Plugged in

INSIDE:

• Brean Sands’ £2m makeover
• Somerset hits the skills jackpot
• How to get a job at Hinkley Point C

Working on wellness
Five minutes with…Rob Jordan

Rob Jordan, Project Construction Director, talks about his return, where his focus lies for the rest of 2023 and how he views the connection between Hinkley Point C and the local community.

How does he feel being back on the project?

“Absolutely honoured to be here and it was a great privilege to be asked to return after 14 months working on another new build nuclear project in Slovakia. The advancements that have been made are clear as you walk around site not just in terms of progress, but also regarding the number of people who have joined our Hinkley Point C family.”

What are the big goals for the rest of the year?

“Dome lift is key. That’s when we install the top section of the containment that sits inside our first nuclear reactor. It’s an incredibly important milestone for the project.”

How important is the work that’s being done?

“I believe that everyone at Hinkley Point C is delivering something that will protect the environment and sustain our existence. People working here are providing a credible solution to climate change.”

When you think about the impact of the project so far, what stands out to you?

“Putting apprenticeships back on the radar for young people. We’re developing individuals who will lead the nuclear industry in the UK and potentially the globe. It’s a source of joy for me to be able to welcome our apprentices because I started my career as an apprentice. There is access to brilliant opportunities on this project that will set people up for life.”

How do you view the project’s relationship with the local community?

“A lot of team members here are local, so I see it as the local community is directly helping us deliver every day. Plus, those of us who have come from elsewhere are now living in this community. And I know that there’s a huge sense of respect on both sides.”

Stacy’s welcome

It’s exciting to be publishing my second edition of this community magazine. Once again, we have selected a diverse compilation of stories, features and insights that explore Hinkley Point C and our local community.

Within these pages, we talk about progress made towards building a new nuclear power station and show you exciting events taking place on the project. We also proudly highlight some remarkable individuals, including Haydon Davis, Hinkley Heath’s new Physiologist, and Justin Goff, Hinkley Point C Mental Health Programme Lead, as well as delving deeper into the wider benefits of the project.

I hope you enjoy reading our magazine and discover stories that are of interest to you. Your views are invaluable, and I welcome your thoughts and feedback.

Stacy Walker, Plugged in Editor

GET IN TOUCH

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

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MULTI-MILLION INVESTMENT IN BREAN

Following a £2 million investment from Hinkley Point C, Brean Sands Holiday Park has been refurbished. It now accommodates 900 team members building the power station.

Brean Sands Holiday Park is now a home from home, accommodating team members helping to build the new power station. After months of refurbishment work, the park has been revitalised, offering upgraded accommodation and enhanced leisure facilities, including a new gym.

The transformation of the park followed engagement with the local community, council members, and business organisations, which commenced in the autumn of 2022.

Year-round benefits Hinkley Point C’s use of the park can help in supporting the local economy throughout the year.

Eighty year-round jobs have been created within the community, and those staying at the park will help by spending millions of pounds in the local economy, come rain or shine.

People from Brean, Berrow and Burnham-on-Sea will also benefit.

Community groups have access to Hinkley Point C’s £20 million community fund.

More than £200,000 has already been provided to local community schemes in the area – from the Nornen Community Theatre project in Berrow to improved sports facilities and an upgraded theatre in Burnham.

It’s accepted that some businesses could be affected by Hinkley Point C’s use of the holiday park during the summer season.

To help, they’re stepping in with business support grants and funding marketing campaigns to bring new visitors to the area.

VIP visitors impressed

Senior politicians from across the political spectrum visited Hinkley Point C during the Spring.

In April, Grant Shapps, Secretary of State for the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, and Agnès Pannier-Runacher, the French Minister for the Energy Transition, made a joint visit, along with Luc Remont, the new Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of EDF.

Sir Keir Starmer (left), leader of the Labour Party, visited in June. Sir Keir reinforced his party’s commitment to nuclear for the country and took time to thank team members working hard to get Hinkley Point C online.

Speaking to 50 team members, he said: “You are delivering an energy supply that will power the UK for decades to come. You’ll look back and see Hinkley Point C’s delivery for our country and say: ‘I was a part of that’.

