

Sizewell C aims to employ 1,500 apprentices

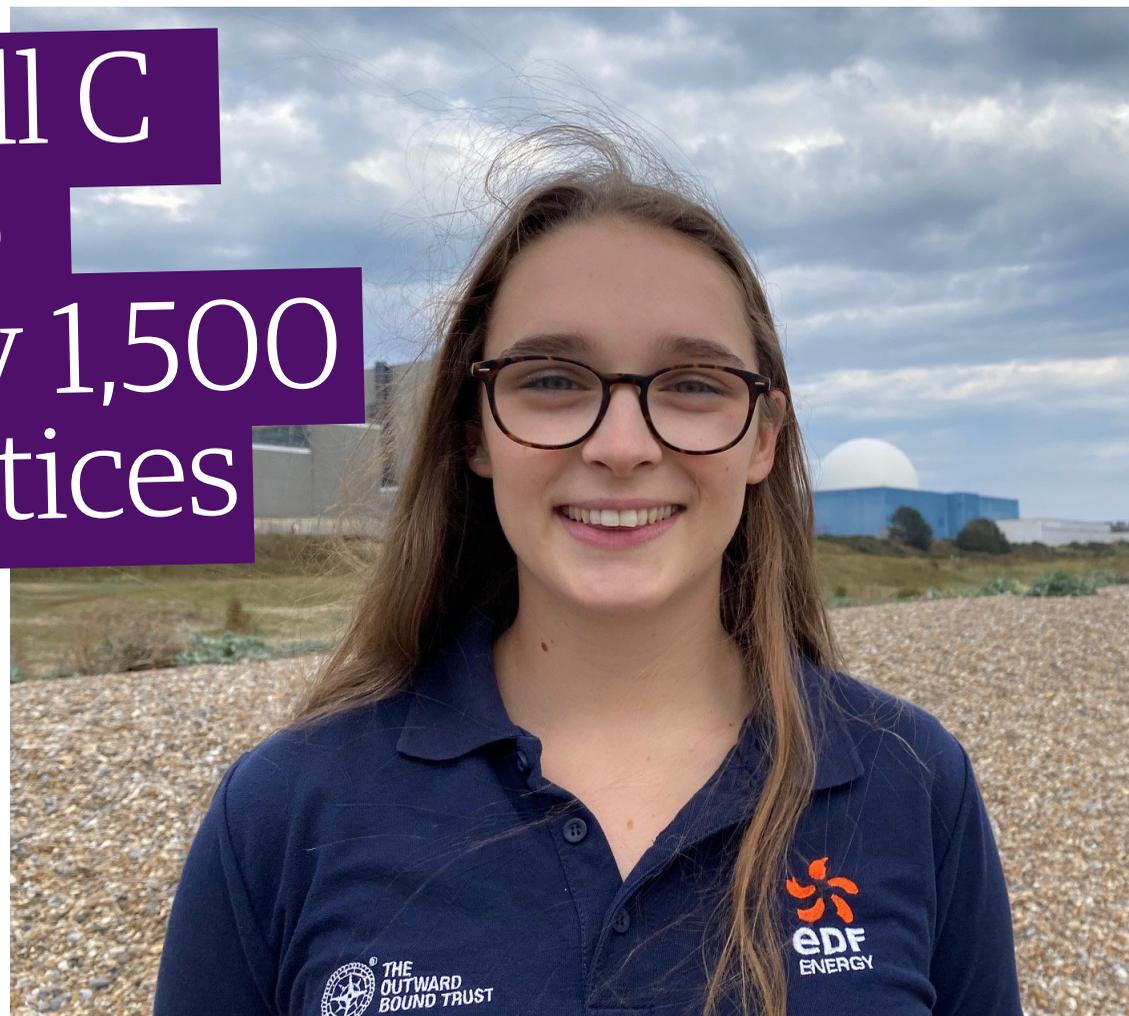
Sizewell C is increasing the number of apprentices it is aiming to employ from 1,000 to 1,500, with a range of roles available in everything from digital engineering and welding to environment and accountancy.

A range of opportunities from conventional to degree level apprenticeships will be offered if construction of the new nuclear power station, Sizewell C, goes ahead.

Apprentices will be trained in a wide variety of construction and mechanical roles including degree-level engineering, digital engineering, welding, project management and steel-fixing.

There will also be apprenticeships in many site support services including operations management, logistics, environment, health and safety, security, and accountancy.

