

Miles without stiles

Improvements to local footpaths around Hinkley



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Rob's round-up

Latest updates on the Hinkley Point C project from our site construction director.



of the M5, with our various park & ride facilities and with the 1,000-bed Sedgemoor Campus build in Bridgwater.

My focus is absolutely fixed on educating those who join the site on the very highest standards of safety that we demand and on ensuring the quality of every single element of the build.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy New Year and I look forward to updating you in our next edition.

Rob Jordan
Site Construction Director
Hinkley Point C

Welcome to this Winter 2017, edition of *Plugged in*.

Over the last few months we've continued to make great progress on site with the workforce now standing daily at 2,500. We've achieved all of our construction goals for the year with the first of the on-shore cooling water pipes ready to be installed.

We are pouring more and more concrete as we advance the construction of the 7km of underground areas through which the 400km of pipework and the 4,000km of electrical cabling will run. Around the base of reactor one we are building the pre-

stressing gallery in which the tensioned steel cables that run through the concrete domes over the reactors will be secured.

Nearly half of the 14,000 tonnes of rock armour for the base of the sea wall has been delivered by sea. Work on the jetty continues. Clearance dive teams have now finished dealing with unexploded ordnance on the seabed, including 500lb bombs from the Second World War, in the vicinity of where our cooling water pipes will run; **read more about this on page 4.**

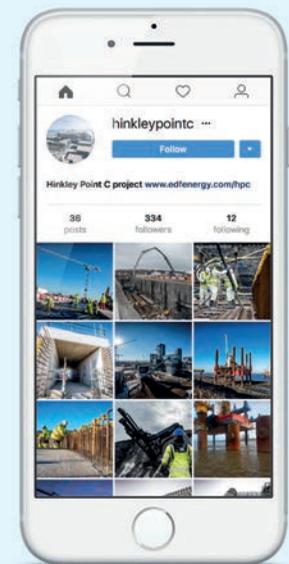
Away from main site we are on schedule with the highway works on Junction 23

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Getting in touch with us

 **Visit** www.edfenergy.com/hinkleypointc

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 **Call us** 0800 096 9650

 **Visit us** EDF Energy Visitor Centre, Angel Place Shopping Centre, Bridgwater, TA6 3TQ

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 **Billing enquires and customer services** 0800 096 9000

Hinkley Point C construction site update

New and exciting developments taking place on-site.

A

Temporary jetty

The teams on the two jack-up barges and the WaveWalker are progressing well with the installation of the jetty.

B

West office

The west office is under construction to provide additional desks and canteen facilities for the expanding workforce. It is a direct replica of the east office, and, once complete, they will be two of the largest modular buildings in Europe.

C

Southern landscaping area

Two-thirds of the landscaping in the southern area is complete, with the last section scheduled to be finished by the new year.

D

Hinkley House

The on-site accommodation campus, Hinkley House, now has all its blocks in place and the road network is taking shape. Internal fit-out is under way.

E

Sea wall construction

Preparations for construction of the sea wall continue with excavation and concrete pouring under way. [Read more on page 4.](#)



Hinkley Point C on-site activity update

Sea wall construction

At 760 metres long and 13.5 metres tall, the sea wall will act as a protective barrier between the coastline and Hinkley Point C. The structure will be built using 34,000m³ of concrete and 14,000 tonnes of rock armour.

The first permanent concrete for the sea wall has now been poured, starting the construction of the 'mega' wall along the foreshore. The pour consisted of 243m³ of concrete, which was used for a section of the lower base of the wall which will eventually be hidden by a toe of rock armour.

Working on the foreshore, the team are dealing with one of the highest tidal ranges in the world. Mike Rose, of Kier BAM's sea wall construction team said: 'The height of the spring tide is 6m AOD (Above Ordnance Datum), while the wall's base is 4m AOD. So with the tidal cycle every seven days, the height of the tide means we have to pump out the seawater from the base excavation. We need to do this quickly, and we have two pumps that remove 120 litres a second. This means we can remove more than 400m³ of water from the excavation in just 30 minutes.'

