



Newsround

July 2026

22 May - TUB Berlin: Steve Thomas: Are the Sizewell C (SZC) financing arrangements a model for other European countries? Government claimed SZC Regulated Asset Base (RAB) could be funded by institutional investors, mostly UK-based. Government took 49.5%, institutional investors 23%, UK private investors 15%. Government talked about seeking a balance of risk and reward between investors and consumers, but risk is with consumers/taxpayers, rewards are with investor. The government strategy appears to have been to offer whatever terms were needed with no regard for cost and risk to the public. Still, investors will only finance half the cost. The model will not be used again, so the huge effort completing the Sizewell deal was wasted.

[Hinkley Point C: An update](#)

5 June - AJP News Agency: Rolls-Royce has sparked a backlash over its decision to assign key processes of its Small Modular Reactor (SMR) project to a South Korean firm, raising concerns about the 'Buy British' policy in the UK. [UKs Rolls-Royce Faces Backlash Over SMR Project Partnership with South Korea - Aju Press AMP](#)

8 June – BBC Countryfile Magazine: Spiralling costs, fish discos and vast radioactive waste. Is nuclear really the solution to Britain's energy problem? In an increasingly energy-hungry Britain, is nuclear the best way to meet soaring demand without burning fossil fuels? Not everyone is convinced. Allan Jeffrey has been voicing concerns for over 40 years as part of campaign group Stop Hinkley (SH), which works closely with TASC (Together Against Sizewell C). He doesn't mince words: "Nuclear power stations are toxic radioactive waste factories" and argues that nuclear is "neither clean nor green" saying "large amounts of greenhouse gasses are produced in the nuclear fuel cycle from uranium mining and fuel processing to the building of power stations and waste storage sites and decommissioning old reactors."

[Spiralling costs, fish discos and vast radioactive waste. Is nuclear really the solution to Britain's energy problem? | Countryfile.com](#)

8 June – Energy Live News: EDF has already spent £700 million protecting fish at Hinkley Point C (HPC), including a £50 million "fish disco" – but campaigners warn Britain's biggest new power station could still face fresh delays because of environmental objections. A new video from Britain Remade claims Natural England is pushing for additional measures that could threaten the long-delayed project's planned 2030 start date.

[Fishy tales could set back Hinkley even more - Energy Live News](#)

9 June – Construction News: SZC chief executive Nigel Cann has outlined plans to maximise offsite working on the £38bn nuclear project amid a looming construction skills shortage. He told MPs on the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) this week that productivity was a key risk to the programme and budget of the Suffolk scheme. SZC, which is backed by Hinkley Point C developer EDF as well as the UK Government and other investors, reached financial close last year. Asked by PAC chair Sir Geoffrey Clifton-Brown whether he was confident the Suffolk nuclear plant would be delivered on time and at its lower 'regulatory cost' of £40.5bn, Cann replied: "Absolutely." But he admitted there was work to do to achieve this. "You need to manage your risk as a long project; it's over 10 years," Cann told the committee. "So we absolutely need to focus."

[Sizewell C to move work offsite 'as much as possible' amid skills crisis | Construction News](#)

10 June – West Somerset Free Press: Hundreds of HPC workers involved in unofficial industrial action will need to attend off-site discussions with managers and reaffirm their commitment to an agreement setting out how disputes should be settled before they will be allowed back to work. EDF expects a staggered return to work on the nuclear power station site by the MEH Alliance workers will start on Monday 15th June, with wages docked for part of their absence. A large early morning police presence was needed at the Hinkley C site as tempers flared last week while workers were locked out of the site following their industrial action. The dispute arose after claims a dangerous crane lift on the construction site had put workers at risk.

[Locked out Hinkley C workers told to agree new shifts to be allowed back to work | wsfp.co.uk](#)

10 June – Reuters: France's EDF and UK-based Centrica (CNA.L), are prepared to invest about £800 million (\$1.07 billion) to extend the lifespan of Britain's Sizewell B (SZB) nuclear power station to 2055 from 2035, an EDF

spokesperson told Reuters on 10th June.

