

Spring 2021

The Hinkley Point C  
community magazine

# Plugged in

**INSIDE:** How Hinkley Point C is  
helping shape a greener future

## DISCOVER

How the installation  
of blue structures in  
the Turbine Hall will  
help generate  
electricity P11

## Raising the bar on safety







# ROB'S WELCOME

Welcome to the spring issue of **Plugged in**.

Despite the country's tough start to 2021, the Hinkley Point C workforce has continued to show resilience and a real determination to 'get the job done and done well'. We've been able to move forward with construction, which you can find out more about on pages 10-11.

Hinkley Point C's ultimate goals are twofold. Firstly, we want to create a tangible and lasting legacy, so turn to pages 4-5 to see how our funding is benefitting communities and projects in the local area. And, just as importantly, we have a vital role in helping the UK to reduce carbon emissions and achieve its net zero targets. Find out about initiatives in your communities contributing to net zero and how Hinkley Point C will play its part once the power station is operational on pages 8-9.

I'd like to thank you for your ongoing interest and support of the project, and I hope you enjoy this issue. Please get in touch with the Plugged in team if you have any stories or feedback you'd like to share.

**Rob Jordan**  
Hinkley Point C  
Site Construction Director

## Covid-19 update

Hinkley Point C continues to take steps to keep the community and its workforce safe.

The project has expanded its mass testing programme, currently completing more than 1,000 tests a week, to stamp out the risk of infection at the earliest opportunity.

This approach has been very successful in identifying asymptomatic cases, which otherwise would not have been recorded.

Meanwhile, the existing Covid-19-related measures around social distancing, self-isolation and hygiene remain in place. All of this is happening against the backdrop of a steadily improving local and national situation.

The situation on site mirrors the national trend. It's good news that both local residents and the project's workers are already benefitting from vaccinations. The majority of the Hinkley Point C workforce will have had a first vaccination by the end of April.

However, the project will not be complacent or simply wait for the virus to go away. The measures taken reflect the project's determination to keep a constant downward pressure on Covid-19.

Government guidance will be followed in planning an end to the lockdown, using a measured, step-by-step process when conditions allow.

For more information on Hinkley Point C and its response to the Covid-19 pandemic, visit our website.

## Immy's update

Welcome to the first issue of Plugged in for 2021. I hope you and your families are safe and well. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in our survey to gather feedback on Plugged in. Your answers help us understand what you, our readers, are most interested in. We hope you see your comments reflected across these pages and in our digital content. If you didn't participate in the survey but have any thoughts you'd like to share, please do get in touch with our team.

**Immy Silby, Editor**



If you have a story to share with Plugged in, you can contact Immy via the details on the left.

## SPOTLIGHT ON...



*With its essential cleaning, maintenance and administration works, the Facilities Management team plays a key role on site.*

*Please note: photo taken before social distancing measures were in place.*

# Facilities Management team

From managing the fabric and maintenance of the buildings, to making sure they're clean and safe for people to work in, the G4S Facilities Management team is vital to the running of Hinkley Point C.

Members of the 209-strong team are all local and include fire and electrical safety professionals, maintenance engineers and people in vital cleaning and administrative roles.

Housekeeping alone has 139 team members, who provide a complete cleaning service for the site's four main welfare buildings as well as its Park and Ride facilities.

### Clean and Covid-19 safe

The team helps keep the project running seven days a week. Alongside normal general duties such as routine maintenance checks, it has really stepped up and has been performing enhanced cleaning for the past year of the pandemic.

Liz Marshall, G4S Facilities Account Manager, said: "Without us, the site can't operate. The opportunities for local people are amazing, so we have

lots of families working here. Many people are keen to join the team as they know they will be well looked after. Plus, they are proud to be part of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."



### BECK'S CAREER CLIMB

Originally from Somerset, Bec Cook, Housekeeping Team Leader, kept a close eye out for the chance to get involved at Hinkley Point C before joining the project in 2016. She said: "I was keen to come here, where I've reaped the benefits of a much more rewarding career.

