Plugged in

INSIDE:
• Wellbeing at Hinkley Point C
• Journey of award-winning apprentice
• The project’s network of tunnels

The heart of Hinkley Point C
Welcome to the latest edition of Plugged in. Spring is here and I am enjoying seeing the burst of colour as the flowers start to bloom. I am delighted to be editing Plugged in for the first time and hope to become a familiar face to many of you. I am sure you will all join me in thanking former Editor Vicki Dingwall for her efforts as she moves onto her next adventure.

In this issue we meet award-winning apprentice Anna (page 11), learn more about how fly parking is tackled at Hinkley Point C (page 10) and as we approach the Easter holidays, we hope our younger readers enjoy the activities on page 15.

Your feedback is always welcome, so please let us know if you have a story to share or would like us to explore a particular area of the project or wider nuclear industry. You can get in touch by using the contact details on the left.

Stacy Walker, Plugged in Editor

Supporting a wealth of good causes

Did you know Hinkley Point C has its own community fund, managed by Somerset Community Foundation, developed to support local good causes? This financial backing helps so many people – here are just a few examples of how this money is making a difference...

Remembering Jason Waring

At the end of last year, a tragic incident took place at Hinkley Point C that resulted in the death of a team member working on the project. Jason Waring, a supervisor working for Bylor, suffered a fatal injury after a construction traffic incident in November. The loss of a member of the team has been felt across both Hinkley Point C and the industry.

The safety of everyone working at Hinkley Point C is the overriding priority and work is under way to enhance the already high safety standards demanded by the nature of the project. Investigations are ongoing, including with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR), to establish the details and to identify any necessary changes.

Our thoughts remain with Jason’s family, friends and colleagues at such a difficult time.

The Support System on Site

The health and wellbeing of all team members is of the upmost importance at Hinkley Point C. The project has a number of resources and programmes in place to support the workforce. You can find out more about the various initiatives and groups that are there to help on pages 12 and 13.

Stacy’s welcome

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Developing understanding and awareness

With almost £500,000 from the HPC Community Fund, hundreds of young people in education and older people in residential care across Somerset West and Taunton and Sedgemoor have been able to take part in inclusion and equality workshops delivered by State of Trust.

The Taunton-based charity builds cohesion using the arts, bringing communities together and developing relationships through music and dance. Deborah Batch, MBE, State of Trust Director, said: “The workshops aim to break down preconceptions and offer reassurance, with the older adults’ workshops incorporating both physical activity and mental stimulation, alongside reminiscence and movement work.”

Keeping the carnival torch alight

As the UK’s oldest festival, Bridgwater Carnival is one of the region’s best-loved events. The annual parade attracts more than 100,000 people, and the long-standing tradition is marked throughout the year with behind-the-scenes activity.

The HPC Community Fund has made a provisional award of £1.25 million to the Bridgwater Guy Fawkes Carnival charity, as part of the first phase of the ‘Home of Carnival Project’.

This is contingent on confirmation of a further £1 million of match funding as part of the Bridgwater Town Deal, which is expected to be awarded in Spring 2023. This funding could go towards an ambitious project to renovate facilities, providing a safe and secure home for the construction of carnival carts.

Funding could also go towards supporting a school outreach programme for children to get involved in carnival by designing masks and making lanterns. Chris Hocking, Bridgwater Carnival Non-Executive Director, said: “The carnival is the lifeblood of the town. ‘Grants help us make substantial donations to the many charities who lend a hand by selling programmes, holding street collections and organising car parks.”

A space to connect

An £8,000 grant that allowed Minehead Shed to open has made it easier for local men to network. The community space offers fun activities for groups to enjoy in a bid to reduce loneliness and isolation.

Andrew Hazelwood, Trustee, said: “It is well-documented that men congregate best around a shared activity. A men’s shed in Minehead will bring increased self-confidence while encouraging good physical and mental health.”

A safe haven for women

More than 1,200 vulnerable women a year in Bridgwater and Sedgemoor can now access specialist residential help thanks to grants of more than £150,000 for The Nelson Trust. In total, they’ve had just over £500,000 from the fund.

The money helps to pay for the community education, outreach and intervention the charity provides, including help for women who’ve experienced trauma. The charity supports those with multiple vulnerabilities and complex needs, ranging from housing problems and substance abuse, to health issues, from its Women’s Centres in Bridgwater, Gloucestershire and Swindon.

