

Spring 2022

The Hinkley Point C
community magazine

Plugged in

INSIDE:

- Hinkley Point C's socio-economic benefits
- Local learner in project placement first
- How a nuclear reactor works



**Delivering our
nuclear future**

NIGEL'S WELCOME



Welcome to the spring edition of **Plugged in**.

The last couple of months have seen some significant announcements relating to energy and the importance of nuclear power for Britain.

In April, Prime Minister Boris Johnson visited the Hinkley Point C site, joined by the Business and Energy Secretary Kwasi Kwarteng, to launch the Government's British Energy Security Strategy. Choosing Hinkley Point C as the backdrop for this underlines the importance of the project and the role of nuclear within the strategy. With wind and solar, reliable nuclear electricity will help Britain cut its reliance on the imported gas that is driving today's record prices.

April also saw Energy Minister Greg Hands open one of three new Training Centres of Excellence for Hinkley Point C. It's part of a continued investment for education, skills and employment support by providing training routes for people of all backgrounds – developing the next generation of skilled workers. At the same time we also published our 2022 Socio-Economic Impact Report, which shows how we're making a difference to people in the South West. (see right).

Nigel Cann
Hinkley Point C Delivery Director

DELIVERING LOCAL BENEFITS

Hinkley Point C's 2022 Socio-Economic Impact Report highlights the wider benefits being delivered by the project in the South West. Here's just some of what we've delivered so far:

£4.1 BILLION
spent with South West companies

922
apprentices trained

3,800
British suppliers



£123 MILLION
community investment

Find out more on pages 8-9.



SKILLS BOOST FOR SOMERSET

The Minister of State for Energy, Clean Growth and Climate Change, Greg Hands, has opened the new Welding Centre of Excellence at Bridgwater and Taunton College. It will train and qualify 500 welders a year, benefitting local people and meeting skills shortages in the South West and across Britain.

Many trainees live in the surrounding area and will take advantage of the 4,000 jobs being created for Hinkley Point C's next phase, which will see miles of pipes and electrical cables being fitted across the power station.

Sustained investment improves social mobility

The opportunities provided by Hinkley Point C are playing an important role in improving social mobility in the South West – making a difference to people who need support.

The welding facility is the latest Centre of Excellence to be opened in support of the Hinkley Point C project, which has now invested a total of £24 million into education, skills and employment support. A fourth facility,

the Mechanical Centre of Excellence, is also due to open in Cannington this summer.

The centres will provide new routes to people who are looking to start a career in construction, regardless of their background or skill set. New training courses have been launched, including the government's Skills Bootcamp scheme, T Level work experience placements and supported traineeships.

"It's really heartening to see the positive socio-economic benefits of Hinkley Point C continuing to be delivered right here in Somerset – driving levelling up of our communities and making a difference to the lives and future prospects for thousands of people."

Paula Hewitt, Deputy Chief Executive at Somerset County Council

MAJOR MILESTONE ACHIEVED

The minister also visited Hinkley Point C to officially open the Hinkley Point C Training Centre.

The building contains a suite of reactor control room simulators, which will be instrumental in training the reactor operators who will oversee the generation of low-carbon energy for millions of homes.

Andrew Peppin, Training Facility and Simulator Manager, said: "This is a hugely significant moment and a big step forward towards running an operational power station.

"We'll be training a group of people who'll have the secure generation of low-carbon electricity for six million UK homes at their fingertips.

"It's a big responsibility, which is why handing over this high-quality and authentic training facility was such an important milestone."

GET IN TOUCH

Have an interesting story you'd like to share, or know someone who has?

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Vicki's welcome



In this issue, it has been a real pleasure to speak with some of the young people benefitting from the opportunities available at Hinkley Point C. Turn to page 5 to find out more about Will Rose, our first-ever Digital Engineer T Level student, and page 10 for our interview with Meg Moore, who will be one of the Reactor Operators keeping the project running.