"I absolutely love it here. I'm surrounded by people who are the best at what they do and immersed in a world where people are willing to mentor and encourage my development.

"The project has supported me in developing my skill set and I've gained a Level 3 Certificate in Leadership and Management and a NEBOSH Health and Safety qualification. I can't

imagine a more wonderful place to work and I envisage being here for a long time to come.

"I'm thrilled to be joint chair of a new initiative to support local charities, called The HPC Way. The project donates £50 per Safe Day, and £3,000 for a Safe Month worked. The first to benefit is homelessness charity Arc Inspire."

Find out more about The HPC Way and Arc Inspire on page 6.

**ENJOYED THIS? Then why not head online and vote for who we should feature next.**

## GET IN TOUCH

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

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

### Sign up to Plugged in

To receive Plugged in straight to your inbox, sign up to the email distribution list by heading to: [edfenergy.com/pluggedin](https://edfenergy.com/pluggedin)

# Making a difference

Over the past nine years, Hinkley Point C has given more than £11 million to local community projects. Plugged in looks at where those funds have been awarded.

Hundreds of projects and countless people across the local area have benefitted from Hinkley Point C's support.

Grants totalling more than £11 million, from an overall funding pot of £20 million, have been awarded to a wide range of projects.

They include everything from community centre and village hall developments, to local mental health organisations and

environmental, education and tourism initiatives.

Although diverse, they have one thing in common – each is designed to improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of local communities.

The HPC Community Fund is still going strong and with millions of pounds still to grant, it continues to welcome new applicants.

## What funding is available?

There are a number of different programmes available, offering grants of varying sizes. These include grants of more than, or up to £50,000, and smaller ones of up to £5,000 for organisations that operate on less than £100,000 each year.

“Working at the heart of our local communities, the fund helps passionate people in Somerset change the world on their doorstep. Our aim is to fund activities that not only create stronger communities today but create a lasting legacy for future generations.”

