



Newsround

October 2025

8 September – Business Crack: Survey work to assess the possible impact a nuclear waste site could have on wildlife along the Cumbrian coast is underway. Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) began carrying out aerial surveys of birds and marine life off the west coast between Sellafield and Haverigg in October 2023 with the aim of gathering information on bird movements in an area where a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) could be constructed. This month sees the final aerial survey take place with the company adopting ground-based wintering bird surveys in the future
[Nuclear waste firm begins latest coastal bird survey work – Business Crack](#)

9 September – BBC: Campaigners say chopping down century-old oak trees as part of the Sizewell C (SZC) nuclear power station build would be "the straw that broke the horse's back". SZC has notified residents in Middleton, Suffolk, that vegetation on the B1125 at Leiston Road could be cleared between the 6 and 10 October - after permission was granted. But locals fear it will mean the loss of 10 oaks - each more than 100 years old - to improve the sight line of the 60mph stretch, which could become part of the SZC Link Road system.
['Sizewell C oak tree felling would be devastating', say residents - BBC News](#)

10 September – Edie: The cost of net-zero: Brits starting to believe misinformation, survey finds. Almost three-quarters of Brits believe that new climate policies will make their lives more expensive, and almost one in five believe that the UK's 2050 net-zero target is bad for the economy
[The cost of net-zero: Brits starting to believe misinformation, survey finds - edie](#)

12 September – Guardian: Community groups warn against push to 'rip up' UK nuclear industry rules. Joint response by 25 bodies says proposals to speed up approval of new power plants weaken protection for public. A coalition of civil society groups is warning of the dangers of cutting safety regulations as the government pushes to "rip up the rules" to accelerate the construction of new nuclear power stations. The 25 groups from communities neighbouring nuclear sites have submitted a joint response to a consultation by the nuclear regulatory taskforce, saying its proposals lack "both credibility and rigour". They argue that the plans to relax regulations only serve to undermine confidence in regulators and the UK's nuclear regulatory regime
[Community groups warn against push to 'rip up' UK nuclear industry rules | Nuclear power | The Guardian](#)

12 September – New Civil Engineer (NCE): The government had no plans prepared for the SZC site in Suffolk in the event that the critical final investment decision (FID) for the scheme was not achieved, NCE can reveal. The lack of a FID did not stop the Government spending billions on the project. The FID was finally achieved on 22 July 2025, with the project then projected to cost £38bn, up from the original £20bn cost estimate, and with the government's National Wealth Fund providing £36.6bn of debt financing. NCE asked the Department for Net Zero and Energy Security (DESNZ), using the Freedom of Information Act (FOI Act), what plans it had for SZC if the FID had not been achieved, given the construction activities which had already been carried out. Responding, DESNZ said: "The department did not prepare plans for the SZC site and associated areas were a FID not taken on SZC." Reacting to the disclosure under the FOI Act, Together Against Sizewell C (TASC) spokesperson Chris Wilson told NCE: "TASC know from previous engagement with DESNZ that they were fully aware of the obligation to remediate for any damage caused by preparatory works for SZC should the project not proceed. "However, because of this government's reckless, gung-ho attitude to press ahead with SZC's construction works regardless of the environmental damage and risk to the public purse, it comes as no surprise to TASC that DESNZ had no management plan nor financial budget to carry out remedial works should a FID not have been made."
[Sizewell C | Government had no plans for site in event of FID failure | New Civil Engineer](#)

15 September – Mirror: 'Golden age of nuclear will create jobs and protect Brits from energy shocks'. Energy Security Secretary Ed Miliband says, 'families and businesses continue to pay a heavy price for our exposure to fossil fuel markets controlled by dictators like Putin'. Nuclear has a central role in taking back control of our energy so we can protect our country and bring down bills for good. That is why earlier this year the Government announced the biggest expansion of nuclear in half a century - delivering historic public investment in SZC, fusion energy, and the UK's first Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), built by Rolls-Royce. Today, we are taking another major step forward – announcing a landmark deal with the United States that will help turbocharge our nuclear ambitions."

[ED MILIBAND: 'Golden age of nuclear will create jobs and protect Brits from energy shocks' - The Mirror](#)

15 September – New Scientist: SMRs sound great, but won't be ready any time soon. The UK government has announced a raft of tiny nuclear power projects, while Russia, China and a host of tech giants are also betting big on SMR designs. Bruno Merk at the University of Liverpool says Rosatom, Russia's state nuclear energy organisation, recently finished building a batch of small reactors for a highly specific use in nuclear-powered icebreaker ships. Crucially, they then continued building more, showing either that there is demand from somewhere, or that Rosatom is taking a risk and building them as a commercial demonstration in the hope of selling more despite a raft of energy sanctions imposed after its invasion of Ukraine. China, too, has built a Linglong One SMR, but it is not clear whether it will yet be a commercially viable product. And giant technology firms like Amazon, Google and Microsoft are investing in these sorts of nuclear technologies, too. David Dye at Imperial College London says tiny reactors make sense for remote military installations or Arctic sites, but is sceptical about using tiny nuclear reactors to power these tech giants' needs. He says it is far easier to build data centres near a ready supply of energy instead

