



Newsround

May 2026

13 April – Telegraph: Rolls-Royce (R-R) has been handed a £600m loan 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, which will be used to build three small modular reactors (SMRs) at Wylfa on the Welsh island of Anglesey. The manufacturing giant was selected as the Government's preferred partner for the project last year. Design work will now begin after R-R 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 R-R 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.

14 April - East Anglian Daily Times (EADT): Visitors to a prized Suffolk nature reserve say the experience is being ruined by "constant banging" noise coming from the Sizewell C (SZC) construction site. People visiting RSPB Minsmere in East Suffolk have been leaving reviews that the noise coming from the SZC construction site is impacting the tranquillity of the site. In a post on TripAdvisor, one visitor named Ron H, told people not to go as the noise from SZC could "ruin your day".

[RSPB Minsmere visitors concerned about Sizewell C noise | East Anglian Daily Times](#)

16 April – FT: The UK government will scrap an extra charge that fossil fuel power stations must pay for their carbon dioxide emissions, as cost concerns rise up the political agenda. The Department for Business and Trade said the carbon price support fee would cease to apply from April 2028, arguing the current charge of £18 per tonne of CO₂ emitted had successfully contributed to the closure of Britain's coal-fired power plants.

17 April – PV Magazine: New metric shows renewables are 53% cheaper than nuclear power. A new metric for assessing total system costs puts a least-cost mix of offshore wind and solar at about €46 (\$54.20)/MWh in a future climate-neutral energy system for Denmark. Researchers tell pv magazine that figure is less than half the equivalent cost of nuclear under the same conditions. A peer-reviewed study using Denmark as a case study has found that renewable energy portfolios outperform nuclear power on total system cost in the modeled future integrated Danish energy system, once the expenses of grid balancing, storage, and sector coupling are included in the comparison.

[New metric shows renewables are 53% cheaper than nuclear power – pv magazine International](#)

20 April – SCRAM: A fresh opinion poll conducted in the middle of the Scottish election campaign has found widespread support for renewable energy sources to reduce energy bills and tackle climate change. When asked about Scotland's energy security needs, support for a uranium-fuelled nuclear future polled a 'miserable' 14%, compared to 55% support for harvesting home grown wind, water and solar sources.

[SCRAM - No2NuclearPower](#)

22 April – Mirror: Fears over new Chernobyl 'nuclear accident' as Vladimir Putin risks catastrophe. Russia is launching drones and missiles on flight paths near the disused Chernobyl nuclear plant, Ukraine's top state prosecutor has warned, ahead of the 40th anniversary of the Chernobyl disaster. Fears of another major nuclear disaster are growing as Russia continues to launch drones and missiles along flight paths near the disused Chernobyl power plant.

[Fears over new Chernobyl 'nuclear accident' as Vladimir Putin risks catastrophe - The Mirror](#)

22 April – World Nuclear News (WNN): What we know now about the causes of the 1986 Chernobyl accident and the effect it had on people's health, plus the story of how the alarm was raised internationally at a nuclear power plant in Sweden. And how the lessons learned led to a global safety culture which has underpinned the widespread plans for new nuclear capacity. (First of four-part story).

<https://world-nuclear-news.org/articles/chernobyl-at-40-the-accident-its-impact-and-how-it-changed-the-worlds-nuclear-energy-industry>

24 April - Burnham-on-sea.com: Burnham-On-Sea's MP Ashley Fox has called on Somerset Council to act urgently to support tourism businesses in Brean, warning that continued delays in addressing the ongoing use of Pontins for Hinkley Point C (HPC) worker accommodation are putting local livelihoods and the wider visitor economy at risk. The MP says the situation — now stretching into a new summer season — has left many Brean businesses facing mounting financial pressure, with little sign of the mitigation measures that should already have been triggered under the existing planning agreement.