Val Bishop - Programmes Director at Somerset Community Foundation

**190**  
projects funded  
since 2012

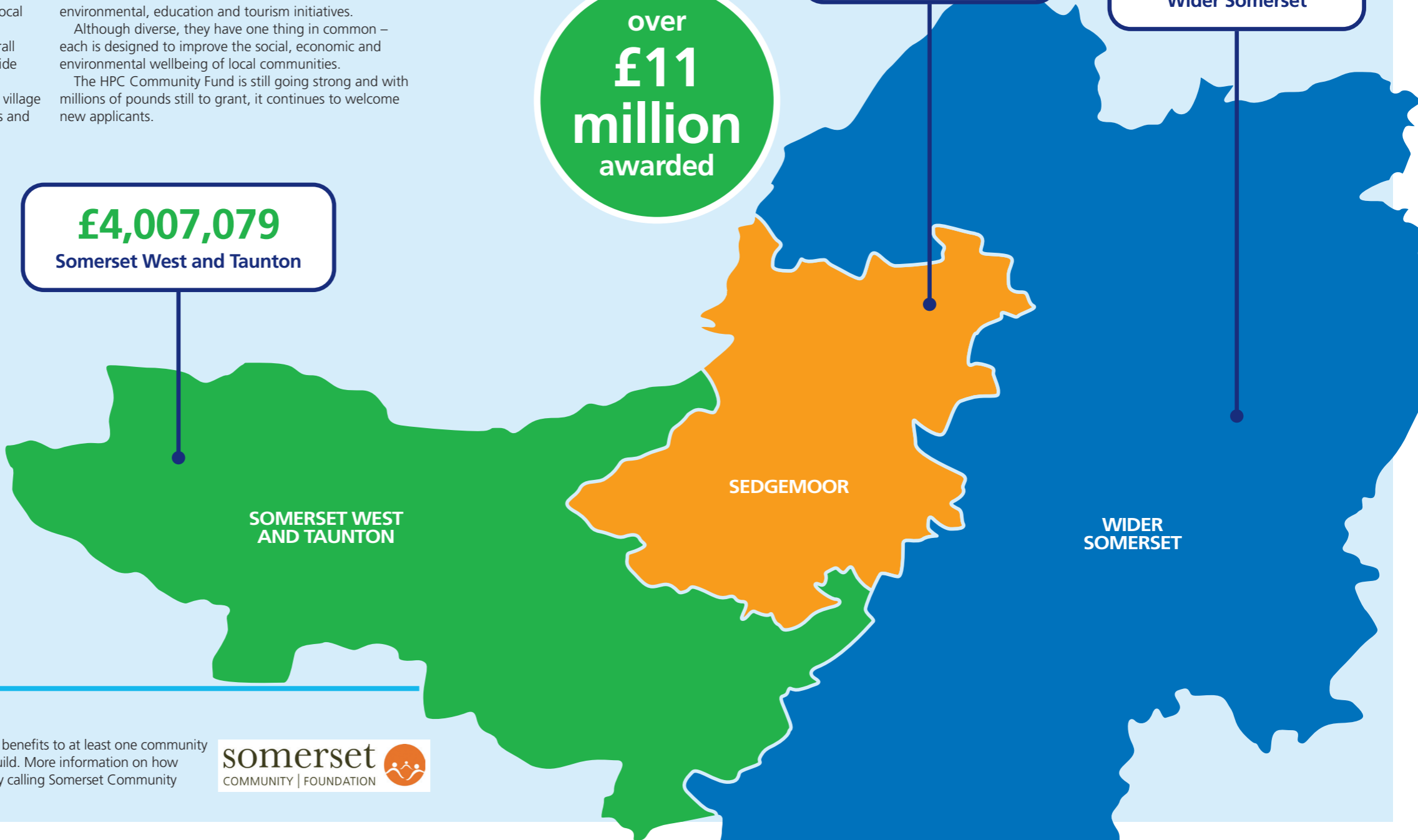
Mental health,  
environmental,  
educational,  
community and  
tourism projects  
supported

**£4,007,079**  
Somerset West and Taunton

over  
**£11**  
million  
awarded

**£5,565,598**  
Sedgemoor

**£1,504,953**  
Wider Somerset



## How to apply

To be eligible for funding, your project needs to show clear benefits to at least one community in Somerset that is being affected by the Hinkley Point C build. More information on how to apply for funding can be found at [hpcfunds.co.uk](http://hpcfunds.co.uk) or by calling Somerset Community Foundation on 01749 344949.





# Roundup

PROJECT-RELATED PEOPLE AND NEWS



Tom Thayer (right) supports many educational activities to help inspire youngsters.

Please note: photo taken before social distancing measures were in place.

## Award-winning work with youngsters

Hinkley Point C is continuing to support young people, an endeavour that has now been recognised with a regional award.

Taunton-born team member Tom Thayer received the Outstanding Personal Contribution award at the Somerset Education Business Partnership (EBP) Awards at the end of last year for his work inspiring youngsters.

The project's education programmes have already worked with more than 500 schools and colleges in the South West. Through hands-on engineering workshops, curriculum-linked teaching resources and site tours, Hinkley Point C Education Lead Tom is inspiring youngsters into Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) subjects. He's also promoting the huge range of opportunities on the project to help develop the local workforce of the future.

Due to the pandemic, these educational activities have been adapted to ensure continued progress, and the online offering improved to support virtual learning and home schooling. A number of these activities have received national recognition and been shared as examples of best practice.

Tom said: "Our initiatives are proving really successful, and we've still got lots of individuals to inspire and motivate. It's a privilege to speak to young people about Hinkley Point C and help them make informed decisions about their future."

### LEARN MORE

Further information can be found at [edfenergy.com/hpceducationandskills](http://edfenergy.com/hpceducationandskills). In addition, there's also a dedicated series of videos on YouTube. Search HPC Career Insights and Apprenticeships for the playlist.