[Modular nuclear reactors sound great, but won't be ready any time soon | New Scientist](#)

15 September – ITVX: Up to 2,500 jobs look set to be created on Teesside in a major nuclear deal between the UK and the USA. In the deal between British company Centrica and American firm X-Energy, up to 12 new reactors will be built in Hartlepool near the town's existing nuclear power station. The project is expected to secure 50 years of nuclear energy - with the capacity to power up to 1.5 million homes

[Thousands of jobs to be created in Hartlepool in major UK-US nuclear deal | ITV News Tyne Tees](#)

18 September – Daily Mail: Spurious legal challenges have added almost five years of delays to the construction of Britain's new nuclear power stations - despite none of them being successful. Lawyers have delayed HPC and SZC by 1,754 days so far and the holdups could cost taxpayers billions of pounds, according to a new report. One legal challenge brought by environmental group Greenpeace against HPC led to a delay of 150 days before it was eventually withdrawn. The longest delay was 625 days and only ended after the Supreme Court refused permission to appeal against a High Court ruling siding with the power station in Somerset. Pro-nuclear thinktank Britain Remade has revealed details of the delays in a new report in which it warns that the cost of holdups caused by legal challenges 'could run into the billions'. It adds: 'When financing costs are high, as is the case with nuclear projects, a year's delay can have massive financial implications.' Britain Remade said that the UK's planning laws play a large part in this - with HPC required to create an 'acoustic deterrent' to keep fish away from the reactor's water intake system that has been dubbed 'the fish disco'. The report adds: 'Between HPC and SZC, there have been seven separate legal challenges against nuclear projects in the last twelve years. Six of the seven are planning related. 'In total, they delayed work on HPC by 866 days. Since August 2022, SZC has spent 827 days fighting ultimately unsuccessful legal challenges. One challenge covering additional coastal flood defences is still ongoing.'

[Two new nuclear power stations for UK delayed by FIVE years because of spurious legal challenges - and none were successful | Daily Mail Online](#)

1 May – Bella Caledonia: Britain Remade is a Tory think-tank and lobby group campaigning on behalf of nuclear power. Jason Brown is Head of Communications for Britain Remade, a former No. 10 media Special Adviser and Ben Houchen's Comms Adviser. Jeremy Driver is the Head of Campaigns at Britain Remade, a former Lloyds Banker and Parliamentary Assistant to Ann Soubry. Sam Dumitriu is Head of Policy at Britain Remade who formerly worked at the Adam Smith Institute. These are Tory SPADS working on their own campaign to support new nuclear in Scotland (and England!): Lift The Ban On New Scottish Nuclear Power. Britain Remade claimed they are not affiliated: "We're an independent grassroots organisation. We are not affiliated with, or part of, any political party" their website says. They may not be officially affiliated to any party, but it's very clear where their politics (and their staff) come from

[Who are Britain Remade? – Bella Caledonia](#)

19 September – BBC: TV show The Simpsons has "done the nuclear industry a big disservice", according to the boss of SZC. Julia Pyke is joint managing director of the two-reactor nuclear power station being built on the east Suffolk coastline which is expected to power as many as six million homes. Due to start operating in the mid to late-2030s, SZ C has proved controversial, with some residents – including those in nearby Leiston – strongly opposed to the project. But Ms Pyke believes some people's negative perceptions of nuclear energy stem from the hazardous way in which it has been portrayed in the long-running animated programme
[Sizewell boss: 'The Simpsons have done nuclear a big disservice' - BBC News](#)

21 September – Observer: The announcement last week that a dozen new nuclear power stations are to be built in Hartlepool is unlike anything else that has ever been attempted in the UK. At a projected cost of £10bn - a rough estimate that could well balloon - two companies, Centrica, the parent of British Gas, and X-energy, a US startup, are proposing to develop and build a completely novel type of nuclear power plant. The technical challenges for the two businesses are huge; the financial challenges perhaps even more so
[UK to build 12 advanced nuclear plants in £10bn plan](#)

22 September – Telegraph: Nimby opposition to nuclear waste dumps in the English countryside could be bypassed as Ed Miliband considers scrapping the need for local consent. A review has been launched by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ), which could scrap the need for public votes when building storage facilities for radioactive material. A search is under way to find a coastal location to host the UK's first Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), a vast network of tunnels and vaults that would extend under the sea and be used to store spent fuel from nuclear power plants. Opposition from residents and councils is a particularly significant roadblock because the Government's policy is to only proceed with a scheme that has secured local consent. However, officials in DESNZ have now begun a review of that policy, The Telegraph understands

26 September – Edie: Data centres up to 43% cheaper to run with renewable energy, study finds. Renewable energy microgrids could provide power to UK data centres at a lower cost and faster pace than nuclear small modular reactors (SMRs), according to new analysis from the Centre for Net Zero (CNZ)
[Renewable Microgrids: Cheaper Power for UK Data Centres](#)