Heads to Hull with Hinkley C

A delegation, including Holding Hinkley Point C Councillor Martin Parr, EDF Energy’s Senior Director of Nuclear Safety Paul von Hentig, and check by Somerset Community Foundation, developed to support local good causes? This financial backing helps so many people – here are just a few examples of how this money is making a difference...
The heart of the nuclear reactor

One of the most notable parts of the power station arrived on site in February. The Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) sits at the heart of the reactor building.

There will be two nuclear reactors installed at Hinkley Point C. Each reactor will be vital in helping Britain fight climate change and improve our energy security.

Once operational, the pressure vessel is where nuclear fission will take place. The heat created by this nuclear reaction is transferred to four huge steam generators which produce steam that drives the world’s largest turbine generators, thus producing low-carbon electricity.

Did you know that some of the largest pieces of equipment you can read about below.

Taking a load off

Did you know that some of the largest pieces of equipment at Hinkley Point C arrive on a remote-controlled vehicle? You might have seen one on the roads around Combwich Wharf or slowly moving across the site. These vehicles are called Self-Propelled Modular Transporters (SPMTs), and they can load, lift, transport and set down deliveries all via a wireless remote control.

They are used to move Abnormal Indivisible Loads (AILs) – that’s anything that can’t be broken down into smaller pieces for transport – from Combwich Wharf to Hinkley Point C.

The SPMTs remove the need for multiple trucks and cranes, which not only saves time, but is safer too. It’s not the quickest mover – it was clocked at a top speed of 4.24mph on a journey last year – but it keeps loads secure and level, while providing 360-degree steering.

SPMTs have been used at Hinkley Point C for the past year, and will continue to be operated for the movement of AILs.

LEADING THE CHARGE

The first fully electric refuse vehicle to be operated on the project is now in use at Hinkley Point C.

Biffa, which is responsible for the waste removal services on site, operates the electric refuse collection vehicle. Andy De’Ath, Biffa Operations Manager, said: ‘The new vehicle will be one of the most used electric vehicles on site, and it’ll bring both environmental benefits in terms of an overall carbon footprint reduction and better air quality, along with operational benefits, such as a decrease in noise.’

It replaced a 2016 diesel model and the annual carbon saving for using it is projected to be approximately 23.5 tonnes of carbon dioxide.

It’s also 40 pence cheaper to run per kilometre, representing a 46% fuel cost saving.

BEAMING WITH PRIDE

What are 45m long, 3m wide, weigh 143 tonnes and have travelled to Hinkley Point C from Switzerland – via the Rhine and Rotterdam – by boat, barge and road? That would be the two enormous polar crane beams – part of the big crane that will sit inside the roof of Unit 1.

It will rotate around the dome of the reactor building, moving heavy components during construction, maintenance work and refuelling.

Arrangements were put in place to minimise traffic disruption as the beams took the last leg of their journey, over two weekends from Combwich Wharf, down the A39 and into Hinkley Point C.
A SAFE PAIR OF HANDS

As Nuclear Safety Culture Lead for Hinkley Point C, Tom Hughes (pictured) is focused on encouraging everyone to play their part in safeguarding the future reliability of the project.

Tell us about your job...  
“I ensure that everyone across site and in our supply chain understands their role in securing the safe and reliable future operation of the power station. This means educating colleagues about nuclear safety.”

What does your role involve?  
“I run webinars, briefings and training courses to get the nuclear safety message out to all colleagues. We have a vast number of workers on site and the majority have never worked on a nuclear facility before. I make sure everyone knows how rigorous nuclear safety standards are. For example, a 10mm error might be okay on a standard construction site, but on a nuclear construction site, it won’t do. My role also includes fostering a speak-up culture where colleagues are comfortable to say when something isn’t right.”

The best thing about my job...  
“That here and now, we are working on the future safety of the power station! I’m an aerospace nerd and when you look at issues with plane accidents, you often see there were historical issues during construction that impacted the future operation of the planes. My role here is to mitigate those potential issues. Everything on a site like this is connected, from the grid connection and the power supply to the turbines and the reactor. We’ve made a promise to provide at least 60 years of reliable low-carbon energy production for the UK – and that’s a promise we’re going to keep.”

GOING UNDERGROUND

Did you know that some of the most complex engineering work taking place at Hinkley Point C will never see the light of day?

The cooling system for the site’s two nuclear reactors relies on three large tunnels, which will transport water into and out of the reactors to keep them cool. The tunnels will also transport water into Hinkley Point C’s nuclear reactor, which will help to generate electricity for our homes and businesses.

Each of these excavations create an additional 20m of tunnels, and there are six connections that need to be made. The tunnels have been excavated, large steel liners are fitted. Over the next couple of years, work will continue to connect the vertical shafts to the horizontal tunnels.