## Inspired to help

A donation of £13,100 was given to Arc Inspire, a local charity providing accommodation and support for homeless people across Bridgwater and Taunton. This makes it the first organisation to receive help through The HPC Way initiative.

The initiative helps drive safety and environmental performance, donating £50 for every successful Safe Day and £3,000 per Safe Month to a local charity. Following nominations received from the project's workforce, charities will be reviewed and selected four times a year by The HPC Way committee.

Arc Inspire is using the funds to renovate two new properties in Bridgwater, which will support 14 people experiencing homelessness.

Char Dyer, Support Worker, said: "The residents feel safe, secure and more positive about their future thanks to these renovations."

Hinkley Point C is committed to helping with hands-on help too, donating unwanted clothing left in lockers and volunteering time with the charity.

James Thieme, Lead Health and Safety Adviser, spent his month's holiday volunteering. He said: "I normally go home to Australia but I wasn't able to travel, so I was pleased to offer my time as a driver, collecting donations for Arc."



Facilities such as the new Welding Centre of Excellence at Bridgwater & Taunton College will help leave a lasting legacy for the region.

## New centre ensures welding excellence

Welding is vital to meeting the needs of Hinkley Point C, and it's crucial to the long-term success of the UK's engineering sector. However, it's a skill that's in decline.

That's why the project has worked with various local partners to fund and create a new Welding Centre of Excellence at Bridgwater & Taunton College.

The centre is one of a trio – which

includes the Electrical Centre of Excellence and the Mechanical Centre of Excellence – opening in Bridgwater to support the project. Hinkley Point C has invested £6 million to support the development of these three facilities.

Opened last autumn, the welding centre is training the welders of the future, conducting competency assessments to make sure work is

right first time, and creating mock-ups and test welds for the project.

Jamie White, Nuclear Skills Alliance Construction Skills Capability Lead, said: "With thousands of welds on one project alone, welding is critical.

"During construction, a sizeable welding workforce will come through the site. The new centre will open up new opportunities for local people."

## Setting the standard for better mental health

The state of mental health within the construction industry is so poor it's often known as 'the silent epidemic'.

Hinkley Point C is actively changing this by setting a new industry standard.

Team members can access a wide range of support and resources, with Ewen Huffman, the Site Chaplain (pictured right), playing a central role.

He's a familiar face in the site's cafés and welfare buildings and is on hand for anyone who needs a listening ear.

Ewen said: "I'm here to support people of all faiths and none. People need friendship and to have others around them who are willing to listen."

There are more than 250 team members at Hinkley Point C who've been specially trained as Mental Health

Buddies and are also available to help. They can spot the tell-tale signs of poor mental health and signpost people to professional forms of support.

Employee Assistance Programmes offer confidential helplines for stress, anxiety, depression and short-term psychological services such as counselling. 'Time to Talk' rooms are also available on site to encourage conversation.

### A change in culture

By looking after the workforce, the project can help team members lead happier and healthier lives.

Rob Jordan, Site Construction Director, said: "The Mental Health Buddies network is fantastic. It is

changing the culture and creating an environment that is supportive of mental health – where it is OK not to be OK."



### Are you worried about your mental health?

Mental health charity Mind in Somerset offers some brilliant resources locally, including the Mindline emotional support helpline on 01823 276 892. You can also visit [mindinsomerset.org.uk](http://mindinsomerset.org.uk).



# Ten steps to a greener future

The UK Government's 'Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution' looks to invest in a more sustainable future for us all. Here at Hinkley Point C and in our host communities, there's some great work already under way.

**65,000**

The number of trees and shrubs we've planted at the Hinkley Point C site to date



Published last year, the UK Government's 'Ten Point Plan for a Green Industrial Revolution' sets out its vision for the next few decades.

The plan will release £12 billion of government investment, and potentially three times as much from the private sector, to create up to 250,000 green jobs across the UK.

From offshore wind and nuclear power to electric vehicles and eco homes, the plan covers a range of topics – and there's plenty going on at Hinkley Point C and in the local area that mirrors its goal of a greener future.