This year we have continued our work with the Hinkley policing team, with Police Community Support Officer Jake Dade focusing on traffic and speeding in the community. Meanwhile, our Community Safety Officer, Nicola Hale, has been out and about understanding the issues at the heart of the community. Read more on page 11.

I've also been heartened to learn about the amazing work undertaken by the Minehead Eye (see page 6) and how our funding has helped to support young people.

Vicki Dingwall, Plugged in Editor

BRINGING MEMORIES TO LIGHT

People living with dementia are being supported at a memory café made possible by the HPC Community Fund.

A £5,000 grant allowed Sedgemoor Dementia Action Alliance to create the weekly café for local people living with dementia, their carers and relatives.

Available in the Hub at Bridgwater's Angel Place Shopping Centre, the café surrounds people with items they will be familiar with from their past. These unlock memories from yesteryear and help to spark conversations and stories.

The grant has also helped the group to fund a reminiscence worker, pay volunteers' expenses and provide refreshments.

The HPC Community Fund Small Grants Programme is part of Hinkley Point C's £20 million funding commitment and is managed by the Somerset Community Foundation (SCF).

Val Bishop, SCF Programmes Director, said: "We're so pleased that this grant has enabled Sedgemoor Dementia Action Alliance to increase the level of support on offer to improve the lives of families impacted by dementia."



Small grants funding

The Small Grants Programme is for organisations with an annual income of less than £100,000. Grants of up to £5,000 can be awarded or, in exceptional circumstances, £10,000 over three years. Apply at ukcf.secure.force.com/forms/somersetcf/hpcsmallgrants.



WILL ROSE Digital Engineer T Level student

Will Rose from Cannington is keen to follow a career in construction and believes he's found the ideal way to go about it.

Will, 16, is the first student from Bridgwater and Taunton College studying for a T Level (equivalent to three A Levels) in Design, Surveying and Planning. As part of this great new national T Level initiative, he spends two days per week on work placement as a Digital Engineer at Hinkley Point C.

He said: "I'm working under supervision, helping with modelling and problem-solving on real construction applications. I'm learning so much. It's giving me a genuine insight into what a job in construction and engineering is all about. I can't imagine getting this level of experience anywhere else at my age."

Will has family members already working at Hinkley Point A and B. He's excited to be part of Europe's largest construction project and get a first-hand view of the scale of the

operation. "It's a fantastic thing to see," he said. "The site is massive and so different to anything I've ever experienced before. It's really opened my eyes to all the different areas of construction."

Looking ahead, Will intends to sign up for a Degree Apprenticeship in Construction. He'd love that apprenticeship to be at Hinkley Point C, of course, but wherever he ends up, he believes his experience will give him a head start over other candidates who've followed a more traditional A Level course.

"If you know what you want to do in your career, then T Levels are an ideal route to follow," he added. "I'm really enjoying it and learning things that are so useful and practical. It's convinced me that my choice of a career in construction is the right one."

A WONDERFUL ADDITION

Travis Redfern, Digital Engineer Apprentice, has been overseeing Will's work at Hinkley Point C. He said: "Will's eagerness to learn and take on new responsibilities has been really motivating. This passion and eagerness to help has massively added to our team in a positive way."

"Some tasks can be drawn out, and having Will's support during these processes has significantly reduced the time it takes to complete them. He has been a wonderful addition to the team."

"T Levels are fantastic. They're giving students here a real-life example of what the industry is like and the skills required – all the while not limiting them to one specific area of construction."

£5,000 for refugee charity



Taunton-based CHARIS is the latest charity to benefit from the HPC Way Safe Day fund.

CHARIS, which settles refugee

families from countries including Ukraine, Syria and Afghanistan in the South West, has received £5,050. The total is determined by the number of days and months each quarter where a range of safety targets have been met at Hinkley Point C.

CHARIS's Gordon East said: "The money will make such a difference and we're excited to put it towards a transformative project to provide sustainable services and support to refugees in our local area."

SUPPORTING STOGURSEY SCHOOLCHILDREN

Hinkley Point C's transport partner, Somerset Passenger Solutions (SPS), recently offered free transportation for local schoolchildren from Stogursey during an educational trip to Carymoor, a nature reserve and education centre.