Even though the design, engineering and construction of this particular tunnelling operation have been done before, this is the first time all these elements will be coming together. Another world first for Hinkley Point C!

Construct a career at Hinkley Point C

Hinkley Point C is the largest construction project in Europe, with jobs available for people of all ages and in a variety of roles. If you’ve just started searching for work or are looking for your next move, the dedicated Jobs Service team is your first port of call when it comes to anything career-related on the project.

From information on apprenticeship opportunities and job vacancies to upcoming community events, the experienced team has the knowledge needed to support you in the search for your next job role on the Hinkley Point C project.

The roles available aren’t just construction-based either. There are full-time, part-time and flexible opportunities in a host of other areas, from catering to facilities management. The team also advertises jobs with local companies located off-site in the project’s supply chain.

They can support you with your application, assisting with things like CV writing and job interview techniques.

Interested in a career in nuclear construction? Visit the Hinkley Point C stand at the Bridgwater Jobs Fair at the Canalside from 10:30am to 3:30pm on Tuesday 18 April. For more information on upcoming events and to explore what options are open to you, visit hpctokenservice.edfenergy.com.

Just the job  
So many people are making the most of the opportunities available at Hinkley Point C. In 2022, there were...

5,268  
new registrations from people interested in jobs  
1,060  
jobs posted  
280,000  
visits to the Jobs Service website.

Did you know?  
The three tunnels already excavated on site are made up of 37,602 segments.
Late last year, a massive 304-tonne structure, known as Liner Ring 3, was lifted safely and securely into position on the first of Hinkley Point C’s two reactor buildings. It made for a striking picture and has changed the skyline of the site, but what does this mammoth structure do?

**WHAT IS IT?**
The reactor buildings at Hinkley Point C consist of an inner and outer protective wall with a gap between the two. Liner Ring 3 is a critical part of the inner protective wall and sits alongside a pre-stressed concrete layer.

**WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?**
Liner Ring 3 forms part of the steel liner that maintains a good seal on the materials inside the reactor building. In addition, it carries brackets that’ll hold the polar crane as it swivels around the reactor building on a rail to support construction work and when the power station is live.

**HOW DOES IT FIT INTO THE BIGGER PICTURE?**
Liner Ring 3 is the fourth part of the inner protective wall on Reactor 1. It follows the previously installed Liner Cup (base) along with the first and second Liner Rings. The plan is to lift the iconic domed roof onto Reactor 1 to complete the set at the end of the year.

**HOW DOES IT MEASURE UP?**
The Liner Ring 3 section is 11.5m high and takes the height of the Reactor 1 building so far to more than 43m. At 304 tonnes, it weighs the equivalent of about 24 double-decker buses.

**HOW WAS IT DONE?**
Lifting big objects such as Liner Ring 3 requires a special kind of crane. Thankfully, Hinkley Point C can call upon the services of Big Carl, the Belgian-made Sarens SGC-250. It’s the biggest land crane in the world and can lift up to 5,000 tonnes.
It’s the early bird that catches the worm, so I’ll change the rota to be early, so I’ll change the rota to be early. I know learning means you are meant to make mistakes, but it does make you doubt yourself. Just being nominated and getting recognition from colleagues was important to me – it felt great.

What does the future hold?

“Everything has exceeded my expectations. Being on a project of this size is a dream. To have this as my first job is amazing and I am trying to do as much advocacy as I can to promote the degree apprenticeship in local schools and colleges. My future definitely holds a career in new nuclear and low-carbon energy for the benefit of the environment.”

Anna Gates, Institution of Civil Engineers Apprentice of the Year, shares how her EDF apprenticeship has exceeded her wildest dreams – and cemented her passion for low-carbon energy.

Hi Anna, Tell us about yourself…

“I went to a girls’ school where there was a lot of focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) subjects. The visits we had from various engineers cemented it as the career for me at age 14, so I did my A-Levels in Maths, Physics and Geography. I’ve always had an interest in fixing things – if I was bored in class, I’d take my pen apart!”

How did you become an apprentice at Hinkley Point C?

“I’m a big advocate of low-carbon electricity and wanted to work somewhere I’d be making a real difference. I did my research and realised the project was perfect for me. I was delighted when I found out my application for the apprenticeship was successful. It’s a five-year course at the University of Exeter and I also go to the Hinkley Point C site, rotating around the different civil engineering disciplines.”

The best thing about working on site is…

“The people: there are 8,000 individuals working towards a common goal, playing their part in the community and on site. If I have queries, there are loads of knowledgeable people on hand. This is incredibly helpful to me as a young person starting my career. It’s a real privilege to be here.”