Works on the sea wall have to be planned for when the tide is low enough to allow work on the foreshore. These windows can be as little as six hours and so the team have to pour concrete in smaller

amounts to be able to work within these periods. The challenges of working in the marine environment don't stop with the tide; the team are often at the mercy of the weather. Plans are in place during severe weather to secure or remove plant and equipment from the working platform.

The marine habitat is environmentally sensitive and the team have to comply with strict licence conditions. These include ensuring we contain all construction works within a 30-metre limit in front of the wall, running all plant on bio oil and approval of all construction products in use. Mike says: 'We created a set of sea wall environmental rules that all the team live by to ensure we are conducting our work safely and to the highest environmental standards.'

Visible along the foreshore today is the expanding wall of rock armour. This initially sits in a temporary position along the foreshore to act as a break to protect the foreshore from wave action for the duration of the construction of the wall. When the wall has been completed, the rock will be moved to the wall's base to act as permanent protection against loose seabed materials.



Unexploded ordnance marine works

The Hinkley Point C clearance dive team of 10 divers have recently completed work to remove unexploded ordnance from the seabed.

A number of 500lb unexploded bombs were discovered from, what is thought to be, the Second World War. These were near where the cooling water pipes will run and had to be fully removed before the tunniling work could safely commence.

The Royal Navy Bomb Squad have been working with the Hinkley teams to destroy the devices in controlled explosions. The Bristol Channel was used by the Royal Navy and the RAF as a practice firing range in the war.

A home from home

Hinkley House, the accommodation campus at Hinkley Point C, will provide 510 bed spaces for members of the workforce.

The campus comprises of 15 blocks of prefabricated units, each containing a bedroom and en-suite bathroom. The rooms are single occupancy and will be home to the most vital members of the construction team.

An amenities building will provide residents with a communal area to relax in outside working hours. There will be a restaurant, bar and gymnasium. The whole campus will be operated like a hotel, with secure entrance and welcoming reception.

This is the second accommodation campus being constructed for Hinkley Point C. The other is under construction in Bridgwater; [read more on page 6](#).

Southern landscaping area

Landscaping work is almost complete along the site's southern boundary. This has been designed to boost biodiversity and, once completed, will help minimise disruption to the local communities closest to site.

The area includes a raised planted area plus footpaths and a bridleway for the public to enjoy.

Ponds will be created and woodland flora planted. Construction has been under way for the past year and the team have now completed sculpting the area using over 140 Olympic-sized swimming pools worth of material excavated from site, ready for the planting.

Plans for the landscaping were carefully developed to encourage biodiversity through the inclusion of a wide variety of plants that will provide pollen for bees, as well as trees producing edible fruit, flowers and nuts. The communities surrounding site have helped shape the planting palette.



Far left Sea wall construction team

Near left Team readying diver for descent

Off-site developments

Hinkley Point C isn't just about the nuclear power station; there are several off-site developments.



Sedgemoor Campus

The off-site accommodation campus for the workforce, Sedgemoor Campus, is beginning to take shape.

The first of the prefabricated modular blocks have started arriving on site. Grey in colour, to reflect the historical industrial use of the site, the modules will house close to 1,000 workers.

The site will also include multi-purpose sports pitches and an amenities building, to mirror facilities at the site accommodation at Hinkley Point C.

Once home to the British Cellophane factory plus its Sports and Social Club, the factory closed in the summer of 2005. EDF Energy subsequently purchased the site and carried out months of work to ready it for construction.

Works to create the new entrance and service installations for the campus have been designed in line with the District Council's strategic housing development plans.

Above Modular blocks being lifted into place at Sedgemoor Campus

M5 Junction 23

Over £20 million has already been invested in improving local roads on the route to Hinkley Point. In early autumn upgrades to the roundabout above the M5 at Junction 23 began.

The improvements will make the roundabout safer, managing traffic flow and queue lengths more effectively. The upgrades include installing traffic lights on the roundabout, making pedestrian routes more accessible and improving safety.

Work is being undertaken 24/7 to ensure it's completed swiftly. Traffic management will be reduced daily during peak periods to avoid delays. Somerset Infrastructure Alliance, a local joint venture, are undertaking this work on our behalf. Work is planned for completion by spring 2018.

