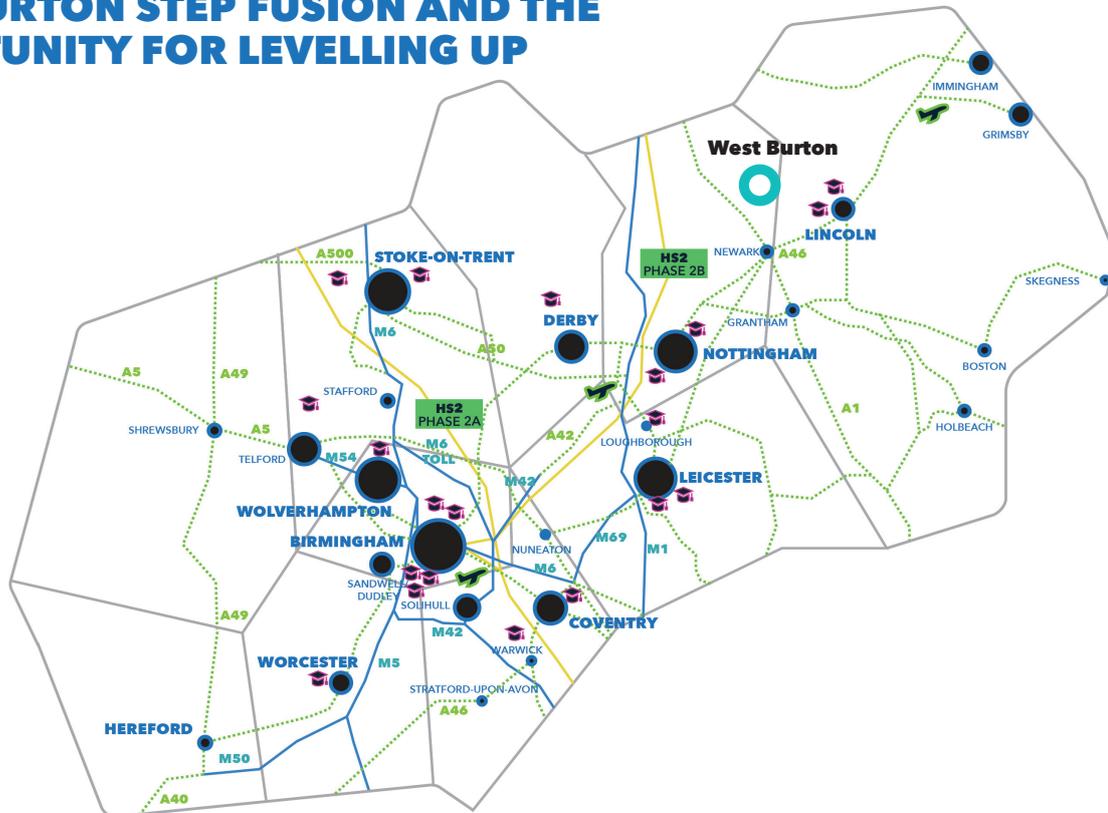


MIDLANDS ENGINE

WEST BURTON STEP FUSION AND THE OPPORTUNITY FOR LEVELLING UP



Supporting high-skilled, high-wage jobs locally and protecting against jobs displacement

- 2.9 million people of working age within 1hr commute thanks to excellent road and rail links in and around Nottinghamshire
- 600+ jobs on site during project operation and up to 3,000 jobs during peak construction. Indirect jobs would further benefit local supply chain and economy
- Potential to halt a decline caused by closing coal stations at West Burton A and Cottam, central to the region for so long - providing jobs and hope for next generation who don't want to leave will help rejuvenate the whole area
- Around 2,150 jobs and over £100m of GVA in the UK are linked to operations at the three coal power sites (West Burton A, West Burton B and Cottam). Retaining this value in Bassetlaw and surrounding areas is critical in making levelling up a success for local people
- At the centre of a regional ecosystem already emerging in the East Midlands, ultimately supporting thousands of high-quality, high-tech jobs in design, pre-construction, construction, commissioning and operations
- Roles related to the project will boost skills and earnings profile of local workforce across traditional sectors and emerging sectors, eg fusion technologies.

Driving STEM education, careers and outreach to develop the STEP workforce of the future

- Growing pool of scientists, engineers and technicians in the regional nuclear sector will be attracted to stay in the region if STEP is backed. Pipeline of skills for the future will be developed, inspiring the next generation and boosting long-term qualification levels, earnings and productivity
- Five universities within 50km of West Burton have an annual combined graduate output capacity of 112,000 and postgraduate output of 35,800.
- University of Sheffield has a broad range of capabilities in supporting nuclear fusion which could feed into the STEP programme, including UKAEA-funded PhD studentships, fusion-based lectures and dedicated degree programmes and the Nuclear Engineer Degree Apprenticeship rolled out by the Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (NAMRC)
- Across North Notts, South Yorkshire and Humber, project partners will work with the White Rose Industrial Physics Academy, a unique partnership between business and our outstanding universities, to secure placements and employment opportunities for talented STEM graduates in advanced manufacturing and energy sectors
- D2N2 has secured more than any other LEP (over £3m) from government Skills Boot Camps programme to create new courses in digital and low carbon, helping residents re- and upskill for low carbon jobs of the future.

