



**For Immediate Release
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Lessons for Hinkley from Sellafield

On the morning after the *Financial Times** has called on the UK Government to reassess its long-term energy plans following the demise of Toshiba's Moorside nuclear project, the Stop Hinkley Campaign has published a briefing about lessons we can learn from the Sellafield Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant which is in the process of closing after only 24 years of operation and a very chequered performance.

The "Lessons for Hinkley from Sellafield" briefing says:

- The cost of building THORP increased from £300m in 1977 to £1.8bn on completion in 1992. With the additional cost of associated facilities this figure rose to £2.8bn.
- Originally expected to reprocess 7,000 tonnes of spent fuel in its first ten years, it has managed only around 9,300 in 24 years.
- The original rationale for THORP ended with the closure of the UK's fast reactor programme in 1994.
- The new rationale – to produce plutonium fuel for ordinary reactors - was a disaster costing the taxpayer £2.2bn.

Stop Hinkley Spokesperson Roy Pumfrey said:

"The rationale for building the THORP plant at Sellafield had disappeared before it even opened. The lesson for 2018 is that we should scrap Hinkley C now before costs escalate. The cancellation costs are small relative to the £50billion extra we'll have to pay for Hinkley's electricity, if it ever generates any. If we wait any longer to scrap it, we risk heading for another Sellafield-scale financial disaster."

Stop Hinkley Contact:

Roy Pumfrey
roy@stophinkley.org
Tel: 07886 028 910

*Financial Times 14th November 2018 <https://www.ft.com/content/9ac85142-e746-11e8-8a85-04b8afea6ea3>