The schoolchildren donned their wellies and macs before heading out for a fun

day of learning and participating in craft sessions after journeying to Castle Cary.

Jim Treadaway, Driver, SPS, said: "It was a unique learning experience for the children, who were buzzing on their way back. It is rare to get such enthusiastic high fives as passengers disembark. It was a very enjoyable and rewarding day!"



DID YOU KNOW?

- T Levels were launched in September 2020 and come straight after GCSEs.
- These two-year courses have been developed in collaboration with employers and businesses so that the content meets industry needs and prepares students for work, further training or study.
- T Levels offer students a mixture of classroom learning and on-the-job experience during an industry placement of at least 315 hours (approximately 45 days).

CONTACT

HPCEmploymentAffairsUnit
@nnb-edfenergy.com for more details on T Levels.

COMMUNITY FEATURE: MINEHEAD EYE



Improving prospects for young locals

As part of the development of Hinkley Point C, we have committed £20 million of community funding to improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of communities that are affected by the construction of the new nuclear power station.

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

One such group benefitting from community funding is Minehead Eye, a youth and community organisation. An award of £148,840 is helping the centre to put on a range of activities and host events for several clubs to ensure young people aren't disadvantaged by lack of opportunity.

Paul Matcham, Minehead Eye Community Development Manager, is only too aware his home district of West Somerset was ranked lowest in the country for social mobility, and is working to change this.

The aim is to overcome the challenges

of living in a rural community by increasing the wellbeing and resilience of the area's younger residents and improving their prospects: "It's tough because the majority of the work here is seasonal, in social care, or hospitality, so young people think that's all that's on offer," said Paul.

As the primary youth and community service provider in West Somerset, the Eye works with social services, the police and local schools to help teach its young people about safety, resilience and taking opportunities.

Paul explained: "We deliver seven youth clubs across the area so young people can access the project and its workers within their own community, overcoming the transport barriers so many of them face."

A COMMUNITY HUB

Hosting health visiting services, an employment hub, groups for young

carers, home educators and after-school clubs, it functions as a community hub from 9am-3pm and a youth centre from 3pm-10pm. Its facilities include a climbing wall, recording studio and a popular skate park.

Minehead Eye's youth workers visit schools and community hubs across the region, supporting the area's most vulnerable young people.

"All our youth workers have professional qualifications," said Paul. "That's like our USP. It means that our climbing instructor is also a crisis worker, for example."

Two of the youth workers responsible for this outreach programme, Charlie and Jules, have been funded by Hinkley Point C, something Paul is very proud of: "These two extra youth workers mean that we now work with every school across our region. That's amazing. It's so important to us, to reach all the young people in West Somerset."

A TRUSTED FRIEND

Paul thinks the Eye's relationship with Hinkley Point C is great for the area: "The Minehead Eye has a really good reputation and locals see us as a trusted friend. Our relationship with Hinkley Point C has enabled us to work as intermediaries between the project and the local people, to show them the opportunities for young people in the area to find work. By working with us, Hinkley Point C is becoming more embedded in a community that it's now a very big part of."



Nuclear key in Britain's energy future

Low-carbon nuclear power, like that to be produced at Hinkley Point C, has a major role to play in helping the UK meet its climate and energy security ambitions. That was the view of the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, as he toured the site last month.

The Prime Minister used his visit to launch the British Energy Security Strategy, which set out the aim to

increase the proportion of electricity generated by nuclear to 25%. This would involve the construction of up to eight new nuclear reactors, including the two at Hinkley Point C and two at its sister project Sizewell C in Suffolk.

The strategy set out the country's ambition to be a world-leader in nuclear technology once again, stating that: "Nuclear is the only form of reliable,

low-carbon electricity generation which has been proven at scale and returns more than 100 times as much power as a solar site of the same size."

The Prime Minister also took the opportunity to praise the workforce at Hinkley Point C on his visit. He said: "Thank you for what you are doing – it is absolutely crucial for the future of our country."