‘Skills that we see here will be deployed at Sizewell and other plants. That is how we get the innovation and delivery of the projects that are so important to our country. Sizewell needs to move forward at pace.’”

Tamer Albishawi, Chief Nuclear Officer

Preparation for operation

Learn more about the first two steps on the path that everyone at Hinkley Point C is following to deliver clean energy.

The path to getting Hinkley Point C live is complex, but there are clear objectives that must be met between now and 2027, when the first reactor is due to start full operations.

The first of these major objectives is related to water, and lots of it.

Firstly, demineralised water is needed to complete the testing and cleaning of the pipework and large vessels that cross-the-power-station before it’s brought online. Demineralised water has been filtered and purified to make sure it doesn’t contain anything that might negatively affect the condition of the equipment.

Once testing is complete, the station will also need large quantities of water to condense the steam once it has been used to turn the turbines and produce electricity. This arrives from the Bristol Channel via the tunnels that have been bored under the seabed.

Onshore, work is continuing on the forebay and pumphouse. The moment the tunnels are ‘opened’ the seawater will begin to flow, enabling large sections of the station to be tested.

Power up

All of the thousands of components across the power station will need testing, and to do this, connecting Hinkley Point C to the national grid will be a key step.

A recent milestone saw the first delivery of several cabinets which contain the electrical equipment required to monitor, control and distribute electricity to the plant’s equipment.

“Our objectives provide a blueprint for a successful and timely launch. Once we achieve our objectives one after the other, they’ll provide a structured process for bringing the power station to life, checking that everything is performing as intended, and handing over an operating power station to the operations teams.”

Tamer Albishawi, Chief Nuclear Officer

DID YOU KNOW?

Demineralised water goes through a purification process to remove mineral impurities.

Demineralised water is used to:

• Reduce the potential for corrosion, to prevent leaks and failure of welds and pipework.
• Reduce deposits of impurities in vital equipment to improve efficiency and safety.

One of the tanks that will store demineralised water at Hinkley Point C.
NUCLEAR VITAL FOR NET ZERO

The UK government has announced plans to classify nuclear power as environmentally sustainable. The move, which came as part of Chancellor Jeremy Hunt’s budget, affords nuclear power significant status as part of a suite of solutions that will help the country achieve Net Zero. The plan will also include incentives for private sector funding for nuclear. Mr Hunt said: “Increasing nuclear capacity is vital to meet our Net Zero obligations... so to encourage the private sector investment into our nuclear programme, I confirm that, subject to consultation, nuclear will be classed as environmentally sustainable in our green taxonomy, giving it access to the same investment incentives as renewable energy.” Tom Greatrex, the CEO of the UK’s Nuclear Industry Association, said: “This is a huge step forward for UK energy security and Net Zero. Nuclear’s inclusion in the UK green taxonomy is a vital move, following the example set by other leading nuclear nations.”

WORK EXPERIENCE

06 Plugged in

Your route to a job at Hinkley Point C

From school leavers interested in science, technology, engineering and maths, to job seekers searching for employment in construction, there’s something for everyone at Hinkley Point C. And there are many pathways into the project...

What is MEH?

MEH stands for Mechanical, Electrical and HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning). This means fitting all the cables and pipes needed to operate the power station. It’s the next phase after the big structures like the turbine hall, pumphouse and reactor building have been built. The amount of work in this specialism is increasing rapidly on site and you will hear and read more about this work in the coming issues. Hinkley Point C will eventually be made up of 150 individual buildings, with more than 7,500 individual rooms, each featuring its own components and systems.

MEH in numbers

For Hinkley Point C to be completed, the MEH teams will install:
- 35,000 valves
- 10,400km of cable
- 35,000 lights
- 142 tanks
- 366km of pipework
- 106,000 mechanical supports

Your route to a job at Hinkley Point C

Hinkley Point C has experience of supporting people at risk of redundancy or following redundancy. The team runs employer days that introduce established contractors working on the project to those at risk to help people learn about reskilling opportunities.