Our park & ride near to Junction 23 became partially operational in late summer. Up to 1,500 spaces will be available to the Hinkley Point C workforce when it's fully operational in early 2018. The park & ride is one of four that help us move our workforce around efficiently, significantly reducing the number of cars on local roads.

Apprentices start on site

Whoever you are, whatever your background, an apprenticeship is a great place to start a new career.



At Hinkley Point C, Bylor have recruited 13 new steel fixing apprentices to join the team, with six from the Somerset area.

Bylor is a joint venture between Bouygues TP, a worldwide construction organisation with considerable experience in the nuclear sector, and Laing O'Rourke, the UK's largest privately owned engineering and construction contractor. Together they hold one of the largest contracts at Hinkley Point C.

'It will be the biggest construction project in the UK and probably Europe, right on my doorstep.'

Bylor's apprenticeship scheme was developed for individuals with a passion for construction and engineering. It combines college and practice-based training, allowing participants to build their skills working on one of the most exciting projects in the UK, whilst gaining a recognised qualification.

Steel fixing apprentices work alongside experienced staff who are responsible for the construction of the steel reinforcement that forms a vital part of the concrete structures at Hinkley Point C.

Garth Young, a steel fixing supervisor for Bylor, started his career as an apprentice. Garth is now using his expertise and passion for the project to mentor our new apprentices.

'I qualified as a steel fixer following an 18-month adult apprenticeship, through Bridgwater & Taunton College. I was working in a factory, and saw an advert for an apprenticeship at Hinkley Point. I went to the interview and I was successful.

Since then I have had the opportunity to see a variety of projects. Prior to Hinkley Point C, I was at Crossrail Liverpool Street Station; it was complex and something quite unique to work on a new underground line in central London. I'm pleased to be back at Hinkley Point C: it will be the biggest construction project in the UK and probably Europe, right on my doorstep.'

If you would like to apply for future Bylor apprenticeships, you can register your interest and apply for current vacancies at:

bylorrecruitment.azurewebsites.net

Above The new cohort of apprentices on-site at Hinkley Point C

A photograph of three elderly people standing in a wooded area. On the left, a woman in a grey jacket is laughing and leaning on a metal kissing gate. In the center, a man in a dark jacket is looking down at the gate. On the right, a woman in a blue jacket and red trousers is standing on a stone step, looking towards the gate. The background is filled with trees and greenery.

Miles without stiles

Walkers in areas surrounding Hinkley Point are now finding it easier to explore local footpaths, with many new pedestrian and kissing gates replacing the older and more challenging stiles.

This page Left to right: Peter Farmery, Geoff Coles and Sue Jones with newly installed kissing gate

With more than £290,000 of funding from EDF Energy, Somerset County Council is delivering a programme of improvement works and public footpath diversions around Hinkley Point C.

To date this has made possible:

- The installation of 65 new gates and 2,000 metres of surface improvements
- Eight new or improved bridges and steps
- The installation of numerous new signposts and handrails.
- Over 10km of paths altered successfully.

During the works to identify the improvements required, a walking group, of parish council members and local residents, pictured right walked the existing paths and informed the programme of potential enhancements.

Walking brings people together, helps them feel positive and it's free!

'Walking is a free, gentle, low-impact activity that requires no special training or equipment. Walking brings people together, helps them feel positive and is a cost-effective way to exercise,' says Sarah Littler, project manager of the rights of way scheme. 'Additionally, good walking routes are connected to high levels of tourism and well-being within an area.'

Within the programme of these works, the team has diverted the coastal path route around the construction site boundary. This is because the public right of way has been temporarily diverted whilst the seawall is constructed and until the new permanent footpath across the new seawall structure is established.

The programme of works is ongoing and the team welcome suggestions from residents. If you would like more information on this project or you have suggestions, please contact rightsofway@somerset.gov.uk



Meet the team

Sarah Littler is the project manager of this rights of way project and is supported by Sue Jones, the parish path liaison representative for Stogursey parish, Geoff Coles of Stogursey Parish Council and Peter Farmery, a local resident.

The group strives to represent the opinion of the wider population from all the hamlets and prioritise areas for improvement. They have successfully taken great steps to better the walking environment for thousands of local people and visitors alike.



