



## Newsround March 2024

14 February – iNews: France wants the British government to take on a greater share of the cost of developing new nuclear reactors in the UK, French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said

<https://inews.co.uk/news/business/france-wants-britain-to-pay-its-fair-share-of-nuclear-power-costs-2904841>

15 February - East Anglia Daily Times(EADT): Energy company Centrica is considering pumping cash into the construction of the Sizewell C nuclear power plant on the Suffolk coast, its chief executive has revealed

<https://www.eadt.co.uk/news/24122986.centrica-boss-says-fund-suffolk-plant-sizewell-c/>

16 February – FT: EDF’s chief executive, Luc Rémont, said he was confident of persuading the British government to help finance two flagship nuclear reactor projects in the UK, as the French group reported a €12.9bn writedown on its delayed Hinkley Point C(HPC) plant

<https://www.ft.com/content/ca24da3e-6db8-40ca-b99a-a1e7f190cc1a>

17 February - West Somerset Free Press(WSFP): Five miles of tunnels beneath the Bristol Channel are now ready to be connected to the Hinkley Point C nuclear power station site. Completion of the tunnels marked a major step in the construction of the power station's cooling water system, EdeF said

<https://www.wsfp.co.uk/news/five-miles-of-bristol-channel-tunnels-ready-for-connection-to-hinkley-point-c-site-666658>

17 February – Somerset Apple: A powerful grouping of environmentalists, wildlife and fishing organisations have got together to condemn EDF’s plan to backtrack on promises made to install technology to prevent millions of fish and other marine life from being destroyed by the powerful cooling intakes for HPC (inc Private Eye article)

<https://somersetapple.co.uk/news/exclusive-hinkley-point-c-could-kill-22-billion-fish-in-the-severn-estuary>

19 February – Guardian: Ministers have been urged by Citizens Advice to protect consumers from a hike in household energy bills to pay for the proposed Sizewell C(SZC) nuclear power station, amid international tensions over the rising costs of nuclear projects

<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2024/feb/19/citizens-advice-says-sizewell-c-costs-should-not-be-paid-with-energy-bill-hikes>

20 February – BBC: Fight against plan for new saltmarsh. People living near HPC are campaigning to stop the creation of a saltmarsh fish habitat. Plans are being put forward by EdeF to try and create a new fish habitat away from where the power station is being constructed. Local action group Protect Pawlett Hams said the site is already a "vibrant fresh water wetland and grazing land". EdeF said HPC is the first power station in the area to have any fish protection measures in place

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-68340962>

21 February – World Nuclear News(WNN): Westinghouse Electric Company has been awarded a contract by the Dutch government to conduct a technical feasibility study on the deployment of two AP1000 reactors at the Borssele nuclear power plant site

<https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Feasibility-for-AP1000s-at-Borssele-to-be-studied>

21 February – WSFP: The Environment Agency (EA) and Natural England (NE) were both ‘clearly implicated’ in a plan to turn nearly 1,000 acres of prime West Somerset farmland at Pawlett Hams into wetland, said local MP Ian Liddell-Grainger. Mr Liddell-Grainger accused the two agencies of hiding behind a smokescreen while they promoted a project which had already aroused a lot of anger among local people

<https://www.wsfp.co.uk/news/environment-agency-and-natural-england-behind-hinkley-point-wetland-plan-says-mp-667244>

22 February – New York Times: Why Britain Is Struggling with Nuclear Power. The government wants more nuclear plants to help tackle climate change, but delays and soaring costs are complicating the effort. (inc SH Roy Pumfrey)  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2024/02/22/business/uk-nuclear-power.html>

22 February – Telegraph: The first Rolls-Royce mini nuclear reactor will be built in Europe instead of Britain if ministers fail to accelerate decision-making, the engineering giant's boss Tufan Erginbilgic has warned  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2024/02/22/rolls-royce-boosted-post-pandemic-jump-demand-jet-engines/>

22 February – Business Live: Final Answer! Energy minister Andrew Bowie told the House of Commons on Thursday: "Hinkley Point C is not a Government project. And EdeF is responsible for its delivery. Additional costs will not fall to the taxpayer, whatever you might be reading in the press." (disclaimer: this is the parting shot of a possibly soon to be ex-Minister; who knows what a new administration might do?)  
<https://www.business-live.co.uk/economic-development/uk-taxpayers-not-cover-extra-28687324>

24 February - Yorkshire Bylines: Local opinion is divided – not necessarily evenly – following a decision by councillors on East Riding Council to dramatically pull the plug on proposals for a possible underground nuclear waste facility in South Holderness, just weeks after a process that could have taken years had formally started. The vote to withdraw the council from a working group it had previously agreed to join to oversee the initial phase of consultation was taken at a full meeting of the authority in Beverley  
<https://yorkshirebylines.co.uk/business/technology/council-pulls-the-plug-on-the-nuclear-waste-facility-in-yorkshire/>