[French utility EDF, Centrica eye UK government deal on Sizewell B nuclear plant extension | Reuters](#)

10 June – The Leveller: A host of Somerset groups, from sports to nurseries and a swimming pool, have benefitted from more than £100,000 in funding amid the decommissioning of a nuclear power station. Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS), owned by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA), is involved with the Hinkley Point A (HPA) site, near Bridgwater. Responsible for safely decommissioning the site, the organisation has supported a range of county endeavours with socio-economic funding. From 2025 to 2026, nine community projects in Somerset benefited from around £102,000, including five Good Neighbour grants and four larger awards, helping projects deliver long-term benefits for residents.

[Somerset causes receive £100,000 from Hinkley Point A decommissioning fund – The Somerset Leveller](#)

12 June – Spectator: Will HPC ever open? It was 20 years ago last month that the then Prime Minister Tony Blair announced that nuclear power was “back on agenda with a vengeance”. His White Paper proposed to generate 40% of Britain’s electricity in this way, double the proportion then made up by nuclear. It was on the advice of the then Chief Scientific Adviser, David King, who saw nuclear power as a big part of the battle against climate change. Two decades on, an alternative scenario is beginning to look more and more likely: that Britain will have to spend a few years, at least, with zero nuclear power. The latest snag in Britain’s strangled nuclear renaissance is a demand that EDF, the developers of Hinkley (sic) C nuclear power station, the first to be built in Britain for more than three decades, create new areas of salt marsh to counter the plant’s effects on the local fish population.

12 June – Sightline U308: The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has approved the installation of the Unit 2 Reactor Pressure Vessel (RPV) at Hinkley Point C (HPC) in a much quicker time through its flexible permissioning approach.

[Regulator streamline approvals process for Hinkley Point C Unit 2 reactor installation – SightLine | U308](#)

14 June – Oil Price: Japan plans to rebuild over a dozen nuclear reactors by 2050; China is building seven new ones this year alone; in the U.S., two companies are building a hybrid nuclear-and-gas power plant; Germany admitted killing nuclear was a big mistake. Nuclear is back—and it makes the backbone of a new approach to energy security. “We clearly need more nuclear power and we’re bullish on it,” the president of Microsoft, Brad Smith said recently, as quoted by the Wall Street Journal, which reported that nuclear is back in favour with everyone, but especially Big Tech.

[Nuclear Drives “All of the Above” Trend in Energy Security | OilPrice.com](#)

15 June – Telegraph: Rolls-Royce will build mini nuclear power plants for Sweden in a major boost to the British engineering giant’s ambitions in Europe. The company said that it had won a contest to supply SMRs to Videberg Kraft, a subsidiary of Swedish state energy giant Vattenfall, after a four-year process. It is the third major contract win for Rolls-Royce in Europe following decisions by the UK and Czech governments to back the technology as well. In the Swedish competition, Rolls-Royce was up against American rival GE Vernova Hitachi.

17 June – Bridgwater Mercury (BM): Combwich residents have spoken out about the lack of facilities in their village following the closure of its last pub. The Anchor Inn, closed its doors to the community last September and is now used to house HPC workers. The small village community, around seven miles from Bridgwater and with idyllic views over the River Parrett, is already reeling after the closure of their only shop in March 2025, and their post office in 2023.

[Life in Combwich - with no shop, bus and a pub that's an HMO | Bridgwater Mercury](#)

17 June – BM: A Somerset MP has accused HPC of having a “bullying culture”, a lack of community engagement and “naïve” financial planning while questioning other nuclear industry leaders in parliament this month. Tiverton and Minehead MP Rachel Gilmour made the comments as part of the Public Accounts Committee’s (PAC’s) oral evidence session with industry leaders and government officials bosses on 8th June. The Liberal Democrat representative has since reshared video on social media of her comments in the committee earlier this week, 15th June, and said that she’s met with EDF Europe’s chief executive and the nuclear regulator to raise her concerns.