- 1 Upgraded steps for safety
- 2 Metal kissing gates have been installed
- 3 The team at diverted public route in Stogursey
- 4 Gate and step improvements

Greater Quantock Landscape Development Fund

Hinkley helps secure £1.9 million for the Quantock Hills

The Hinkley Point C Greater Quantock Landscape Development Fund, launched in 2014 and managed by the team at the Quantocks Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, has helped to secure £1.9 million pounds of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Find out more about this great news at www.quantockhills.com

Gemma Sherwood Hinkley Point C geologist

What is your role at Hinkley Point C?

I am a field geologist and have been at Hinkley Point C for just over a year. It is my job to back up our assumptions about ground and rock formations with evidence. If our surveys do not align with our assumptions, we work with the design team to make it right.

The rock formations at the Hinkley Point C site are over 200 million years old, which is reasonably young in geology terms.

The geological sequences are made up of mudstones, siltstones and limestones which are from formations such as Westbury Formation and Blue Anchor Formation. A formation is simply a collection of specific rock beds that have similar properties.

How did you become interested in geology?

To be honest, when I was at school I didn't even know what geology was! My geography A-Level teacher suggested it to me after identifying my natural interest in rocks and volcanos. Picking geology rather than geography at university was the best thing I ever did. It matched all of my interests perfectly. I then went on to

support my studies with a masters' degree in Geotechnical Engineering.

Geology is such a misunderstood subject; many people may not know how exciting it is. I'm really happy to be working with the Inspire team to provide sessions in schools to make more young people aware of this exciting career.

What's the most interesting project you have worked on?

In my seven years of field experience I have worked on some great projects, such as Wylfa nuclear power station and the M25 motorway widening scheme. Although Wylfa had very unusual ground formations, Hinkley Point C is by far the most fascinating.

As a geologist I don't usually get to see the workings of a construction site, as we have usually left the site before the construction team arrive. However, owing to the complexity of this project we are an active part of the construction activity, which makes my day extremely varied.

I arrive at site looking nice, I do my hair and dress to impress, and leave looking very different by the end of my shift! I get out on

site in my protective clothing, get muddy and dusty, and I love every minute of it!

What brought you to Somerset?

I went to university in Bristol, and always wanted to stay in the south west as it is so beautiful here. I'm so pleased to have been able to stay in the area.



Sarah Williamson, Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering



Sarah has recently taken her place alongside world-leading innovators and engineers as a Fellow of the prestigious Royal Academy of Engineering.

Dr Sarah Williamson, Construction Technical Director, is currently bringing her expertise to the project as part of our Bylor team, delivering the main civils works. She's among 50 new fellows representing the very best of UK engineering. The fellowship promotes excellence in engineering.

'I'm very proud and deeply honoured to have been elected,' said Sarah, who's also been shortlisted as a finalist in *Building* magazine's Woman of the Year Award for 2017.

'Engineering offers fantastically satisfying careers and, within construction, we can see a future where diversity and inclusion are the norm, and technology is used to support safety, quality and productivity.'

Hinkley Point C celebrates local excellence

Local businesses were among the winners in the first 'Excellence Awards' event, which was held to celebrate the successes of teams working on the Hinkley Point C project.

In November, Bridgwater's McMillan Theatre hosted Hinkley Point C's Excellence Awards. With 20 award categories focusing on three main themes: people, supply chain and safety, and sustainability and innovation.

Cannington-based grounds maintenance firm Greenslades won the Best Safety Performance award, while Ian Squires of catering partnership Somerset Larder was named as Best Safety Champion.



Above Some of the deserving winners from the evening

'Well done to everyone nominated and congratulations to the winners. HPC's people make this project what it is.'

The aim of the awards is to give everyone working on the project an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of colleagues by nominating them for an award. The nominations are then shortlisted for the gala awards evening.

'Well done to everyone nominated and congratulations to the winners. HPC's people make this project what it is and I'm proud to be leading such an outstanding team.'

Exeter-based Blackhill Engineering was honoured as the Best Manufacturing Equipment Supplier for its role in supplying parts for a temporary jetty at the Hinkley Point C site.

'It was great to see so many of Hinkley Point C's finest people gathered together to celebrate each other's success,' said Nigel Cann, Delivery Director, Hinkley Point C.

