a three-year period. This has helped more than 2,500 people experiencing sight loss to access specialist information, advice and support. It’s been a crucial frontline service to those in need.

**COMBATTING CRIME (Somerset West and Taunton, and Sedgemoor)**
A grant of £49,520 from the HPC Community Fund is helping the Crimestoppers charity give people in the West Country the power to speak up to stop crime anonymously. For two years, the money is funding drama-based workshops called ‘What Would You Do?’ aimed at nine and 10-year-olds, covering online safety, healthy relationships, mob mentality and child exploitation.

**ENDING SOCIAL ISOLATION (Sedgemoor)**
Burnham-on-Sea’s Crafty Tack’ Creative Hub is helping tackle loneliness thanks to a £4,199 refurbishment grant from the Hinkley Point C Community Fund. The hub is providing a place for people from Burnham and Highbridge to meet, take part in events and learn new skills, including arts and crafts and cooking.

**PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT**

- **£4.1 MILLION** has been spent feeding hungry crews, to businesses getting the team to and from work or supplying specialist services or equipment. So far, £4.1 billion has been spent directly with companies based in the South West.

**COMMITMENT TO CHARITIES**

- **£5.3 MILLION** has been donated to local environmental projects
- **£3.7 MILLION** has been donated to local environmental projects
- **£4.3 MILLION** has been donated to local environmental projects

**ENCOURAGING WILDLIFE**

- Has helped minimise disturbance to internationally important wintering birds through surveys and face-to-face engagement

**IN NUMBERS**

- **80%** of the people accessing the service are over 75
- **1/3** of those supported live alone
- **500** new people a year seek out the charity’s help.

**IN NUMBERS**

- **£540,000** has been donated to local environmental projects
- **£65,000** trees and shrubs have been planted in the immediate area.

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How a nuclear reactor works

Nuclear reactors produce reliable electricity with a low-carbon footprint. But exactly does a nuclear reactor work? Nuclear power starts with fission. Fission is the splitting of an atom (normally uranium) by a neutron. When an atom splits, it produces two fragments, heat and more neutrons, which in turn can split more atoms. This is the start of a chain reaction, which ultimately produces huge amounts of energy in the form of heat.

You can think of a nuclear reactor as being a bit like a kettle. Just as the heating elements in your kettle boil water, the heat produced from the nuclear fuel inside the reactor is transferred (via a steam generator, or the ‘kettle’) to boil water and produce steam.

The reactor vessel

The reactor vessel is where nuclear fission takes place and huge amounts of energy are produced. Water inside a closed circuit is heated to around 300°C. The reactor vessel is the heart of the reactor. The fuel inside the reactor is transferred (via a steam generator, or the ‘kettle’) to boil water and produce steam.

Pressure regulator

The pressure regulator applies a very high pressure and huge amounts of energy to the steam generator.

Steam generator

The steam generator uses the heat energy from the reactor to heat a separate supply of water and this is then turned into steam.

Turbine

The turbine converts the energy in the steam into rotating energy to drive a turbine to generate electricity.

Generator

The generator converts the electricity into the energy that is needed to power your home.

What’s it like to be a Reactor Operator?

What’s it like to be a Reactor Operator? North Wales-born and now Bridgewater-based Meg Moore, 29, shares what it’s like to be an Operations Engineer and Trainee Reactor Operator at Hinkley Point C.

Why did you want to work at Hinkley Point C?

“I was already working at Hinkley Point B, so it was a natural next step for me, shaping the operation of the first nuclear power station to be built in the UK for a generation. Nuclear is a very important source of low-carbon electricity, and I wanted to be part of the move towards a more sustainable energy mix.”

Tell us about your career journey...

“I was on the EDF Energy Science and Engineering Graduate Scheme and loved my placement in the Operations department at Hinkley Point B. I was drawn to the variety and hands-on nature of the job.’

Tell us about the role...

“An Operations Engineer is responsible for the control and supervision of the safe operation of the power station. To get there, I’m currently doing a lot of training, which takes 18-24 months and involves both classroom and simulator training.”

What’s the best thing about working on site?

“Getting to work with lots of enthusiastic and experienced people, who are all passionate about delivering safe, reliable and low-carbon energy to millions of homes.”

Police partnership prevents speeding

Jake Dade, Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), is one of five full-time police officers whose role is fully funded by Hinkley Point C. His job is to work closely with those on site to help integrate the workers into the community and deal with any issues that arise.

Jake speaks with the community on a regular basis in order to understand the key issues in and around Hinkley Point C. This includes traffic monitoring and management. Jake has recently set up a Speedwatch group, where local residents have been trained and equipped with speed guns to record cars exceeding the 30mph speed limit.

Jake said: “It’s my job to listen to the concerns that come in from both sides and resolve any issues. This speeding solution is great because it really raises awareness. When we find there’s a particularly high volume of vehicles speeding, it means we can direct police resource to that area.”

Jake and his team welcome new members of the community and run regular ‘beat surgeries’, which members of the Hinkley Point C project also attend, where residents can voice concerns and find out more about the project.

The Speedwatch initiative is just one great example of how Hinkley Point C is working with the police, local council and residents to mitigate the impacts of the project and maximise the benefits. Check out pages 8 and 9 for more on the opportunities and advantages coming out of Hinkley Point C.

Liaising with locals

Nicola Hale, Community Safety Office ( pictured), is just one of many working behind the scenes at Hinkley Point C. Having grown up on the Sydenham Estate, Nicola is familiar with the area and her role working alongside the Sedgemoor, Somerset West and Taunton District Councils provides her with the opportunity to make a positive difference.

“I like to meet different individuals and provide support to anyone in need.”

Nicola set up regular drop-in sessions so she, together with the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB), could help people in the community who were feeling isolated – particularly after lockdown. “I felt it might put people at ease chatting face-to-face, rather than worrying about phones or emails,” she added. “The sessions take place at The Local Pantry, which is community-run, and the aim is to provide a safe space for anyone looking for guidance.”

These sessions are just a small part of Nicola’s job – she also joins Police Community Support Officers for their local ‘beat surgeries’, liaises with police on the Night Time Economy project to promote safe behaviours on a night out, and works closely with Hinkley Point C on community-based projects.

Got a community question? Contact Nicola on community.safety@ sedgmoor.gov.uk.

Bridges earns top Somerset prize

Bridges Electrical Engineers, based in Midsomer Norton, took home the ‘Investing in Somerset’ prize, sponsored by Hinkley Point C, at the 2022 Somerset Business Awards.

The award ceremony, held at the Winter Gardens Pavilion in Weston-super-Mare, was attended by 400 business people from across the county. The awards recognise talented Somerset businesses across the county.

Chris Maddox, People and Client Director of Bridges Electrical Engineers said: “We are delighted that the amazing work being achieved by our fantastic team has had such great recognition. We are hugely grateful to Hinkley Point C for sponsoring this award.”

Well done to all the finalists and winners!
We’re building British nuclear

Alongside wind and solar, we need reliable low-carbon nuclear electricity to make Britain self-sufficient in energy and less dependent on imported gas.

British manufacturers and 20,000 workers are building Hinkley Point C in Somerset. The fastest way to get more nuclear is to take an existing design and repeat it. That’s why we need to get on and build Sizewell C in Suffolk. Together we can help Britain achieve net zero. Find out more at edfenergy.com