



Newsround

April 2026

9 March – West Somerset Free Press: Security is being beefed up for Hinkley Point B (HPB) which is about to enter its decommissioning stage. De-fuelling of HPB was completed in January 2026 after three years and the site will shortly be handed over to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) for the final stage of deconstruction. But first, EDF Energy Generation wants to extend the site's security building with a 145 sq ft single-storey extension taking up three spaces in the adjacent car park. EDF environmental consents co-ordinator Leodhais Macpherson said: "The development will increase the area of the existing security control room to allow for provision of further security equipment."

[Security control room extension planned ahead of Hinkley Point B decommissioning | wsfp.co.uk](https://www.wsfp.co.uk)

10 March – Energy Voice: Rolls-Royce SMR to explore role of nuclear in sustainable aviation fuel production. The firm will assess how heat and electricity from an SMR power station can be repurposed for industrial processes.

[Rolls-Royce SMR to explore role of nuclear for SAF production](#)

10 March – BBC: Work to develop a new nuclear and clean energy site next to Europe's largest nuclear plant is taking a step forward. Last year the prime minister announced the intention to develop land at Moorside, known as Pioneer Park - a 400-acre site next to Sellafield in Cumbria. Members of Cumberland's Nuclear Future Board have now launched the £1m masterplan phase, funded by the NDA, to explore how the site could support nuclear and clean energy opportunities.

[Next stage for Moorside's nuclear and clean energy site - BBC News](#)

13 March – EdeF: Engineers at HPC are ready to start tunnelling the second of three fish protection measures at the nuclear power station. The fish return system will be 620m long and 1.8m in diameter. The tunnel boring machine has been named Sarah Guppy by local schoolchildren after the pioneering 19th century woman engineer.

[Engineers at Hinkley Point C are ready to start tunnelling the fish return system | EDF](#)

13 March – Telegraph: Sir Keir Starmer is facing down green campaigners as he prepares to rip up the rule book on nuclear regulation and accelerate the construction of new power stations. The Prime Minister has ordered a "rewiring" of Britain's nuclear safety and planning system, removing the rules and organisations that have prevented the UK from completing a single nuclear reactor since 1995. Sir Keir said an expanded nuclear industry was "simply indispensable" for the UK's strategic energy independence, national security and the climate. Under the changes, the civil nuclear energy programmes will be linked to defence. This will include merging the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) with the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR) by 2028.

15 March – The Ferret: Britain Remade is the apparently "grassroots" group leading the push to overturn Scotland's ban on nuclear power. But The Ferret has found that two of its directors come from a firm which lobbies for the UK's biggest nuclear company. It has been alleged that Britain Remade has close ties to the London-based public relations firm Stonehaven. Stonehaven represents EDF – the French energy giant that owns Scotland's last operational nuclear power station at Torness in East Lothian (and all the operating/decommissioning/new build stations in England). EDF could be one of the biggest beneficiaries of any move to lift the ban on new nuclear plants.

[Pro-nuclear group faces questions over 'links' to major London PR firm | The National](#)

15 March – Times: A kilometre below the seabed off the Cumbrian coast, an underground repository the size of Swindon could become the final resting place for Britain's stockpile of nuclear waste. The aim is to create a safe place to store hundreds of thousands of cubic metres of the most hazardous waste for millennia. The challenge, amid straitened budgets, is twofold: identifying the ideal 50 sq km plot in a 300 sq km expanse and finding a group of people happy to host it. On Friday, the government boosted the scheme among wider reforms to speed up nuclear projects. Ministers said they would pass legislation for compulsory purchase of land and ease the planning process by granting the scheme permitted development rights. Officials have been hunting for the past eight years for a community willing to have a £53 billion geological disposal facility built in their midst. But Nuclear Waste Services (NWS), the body charged with finding a suitable site, has warned of “significant uncertainty” since last year's spending review and further uncertainty over whether any consenting village or town would remain committed to the project.

18 March – WSFP: A series of roadshows is being held to allow people an opportunity to have their say on the future of the HPA site. Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) wants to hear views from communities and to give people a first-hand opportunity to see how work on the site continues to support jobs, skills, and the local economy. The first interactive digital exhibitions, designed to spark conversation, share information, and, most importantly, listen to community views, are being hosted next week in Bridgwater. More will follow in West Somerset locations on dates still to be announced.

[Agency hosting roadshows for people to say what should happen to Hinkley A site | West Somerset Free Press](#)

19 March – ITV: The accelerating pace of coastal erosion after a damaging winter on the UK's east coast has raised fresh questions over protection for a new £40bn nuclear plant under construction. Sizewell C (SZC) is being built on the Suffolk coast, near the site of two previous nuclear power plants, with an operational and decommissioning timeline stretching for more than 100 years. But a bruising winter along the coast, which has seen dozens of homes demolished before they fall into the sea, has led to concerns about the wisdom of building the plant on one of the fastest-eroding coastlines in Europe.

[Coastal erosion raises questions over protection for £40bn Sizewell C nuclear plant | ITV News Anglia](#)

21 March – This Is Money: Ministers are under mounting pressure to ensure British steel is used to build nuclear reactors after a Czech firm pushed for the parts to be made in Europe. Ed Miliband's Department for Energy and Net Zero (DESNZ) is spending billions on Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), which can be assembled far more quickly than traditional plants. Rolls-Royce was chosen to build the three SMRs on Anglesey last year in a major win for UK industry. But the Government is now on a collision course with senior Labour Party figures, as Rolls' partner company in the project CEZ, owned by the Czech state, is pushing for the parts to be made in the Czech Republic rather than at the Forgemasters steelworks in Sheffield, which is owned by the Ministry of Defence. Under the Government's deal with Rolls, 70 per cent of material used for the SMRs must be British-made, but officials have not specified which materials.

