

Nuclear Week in Parliament

January 2026: Nuclear in the Northwest Briefing Paper



Rev:1 NNA-25



THE NORTH.WEST



Pre-Event Briefing Paper

This summary briefing paper has been written to inform MP's, Policy Makers and other Government Stakeholders with an interest in the North West region.

With the 5th Nuclear Industry Association (NIA) Nuclear Week in Parliament (NWiP) taking place 19th to 21st January 2026 at various locations across the parliamentary estate, the Northern Nuclear Alliance (NNA) is pleased to share some facts and potential discussion points prior to the event with interested parties, such as members of the Nuclear All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) and MP's of North West constituencies.



Nuclear in the North West

JOBS: The North West region boasts the highest concentration of nuclear expertise, experience, test facilities, and employment in the UK. The NNA region, features over **+16,000 direct nuclear sector jobs (increase of 3,000 since 2024)** and supports **+100,000 indirect supply chain jobs.**

ECONOMY & JOBS GROWTH: In 2024/25 the nuclear sector in the North West contributed around £5 billion in direct spend and £4.9 billion in GVA to the regional economy and supported a high-skilled workforce; nationally, the UK civil nuclear industry grew to contribute around £20 billion to the economy in 2024 as the workforce expanded to its highest level on record, with nearly 98,000 jobs reported in 2025.

With continued growth expected through new build, SMRs and decommissioning activity, the North West's nuclear economy is poised for significant expansion and broader regional benefit by 2030 - with a predicted annual growth rate of 8.34% per year, **Nuclear could deliver over £15Bn to regions economy by 2030**, with employment forecast to grow by 49% (Nuclear Skills Delivery Group 2030 Forecast).

INNOVATION: If Silicon Valley is where Tech Start-ups begin their life, then the North West of England is where nuclear reactors start theirs. **+10 international nuclear reactor vendors, including Large GW Scale, Small Modular Reactors, Advanced Modular Reactors and Nuclear Fusion have chosen the North West to develop their technology.**

SUPPLY CHAIN: The North West features the UK's leading nuclear supply chain, hosting **145 separate nuclear focused businesses / regional offices** delivering engineering, scientific services, manufacturing and specialist research. Making the Northwest the number 1 region for nuclear services in the UK.

HEART OF UK NUCLEAR: In addition to supply chain, the North West is home to: The UK's Nuclear Regulator (ONR), Great British Nuclear, UK's National Nuclear Laboratory and the **UK's leading Nuclear Engineering, Innovation Hub and test facilities at Birchwood Park, Warrington, that brings together +6,000 nuclear specialists from 30+ organisations on one science park**, making it the highest concentration of nuclear employment in the UK.

R&D LEADERS: The North West provides the largest nuclear R&D capability in UK, including leading UK universities, Institutions, National Laboratories, the Birchwood Nuclear Hub and collaboration networks such as the North West Nuclear Arc, Northern Nuclear Alliance, Wales Nuclear Forum and Cumbrian BECBC Group. **Together, the region hosts almost 50% of all nuclear research and innovation undertaken in the UK.**

HERITAGE: Significant nuclear heritage, with several existing nuclear licensed sites in the North West has unparalleled knowledge and engineering capability and is **the only region that includes all aspects of the nuclear life cycle**: research, design, build, operations, including generation, decommissioning and waste management routes.

80 Years at the Heart of UK Nuclear

This year marks the 80th anniversary of Birchwood Park's enduring legacy in the UK nuclear industry. From its origins as a post-war hub for the Division of Atomic Energy, through its pivotal role as the headquarters of the UK Atomic Energy Authority in the 1950s, Birchwood has been central to the nation's nuclear journey — from early reactor design and fuel-cycle research to modern innovation and clean energy solutions.



Over the decades, the site has evolved into a world-class nuclear cluster, home to more than 165 companies and over 7,000 specialists working on everything from small modular reactor technologies and advanced fuels to decommissioning and services across the fuel cycle.