Supporting business growth and developing supply chains

- STEP will **anchor the region's fledgling manufacturing, construction and energy sectors** – providing procurement and business growth opportunities for local businesses, and attracting investment and jobs to Bassetlaw
- Alongside the well-established East Midlands R&D ecosystem, **a significant range of businesses can manufacture components vital in the construction of the STEP project**, including:
 - Europe's most advanced pre-assembly manufacturing facility, **The Laing O'Rourke Centre of Excellence for Modern Construction** located in Worksop (21 miles from West Burton site)
 - **Rolls-Royce** which has been awarded a four-year full-service engineering design framework contract by UKAEA
 - **Sheffield Forgemasters**, a world leader in the manufacture of high-quality carbon, low alloy and stainless-steel castings and forgings for the most demanding applications
- **STEP will strengthen traditional manufacturing, nuclear and construction supply chains while galvanising development of a fusion supply chain in the local area - driving greater growth in the business base and resulting in higher employment and prosperity**
- Nottinghamshire County Council and Bassetlaw District Council have **procurement strategies in place enabling the STEP project to procure local services**, retaining investment in the local economy
- D2N2 LEP has committed to promote **only low carbon construction** and would use the development of the STEP site at West Burton to **build the capability of its construction sector and supply chains on low carbon methods of construction**.

Harnessing investment in R&D and clusters to drive growth

- STEP will be a **key catalyst for innovation-led productivity gains across the region's existing clusters and innovation sites**. Continued development of such a cluster is attractive to businesses and communities and will help shift the dial locally on qualification levels, productivity and earnings
- Major **assets demonstrating existing nuclear energy R&D cluster the East Midlands and surrounding areas** include:
 - UKAEA's new Fusion Technology Facility at South Yorkshire's Advanced Manufacturing Park in Rotherham
 - Energy Research Accelerator consortium based in Nottingham
 - Nottingham Advanced Robotics Laboratory, (NARLy), part of the Advanced Manufacturing Research Group
 - Machine and Condition Monitoring Research Team at Nottingham University
 - Centre for Automation and Robotics Research, Sheffield Hallam University
 - Nuclear Advanced Manufacturing Research Centre (NAMRC) based in South Yorkshire and Derby
- **Close proximity to clusters of firms in similar or related sectors, and to world-leading research facilities, will stimulate knowledge spillover and innovation.**

Pioneering green growth as an integral part of levelling up

- The shift to low carbon is a huge opportunity for industry, business and job creation in the Midlands. Siting the STEP facility at West Burton creates the opportunity of a **real-life net zero hub, connected with other major developments locally**
- The Midlands **is leading in the transition from fossil fuels with powerful proposals to enrich communities and inject new homes, jobs and opportunities after the closure of coal power stations**
- The Midlands' strategic geographical position makes it the ideal UK **location for investment to develop low carbon energy projects to meet UK energy demand**
- For the UK, **transforming a coal site would show how the country will reach net zero by 2050, not by taking away more green field sites but by transforming the old into the new**
- Locating the STEP project in Nottinghamshire puts it **adjacent to the Humber Zero Carbon Industrial Cluster and the Humber Freeport** – with ambitions to be the world's first zero carbon industrial cluster – **as well as linking into a range of Green Recovery projects and strategies**, including:
 - Energy Research Accelerator (ERA)
 - D2N2 Economic Recovery and Growth Strategy – 'The heart of the UK's Green Revolution'
 - Ambitious zero-carbon energy zone at Ratcliffe On Soar planned as part of the East Midlands Freeport development
 - East Midlands Development Corporation's vision for a flagship national research centre for Integrated ZeroCarbon Futures to be located in the region.

Reinforcing local pride in place and area attractiveness

- Development at West Burton will **increase attractiveness of the area and link with wider developments**, particularly related to housing and transport – generating greater pride in Bassetlaw and surrounding areas for residents, businesses and beyond
- STEP would make the area **economically attractive to new workers and encourage current population in school to stay in the area**
- Local stakeholders understand the opportunities STEP will bring them and their children. The community wants to see positive regeneration of this site and have invested in considerations of a range of acceptable options for its future
- **66,000 new dwellings are planned across Nottinghamshire over the next 15-20 years to satisfy future growth and support economic development, demonstrating the place-making potential that STEP would benefit from but also drive forward.**