FIND OUT MORE: edfenergy.com/hpc-careers.
Out in the Bristol Channel, two incredible vessels are helping to connect Hinkley Point C’s three cooling water tunnels to the six concrete intake head structures that were installed on the seabed last year. They’re rising above the sea to carry out huge feats of engineering.

**WHAT IS A JACK-UP VESSEL?**
There are two jack-up vessels called Sea Challenger and Neptune and they are fantastic feats of engineering. They can extend their legs onto the seabed to create a stable platform. Cranes are operated from this platform and it’s also used to install components on the seabed.

**WHY ARE THEY NEEDED?**
The Bristol Channel has such a high wide tidal range that it can limit time when work at sea is possible. The jack-up vessels help to avoid some of the challenging offshore conditions by standing on the seabed and rising up above the waves.

**WHAT DO THEY DO?**
Each vessel has its own role. Neptune will stay offshore for the duration of the work, while Sea Challenger brings the equipment out. Combined, the two vessels will install casings and liners to create shafts from the concrete head structures and into the seabed. Once the casings are installed, an enormous drill bit is lowered by Neptune through the casing to create holes of over 20 metres deep, into which steel liners are lifted and grouted into place to form the shafts. This will be repeated six times and it is a vital step in bringing in the water needed to cool the operational power station.
Hi Haydon. Tell us about how you came to work at Hinkley Point C...
"I joined the project in February, and was drawn to it because it has such an interesting workforce. I knew I didn't want to sit at a desk all day, so it's great that I can get out on site and meet people." What does your role involve?
"I run health screening clinics to assess the health and wellbeing of team members, checking their blood pressure, blood glucose, cholesterol and body mass index (BMI). I also organise 12-week coaching programmes for individuals on the project.

"I'm looking forward to getting to know more people on site. The interactions in the clinics are great as they give me an insight into people's lives, and that connection is what I really enjoy about the role." As a massive construction project employing thousands of people, Hinkley Point C has a support system in place to make sure every single individual has access to health and wellbeing services should they need them.

Hi Justine. Can you tell us a bit about you?
"I joined the project seven years ago as a PA to the Construction Director and I remember there were conversations going on around the construction industry having a high number of mental health issues. Recently a job was created for a Mental Health Programme Lead, and because I've been so involved with the programme, it was a great fit for me. It's a really exciting opportunity, not just for me, but for the project, too."

How did the Mental Health Programme develop?
"Starting out, it was like we had a can of worms – we could either close the lid on the mental health problem and ignore it, even though it would always be there, or we could open the can and deal with it by putting in as much support as possible. We decided to do something about it. I was part of the first cohort of Mental Health Buddies on site and since then, I've been heavily involved in how we tackle mental health here."

What mental health support is available?
"As well as our network of Mental Health Buddies, our office buildings have Time to Talk rooms, which are quiet spaces stocked with resources where team members can have confidential conversations. We have a Chaplaincy team who can provide pastoral care and a listening ear to people of all faiths and none, and Hinkley Health is there for any health and wellbeing queries."

How does the Mental Health Buddy training work?
"We run monthly courses teaching volunteers how to spot when people are struggling, how to listen to others and signpost to appropriate help if required. We're not training people to be professional counsellors, we train them to have a better understanding of mental health issues that can impact anyone at any time and how to help. Our Mental Health Buddies are amazing, and I am so proud of their work."

Why is it important to keep up the conversation around mental health?
"By engaging people and increasing their understanding, we can help break the stigma. Hinkley Point C takes mental health seriously 365 days a year. As a project, we wouldn't be where we are now if we didn't believe in supporting our team members, and this means looking out for their physical and mental wellbeing."
Hinkley Point C is vital in the fight against climate change and ensuring energy security but it also proves that the transition to Net Zero can also deliver huge social and economic benefits for Somerset and the South West Region.

**BRINGING BENEFITS**

Big projects need big supply chains and the construction of Hinkley Point C continues to offer opportunities for thousands of businesses across Britain. The project is making use of the expertise available across the country’s regions – from high quality component manufacturing in South Wales, and logistics and heavy lifting in the South West, to the advanced nuclear engineering capabilities of the North West of England.

