



Newsround

August 2026

13 July – PBC Today: Turner & Townsend and NUVIA have been appointed as the nuclear technical verifiers for Hinkley Point C (HPC). This means the two firms will be responsible for assessing the technical aspects of the nuclear plants' eventual decommissioning. Every reactor needs a plan. Under the Energy Act 2008, all nuclear power stations are required to have a fully funded Decommissioning and Waste Management Plan (DWMP) in place before they are allowed to generate power. [Hinkley Point C nuclear technical verifiers appointed for Decommissioning Fund](#)

18 July – Interesting Engineering: Nuclear-powered ship design with dual molten salt reactors wins approval from US body. The ship is powered by two marine Molten Salt Reactors (MSRs), a type of Small Modular Reactor (SMR). [US body approves nuclear-powered ship design with two modular reactors](#)

20 July – Press and Journal: Andy Burnham's new Energy Secretary is Miatta Fahnbulleh – an MP who was first elected just two years ago. She was chief executive of the New Economics Foundation from 2017 to 2023 and previously worked at the IPPR as the Director of Policy and Research. She was the head of cities in the policy unit at the Cabinet Office from 2011 to 2013. [Ed Miliband OUT as energy chief in Andy Burnham's government](#)

23 July – Telegraph: Two ageing nuclear power stations will stay operational until 2030 to help keep Britain's lights on. EDF said on Wednesday it had decided to extend the life of the Hartlepool and Heysham 1 plants for an extra two years after safety inspections of their cores. The sites have a combined capacity of about 2.3 gigawatts, enough to power around four million homes.

27 July – NS Energy: There are two types of people inside the nuclear community – those that think the greatest challenge facing the industry is economics, and those who believe it is public acceptance. We can all agree that the nuclear industry faces serious challenges. Here we are, decades into the climate crisis and a couple of years past a global energy shock yet at the moment nuclear's share of global electricity continues to trend down, not up. [The Two Sides of Nuclear's Challenge - NS Energy](#)

28 July – Telegraph: Kemi Badenoch has chosen an abominable political moment to flirt with climate nihilism. The anti-green backlash has already peaked and electrotech is fast winning the global economic argument. The great European fires of 2026 are psychologically different from earlier heatwaves. Sensors have recorded temperatures of 1,100C in the convection firestorms of the French Gironde, hot enough to create pyrocumulonimbus conditions that generate their own wind systems.

30 July – Daily Mirror: A major incident has been declared after a blaze engulfed a forest at a National Trust site and hundreds of holidaymakers were evacuated from a caravan site. Firefighters rushed to the scene of the blaze in Dunwich Heath, near Sizewell B (SZB) nuclear plant. [Drone images show Suffolk wildfire devastation as helicopters scrambled - The Mirror](#)

30 July – Daily Mail: A wildfire hitting a nuclear power station would be very unlikely to trigger an emergency, scientists said today - amid speculation about a Suffolk blaze near Sizewell B. [Scientists reveal what would happen if a nuclear power station was hit by wildfire | Daily Mail Online](#)

30 July – Welsh Parliament: Janet Finch-Saunders MS recently took part in an official visit to the Wylfa site on Anglesey, followed by the new Gwyndod site, to learn more about the future of nuclear energy in North Wales and the opportunities presented by SMRs. [MS Visits Wylfa and Gwyndod Sites to Discuss North Wales' Nuclear Future / AS yn ymweld â safleoedd Wylfa a Gwyndod i drafod dyfodol niwclear y Gogledd | Janet Finch-Saunders MS/AS](#)

3 August – Telegraph: Ten historic British villages threatened by Labour’s net zero obsession. The spectre of Chinese-made solar panels, subsidised wind turbines and humming substations looms over this once green and pleasant land.

8 August – West Somerset Free Press (WSFP): Stop Hinkley (SH) campaigners highlight storage of nuclear waste in West Somerset. Anti-nuclear campaigners staged a protest near the cluster of Hinkley Point power stations on the West Somerset coast on Thursday (August 6) to coincide with ‘Hiroshima Day’. It was the 81st anniversary of the dropping of the world’s first nuclear bomb on the Japanese city in 1945. Members of SH gathered beneath the Hinkley Point sea wall to also highlight how nuclear waste would be stored on the site for centuries. SH has been focussed on holding HPC owner EDF to account for the protection of the public, wildlife, and the environment since the early 1980s. One campaigner, Katy Attwater, from Timberscombe, said: “I have been campaigning against the building of HPC since 2008 when I joined this amazing local protest group. “We felt Thursday was an appropriate day to be reminded, given the danger of nuclear energy and its deadly by-product, highly reactive spent fuel, which requires isolation for thousands to hundreds of thousands of years - nobody actually knows how long. We wished to draw attention to the danger arising from the radioactive waste that will be stored on site at Hinkley Point for at least 100 years.” [Stop Hinkley campaigners highlight storage of nuclear waste in West Somerset | wsfp.co.uk](https://wsfp.co.uk)