How did it feel to win Apprentice of the Year at the 2022 Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE) South West Civil Engineering Awards?

“I was humbled, surprised and elated! I know learning means you are meant to make mistakes, but it does make you doubt yourself. Just being nominated and getting recognition from colleagues was important to me – it felt great.”

Magical Milestone

More than 1,100 apprentices have now been trained at Hinkley Point C. It’s a figure that means the project has smashed its goal of training 1,000 apprentices during the power station’s construction phase. It was a target set during the planning stage of the project as part of its commitment to maximising opportunities for local people.

The apprenticeship programme is making a real difference right across Somerset, with two-thirds of all apprentices living locally.

Hitting the target early is due to outreach work with local schools and colleges, partnerships set up with training providers, and an £8 million investment into three Centres of Excellence in Somerset, specialising in welding, mechanics and electrics.

Paving the Way to a Bright Career

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**A NETWORK OF CARE**

Local police, fire and rescue, Hinkley Health, Hinkley Point C’s fire safety crews and a team of chaplains are all working together to keep the workforce and the community safe and well.

Across Hinkley Point C, a network of people provides support and wellbeing for the workforce and the wider community. “It’s a win-win situation,” said Chris Jones, Fire Safety Advisor at Hinkley Point C. “Everything we do on site not only helps the people working here, but the local community, too. “Our crews aim to deal with any incidents we have, meaning we don’t add any extra burden to the Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service. Many of our crews are also retained firefighters at local fire stations, so the specialist training we undertake here means we are upskilling the local crews.”

Phil Collings, Community Impact Mitigation and Tactical Support Officer for Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service, added: “Hinkley Point C has a specific environment with particular equipment for things like confined space rescues. This gives us training opportunities we wouldn’t find elsewhere.”

**New territory**

Garry Alford, Hinkley Point C Fire Safety Engineer, is proud of the work done onsite to reduce pressure on local blue light services. He said: “Any standard construction site would be expected to fully comply with fire and safety regulations, but Hinkley Point C is unique, so we are often working outside of existing guidance here. “We overcome this challenge by using good housekeeping, common sense and our years of experience to ensure the site runs safely and efficiently. Our crews are well acquainted with the ever-changing site, so they are best placed to deal with any incidents should they arise.”

**Neighbourhood policing**

Funded by the project, the Hinkley Point C Neighbourhood Police team is made up of a team of officers focused on the local community.

Sergeant Esther Lavoon (pictured) heads up the team of five whose job it is to manage the community impact of the build, and support the welfare of those working on the project. Based in Bridgwater, they have an office at Hinkley Point C, and are familiar with the site and its workforce.

Esther said: “Hinkley Point C has made massive improvements in the area in terms of the road network, facilities and infrastructure. It’s also funded our neighbourhood policing team, which means resource doesn’t need to be taken from other local district teams.”

**Spiritual support**

The chaplaincy service at Hinkley Point C is one-of-a-kind for a construction project. Reverend Ewen Huffman, Lead Chaplain, runs a team of seven voluntary part-time chaplains available to any member of the workforce.

Ewen said: “The chaplaincy completes the circle of care we want to give people. We have a health centre for physical needs and Mental Health Buddies for the mind. But life and people are more than just the physical and mental. People are spiritual beings as well. “We’ve also discovered that there is a need for ‘ceremony’ as well on site – for example, Remembrance, the Queen’s passing and honouring a worker who had passed. It’s a huge privilege to provide that for the workforce.”

**A handle on health**

For Hinkley Point C, the welfare of all colleagues is a key priority. Hinkley Health, the onsite wellbeing centre, houses a full-time GP, nurses, physiotherapists, psychologists and occupational hygienists.

To date, Hinkley Health has trained more than 570 Mental Health Buddies and provides trauma-level first aid training, which is usually only offered to those without access to hospitals or paramedics, such as airline workers.

Angie Young, Health and Wellbeing Manager at Hinkley Health, said: “By the time the Hinkley Point C power station is up and running, a large proportion of people who have worked here will have been trained either as Mental Health Buddies or trauma-level first aiders. Bringing those skills back into the community is just wonderful.

“We’ve got a great service here. Having our own GP and prescribing nurses relieves the burden on the local GP service, and we’ve built great relationships with the NHS, meaning we can also make referrals. Last year we referred around 35 people with suspected cancer.

“We also have our own emergency medical team, whose early intervention saved four lives in the last year. But it’s more than physical health issues. The work of our Mental Health Buddies, along with our brilliant chaplaincy service (for all faiths or none), makes such a difference to those on site.”