Today, Birchwood stands at the forefront of the UK's nuclear resurgence, embodying eight decades of engineering excellence, collaboration and innovation that continue to drive our clean energy future.



WYLFA SMR

The North West of England stands fully prepared, with a robust supply chain, nuclear life-cycle expertise, the UK's largest skilled nuclear workforce and associated infrastructure, to support the deployment of SMRs at Wylfa.

The original development of the Wylfa nuclear power station was underpinned by extensive design and engineering support drawn from the North West region, anchored by organisations based at Birchwood Park including British Nuclear Design & Construction (BNDC) and National Nuclear Corporation (NNC).

Decades later, that legacy of expertise remains deeply embedded in the region, through advanced manufacturing, nuclear design and full-life-cycle services, with Birchwood Park, still acting as the region's central location for nuclear excellence, employing over 8,000 nuclear specialists across +30 organisations.

As the UK embarks on its next nuclear chapter, the North West stands ready once again to deliver the supply-chain, workforce and engineering capability required to support a new large-scale nuclear project at Wylfa.

The North West's Readiness
The North West boasts the highest concentration of nuclear expertise, test-facilities, manufacturing supply-chain capability and is the only nuclear region in the UK, to cover all aspects of the nuclear life-cycle from concept design, fuel and deployment to operations, life extension and final decommissioning.

Due to this, our region boasts a workforce exceeding 29,000 direct nuclear sector jobs and 100,000+ secondary nuclear supply chain jobs. Many of our 75+ members are already actively engaged in supporting the UK's nuclear new-build projects such as Hinkley Point C

and Sizewell C and are already playing vital roles in the development of SMR technology. This demonstrates the region's integral role in advancing the UK's nuclear ambitions.

Wylfa has strong historical ties to the North West and its supply chain, with our region offering easy access to the much needed skills, experience and test and manufacturing facilities needed to make Wylfa and the GBE-Nuclear SMR a national success.

As the first new build project in a generation in close proximity to the North West, SMRs at Wylfa will be a catalyst for growth and provides a golden opportunity to further re-enforce and grow its place as a world leader in nuclear engineering, technical services, assurance and complex programme delivery.

NORTH WEST SMR PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Shorter supply chains
- Access UK-based fabrication / manufacturing
- Access existing apprenticeship pipelines
- Benefit from existing infrastructure
- Utilise transport links and port access
- Access skilled labour and STEM clusters
- Work with world leading research facilities
- Access UK's largest nuclear engineering hub
- Deliver tangible levelling up commitments
- Maximise localisation of value

KEY ASKS OF UK GOVERNMENT

- Clear localisation criteria, similar to DCO provisions for Sizewell C that ring fence >£2Bn of spend in the North of England.
- That a skills and training programme be established in parallel with the SMR deployment to align apprenticeships, STEM engagement, vocational training and up-skilling so the North West workforce is ready in time for construction.
- To publish transparent supply-chain road-maps for the SMR project that identify how the North West fits into module manufacturing, component supply, test facilities, logistics (including ports), and long-term operational support.
- To collaborate with regional groups and authorities in the North West, industry, supply chain and academic institutions to ensure ecosystem readiness in the region.
- That community benefits frameworks are established early - guaranteeing local jobs, local procurement, apprenticeships, and regional economic impact are embedded as contract terms, so the North West sees tangible benefit from the SMR roll-out.

Jobs Map

Nuclear in the North West*

*Extract taken from Nuclear Industries Association (NIA) Jobs Map 2025 and revised to show NNA area North West Employment figures only + NNA Membership figures.