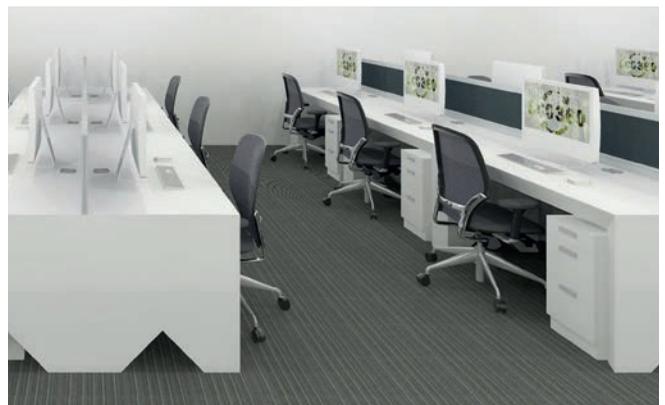


Sustainable innovations

The latest initiative is an innovative approach to managing commercial furniture. Usually, a large amount of office furniture is simply thrown away, often to landfill, following a project's completion.

Provided by one of the project's local suppliers, the ECO360 desks are functional, hard-wearing and can last up to 10 years. They are made of corrugated cardboard, of which 50 – 80% is recycled content to begin with. When the project is complete 100% of the material can be recycled, making it a sustainable office solution.

Delivery of the desks is offset by a UK-based tree planting scheme. It is hoped that the success of the desks will see their use spread to other large construction projects across the country.



Above Cardboard desks installed at Hinkley Point C

Hinkley Point C invests £500,000 in Minehead



Enterprising Minehead

Ambitions to revitalise Minehead as West Somerset’s flagship seaside resort are being boosted with the award of more than £500,000.

The funding will be channelled into making the most of Minehead’s traditional appeal as a seaside resort, but with a 21st-century twist.

The aim is to give Minehead the buzz that is needed to bring new visitors in, while retaining the Edwardian charm that keeps holiday-makers returning year after year.

The money has been allocated under the Hinkley Point C Community Impact Mitigation (CIM) fund for the Enterprising Minehead bid.



Left Images of Minehead
Above The Beach Hotel on the seafront in Minehead supported by the Community Fund

'This is a golden opportunity for Minehead, providing the town with the opportunity to turn some long-held ambitions into reality,' said Leader of West Somerset Council Cllr Anthony Trollope-Bellew.

'The bid submitted will help transform the seafront, establish a hospitality and tourism academy to improve skills, market Minehead and its many attractions and help local businesses,' said Cllr Andrew Hadley, Lead Member for Economic Growth and Regeneration.

'This is a golden opportunity for Minehead , providing the town with the opportunity to turn some long-held ambitions into reality.'

The overall project to make Minehead the go-to seaside destination is likely to cost around £1m. The successful CIM bid, coupled with £130,000 awarded by the Government under the Coastal Communities initiative, means that two-thirds of the funding is now in place.

The regeneration of the seafront will not only support tourism but also provide Minehead with a lasting legacy. There are plans to encourage more seafront tourist attractions and the restoration of six Edwardian shelters throughout the town. A new hospitality and tourism academy will establish Minehead as a centre of excellence, providing local people with practical skills and raising standards in one of West Somerset’s key industries.

EDF Energy’s Head of Stakeholder Engagement for Hinkley Point C, David Eccles, said: 'We’re delighted Minehead will be able to use this money to boost tourism in the town.

'The academy and regeneration project will create a lasting legacy for the town and is exactly the kind of investment that we’d hoped our community funding would support.'

Hinkley Help

The Hinkley Point C workforce can offer a helping hand by providing their time, resources and equipment rather than financial investment, which is offered separately by the £20 million Community Funds.

If you have a project you think could be eligible for Hinkley Help, please contact the **Somerset Community Foundation on 01749 344949.**

The first academic year of Inspire

The Inspire education programme goes from strength to strength.

The Inspire programme was set up by Hinkley Point C to raise the aspirations of young people across the south west in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM).

The programme engages with pupils from primary and secondary schools through to further education, highlighting opportunities created by the construction and eventual operation of Hinkley Point C.