**FAST FACT**

There are 430 Mental Health Buddies currently on the project.

**“The wonderful thing about working here is that it’s such a tight-knit community inside and outside of the site. Fire, police, the chaplaincy – we all pull together, really solidifying the network of care we provide. I’m so proud to be part of it.”**

Angie Young, Health and Wellbeing Manager, Hinkley Health
HITTING THE SMALL SCREEN

Guy Martin’s Power Trip.

recently on the Channel 4 programme Hinkley Point C had a starring role in an episode, with Guy trying his hand on a power station.

Steel fixing is the process of shaping steel and placing mesh or bars as a way of reinforcement to help strengthen structures on a construction project. Mark Ireland, Project Lead for rebar prefabrication, said: “We were all thrilled to welcome Guy into our training area, where we taught him the ropes before letting him try it himself.”

“Guy didn’t hesitate to get stuck in. We were impressed with how quickly he picked up the technique – he knows where to come if he ever fancies a career change!”

During his visit Guy checked out the impressive view inside the reactor building and across the site from the top of Unit 1, and explored the entrance of the tunnels while learning more about the extensive work going into building the cooling water systems.

Guy was impressed by the sheer scale of the operations, saying: “The size, the accuracy, the technology, Big Carl... everything has blown my mind!”

Check out the episode now on All 4 channel4.com.

Opportunity knocks at Bridgwater event

More than 380 local people attended a special event at the Canal Side Conference Centre in Bridgwater to find out more about apprenticeships and other opportunities at Hinkley Point C. In fact, it proved so popular that 200 of them passed through the door in the first 30 minutes alone!

The event was organised as part of National Apprenticeship Week by the HPC Employment Affairs Unit in conjunction with some of the companies who’ll be providing career opportunities this year. In addition to EDF opportunities, this included Somerset Larder, the site’s catering provider; G4S security and housekeeping; and teams delivering civils and installation works, such as Bylor, Mike Morgan Electrical Services and the Mechanical, Electrical, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (MEH) Alliance.

Since the event, the Hinkley Point C Jobs Centre has seen applications go up by 50% and visits to its recruitment site increase by 40%. You can find out more about the team on page 7.

KID’S CORNER

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

Quiz

Test your knowledge of Hinkley Point C with our themed mini quiz.

1. How many Mental Health Buddies are there on site?
   A) 200  B) 330  C) 430

2. What is the name of the biggest land crane in the world?
   A) Giant Greg
   B) Tall Thomas
   C) Big Carl

3. What does RPV stand for?
   A) Reactor Pressure Vessel
   B) Reactor Pipe Vessel
   C) Reactor Pressure Vehicle

4. What are the six concrete structures that have been lowered on the Bristol Channel seabed otherwise known as?
   A) Heads
   B) Shoulders
   C) Knees

5. An SMIT is a type of what?
   A) Transmitter
   B) Receiver
   C) Transformer

HINKLEY POINT C WORDSEARCH

We’ve hidden 12 words related to the project in the grid. They can be found across, down or backwards.

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HINT: there are five things to spot…

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Take a look at these two photos of the Reactor Pressure Vessel being transported. Can you tell what has changed in the second photo? Hint: there are five things to spot…”

DIY

wildlife pond

Make your own wildlife pond

Hinkley Point C is committed to increasing biodiversity, planting thousands of trees and creating ponds to help encourage wildlife.

Here are five easy steps to make your own natural habitat…

1. Clean a bucket/container and seal any holes with silicone. Find a sunny spot in your garden and place your empty container there.

2. Use large bricks or rocks to create stepping stones in and out of the pond.

3. Position two or three pond plants inside – if possible, it’s best to place these in aquatic plant pots (ones with mesh sides).

4. Add small stones or gravel to the edges.

5. Fill with water (preferably rainwater). Then simply sit back and wait for any visiting wildlife!

Make your own wildlife pond

Don’t forget to check out the solutions to the puzzles online at edfenergy.com/pluggedin

DIY...

wildlife pond

...to check out the solutions to the puzzles online at edfenergy.com/pluggedin

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Want to work at Hinkley Point C?

Whether you’re looking for a career change or are interested in finding out what opportunities are available on the project, you can browse the latest job and apprenticeship openings by registering at hpcjobsservice.edfenergy.com for free.

- Search jobs by keyword and/or location
- Find out about Young HPC, our exclusive skills programme for 16-21 year olds
- Try the Hinkley Point C Recruiting Tool