26 April – The Observer: This week marks the 40th anniversary of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear plant in Ukraine. The disaster was a singular moment in history in at least two ways: it contributed to the collapse of the Soviet Union and it catalysed a new era of international environmental action. Beyond that, reactions to it offer a point of comparison, not least on the way the US engaged with the world then and how it does now.

[I saw Chernobyl bind us together. Breaking those ties is ...](#)

28 April – New civil Engineer: AtkinsRéalis has formed a partnership with the University of Oxford's Oxford Robotics Institute (ORI) to accelerate the use of autonomous robots in the nuclear and wider energy sectors. The collaboration will scale a programme of work already undertaken in the UK, where ORI-developed systems have been integrated into AtkinsRéalis platforms for autonomous navigation, mapping and radiation “hotspot” detection at nuclear sites, including at Sellafield. The organisations said initial activity will concentrate on turning those proven UK deployments, such as mobile inspection vehicles and manipulation systems, into deployable products for international customers.

[AtkinsRéalis and Oxford Robotics Institute form partnership to develop robots for nuclear work | New Civil Engineer](#)

30 April – PV Mag: Renewables growth cut Spain's electricity bills by 24.2% over the past two years. Spain and Portugal are 53% less exposed to gas price volatility than they were three years ago, according to a new report from Positive Money.

[Renewables growth cut Spain's electricity bills by 24.2% over the past two years – pv magazine International](#)

2 May – Telegraph: HPC is facing fresh delays as a green quango demands extra nature protections on top of a controversial “fish disco”. Natural England has told developer EDF that existing plans to stop aquatic life in the Severn Estuary from being sucked into the Somerset plant's cooling pipes will not be enough to satisfy environmental rules. Sam Richards, the chief executive of Britain Remade, a Right-leaning think tank, said: “HPC is already the most expensive nuclear power station ever built. “It also has more fish protection measures than any reactor built anywhere in the world. “For Natural England to now demand even more mitigation – regardless of the wider impact on the project and for minimal added benefit to nature – shows just how out of touch with reality they really are. “This out of control quango has become a direct threat to Britain's energy security.”

3 May – Natural England: Recent reporting on HPC contains a number of inaccuracies regarding Natural England's role, legal duties, and position on fish protection measures. Natural England is firmly committed to enabling nationally significant infrastructure while ensuring compliance with environmental law. In building a new nuclear power station, EDF is delivering a complex and much needed project and Natural England along with other regulators are working alongside them to ensure that happens lawfully. The Severn estuary is globally unique and a hugely important place supporting the many communities and economies that surround it. Any short-term costs to protect its ecosystem are an investment in its future. Claims that Natural England is blocking the project, acting disproportionately, changing its position, or ignoring evidence are incorrect. Our advice has been consistent and measured and has not changed. The mitigation measures in question were agreed by all parties as part of the original

Development Consent Order (DCO) in 2013. Natural England's role is to advise on whether those agreed measures will be effective, not to introduce new requirements. There are also clear Operational Safety reasons to implement these measures. This blog refutes those inaccuracies.

7 May – Somerset Live: Fresh images capture progress inside Hinkley Point C's first nuclear reactor - including the world's largest steam turbine.

[Inside Hinkley C as 'tough' phase picks up pace - Somerset Live](#)

11 May – Telegraph: The UK generated more carbon emissions from its energy supplies last year despite Ed Miliband's renewables push. In a blow to the Energy Secretary's decarbonisation drive, greenhouse gas emissions released from electricity producers were up 2.8pc in 2025, according to energy analysts Montel. That is despite a flood of new wind and solar farms being connected to the grid, alongside a planned move to switch off the UK's last coal power station. Montel blamed the increase on bottlenecks across the UK's power network, which leads to turbines being switched off when the grid is too congested to accept their power. This lost generating capacity then has to be replaced with electricity from gas-fired power stations, leading to extra emissions.

Roy Pumfrey for Stop Hinkley May 2026