NNA Constituencies	MP	Employees
Altrincham & Sale West	Connor Rand	233
Kinectrics		31
Mott MacDonald Ltd		202
Ashton-under-Lyne	Rt Hon Angela Rayner	110
Hyde Group Nuclear Limited		110
Blackburn	Adnan Hussain	187
Assystem UK Ltd		139
Steel Dynamics Ltd		48
Blackpool North & Fleetwood	Lorraine Beavers	4
WJF		4
Bolton South & Walkden	Yasmin Qureshi	116
Booth Industries		116
Bolton West	Phil Brickell	84
Severfield Nuclear		84
Bootle	Peter Dowd	450
Office for Nuclear Regulation		450
Bury North	James Frith	209
ES Steel Limited		80
Exyte Hargreaves Ltd		129
Chester North & Neston	Samantha Dixon	1,458
Calder Industrial Materials		90
CERAP		1
Costain		104
KDC Veolia Decommissioning		7
Mona Lifting		44
Proicere		9
RB Safety Consultants		1
Studley Engineering		24
URENCO UK		643
URENCO Chemplants		407
URENCO Nuclear Stewardship		128

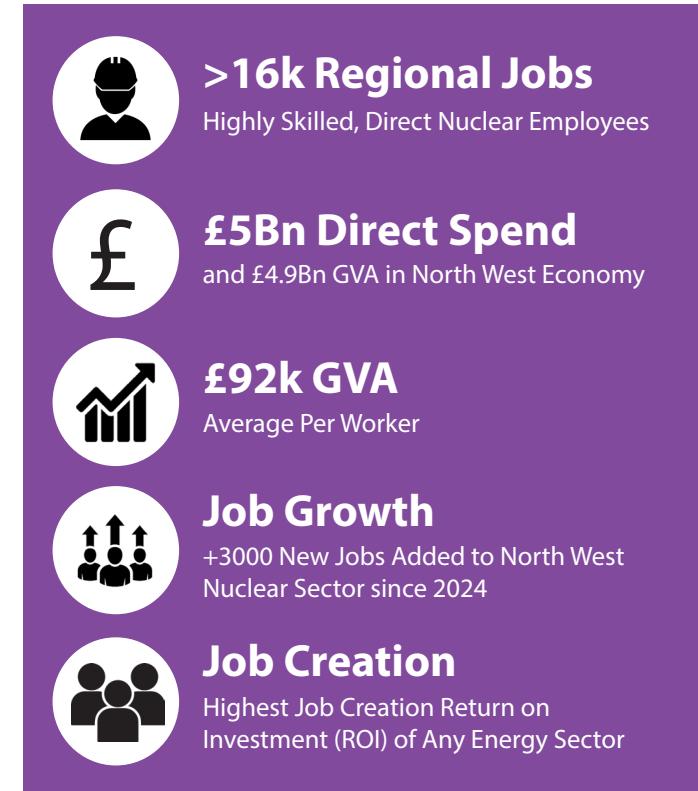
Chorley	Rt Hon Sir Lindsey Hoyle	257	15
NIS		244	10
Tetra Tech		13	20
Congleton	Sarah Russell	28	120
XL Engineering		28	6
Crewe & Nantwich	Connor Naismith	121	158
James Walker		24	156
Nuclear Transport Solutions		97	1
Ellesmere Port & Bromborough	Justin Madders	38	1
Balfour Beatty		22	4
Westinghouse UK		16	40
Fylde	Andrew Snowden	952	2020
UK National Nuclear Laboratory		192	72
Westinghouse UK (Springfields)		760	2
Hazel Grove	Lisa Smart	30	15
SELLA CONTROLS		30	44
Lancaster and Wyre	Cat Smith	28	245
Lancaster University		28	1,214
Liverpool Riverside	Kim Johnson	129	263
ARUP		5	5
Deloitte UK LLP		1	5
Inclusion & Diversity in Nuclear		3	120
Liverpool University		118	522
WSP UK		2	Fylde Coast Energy
Macclesfield	Tim Roca	5	1
Bodycote H.I.P. Ltd		5	Delkia
Manchester Central	Rt Hon Lucy Powell	881	2
Accenture		15	JMG Technical Services Ltd
Addleshaw Goddard LLP		8	Studsvik Limited
Amentum		44	Westlakes Engineering Ltd
ARUP		50	Westinghouse Springfields
ATKINSRÉALIS		124	Runcorn & Helsby
Cooper Consultancy		18	Sellfield Limited
D2		90	Salford
Decision Analysis Services		6	Rebecca Long Bailey
EY		15	AECOM
Frazer-Nash Consultancy (KBR)		119	Deloitte UK LLP
Gleeds		4	Langfields
Hilti (Great Britain) Ltd		9	Marick
Stantec Ltd		8	NG Bailey
Jacobs		200	UK Power Network Services
			South Ribble
			Paul Foster
			Alpha Engineering