## GREEN HOMES

Somerset West and Taunton Council is to build up to 50 zero-carbon homes, with onsite renewable heat and energy and high levels of insulation. The pilot scheme will provide a blueprint for future initiatives in the region.

Councillor Fran Smith, Executive Member for Housing, said: "This approach adopted by the Council is very ambitious, reflecting our commitment to creating new sustainable developments with a mix of modern, energy-efficient homes."



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT, CYCLING AND WALKING

The Bridgwater Way, funded by Hinkley Point C, hosted a workplace challenge last year. This resulted in nearly 14,500 journeys using sustainable means of transport, such as walking, car share and public transport, reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the area.

In September 2020, Somerset County Council announced it will be spending £1.5 million on cycle-friendly schemes over the coming months.

Initiatives designed to encourage people to consider greener ways of getting around include red surfacing on some of Taunton's cycle lanes, to help make them more distinct for road users. Other works include widening and resurfacing the cycle routes between Minehead and Carhampton, and improving the footpath between Minehead and Williton.



## ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Somerset West and Taunton Council is planning to install electric vehicle (EV) charging points in Taunton through an innovative project called DC Share. The project is trialling new technology that harnesses spare capacity in local substations to power EV chargers quickly – and at a lower cost for consumers.

Councillor Peter Pilkington, Lead Member for Climate Change at Somerset West and Taunton Council, said: "Encouraging and enabling the use of electric vehicles is an important part of working towards making the council and the area as a whole carbon neutral by 2030."

For example, the Council's e-scooter trial offers a green alternative to using petrol or diesel cars for shorter journeys. The rental scheme has some 6,000 registered scooter users who have racked up more than 38,000 miles since the end of last October.



## NATURE

In a project spearheaded by Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group South West and Reimagining the Levels, Somerset will benefit from nearly 30,000 new trees planted during 2021 to reduce flood risk and improve river quality.

Funding for the new trees comes from a £1.4 million Environment Agency fund, called 'Woodlands for Water', that will see more than 850,000 trees planted across England.

Reimagining the Levels is a group of people active in a range of community-based organisations and businesses in the Somerset Levels area. They promote a joined-up approach to the whole community taking action to protect a fragile and vulnerable environment.



## NUCLEAR POWER

Hinkley Point C is the first in a new generation of nuclear power stations in the UK that will provide low-carbon electricity for around six million homes.

This means that Hinkley Point C will make a major contribution to the UK's move to reduce carbon emissions.

The electricity generated by its reactors will offset nine million tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions a year over its 60-year lifespan. That's equivalent to taking nearly four million cars off the road annually.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THE TEN POINT PLAN?

Hinkley Point C is contributing in various ways to help shape a greener society, and these tie into the government's ten areas of focus:

- Greener homes and public buildings
- Carbon capture
- Protecting and restoring the natural environment
- Innovation and finance
- Offshore wind
- Hydrogen generation
- Nuclear energy
- Transition to electric vehicles
- Public transport, cycling and walking
- Researching zero-emission planes and ships.

## FIND OUT MORE

The initiatives we've described all aim to make a difference as we strive towards a greener society. And while businesses and government need to lead the way, we can all play our part. Check out [edfenergy.com/pluggedin](https://www.edfenergy.com/pluggedin) for more information, including ways you can get involved.