11 August – WSFP: Contractors ordered to improve safety after HPC worker seriously hurt. Contractors building HPC have been given more time to comply with a legal notice served after a worker was seriously injured by a formwork panel which fell about 95 feet on to him. The incident happened in June and resulted in improvement notices being served by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) on Bouygues Travaux Publics SAS and Laing O’Rourke Delivery Ltd. The two firms have been operating as partners in a BYLOR joint venture constructing the power station. [Contractors ordered to improve safety after Hinkley C worker seriously hurt | West Somerset Free Press](#)

14 August – Private Eye: The bizarre public-private finance arrangement for the construction of Sizewell C (SZC) is already paying off – for the lawyers. Linklaters was advising the Government. Taxpayers provide 90% of the funding while private investors including EDF and Centrica get control and eventually trouser double-digit returns. No wonder Linklaters is pleased. A government contract initially worth £16m had by last July become £32m.

14 August – BBC: A decision whether a holiday park can be expanded to house workers for SZC has been delayed after no-one from the project showed up to a planning meeting. Britannia Jinkey Jersey Ltd, which owns Pontins Pakefield, near Lowestoft, wants to develop an additional 340 caravan pitches at the site. At an East Suffolk Council planning meeting, Conservative councillor Paul Ashdown criticised SZC for not being "bothered to come and sit with us" and moved to defer the decision to allow for a site visit. A Sizewell C spokesperson said: "We worked closely with local partners to help develop and submit this application. We will continue to work with all parties involved to support the next steps."

17 August – Local Government Lawyer: The subsidiary responsible for a new nuclear power station currently under construction is a public authority for the purposes of the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, the Upper Tribunal (UTT) has ruled. In NNB Generation Company (HPC) Ltd v Information Commissioner & Anor [2026] UKUT 241 (AAC), Upper Tribunal Judge Jacobs dismissed an appeal by NNB Generation Company (HPC) Ltd against a First-tier Tribunal (FTT) decision.

The case arose after NNB Generation Company, the EDF subsidiary responsible for the power station known as ‘HPC’, refused an information request from Fish Legal in March 2024. It refused to process the request under the Environmental Information Regulations (EIR) because it did not consider itself a public authority. Fish Legal appealed the refusal to the Information Commissioner, which found that NNB was a public authority under regulation 2(2)(c) of the Regulations. The FTT later confirmed that decision, leading NNB to appeal to the UTT on three grounds. Following a hearing in April 2026, Upper Tribunal Judge Jacobs ultimately dismissed the appeal, holding that the First-tier

Tribunal had not made an error on a point of law. One of the main thrusts of the appeal centred on the FTT's decision that NNB was vested with special powers.

18 August – WSFP: Anglers win Hinkley information battle. Hinkley generation company must now respond to requests for information. An anglers' pressure group has won a landmark legal ruling confirming that the company building HPC cannot refuse to answer environmental information requests simply because it is privately owned. A London tribunal ruled this week that NNB Generation Company, the EDF subsidiary responsible for HPC, must now respond to requests for information about the power station's cooling water intake, environmental protection measures and possible environmental compensation.

A spokesperson for the pressure group Fish Legal, which uses environmental law to protect rivers, lakes and coastal fisheries on behalf of anglers, said: "The company must now either provide the information or identify specific legal grounds under environmental law for withholding it". "The judgment confirms that when a private company is entrusted with major public functions and granted exceptional statutory powers, private ownership does not necessarily place its decisions beyond public scrutiny.

18 August – FT: Short sellers have reaped large profits from betting against SMR companies, as the collapse of the "hype cycle" that had sent their share prices soaring wipes billions off their market value. Funds made an estimated \$2.1bn shorting three stocks — US-listed NuScale Power, Nano Nuclear and Sam Altman-backed Oklo — over the past year.

25 August – Whitehaven News: A police officer who took respirators from a disposal bin at Sellafield and sold them online has been sacked for gross misconduct. Civil Nuclear Constabulary (CNC) officer Wayne Clark sold ten respirators belonging to the force over a period of around two years, receiving a total of £1,630.22. The investigation began after an individual attempted to import one of the respirators into Singapore and it was traced as equipment bought by the CNC. [Police officer sold Sellafield respirators taken from bin | Whitehaven News](#)

25 August – FT: SZC nuclear project suffers setback after road building delayed. Galliford Try has been replaced as the key contractor following disagreement about cost of work. Construction of two key access roads for Britain's SZC nuclear power station has been delayed, and the main contractor replaced, in a setback at one of the UK's biggest infrastructure projects. The delay threatens to prolong disruption around the Suffolk construction site and comes as SZC seeks to demonstrate that it can avoid the delays and cost overruns that have plagued its sister project, HPC in Somerset.