['Build nuclear reactors with British-made steel' | This is Money](#)

27 March – Times: From Russia without love: inside Putin's grip on our nuclear power. More than 2.5 million UK homes are powered by the Kremlin's supply of nuclear fuel and western countries have found themselves trapped in long-term contracts Sizewell B, the reactor not far from Ipswich, runs entirely on reprocessed uranium from Russia, underscoring Russia's entrenched reach into global energy chains. EDF Energy, the French company which owns and manages all of Britain's operating nuclear power plants, has explained that Sizewell B still uses the uranium due to “long term commitments”, adding that it had eliminated any Russian input into the other British reactors that it operates. It said it fully complies with British and European Union sanctions against Moscow.

27 March - Punchline Gloucester: New leader for troubled nuclear project. Against a backdrop of delay headaches and rising costs, there's a new face at the top for controversial HPC. Mark Hartley replaces Stuart Crooks. He is currently managing director of EDF's nuclear operations, which runs Britain's operational nuclear power stations at Sizewell B, Heysham, Torness, and Hartlepool and is responsible for defueling Hunterston and Dungeness. He will be returning to Hinkley C where he was technical director for five years until 2023. The leadership change coincides with challenging times for the Somerset project. Last month, EDF confirmed that ongoing mechanical and electrical installation issues had pushed the start date back by another YEAR, while the bill to complete the job has now gone up by £1.4bn – spelling an eye-watering final figure of £48bn, at current prices, to plug the nuclear project into the national grid and activate the reactors.

[New leader for troubled nuclear project](#)

29 March – The Observer: An energy revolution is in the wind: Labour's plans for cheap renewable power will transform British lives as dramatically as the NHS once did. On 25 March 2026, Britain's fleet of onshore and offshore wind power turbines, together with our solar and tidal power renewable energy producers, delivered nearly all our electricity needs. You can be forgiven for not knowing. There is only one energy story anyone wants to tell at the moment – the regurgitation of Nigel Farage and Kemi Badenoch's attack line on Ed Miliband, echoed in private and in public by our business leaders. Miliband is crucifying British consumers and business, they say, with his crazed commitment to net zero and the high energy bills that follow, now exposed for their ultimate futility by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Instead, we need to open up two North Sea oil and gas fields he refuses to license, and drill, baby, drill to secure energy security and jobs alike. His army of critics will say that nothing can be generalised from one very windy day. Except that wind and solar last year already delivered a third of our energy requirements, and more renewable capacity is coming. In January and February, for example, the annual auctions of licences to produce onshore and offshore wind, solar and tidal power in over 200 sites, attracted the greatest wind and solar procurement bids ever made in Europe, which will supply 16m homes. Another auction has been brought forward to July. Even solar power output, during that grey early spring day last week, did well, delivering as much power as sunny July 2025.

[An energy revolution is in the wind | The Observer](#)

As far as I could tell, there were no nuclear 'April Fool' stories!

4 April – Times: The man hollowing out a mountain to build Britain's biggest battery. How does blasting a cavern into billion-year-old rock solve a common problem with renewable energy? A visit to Loch Lochy reveals all. Seaton, 59, works for the renewables giant SSE as the project director for the Coire Glas development. Named after the bowl-shaped valley that sits hundreds of metres above us in the Highlands, Coire Glas ("grey cauldron" in Gaelic) is set to be the UK's largest "pumped hydro" power plant. Since wind and solar were first proposed as the answer to the UK's energy problems, sceptics have been able to point to a fundamental flaw: intermittency. The wind doesn't always blow and the sun doesn't always shine — so where does the power come from on calm, overcast days? And since Scottish wind farms began supplying meaningful amounts of electricity (almost a third of the UK's supply came from wind last year), the opposite problem has arisen: we often have too much. When the gales blow, there isn't enough transmission capacity to get the resulting electricity to where it's needed further south. To avoid overloading the system, turbines are turned off, in effect chucking away energy we've paid for. The project is huge. Estimates of the final cost hover around £3 billion. Coire Glas will double the UK's energy storage capacity at a stroke, holding 45 gigawatt hours, enough power to supply almost five million homes for 30 hours. To do that will take an estimated six years of building, more than 1,000 workers — housed onsite in a purpose-built camp, due to the remote location — and a serious quantity of firepower: just blasting out the 1.2km exploratory tunnel took 80 tonnes of emulsion explosives.

13 April – Telegraph: Rolls-Royce has been handed a £600m loan from Rachel Reeves to help accelerate the development of Britain’s first mini-nuclear power plant. The Chancellor’s National Wealth Fund confirmed details of the borrowing facility on 13 April, which will be used to build three SMRs at Wylfa on Anglesey. The manufacturing giant was selected as the Government’s preferred partner for the project last year. However, design work will now begin after Rolls-Royce struck an agreement with Great British Energy – Nuclear (GBEN), the quango set up to manage the mini-nuclear programme. GBEN said the contract would unlock the next stage of the project, which aims to help commercialise nascent SMR technology. It will provide Rolls-Royce with funds to complete detailed design work, including regulatory applications and planning approvals. The £600m loan is in addition to £2.6bn that Ms Reeves allocated to the scheme during last year’s spending review. Construction of the power plant itself is not expected to begin until the early 2030s, with the facility set to come online in the mid-2030s. But GBEN is understood to be carrying out ground preparation works now.

Roy Pumfrey for Stop Hinkley April 2026