Already, thousands of exciting and inspiring activities for all age groups have been provided across more than 300 schools throughout Somerset. 145,000 young people have been inspired and motivated by the team to explore and learn about STEM since 2012.

During the autumn term, we have engaged over 2,500 young people by attending large careers events, assemblies and hosting bespoke STEM workshops across the south west. In particular, attending the One Step Foundation's Careers Fair, the biggest of its kind in the region, was a great success. The event saw over 2,000 students, teachers and parents attending.

We also support continued professional development of teachers and educators. Visits to Hinkley Point C have been organised to give them the knowledge and first-hand experience they need to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers and mathematicians. Our support goes further, with free teaching materials available at www.jointhepod.org



If you want to learn more about Inspire, visit www.edfenergy.com/hpcinspire

INSPIRE

INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

Who we are

Inspire is Hinkley Point C's education programme delivered via a range of workshops, careers assemblies and other innovative activities. From Haygrove School in Bridgwater to Danesfield School in Williton, the team are on hand to bring science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) to life.

How to get involved

To express your interest in a workshop, assembly or activity at your school, please visit www.edfenergy.com/hpcinspire to read more and register.

YOUNGHPC

SUPPORTING YOU FROM SCHOOL TO WORK

Who we are

If you are aged 16–21, the Young HPC programme has been designed to give you access to a range of resources that will help you take steps towards your dream career. If you don't know what your dream career is yet, take the opportunity to find out what makes you tick and get suggestions of roles that could suit you.

How to get involved

To register, please visit www.edfenergy.com/younghpc and fill in the online registration form.

JOBS SERVICE

JOINING THE JOB SERVICE TALENT POOL

Who we are

The Hinkley Point C Jobs Service is supporting local people into exciting, long-term careers across the project. The team is on hand to help and advise, matching your skills to appropriate roles as they come up.

How to get involved

To register, please visit www.edfenergy.com/hpcjobs and fill in the online registration form or call 0800 029 4289.

Hinkley Point C supporting great causes

Teams raise money and awareness through community activities.

Pre-Operations team volunteering day

Our Pre-Operations Team did their bit to give something back to their new home of Somerset in October by volunteering their time to clear gorse from the Quantocks.

The team of 26 visited Cothelstone Hill, to work alongside the rangers for the day, clearing gorse. Gorse has to be controlled on the Quantocks as it is detrimental to other plant species. Growing at aggressive rates on the hills, it must be manually stripped away throughout the year.

As the Exmoor ponies watched with intrigue, the team rolled up their sleeves and removed the gorse so quickly that they even had the chance to fit in a cream tea at the local Pines Café.

The Pre-Operations Team have all recently arrived at their base location, Mallard Court in Bridgwater, having been spread out at the other Hinkley Point C command centres in Bristol, London and Paris. This activity gave the team the opportunity to get to know one another as well as their new surroundings.



Breast Cancer Now

The annual Hinkley Point C rugby match took place in November at Bridgwater and Albion Rugby Club. Representatives from EDF Energy took on the contract partner organisations, in a hard fought battle, with the contractors taking the victory.

Money was raised for Breast Cancer Now, which is the chosen charity that EDF Energy supports. Rob Evans, player and organiser, said: 'It was a hard fought game with plenty of bruising tackles going in from both teams. Many of the players had not played for some time but loved dusting off their boots, playing a great game and raising money for a very worthy cause.'

EDF Energy **14** **20** The contractors

Top Left Gorse being cleared from the Quantocks

Bottom Left The team enjoy a well-deserved cream tea at The Pines Café

Right Action at the charity rugby match





Photography competition winner



Photo taken by Mel Mullins from the air. Burrow Mump is a hill and historic site near Taunton.

Are you a budding photographer or a photography enthusiast?

Share your photographs taken in and around Somerset with us and in each edition we will publish our favourite. Send your high-resolution photo to: hinkley-enquiries@edf-energy.com with your name and details of where the photograph was taken and what camera you used to capture the shot. The winner will receive a £50 photography voucher. Our next closing date is 28 February 2018.

Terms and conditions apply:
www.edfenergy.com/content/plugged-photography-competition