# Insite

GET THE INSIDE EYE ON CONSTRUCTION

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

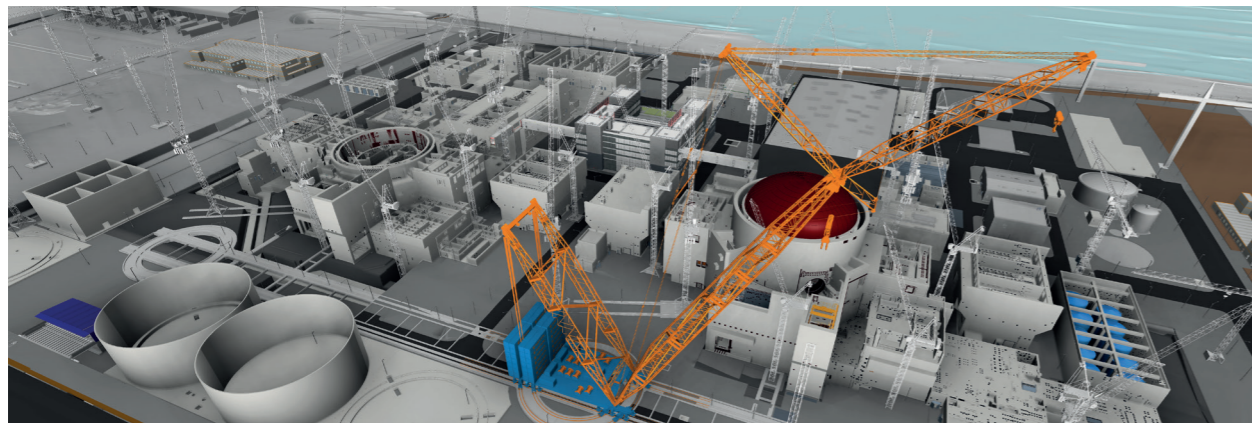
Learn the Hinkley Point C lingo as Plugged in breaks down its technical terms...

### MEH

The Hinkley Point C project is divided into different stages of work. The stage it's currently at involves the mobilisation of MEH-focused contractors on to site. They concentrate on Mechanical, Electrical and

HVAC (Heating, Ventilation and Air-Conditioning) works.

Bridgwater-based facilities such as the Electrical and Mechanical Centres of Excellence will help train local people into MEH-based roles.



## Our crowning moment

The Hinkley Point C team is planning ahead for some iconic milestones on the road to generating zero-carbon electricity for the nation.

The project achieved a key milestone last year, completing the base, or 'Common Raft', of the building that will house the second of its two identical nuclear reactors.

The milestone was completed on schedule on a date set four years ago and mirrors the base for the first reactor, which was finished in 2019.

Hinkley Point C is now focusing on another important milestone, set for the end of 2022: the moment when the domed roof will be lifted onto the top of the first reactor building in a move that will

signify the completion of its exterior walls. A virtual conference was held to discuss these plans of progress.

Much will have been achieved once this lift has been made, including 80% of all the civil work, completion of three offshore tunnels and the finished Turbine Hall.

### DID YOU KNOW?

The dome is made up of 38 panels. It will weigh 200 tonnes and stand at 14 metres tall once the Big Carl crane has lifted it into place.



The virtual Dome 2022 conference (above) and a computer-generated image of the domed roof lift (top).



The start of the tunnel, 40 metres beneath the Bristol Channel, that will take cooling water back out to the channel.

## Cooling water system milestones

The project has recently achieved two important milestones on its path to creating the cooling water systems for Hinkley Point C.

The systems will pump water from the Bristol Channel and feed it into the Turbine Hall, where it is then used to condense steam. This will cool the two nuclear reactors before taking the water back out to sea.

Up to 40 metres below the seabed, three tunnel boring machines (TBMs) are excavating two water intake tunnels that will bring the cooling water into the power station. A separate outfall tunnel will take it away again.

Each TBM was named after prominent women in history by local schoolchildren. Achieving one of last year's key milestones, Mary completed her 3.5 kilometre journey for intake tunnel 1 in December 2020 and was buried securely into place in February using 350m<sup>3</sup> of concrete.

The largest TBM, Emmeline, is pushing ahead at an average speed of 19 metres per day to create the outfall tunnel. Finally, Beatrice is due to start her journey for intake tunnel 2 at the end of June.

Meanwhile, the second reactor's onshore outlet water pipes have been installed ahead of schedule. The project

### BIG FACTS

12,300m<sup>3</sup>

The amount of grout that was injected around intake tunnel 1.