**SUPPORTING BRITISH BUSINESSES**

UK businesses are in the Hinkley Point C supply chain

- 125 suppliers in Scotland
- 58 suppliers in the North East
- 214 suppliers in Yorkshire and the Humber
- 210 suppliers in the West Midlands
- 250 suppliers in the East Midlands
- 328 suppliers in the North West
- 304 suppliers in Yorkshire and the Humber
- 263 suppliers in London
- 1,343 suppliers in the South East
- 19 suppliers in Northern Ireland
- 171 suppliers in Wales

**INVESTING IN BUSINESS AND THE COMMUNITY**

- **£5.3 BILLION** has been spent with companies based in the South West so far... ... that’s three times the original commitment
- **£14.5 MILLION** has been provided to local projects through the Hinkley Point C Community Fund

**READ THE REPORT**

For further details on how Hinkley Point C is making a positive impact, read the full report by scanning the QR code.

**SUPPORTING THE ENVIRONMENT**

- **65,000** trees and shrubs planted around the site
- **50** environmental specialists across the project
- **9 MILLION** tonnes of CO₂ will be avoided each year, compared to producing electricity with a gas power plant
- **100,000** lorry loads will be taken off the road by using the jetty

**SKILLS AND EMPLOYMENT**

- **30,000** training places will be available before Hinkley Point C’s completion
- **19,250** jobs have been created directly on site to date against a target of 25,000
- **22,000** people from across the UK are working on Hinkley Point C
- **1,820** people have been helped into new jobs by the Hinkley Jobs Service to date
- **£24 MILLION** has been invested directly into education, skills and employment

**“The project shows that the transition to clean wind, solar and nuclear electricity is not only good for consumers, but also a huge opportunity to deliver growth.”**

Stuart Crooks CBE, Managing Director, Hinkley Point C

**“I am loving my course – I’m being shown all different types of welds and techniques.”**

Nicola Ellen Giles, Welding Apprentice, Cavendish Nuclear

**“The training equipment on site is so advanced, it feels like we’re getting world-class training.”**

Amal Jagadeesh, Trainee Reactor Operator, EDF
WOODLAND WARRIORS

Did you know?
The Safe Day, Safe Month fund helps drive safety and environmental performance by donating £50 for every successful Safe Day and £3,000 per Safe Month to a local charity.

SUPPORTING WOODLAND WARRIORS

Funding from Hinkley Point C’s Safe Day, Safe Month initiative has made a big difference to The Woodland Warrior Programme, which provides therapeutic activities for armed forces personnel, veterans and members of the emergency services.

The Woodland Warrior programme was set up in 2019 by husband-and-wife team Nick and Louise Goldsmith (pictured, inset). It’s set within a woodland environment to engage people with the natural world as a means of recuperation.

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A team from HPC encountered a hairy find when they uncovered a nest of small rabbits appearing to be abandoned and in need of urgent help. Work was stopped immediately to protect our costs down and get more people in, which is great, as it’s a real community project.

There are so many benefits to experiencing our retreats. As well as being good for your mental and physical health, they’re also a great opportunity to learn new skills, by a different hobby, and connect with like-minded people.

Sometimes people are inspired to pursue a new career or qualification in something they’ve found interesting, too. What we do helps build self-esteem and the power of Hinkley Point C’s Safe Month fund helps drive safety and environmental performance by donating £50 for every successful Safe Day and £3,000 per Safe Month to a local charity.

A tale of three tails

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Discover Brean

Brean is a fantastic holiday destination for families and couples. Located on the Somerset coastline, with miles of sandy beach and easy access to the county’s unique tourist attractions, it’s a must-visit location in the area.

- Brean has some of the most iconic family attractions in Somerset.
- Calling beach lovers: The stretch of sand between Burnham-on-Sea and Brean Down is the second longest in Europe and includes eight beaches.
- Brean Down offers fabulous 360-degree views taking in the sea, the Somerset Levels and some of the county’s best known features such as Glastonbury Tor and the Mendip Hills.

To plan your next trip, head to discoverbrean.co.uk.