26 August – Oil Price: Extreme heat and drought are cutting nuclear and hydropower output just as cooling demand increases electricity consumption. Hungary's Paks plant fell to barely 10% of capacity, while heat and environmental constraints have repeatedly curtailed French nuclear generation. Europe will need more storage, flexible demand, resilient grids and climate-adapted power plants to cope with hotter summers. [Europe's Heatwaves Are Putting Nuclear Power Under Pressure | OilPrice.com](#)

26 August – Times: Sizing up a nuclear power plant is like a trip into space. Having booked weeks in advance, I donned hard hat, hi-vis and gloves to tour SZB, Having gazed out at our local nuclear facility for years, it was strange to be inside. Not, alas, in the spooky white orb where uranium atoms are split but at least walking along high metal gantries in the deafening turbine hall. To take a tour of SZB you must book weeks in advance, so EDF can check you're not a terrorist. Then, in hard hats, hi-vis, ear-defenders and gloves, you pass through airport-style security on an "empty pocket" site visit. No phones allowed, nor even a pen. Reassurance was the core message. Carved into a boulder in the entrance is the motto "Safety is our overriding priority". (I'm reminded of Labour's "EdStone".) Police with sub-machineguns saunter around. "If someone was up on a roof, they would shoot," said our guide, "though not to kill." Staff can be given booze or drug tests at any moment and those who fail are fired on the spot. It was

fascinating, like visiting a space station, with busy men in colour-coded boilersuits performing mysterious tasks. And as a non-science person (the tour's sole woman) I was struck by how the fuel may have changed since James Watt's day, but nuclear is still just steam power.

26 August – Construction News: Laing O'Rourke and Bouygues Travaux Publics joint venture Bylor has complied with a fire enforcement notice issued over safety failings at HPC. ONR served the notice in December after identifying shortfalls in fire safety arrangements at the nuclear power station construction site. Bylor was censured under fire safety legislation after the ONR found it had failed to implement effective planning, organisation, control, monitoring and review of preventive and protective measures. In a statement this month, the ONR said: "Bylor JV has now demonstrated to the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) that it has suitable systems in place to manage fire risks effectively." [Bylor Hinkley Point C fire enforcement notice lifted | Construction News](#)

29 August – Aljazeera: Ukrainian nuclear power plant without external power for over a week. This is the 27th time since Russia invaded Ukraine that the Zaporizhzhia plant has had to rely on emergency diesel supplies.

29 August – Express: 'I oppose Natural England - here's why you should as well'. Tom Willerton-Gartside tells Daily Express readers why he stands against a powerful Whitehall Quango. I oppose Natural England. You might have recoiled instantly reading those words. After all, it was created in 2006 to manage the natural environment for the benefit of present and future generations. Natural England is an unelected government quango with a de facto veto over our industries, our energy prices, our jobs, and our homes. Today, across much of Britain, projects effectively need the quango's permission to become reality. If they object, proposals can be dragged through the courts, delayed for years, and loaded with costly new conditions – or, worse still, forced into cancellation. From bat tunnels and cancelled kite festivals to thousands of blocked homes due to snails, the list of things Natural England has said no to seems never-ending. It even objected to the construction of their own new office in Cornwall. Perhaps the most egregious example is the £700 million fish disco at HPC. This saga has dragged out the construction of Britain's first new nuclear power station this century for around a decade – still now we do not know whether it will be enough to get Natural England's approval. Earlier this year, reports suggested the 2030 switch-on date will be delayed again because the quango has now decided the fish disco is not, on its own, sufficient. It is enough to make you wonder whether they want nuclear power at all. Their chair, Tony Juniper, certainly has form. In 2005, as the then Executive Director of "Friends of the Earth", he wrote "Say no to Labour's nuclear nightmare", arguing that new nuclear power stations in Britain were not "justified" and "would greatly increase the risk of nuclear proliferation" – this in a country which already has a nuclear weapon. At the 2010 election, Juniper stood as the Green Party's parliamentary candidate for Cambridge, on a platform to "phase out nuclear power and resolutely oppose any new nuclear power stations". He lost, but his activism continued.

Roy Pumfrey for Stop Hinkley August 2026