8 metres

The diameter of Emmeline's cutting area, which will make room for a 7-metre-diameter tunnel and supporting concrete rings.

involved the manufacture of more than 700 pipes with a diameter between 2.4 and 3.5 metres and weighing between 12 and 50 tonnes.

The installation also saw 1,950 tonnes of steel fixed in place and the pouring of 19,500m<sup>3</sup> of concrete.

## Standing tall

Two years of hard work and collaboration have culminated in the installation of 15 distinctive, blue Turbine Generator (TG) columns in the power station's Turbine Hall.

The columns will now be filled with concrete before work starts on building the 'TG Table', the 2,500m<sup>3</sup> heavily reinforced concrete structure that will sit on top of the columns and eventually support the turbine itself.

In this area, pressurised steam created by heat from the twin reactors will be used to turn the turbine and generate electricity. When completed, the power station will be capable of generating 3,260MW of secure, zero-carbon electricity for 60 years.



The blue TG structures standing tall in the Conventional Island.

### A WHEEL IN MOTION



Nigel Clark, a Supervisor with Bylor, has carpentry skills that have seen him work on everything from farm buildings in Somerset to paper mills in Nigeria.

Settled now in Wiveliscombe with his family, Nigel has spent the last few months supervising various teams as they secured the anchor bolts to the base of the TG structures.

He said: "I'm a small cog in a big wheel, and I'm proud to be part of what has been a great team effort. One day when I'm retired, I'll go walking on the Quantocks, look over to Hinkley Point C and tell people that I helped to build that!"



## COMPETITION

Entries must be submitted by Friday 14 May

## JOBS BOARD

If you're looking for a new job or fancy doing something different, Hinkley Point C has plenty of employment and training opportunities for you to explore.

The project is extensive; the roles available on site are varied and far from just construction based. Here are a few areas and jobs Hinkley Point C will be looking to employ people into:

- IT Technicians/Managers
- Hospitality and Catering
- Administration
- Logistics
- Engineers
- Project Managers
- Health, Safety and Environment
- Warehouse Operatives.

Register for free and browse the latest job and apprenticeship opportunities at [hpcjobsservice.edfenergy.com](http://hpcjobsservice.edfenergy.com).

### WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

If you're interested in learning more about the stories covered in this issue, visit [edfenergy.com/pluggedin](http://edfenergy.com/pluggedin).

#### You'll find further details on...

- The Facilities Management team
- The Welding Centre of Excellence
- The HPC Way
- Hinkley Point C's TG Columns.

# Win... a hamper of local goodies

### Fancy a chance to enjoy a fabulous hamper packed with locally produced goodies?

For your chance to win, get those creative juices flowing and share your favourite view of Hinkley Point in whatever way you like.

Whether you're a dab hand with a paint brush, superb at taking fantastic snaps (like the photo above), or prefer to pen poetry about the local landscape, simply show or tell us what Hinkley Point and the surrounding area means to you in your own words or pictures.

Why not get the kids involved in this issue's competition, too? They're sure to

love the chance to put their talents to good use!

We'll showcase a selection of your entries online, and you'll be automatically entered into our prize draw.

The scrumptious hamper, kindly provided by Pyne's of Somerset, contains a delicious selection of goodies including chutneys, preserves, chocolates, biscuits and much more.

Email your entry to [hinkley-enquiries@nbn-edfenergy.com](mailto:hinkley-enquiries@nbn-edfenergy.com). Good luck!



#### TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

The winner will need to be able to collect the prize from Pyne's of Somerset in North Petherton, Bridgwater. By entering you give Plugged in permission to contact you via your supplied details. Entrants' data will not be used for any other purpose and will be deleted once the prize draw has taken place. The prize is non-transferable and cannot be replaced with a cash alternative. The judges' decision is final.



**PICTURE PERFECT**  
Follow Hinkley Point C on Instagram to see the latest updates from the project.



In 2020, huge efforts to make the site safe for workers and the community have allowed construction to continue.



Big Carl, the world's largest crane, has completed its biggest ever lift at Hinkley Point C.