[Rachel Gilmour MP accuses Hinkley Point C of “bullying” | Bridgwater Mercury](#)

18 June – Times: French state-owned utility EDF warned on Thursday that three nuclear plants face production curbs next week because of high temperatures on the Rhone and Garonne rivers as France grapples with its second heatwave this spring. Nuclear output in France has been relatively consistent this year as production has continued to recover from lows hit several years ago, but exceptional heatwaves at the end of the northern hemisphere spring have raised water temperatures to levels that put reactors at risk of output curtailment.

19 June- New Civil Engineer (NCE): Members of Parliament on the House of Commons PAC have quizzed representatives from SZC and the government on the project's progress. SZC CEO Nigel Cann used the session on 16 June as an opportunity to provide updates on several areas of construction, including the roads and railways needed to support the construction of the nuclear power plant on the Suffolk coast. Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ) officials also appeared before the committee, including permanent secretary Jonathan Brearley, second permanent secretary Clive Maxwell and director of new nuclear projects Caroline Botwood. Cann described the risks he sees SZC facing between now and putting the foundations in for unit 1, something termed "J-zero". The two planned units will produce 3.2GW of electricity, enough for 6M homes. "It is a long project - over 10 years - so we absolutely need to focus. I describe my challenges between now and what we call J-zero, which is putting the foundations in for unit 1, as being about retiring the equipment risk by putting as much equipment built in Orwell, which is our one million-square-foot warehouse that we have got ready to go, and retiring the risk in the enabling works. He also said he wanted to "modularise" SZC. It has previously been described by SZC as a large modular reactor (LMR).

23 June – The Engineer: Tilly Spencer, Chief Technical Officer (CTO) at SZC, on the new methods being adopted for the UK's next-gen nuclear infrastructure. "As CTO, I lead approximately 150 engineers who are responsible for the project's design, safety case, and technical assurance. Put simply, our job is to make sure that when the time comes to switch on the reactor, we can be confident that what we have built is exactly what we intended to build both for the communities that surround the project, and for the UK. One of the biggest advantages we have is replication, we are not starting with a blank sheet of paper at SZC. More than 80% of our main power plant will replicate the design already being built at HPC. Replication is often discussed in terms of cost and efficiency, and those benefits are significant. But for engineers, replication means something else too. It gives us the opportunity to learn. Every day, the teams at HPC identify ways to improve constructability, productivity and delivery. Those lessons are being fed directly into SZC in real time. Rather than repeating the same challenges, we can build on what has already been achieved."

[INWED 2026: Building Sizewell C - The Engineer](#)

24 June – Telegraph: Four SMRs will be built at the site of a former coal power station in Nottinghamshire under plans submitted to the Government. The energy giants EDF and Holtec have formally lodged proposals for what would be one of Britain's first SMRs, which ministers hope will usher in a new era of nuclear energy. The reactors will generate 1.3 gigawatts, equivalent to the electricity needed to power around 1.2 million homes and could come online early in the next decade. However, its developers have said the project could power a giant data centre to be built by property company Tritax. EDF and Holtec unveiled plans last year to build SMRs at the Cottam coal station in Nottinghamshire as part of Donald Trump's state visit and a "tech prosperity deal" between the UK and US. A series of small-scale nuclear projects in Britain are being planned. The most advanced is a project in Anglesey to use reactors designed by Rolls-Royce, which is being supported by £600m in taxpayer funding. Amazon-backed X-Energy and US company Last Energy have also said they hope to build SMRs in the UK.