Sizewell C is the low carbon nuclear power station being proposed for Suffolk to help the UK reach net zero emissions by 2050. The application to build



Poppy Able is one of Sizewell's apprentices and encourages young people to consider nuclear

Picture: EDF ENERGY

Sizewell C is currently being considered by the Planning Inspectorate.

The new apprentices target follows the success in training people of all ages at Hinkley Point C in Somerset. Four years into construction, more than 650 apprentices have already worked on over 50 different training programmes linked to the project.

In addition, changes to Government guidance mean companies are allowed greater flexibility in the training they can give through apprenticeship schemes.

Humphrey Cadoux-Hudson, managing director of Sizewell C, said: "The progress being made at Hinkley Point C has given us the confidence to announce a significantly higher target for apprentices. Sizewell C will create

thousands of jobs and training opportunities in the East of England and across the UK's nuclear supply chain. Together with our suppliers, we are determined to help people who work for us get good qualifications and build long-term, well-paid careers."

Cameron Gilmour, vice president – Nuclear at Doosan Babcock, and chairman of the Sizewell C Consortium, said: "Not every school-leaver wants to go to university and apprenticeships are a great way to learn on the job. This announcement demonstrates the huge potential of Sizewell C to transform the lives of young people by offering them paid training and a great career."

Stuart Rimmer, CEO/principal of East Coast College, said the college had already seen "amazing opportunities" at the Sizewell C sister project, Hinkley Point C, and anticipated similar activities in Suffolk.

He said: "The college has already begun to build capability and capacity in advance of potential investments at Sizewell C, including through our £11m Energy Skills Centre, which is creating benefit to adjacent supply chains such as in renewable offshore wind or local small and medium size enterprises in mechanical and electrical engineering."

Last month saw the launch of the Young Sizewell C scheme, which is designed to introduce 16-21-year olds living in Suffolk and Norfolk to some of the jobs the project could offer.

Young Sizewell C and a future Jobs Service will be used to identify as many opportunities as possible for young people living in the East of England. Sizewell C is also exploring ways to provide further training and employment opportunities by transferring EDF apprenticeship levy to other East of England businesses.

While many of the apprentices

Apprentice Poppy encourages others to consider nuclear

Poppy Able, one of Sizewell's apprentices, worked on the film of Sizewell B so students in the area get to see inside the station where she works. Here she tells us more about her role.

I'm 20 (the big 21 in December!) I'm a degree apprentice in the Sizewell B Engineering department, where I will then become a system engineer - looking after specific systems in terms of maintenance, amongst other areas.

I went to Thomas Mills High School in Framlingham, and then stayed there for sixth form too.

There were a variety of factors that made me consider a career at Sizewell B; my A Level choices, not 'fancying' the university environment, encouragement during my work experience placement, the benefits of an apprenticeship!

I definitely think that young people should consider nuclear. Despite Sizewell B being on my doorstep, I never really considered what went on behind the scenes but there really is something for everyone, and the safety culture is second to none.

Nuclear is needed in our energy mix, and someone has to produce it!

will be based on or close to the construction site in Suffolk, others will have the opportunity to work with suppliers in different parts of the UK.

Gail Cartmail, assistant general secretary at Unite the Union said: "Sizewell will be the catalyst for providing young people, particularly those living in East Anglia, with skills for life and it will provide a huge boost to the local economy."

"It is imperative that the government not only gives the green light to the Sizewell C development but provides direct assistance to ensure that this project begins as early as possible, so that these commitments on apprentices can start to be achieved as soon as possible and the experience of building Hinkley Point can be fully utilised."

Local 16-21 years olds can register to be part of YSZC on the website sizewellc.co.uk

Jon worked his way to the top

Jon Yates started his career as an apprentice design draughtsman with the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA) from 1981 to 1985. On completion of his apprenticeship he was sponsored by National Nuclear Company (NNC) to attend Leeds University, graduating with a BEng Hons in Mechanical Engineering in 1988.

Jon entered NNC's graduate scheme before transferring to Sizewell B during construction as an operations assistant engineer in 1992. Jon worked in various senior roles at the power station and in March



Jon Yates, plant manager at Sizewell B nuclear power station

Picture: ANDREW PAPWORTH

2018 he became Sizewell B plant manager and is now the acting station director.



A CGI of what the Sizewell C nuclear power station will look like

Picture: EDF ENERGY