Sharing global learning

Olkiluoto 3 in Finland has started up, and is the first EPR reactor to be connected to the grid in Europe, following two in China.

It's set to begin full operation by the end of September, and is currently in a commissioning and testing phase. When running at full capacity, the power station will produce around 15% of Finland's electricity. In fact, TVO, the plant's operator, has described Olkiluoto 3 as Finland's greatest act in the fight against climate change.

Lessons learned in Finland are shared with the project at Hinkley Point C via the 'EPR Owners and Operators Group'.

Norma O'Mahony, has recently joined the project as a Commissioning Engineer after time working at Olkiluoto 3. She said: "Our time in Finland left us not only with technical know-how, but also with a deep-seated appreciation of the cooperation and commitment required to deliver a project on this scale."

Breakthrough moment for landmark pylons

The first wires (or conductors) have been installed on the new T-pylons that will carry the low-carbon energy from Hinkley Point C onto the National Grid, which will supply electricity to six million homes across the country. The conductors were placed by engineers between Bridgwater and Loxton in Somerset.

James Goode, Project Director for National Grid Electricity Transmission, said: "We're immensely proud to have reached this significant milestone. The conductors we're installing will carry low-carbon electricity onto the network for millions of people across the UK to use for years to come."

The 48 T-pylons will hum into action later this year, eventually joined by a total of 116 between Sandford and Portbury in 2023.

If you want to know more, contact hinkleyconnection@nationalgrid.com, or visit hinkleyconnection.co.uk.



Credit: National Grid

Investing in Somerset's people

Hinkley Point C is committed to supporting the improvement of the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the local communities that are affected by the construction of the UK's newest power station. So far, **£123 million** of community investment has been delivered to date against a target of **£130 million**. From supporting employment and skills opportunities, to investing in Somerset tourism and boosting the local economy, Hinkley Point C is committed to maximising the benefits the project can bring.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL PEOPLE

CONNECTING THE COMMUNITY

(Wider Somerset)
When a local bus service closed down five years ago, Hinkley Point C stepped in to run a free community bus service connecting Somerset's isolated rural villages. Through its transport provider, Somerset Passenger Solutions, the vital service has already made **3,000** trips for local people.

HELPING PEOPLE INTO WORK

(Somerset West and Taunton, and Sedgemoor)
The Hinkley Point C Job Service has helped **1,434** local people into new roles. It works in partnership with EDF, Jobcentre Plus and other training providers to offer guidance to those affected by redundancies, prepare students for employment success with mock job interviews, and more. People are also taking advantage of the **five** employment hubs the project supports.

INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION

(Sedgemoor)
£24 million has been invested directly into education, skills and employment support. That includes **£8 million** used to create **three** new Centres of Excellence in Bridgwater and Cannington that are equipping people with skills required for the complex work needed at Hinkley Point C and future low-carbon energy projects.

BOOST FOR LOCAL BUSINESSES

(Somerset West and Taunton)
It takes a lot of people to build the first new nuclear power station in a generation. From the businesses getting the team to and from work or feeding hungry crews, to supplying specialist services or equipment. So far, **£4.1 billion** has been spent directly with companies based in the South West.

CREATING JOBS ACROSS BRITAIN



71,000
jobs will be supported by the end of the construction

36%

of the people working on the project are local

The project funds:



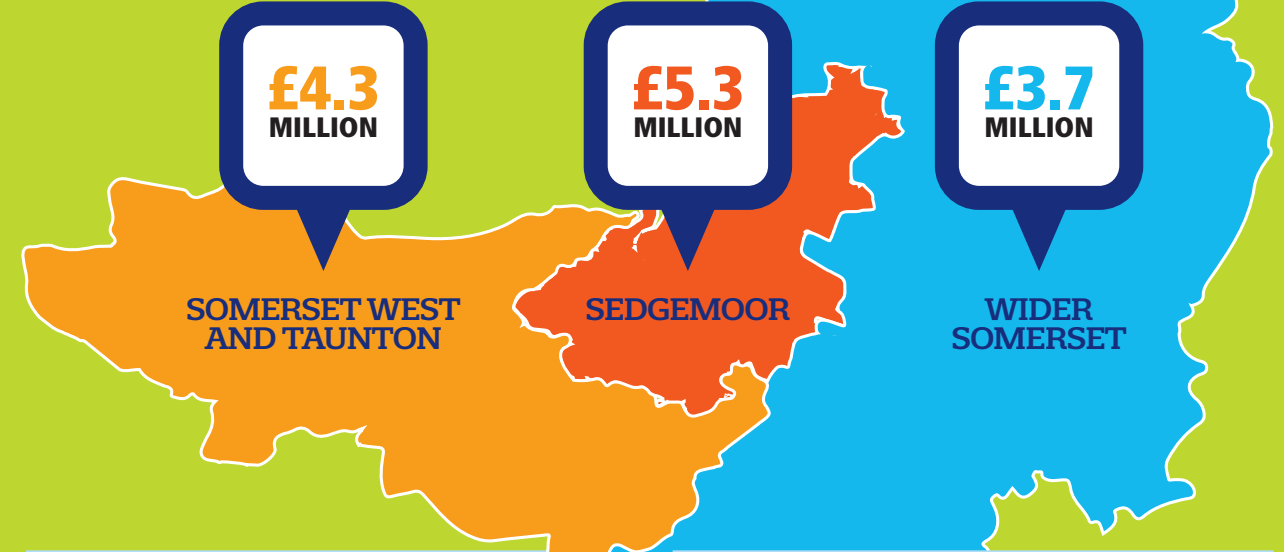
5 full-time Hinkley Police Officers with Avon and Somerset Police



Community Safety Officer

COMMUNITY FUNDING AT A GLANCE

To date, the project has given funding totalling:



COMMITMENT TO CHARITIES

SUPPORTING PEOPLE WITH SIGHT LOSS

(Sedgemoor)
Sedgemoor's Somerset Sight charity has expanded its befriending service thanks to a **£85,000** grant from the HPC Community Fund (managed by Somerset Community Foundation), awarded over a three-year period. This has helped more than **2,500** people experiencing sight loss to access specialist information, advice and support. It's been a crucial frontline service to those in need.

IN NUMBERS

80%
of the people accessing the service are over 75

1/3
of those supported live alone

500
new people a year seek out the charity's help.

COMBATTING CRIME

(Somerset West and Taunton, and Sedgemoor)
A grant of **£49,520** from the HPC Community Fund is helping the Crimestoppers charity give people in the West Country the power to speak up to stop crime anonymously. For two years, the money is funding drama-based workshops called 'What Would You Do?' aimed at nine and 10-year-olds, covering online safety, healthy relationships, mob mentality and child exploitation.

ENDING SOCIAL ISOLATION

(Sedgemoor)
Burnham-on-Sea's Crafty Teacup Creative Hub is helping tackle loneliness thanks to a **£4,199** refurbishment grant from the Hinkley Point C Community Fund. The hub is providing a place for people from Burnham and Highbridge to meet, take part in events and learn new skills, including arts and crafts and cooking.

PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT

RESTORING THE LANDSCAPE

(Somerset West and Taunton)
Land near the village of Shurton has been restored for local people to enjoy. At the southern end of the construction site, new footpaths now wind through tens of thousands of freshly planted native trees and shrubs. It's been designed to attract and sustain a wide range of wildlife by creating the perfect habitat using bird boxes, a badger barn and even a home specially for breeding water voles.

WORKING WITH NATURE

- **£540,000** has been donated to local environmental projects
- **50** environmental specialists work on the construction team
- **65,000** trees and shrubs have been planted in the immediate area.

ENCOURAGING WILDLIFE

Through its link with the Steart Marshes Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Hinkley Point C:



Funds a warden three days a week

Has helped minimise disturbance to internationally important wintering birds through surveys and face-to-face engagement

EXPLAINED

How a nuclear reactor works

Nuclear reactors produce reliable electricity with a low-carbon footprint. But how exactly does a nuclear reactor work?