25 February - 100% Renewables: Professor Stephen Thomas, the UK's leading analyst of 'small modular (nuclear) reactors' (SMRs), has concluded that the idea faces a dead end, with no future  
<https://100percentrenewableuk.org/smrs-are-useless-says-the-uks-leading-smr-analyst-100-per-cent-renewable-energy-is-much-more-feasible>

26 February - Burnham-on-sea.com: Over 40 people joined a walk around the Pawlett Hams on Sunday 25 February to show their concern over EdeF's plans to create a new saltmarsh there instead of introducing measures to prevent fish being killed at Hinkley Point C  
<https://www.burnham-on-sea.com/news/photos-locals-speak-out-over-edfs-plans-to-create-huge-new-saltmarsh-on-pawlett-hams/>

27 February – Telegraph: Delays to French-built nuclear power stations will leave the UK at risk of blackouts by 2028, new research (by Public First for subsidy seeking Drax!) has warned. A "perfect storm" of increased demand because of net zero, the closure of existing nuclear power stations and delays to the delivery of HPC, which is being built by French state-owned power company EDF, will leave the country facing a "crunch point" that risks blackouts  
<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/business/2024/02/27/french-delays-hinkley-point-britain-facing-blackouts-2028/>

28 February – Times Radio: Link to Rick Kelsey's show. From 1hr 36min in, there's 12mins of Rick talking to Malcolm Grimston (who may be an energy analyst but is most definitely a pro-nuclear propagandist) and Roy Pumfrey for SH  
<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/radio/show/20240228-26410/2024-02-28>

29 February – WSFP: Conservationists say HPC water intakes could wipe out Atlantic salmon stocks. Endangered Atlantic salmon could be wiped out in the Bristol Channel once HPC starts generating electricity, campaigners fear. They believe the estuary's migrating salmon population could be decimated by huge water-cooling intakes serving HPC's reactors. The Missing Salmon Alliance (MSA), which is a collective of passionate conservation organisations with a common interest in improving the plight of Atlantic salmon, is demanding greater fish protection measures by Hinkley C's owner EdeF. They accused EdeF of 'flagrant disregard' for major fish kill potential if it was successful in a bid to drop a requirement to fit acoustic fish deterrents (AFDs) on the water intake heads on the bed of the estuary  
<https://www.wsfp.co.uk/news/conservationists-say-hinkley-c-water-intakes-could-wipe-out-atlantic-salmon-stocks-668860>

1 March – Angling Times: A study has shown that 178 million tonnes of fish could be sucked into cooling water intake pipes every year at Britain’s new nuclear power station. EdeF’s HPC will draw 120,000 litres of water per second from the Bristol Channel to cool its reactor, but an Environment Agency study has shown that, in doing so, endangered species such as salmon, eels and shad will be lost, not to mention a host of sea species. Dylan Roberts, Head of Fisheries at the Game & Wildlife Conservation Trust is calling for an assessment of salmon smolt populations in the area. “How can EdeF say the environmental risks are minimal? This isn’t just about salmon. It’s about conserving wider biodiversity against a massive state project that’s putting two fingers up to the environment,” he said.

<https://www.anglingtimes.co.uk/news/stories/178-million-tonnes-of-fish-could-be-sucked-into-new-power-station-study-shows/>

3 March – BNN: After a comprehensive inspection by the Office for Nuclear Regulation(ONR), Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) has been served an "improvement notice" due to shortfalls in their storage methods for alkali metals at their Dounreay site in northern Scotland

<https://bnnbreaking.com/finance-nav/business/nuclear-restoration-services-receives-improvement-notice-over-storage-failures-at-dounreay-site>

4 March - Burnham-on-sea.com: Concerned about the potential implications for migratory fish species, including the critically endangered European eel, the Sustainable Eel Group says it is “disinclined to support the HPC development unless significant modifications are made to the existing proposals.”

<https://www.burnham-on-sea.com/news/hinkley-point-c-responds-to-new-environmental-concerns-raised-by-sustainable-eel-group/>

6 March – Business Green: The government has today announced plans to revive the UK's nuclear development pipeline, confirming it has reached a £160m deal with Hitachi to acquire two prospective nuclear power plant sites (Wylfa (N Wales) and Oldbury (S Glos) )that were mothballed by the Japanese conglomerate in 2020

<https://www.businessgreen.com/news/4182488/budget-government-confirms-gbp160m-deal-acquire-hitachi-nuclear-sites>

11 March - BBC Today Programme (From 6:16 to 6:21): Interview with Simon Bowen of Great British Nuclear. Is Nuclear Power going to help us get to net zero in time? When do you expect nuclear projects at Wylfa and Oldbury up and running? Interesting answers on ‘learning from HPC mistakes’ and ‘SMRs by mid 2030s’

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc\\_radio\\_fourfm](https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/live:bbc_radio_fourfm)

**Roy Pumfrey for Stop Hinkley March 2024**