26 June – NCE: An MP's claim that the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) increased scrutiny of HPC over bullying allegations has been contested by the regulator, NCE understands. Liberal Democrat MP for Tiverton and Minehead Rachel Gilmour raised concerns about bullying at HPC during the House of Commons PAC evidence session on SZC on 8 June. During the session, Gilmour said: "I want to ask about bullying [...] my constituency includes HPA, HPB and HPC. Once elected, I was inundated with whistleblowers and people who have great concerns about the bullying culture at HPC, to such an extent that I had a meeting with Simone Rossi, the CEO of EDF Europe, and the ONR. "The ONR felt that the situation was so bad that they had to put in extra scrutiny. I was joined by WhistleblowersUK in that." However, NCE understands that it is ONR's position that no additional regulatory measures or scrutiny have been required at HPC for any bullying or harassment issues.

[Regulator says additional scrutiny was not required over Hinkley Point C bullying concerns | New Civil Engineer](#)

28 June – Times: Andy Burnham should ditch net zero, says SH Patron Dale Vince. Spending billions on green policy is indefensible in a cost-of-living crisis, argues the Labour donor and renewable energy boss.

28 June – Somerset Live: Bridgwater is changing. HPC is in the process of being built, bringing new jobs and opportunities to the town. Less than five miles away, a new gigafactory in Puriton (Gravity) could change life forever too. HPC enjoys broad support. EDF say that only 14% of residents polled oppose the project. But when we visited Bridgwater there were concerns about rents being hiked up by incoming workers. With the buzz of debate around

immigration in Bridgwater, we wanted to talk to migrant workers to hear their side of the story.

[Migrant workers on life in Bridgwater as Hinkley Point sees new arrivals and new debates in town | Somerset Live](#)

2 July – Guardian: A consortium led by the billionaire industrialist Michał Sołowow has announced plans to build 14 SMRs on three sites across the UK, including the location of a former nuclear plant in Gloucestershire. The Polish entrepreneur and rally driver plans to use £35bn of private capital to roll out enough SMRs to power the equivalent of 8m UK homes for more than 60 years, or even power datacentre investments alongside Google. Sołowow's nuclear development company, SGE, plans to make the "significant investment" of between £2.2bn to £2.5bn in each 300MW reactor alongside a string of industrial partners including the US manufacturer GE Vernova and Japanese industrial conglomerate Hitachi. The consortium, known as SGE SMR, hopes to secure three sites for the Boiling Water Reactors (BWRs) by this time next year as well as a government support contract which would guarantee a "competitive" price for its electricity once it starts generating in 2034. It has not disclosed which sites it hopes to use for the GE Vernova Hitachi BWRX-300 design, or which energy company would be the operator. However, the Guardian understands the consortium has submitted an application to use the Oldbury site in South Gloucestershire which was earmarked earlier this year for the development of SMRs.

[Billionaire to invest £35bn in small modular nuclear reactors rollout across UK | Energy industry | The Guardian](#)

7 July – Construction Review: The Great British Energy SMR project has reached another major delivery milestone after Great British Energy – Nuclear appointed the Litmus Nuclear joint venture to oversee engineering assurance for the UK's first SMR development. The contract, valued at £360 million (about \$487 million), strengthens project governance while preparing the Wylfa development in North Wales for construction, licensing and future investment decisions.

[£360M Great British Energy SMR Project Advances with Amentum and Cavendish Construction Partnership](#)

7 July – World Nuclear News (WNN): Chiltern Vital Group has signed a letter of intent with Cambridge Atomworks to consider the construction of the prototype Odin microreactor on the Berkeley Green Science and Technology Park in Gloucestershire.

[Agreement could see prototype microreactor built at Berkeley - World Nuclear News](#)

8 July – FT: SZB life extended as part of UK's net zero push. The Suffolk facility started running in 1995 and remains Britain's most recently built nuclear installation. HMG has guaranteed the price of SZB's electricity at £70.50/MWh from 2035 until 2055, a move that will potentially make it one of the world's longest-serving nuclear plants.

Roy Pumfrey for Stop Hinkley July 2026