Forepoint		22
NSG Environmental Ltd		149
Tatton	Esther McVey	190
Amentum		186
Assystem UK Ltd		4
Warrington North	Charlotte Nichols	7,429
3D 360		6
AECOM		107
AFRY Solutions UK Limited		19
Alten Ltd		5
Amentum		1,513
Ansaldo Nuclear Limited		28
Assystem UK Ltd		64
Atomic Talent		2
Bechtel		41
Bilfinger		1,250
Blue Print Solutions		25
Cavendish Nuclear Ltd		649
Corporate Risk Associates Ltd		29
DBD International		43
ESR		80
Gledes		50
Hydrock Consultants Ltd		30
ITS		25

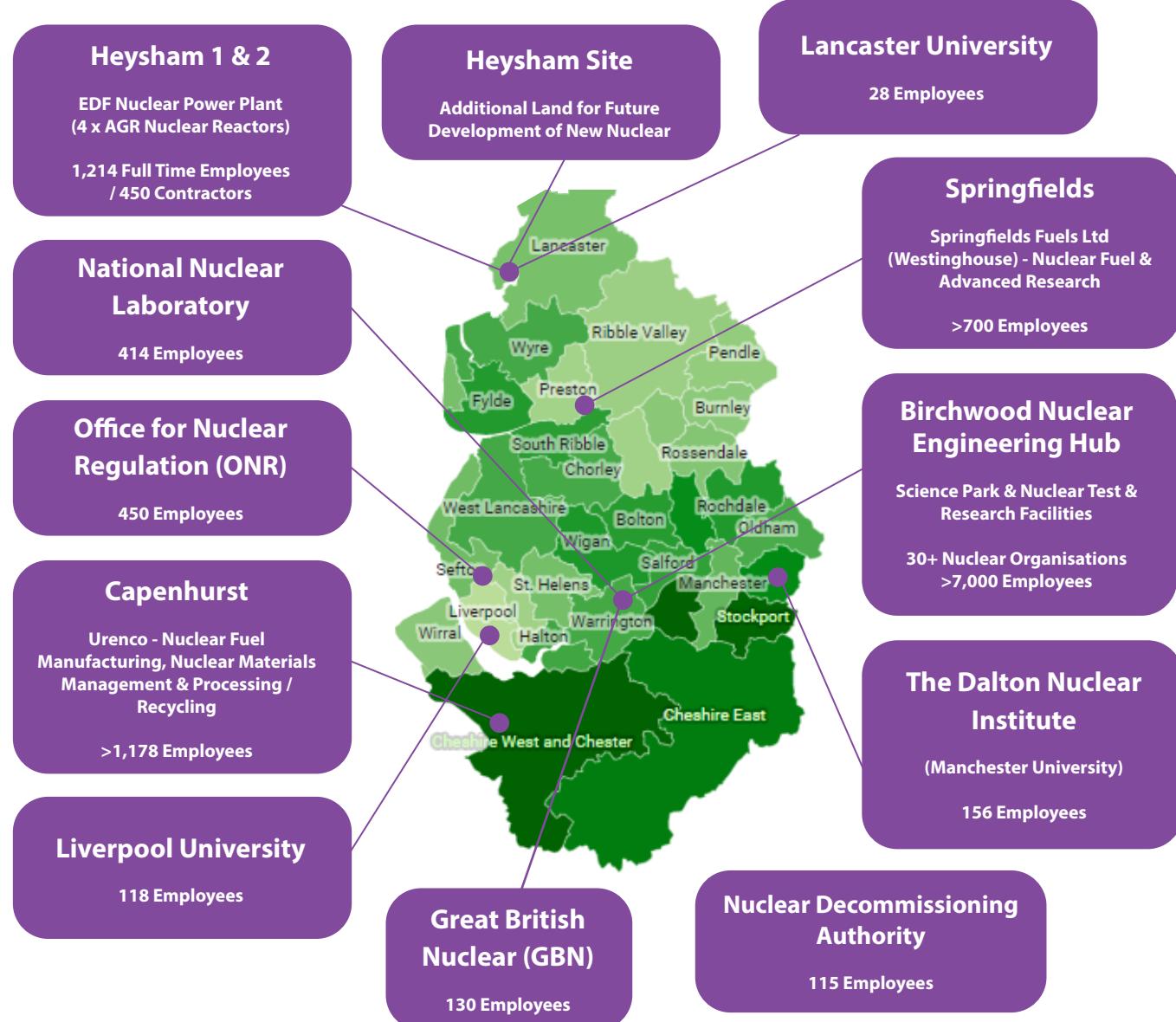


KBR		200
Lab Desk		3
M5TEC		2
Mirion Technologies		14
Morgan Sindall Infrastructure		54
Morson Projects Limited		44
Mott MacDonald Ltd		12
NG Bailey		12
NDA		115
Nuclear Restoration Services		3
Nuclear Transport Solutions		133
Nuclear Waste Services		63
Nuvia		166
ONR		450
Orano		83
Rolls-Royce SMR Limited		196
RPS Health, Safety and Risk		51
Seimaf		1
Sellafield Limited		1,335
Stantec		30
Turner & Townsend		30
TÜV SÜD Nuclear Technologies		46
UK National Nuclear Laboratory		414
Veolia Nuclear Solutions		6

Warrington South	Sarah Hall	309
BGEN Limited		48
Frazer-Nash Consultancy (KBR)		37
Great British Nuclear		130
NSAN		16
Proicere		8
Thornton Tomasetti		40
Westinghouse		30
Widnes & Halewood	Derek Twigg	180
Hutchinson Engineering		180
Wigan	Rt Hon Lisa Nandy	35