Nuclear power starts with fission. Fission is the splitting of an atom (normally uranium) by a neutron. When an atom splits, it produces two fragments, heat and more neutrons, which in turn can split more atoms. This is the start of a chain reaction, which ultimately produces huge amounts of energy in the form of heat.

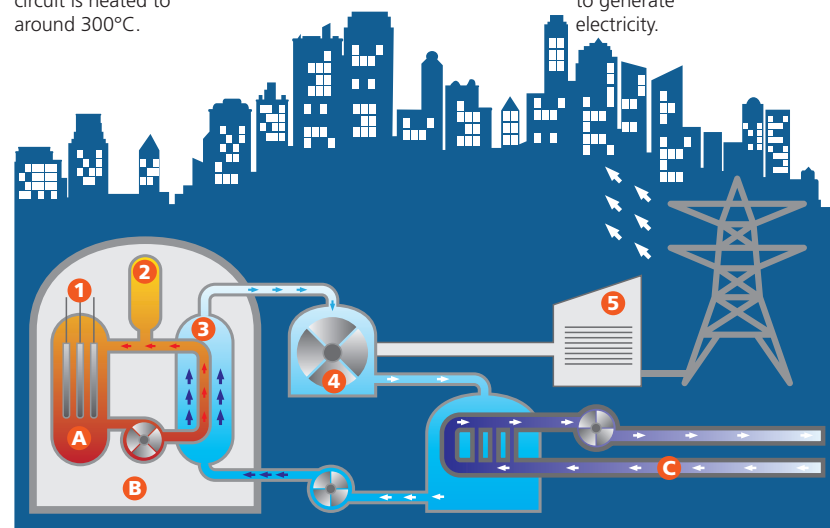
You can think of a nuclear reactor system as being a bit like a kettle. Just as the heating elements in your kettle boil water, the heat produced from the nuclear fuel inside the reactor is transferred (via a steam generator, or the 'kettle') to boil water and produce steam.

The steam from this process spins a turbine, which turns the steam's energy into electricity. This electricity is then provided to your home via the National Grid to power your kettle (and lights, TVs, fridges, washing machines, and more).

The chain reaction takes place in a sealed circuit and the building that houses the nuclear reactor itself has thick layers of containment to protect the environment.

The highly skilled Reactor Operators at Hinkley Point C will constantly monitor and control the plant to ensure it safely delivers the power the country needs. Meet one of the team currently training in the site's Simulator Building, right, and find out just what it's like preparing to deliver low-carbon energy to millions of homes.

- 1. Reactor vessel**
The reactor vessel is where nuclear fission takes place and huge amounts of energy are produced. Water inside a closed circuit is heated to around 300°C.
- 2. Pressuriser**
The pressuriser applies a very high pressure which stops the super heated water changing into steam.
- 3. Steam generator**
The steam generator uses the heat energy from the reactor to heat a separate supply of water and this is then turned into steam.
- 4. Turbine**
The turbine converts the energy in the steam into rotating energy to drive a turbine to generate electricity.
- 5. Generator**
The final step in producing low-carbon energy for millions of UK homes.



- A. Control rods**
The nuclear reaction is controlled by raising and lowering neutron absorbing rods.
- B. Containment structure**
The containment structure of the reactor is nearly three metres thick and is tough enough to protect it from an aircraft impact.
- C. Condenser**
The condenser cools the steam after it has generated power and changes it back into water. A continuous supply of water is taken and returned to the sea supplying this process.



What's it like to be a Reactor Operator?

North Wales-born and now Bridgwater-based Meg Moore, 29, shares what it's like to be an Operations Engineer and Trainee Reactor Operator at Hinkley Point C.

Why did you want to work at Hinkley Point C?

"I was already working at Hinkley Point B, so it was a natural next step for me, shaping the operation of the first nuclear power station to be built in the UK for a generation. Nuclear is a very important source of low-carbon electricity, and I wanted to be part of the move towards a more sustainable energy mix."