28 September – Times: Secrets of the deep, deep tunnels where nuclear waste is buried. Almost half a kilometre underground, engineers in Finland are about to seal radioactive material safely for ever. Britain wants to do the same. If all goes to plan, spent nuclear fuel will be transported early next year down dedicated lift shafts before robotic machines bury the 24-tonne copper and iron canisters in the rock where they will remain for the rest of time. This is the world's first deep geological disposal facility for nuclear fuel, a concept that has been discussed by engineers and politicians for half a century. More than 20 other countries including the UK, US, France and Sweden have plans to follow suit. But the Finns have got there first. Fiona McEvoy, head of site characterisation and research and development at the British government agency Nuclear Waste Services (NWS), is here as part of a fact-finding mission to see how a similar feat could be achieved in the UK. She says: "It's a watershed moment for the nuclear sector. Long-lived, dangerous waste will be locked away, safe for eternity.

28 September – Oil Price: Microreactors offer portable, autonomous nuclear power for towns, campuses, industry, and military bases, with lower upfront costs than traditional plants. Despite their promise, investors remain wary due to a costly "chicken-and-egg" problem: factories need orders before production, but buyers want proven technology first. Studies warn that small reactors may generate more nuclear waste than expected, raising challenges for public acceptance and long-term energy policy
[How Microreactors Could Transform Nuclear Energy | OilPrice.com](#)

30 September – NCE: The government has named UK six nuclear sites currently being decommissioned where there is interest in establishing new nuclear developments. The SMR ambitions, revealed as part of the US-UK nuclear deal, named Hartlepool in County Durham, Cottam in Nottinghamshire and London Gateway port in Kent as potential locations for hosting new SMRs. Great British Energy – Nuclear is already assessing Wylfa on the Isle of Anglesey in North Wales and Oldbury-on-Severn in Gloucestershire, as potential sites for hosting three 470MW Rolls-Royce SMR reactors. Now the government has named four additional sites where nuclear reactors are being decommissioned that are being considered for new nuclear developments. “The government is also aware of developer or community interest in nuclear projects at several other sites, including those being decommissioned. These include Pioneer Park (Moorside), Trawsfynydd (via Cwmni Egin), Hartlepool, and Dungeness.”

[Government names six decommissioning sites being considered for new nuclear | New Civil Engineer](#)

2 October – Guardian: Senior Tories are dismayed at Kemi Badenoch's 'catastrophic' vow to repeal Climate Change Act. Theresa May, Alok Sharma, business and church leaders say plan would harm UK and not even Margaret Thatcher would have countenanced it

[Senior Tories dismayed at Badenoch's 'catastrophic' vow to repeal Climate Change Act | Climate crisis | The Guardian](#)

4 October – Bridgwater Mercury: In the latest update video, HPC's Project Delivery Director, Simon Parsons, offers an exclusive sneak peek as civil construction work nears completion and the second dome put in place. The attention is now firmly on the power station's fit out with pipes, cables and equipment, the MEH phase, EDF writes. They also write: “Thanks to innovation and the experience gained from Unit 1, teams are building the second unit 20-30 per cent faster, with prefabrication now approaching 60 per cent

[Somerset: Video shows inside Hinkley Point C power station | Bridgwater Mercury](#)

7 October – NCE: Article by Paul Dorfman, Amory Lovins, Mark Z, Jacobson and Steve Thomas: UK prime minister Keir Starmer's new partnership with US president Donald Trump ushers in “a golden age of nuclear”. But awkward facts intrude. The main problem is that last year, the world added a record 582GW of renewable energy capacity. That's over 91% of all new power – with nuclear nowhere. In fact, each year, nuclear adds as much net global power capacity as renewables add every two days

[A 'Golden Age' of nuclear? | New Civil Engineer](#)

9 October – Thornbury Voice: Plans to carry out investigation work for a proposed new nuclear power station at Oldbury-on-Severn have been submitted to South Gloucestershire Council. The move by Great British Energy – Nuclear (GBE-N) comes as local politicians have been told a decision on whether to build a new SMR at the site, close to the decommissioned Oldbury Power Station, could be announced within weeks

[Plans go in for work at new nuclear site - Thornbury Voice](#)

11 October – The National: Scotland's nuclear facilities, civilian and military, are leaking. Is this an occasional hazard to bear, as we resolutely defend and power ourselves? Or another indicator of how much independence has to clean up the modernity of Scotland? This week's reports of radioactive water rushing into the Caithness shore at Dounreay – containing Caesium-137, as well as alpha- and non-alpha-emitting radionuclides – admittedly came from a clean-up situation, the decommissioning of the plant itself. But the context makes you shudder

[Boldness is needed to take on toxicity of nuclear power | The National](#)

11 October – Press & Journal: A team of more than a dozen energy, business and education leaders have been assembled to boost Aberdeen's fortunes as the city aims to become a renewable energy capital. GB Energy's new taskforce will be expected to spearhead the north-east's transition away from fossil fuels while supporting valuable new jobs

[Aberdeen energy and business team unveiled to transform city](#)

Roy Pumfrey for Stop Hinkley October 2025