



Newsround June 2023

12 May – GB News: With inflation soaring and interest rates creeping up, the Government is focused on cutting energy prices in the long run, with nuclear power high on the agenda. GB News Economics & Business Editor Liam Halligan paid a visit to Britain's newest nuclear plant at Hinkley Point. With Roy Pumfrey from Stop Hinkley <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UFJFBXJYTiE>

14 May – City AM: The UK's flagship state pension scheme says it has “no current plans” to invest in nuclear infrastructure such as Sizewell C, marking a major setback for the government's mission to grow the country's future nuclear power output <https://www.cityam.com/uk-state-pension-scheme-wont-back-nuclear-power-in-blow-to-sizewell-c/>

16 May – Times: Most people living in Scotland favour introducing new nuclear power to help in the nation's journey to net zero, according to a poll <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/scots-back-nuclear-power-to-help-meet-net-zero-targets-cjf3lrp73>

18 May - World Nuclear News: With nuclear generating capacity set to increase by 280 GWe by 2050, the biggest economic hurdle to the uptake of the latest large reactors and small modular reactors (SMRs) is cost, according to independent energy research consultancy Wood Mackenzie <https://www.world-nuclear-news.org/Articles/Costs-of-new-nuclear-need-addressing,-says-Wood-Ma>

18 May - Nuclear Engineering International: Arrangements around water supplies and discharges are critical for the UK's next planned EPR at Sizewell, which is being built in Suffolk, an area described as water stressed <https://www.neimagazine.com/features/featurewater-balance-for-new-build-nuclear-10862203/>

20 May – BBC: A nuclear power station that provided enough electricity to serve a small city is expected to take more than 100 years to decommission <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-gloucestershire-65640295>

21 May - West Somerset Free Press: The Environment Agency has been condemned for ‘cravenly climbing down’ in the face of a demand by EDF Energy to be excused from providing an acoustic fish deterrent (AFD) for its Hinkley Point C nuclear power project <https://www.wsfpc.co.uk/news/environment-agency-condemned-for-suggesting-hinkley-c-could-drop-fish-deterrent-measures-615414>

22 May – ITV: The Sizewell B nuclear power plant is generating electricity again after a three-month switch off for maintenance work <https://www.itv.com/news/anglia/2023-05-22/nuclear-plant-back-on-stream-after-month-long-maintenance-delay>

24 May - West Somerset Free Press: Work on connecting Hinkley C to power grid sees M5 closures near Bristol. Motorists in Somerset are being encouraged to plan ahead as crucial engineering works to enable a low carbon energy project take place on the M5 motorway near Bristol <https://www.wsfpc.co.uk/news/work-on-connecting-hinkley-c-to-power-grid-sees-m5-closures-near-bristol-616376>

24 May - Burnham-on-sea.com: The President of Burnham Boat Owners Sea Angling Association has this week spoken out against proposals to allow Hinkley Point C nuclear power station to drop a planning condition to fit acoustic fish deterrents (AFDs) to its water intakes in the Bristol Channel <https://www.burnham-on-sea.com/news/burnham-boat-owners-group-speaks-out-against-hinkley-point-fish-deterrent-changes/>

28 May – Guardian: Ukraine has completed more onshore wind turbines than England since it was occupied by Russian soldiers – despite the UK government's promise to relax restrictions on onshore windfarms

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/may/28/ukraine-built-more-onshore-wind-turbines-last-year-than-england>

30 May – Mirror: Pontins seaside town now haunted by empty bars, derelict shops and deserted streets. Many holidaymakers head for the sprawling Pontins Holiday Park each summer, but this year marks the start of a three year construction project at the nearby Hinkley Point C nuclear power plant which will close down the holiday park. A once bustling seaside resort has been left deserted, with streets and bars empty and shops left derelict. The town of Brean in Somerset, on the southwest coast of England, offered a seaside escape for families looking for a break on the coast

<https://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/pontins-seaside-town-now-haunted-30105962>

30 May - The Construction Index: Magnox is seeking a demolition contractor for a 53m package of work on the decommissioning of Trawsfynydd nuclear power station in North Wales

<https://www.theconstructionindex.co.uk/news/view/magnox-tenders-53m-trawsfynydd-decommissioning-works>

2 June – iNews: National Grid tells ‘zombie’ energy projects to either speed up or get to the back of the queue. Power projects ‘without planning permission’ blocking projects already under way are delaying green energy getting to consumers sooner

<https://inews.co.uk/news/business/national-grid-zombie-energy-projects-speed-up-back-queue-speed-up-or-get-to-the-back-of-the-queue-2382788>

4 June – Times: NuScale joins Rolls-Royce and Bill Gates in race to build UK nuclear reactors. A US nuclear developer is poised to join the race to build new reactors in the UK and has urged the government to go faster in picking a preferred technology <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/nuscale-joins-rolls-royce-and-bill-gates-in-race-to-build-uk-nuclear-reactors-z0bhln3qb>

5 June - Bridgwater Mercury: Sir Keir Starmer has accused the Conservatives of a “shambolic” failure to open any nuclear power plants during 13 years of power. The Labour leader vowed to “get Britain building” as he stressed the “critical” need for nuclear to drive growth, boost energy security and tackle the climate crisis

<https://www.bridgwatermercury.co.uk/news/23567143.sir-keir-starmer-visit-bridgwaters-hinkley-point/>

6 June – Greenpeace: In response to EDF announcing further delays and cost increases at Hinkley C, Dr Doug Parr, Policy Director at Greenpeace UK, said - "Despite the entirely predictable and widely predicted overshoot of Hinkley C's costs and construction, we are still on course to make the same mistake again at Sizewell, and this time with the taxpayer on the hook. Why has a government of free marketeers chosen to pay the French state to build reactors with public money from the British state? Because the market has read Hinkley C's balance sheet and wants nothing to do with this over-priced, overly complicated, obsolete technology <https://www.greenpeace.org.uk/press-centre/>

8 June – Times: Keir Starmer urged to water down Labour's green energy spending. Rishi Sunak says plan to curb North Sea oil production will benefit ‘dictators like Putin’

<https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/keir-starmer-urged-to-water-down-labours-green-energy-spending-x7dqlgndc>

9 June - Construction News: There is an increasing chance that the Hinkley Point C nuclear power project could take longer and cost more to complete than planned, it has emerged. In a presentation to investors to coincide with its first-quarter results, client EDF said: “The risk of additional delays and budget overruns is increasing.”

<https://www.constructionnews.co.uk/civils/edf-reveals-increasing-risk-of-hinkley-delays-and-budget-overruns-09-06-2023/>

9 June - GB News: Somerset holiday park to house 900 workers from Hinkley Point C Power Station. Retailers in Brean in Somerset are challenging a decision by EDF Energy to house 900 workers from Hinkley Point C Power Station in a Pontins holiday park in the town <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLm2E8I5PUg>

12 June - Somerset Live: Massive new Park and Ride facility for 600 Hinkley Point C staff could be built near M5 at Huntworth <https://www.somersetlive.co.uk/news/somerset-news/massive-new-park-ride-facility-8509953>

Roy Pumfrey for Stop Hinkley