Tell us about your career journey...

"I was on the EDF Energy Science and Engineering Graduate Scheme and loved my placement in the Operations department at Hinkley Point B. I was drawn to the variety and hands-on nature of the job."

Tell us about the role...

"A Reactor Operator is responsible for the control and supervision of the safe operation of the power station. To get there, I'm currently doing a lot of training, which takes 18-24 months and involves both classroom and simulator training."

What's the best thing about working on site?

"I get to work with lots of enthusiastic and experienced people, who are all passionate about delivering safe, reliable and low-carbon energy to millions of homes."



Police partnership prevents speeding

Jake Dade, Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), is one of five full-time police officers whose role is fully funded by Hinkley Point C.

His job is to work closely with those on site to help integrate the workers into the community and deal with any issues that arise.

Jake speaks with the community on a regular basis in order to understand the key issues in and around Hinkley Point C. This includes traffic monitoring and management. Jake has recently

set up a Speedwatch group, where local residents have been trained and equipped with speed guns to record cars exceeding the 30mph speed limit.

Jake said: "It's my job to listen to the concerns that come in from both sides and resolve any issues. This speeding solution is great because it really raises awareness. When we find there's a particularly high volume of vehicles speeding, it means we can direct police resource to that area."

Jake and his team welcome new

members of the community and run regular 'beat surgeries', which members of the Hinkley Point C project also attend, where residents can voice concerns and find out more about the project.

The Speedwatch initiative is just one great example of how Hinkley Point C is working with the police, local council and residents to mitigate the impacts of the project and maximise the benefits. Check out pages 8 and 9 for more on the opportunities and advantages coming out of Hinkley Point C.

Liaising with locals



Nicola Hale, Community Safety Officer (pictured), is just one of many working behind the scenes at Hinkley Point C.

Having grown up on the Sydenham

Estate, Nicola is familiar with the area and her role working alongside the Sedgemoor, Somerset West and Taunton District Councils provides her with the opportunity to make a positive difference.

"My job is to signpost help available to the local community," she explained. "I love talking to people – I like to meet different individuals and provide support to anyone in need."

Nicola set up regular drop-in sessions so she, together with the Citizens Advice

Bureau (CAB), could help people in the community who were feeling isolated – particularly after lockdown. "I felt it might put people at ease chatting face-to-face, rather than worrying about phones or emails," she added. "The sessions take place at The Local Pantry, which is community-run, and the aim is to provide a safe space for anyone looking for guidance."

These sessions are just a small part of Nicola's job – she also joins Police Community Support Officers for their local 'beat surgeries', liaises with police on the Night Time Economy project to promote safe behaviours on a night out, and works closely with Hinkley Point C on community-based projects.

Got a community question? Contact Nicola on community.safety@sedgemoor.gov.uk.

Bridges earns top Somerset prize

Bridges Electrical Engineers, based in Midsomer Norton, took home the 'Investing in Somerset' prize, sponsored by Hinkley Point C, at the 2022 Somerset Business Awards.

The award ceremony, held at the Winter Gardens Pavilion in Weston-super-Mare, was attended by 400 business people from across the county. The awards recognise talented Somerset businesses across the county.

Chris Maddox, People and Client Director of Bridges Electrical Engineers, said: "We are delighted that the amazing work being achieved by our fantastic team has had such great recognition. We are hugely grateful to Hinkley Point C for sponsoring this award."

Well done to all the finalists and winners!



We're building British nuclear

Alongside wind and solar, we need reliable low-carbon nuclear electricity to make Britain self-sufficient in energy and less dependent on imported gas.

British manufacturers and 20,000 workers are building **Hinkley Point C** in Somerset.

The fastest way to get more nuclear is to take an existing design and repeat it. That's why we need to get on and build **Sizewell C** in Suffolk.

Together we can help Britain achieve net zero.

Find out more at [edfenergy.com](https://www.edfenergy.com)