Sanderson Watts Associates Ltd		35
Wythenshawe & Sale East	Mike Kane	39
Boccard UK Ltd		12
Costain		7
KDC Veolia Decommissioning		5
Radiocoms Systems Ltd		9
UK Power Network Services		6



NNA - Key North West Nuclear Sites



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Blackpool North & Fleetwood	Lorraine Beavers	4
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Chorley	Rt Hon Sir Lindsey Hoyle	257
Congleton	Sarah Russell	28
Crewe & Nantwich	Connor Naismith	121
Ellesmere Port & Bromborough	Justin Madders	38
Fylde	Andrew Snowden	952
Hazel Grove	Lisa Smart	30
Lancaster and Wyre	Cat Smith	28
Liverpool Riverside	Kim Johnson	129
Macclesfield	Tim Roca	5
Manchester Central	Rt Hon Lucy Powell	881
Manchester Rusholme	Afzal Khan	158
Manchester Withington	Jeff Smith	4
Morcambe & Lunesdale	Lizzi Collinge	2,020
Preston	Sir Mark Hendrick	772
Runcorn & Helsby	Sarah Poachin	9
Salford	Rebecca Long Bailey	118
South Ribble	Paul Foster	219
Tatton	Esther McVey	190
Warrington North	Charlotte Nichols	7,429
Warrington South	Sarah Hall	309
Widnes & Halewood	Derek Twigg	180
Wigan	Rt Hon Lisa Nandy	35
Wythenshawe & Sale East	Mike Kane	39

Total - 16,802

Regional Exports from the North West - Engineering, Manufacturing & Scientific Services - to UK Wide Major Programmes

