



Newsround March 2023

10 February – West Somerset Free Press, 11 February – Western Daily Press & Western Morning News, 16 February – Somerset County Gazette: Letters from Stop Hinkley campaigners urging people to write to the Environment Agency objecting to EdeF's plan to drop the Acoustic Fish Deterrent at HPC were published in local papers, no links

14 February – City AM: The nuclear industry has urged the government to make the planning system less hostile to new nuclear projects, warning that further delays to building new reactors jeopardises investment and the country's energy security

<https://www.cityam.com/we-hope-the-chancellor-delivers-nuclear-industry-challenges-government-to-build-eight-reactors-by-end-of-decade/>

21 February – Utility Week: A further £6 billion cost increase at Hinkley Point C will test the government's commitment to funding future large-scale nuclear projects, according to energy industry experts. The figure was revealed alongside EDF's accounts last week, with construction of the 3.2GW power plant now estimated to cost as much as £ 32.7 billion, a 30% increase on previous estimates

<https://utilityweek.co.uk/hinkley-cs-6bn-cost-hike-tests-uks-nuclear-resolve/>

23 February – BBC: Plans to house 900 nuclear construction workers in a holiday park are being challenged by local tourism firms. EDF managers at Hinkley Point have struck a deal with Pontins to turn the holiday park at Brean Sands into accommodation for its workers. But traders said they were worried the builders would not spend as much as tourists on souvenirs and in arcades

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-64737773>

24 February – Together Against Sizewell C (SZC): TASC calls on SoS for Defra to intervene as EDF continues its programme of eco-vandalism at SZC

<https://tasizewellc.org.uk/tasc-news/>

25 February – Telegraph: The UK will not achieve its target of going Net Zero by 2050 even though it is a legal commitment, a majority of the public believes. Researchers confirmed deep public concerns about climate change but equally strong scepticism that the UK could achieve carbon neutrality in less than 30 years' time

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2023/02/25/half-believe-uks-net-zero-target-cant-achieved-2050/>

27 February – BBC: The first new nuclear reactor for a British power station for more than 30 years has arrived in Somerset. . It is the first of two nuclear reactors which will be installed at Hinkley Point C

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-somerset-64784031>

27 February – Local BBC TV interviewed Stop Hinkley for comment on the arrival of the RPV at HPC.

3 March – FT: The government's drive to raise private finance for the new Sizewell C nuclear plant may not conclude until the end of next year, more than a decade after the project was launched

<https://www.ft.com/content/fd5ac96c-0bb1-4f66-89e4-58d879329530>

3 March - Nuclear Engineering International: Rolls-Royce SMR says its £500m small modular reactor (SMR) programme will run out of cash by the end of 2024

<https://www.neimagazine.com/news/newsrolls-royce-smr-faces-financial-problems-10648145>

4 March - Pembrokeshire Herald: Nearly a year on from the publication of the UK Government's British Energy Security Strategy, which outlined ambitions for nuclear energy, Welsh Affairs Committee Chair Stephen Crabb has raised concerns that there has been little further progress on how the ambitions will be met
<https://pembrokeshire-herald.com/81159/programme-for-nuclear-energy-urgently-needed-to-offer-clarity-for-jobs-and-skills/>

8 March - Cumbria Crack: A desktop study has got underway to rate the suitability of mid-Copeland hosting an underground nuclear waste facility
<https://cumbriacrack.com/2023/03/08/next-steps-taken-in-copeland-for-underground-nuclear-waste-facility/>

8 March – Counterpunch: The 13-metre, 500-tonne, reactor pressure vessel which arrived last month at Hinkley Point C was built at the notorious and scandal-ridden Le Creusot forge in France
<https://www.counterpunch.org/2023/03/08/new-nuclear-plants-have-turned-into-money-pits/>

8 March – BMJ: Ionising radiation and cardiovascular disease: systematic review and meta-analysis. An important new study in the BMJ - a meta-analysis of 93 health studies. The authors conclude, inter alia, "Our findings suggest that radiation detriment might have been significantly underestimated, implying that radiation protection and optimisation at low doses should be rethought."
<https://www.bmj.com/content/380/bmj-2022-072924>

9 March – FT: The government is poised to redefine nuclear power as “green” as it seeks to drum up more private investment in the sector to improve domestic energy resilience
<https://www.ft.com/content/2bef8242-d04b-47b9-84f8-b301692ea2f4>

11 March - Renew Extra: Wind, hydro, and solar projects generated more electricity than gas fired power stations this winter, providing enough clean power to meet all household demand and helping to significantly reduce gas imports
<https://renewextraweekly.blogspot.com/2023/03/uk-power-changes-nuclear-gets-in-way.html>

15 March – BBC called SH following Jeremy Hunt’s Budget reclassification of nuclear energy as ‘green’. Told them it was an absurd assertion; quote not used, but Caroline Lucas’ assertion that it was “ridiculous” was broadcast

Roy Pumfrey for Stop Hinkley March 2023