KNOWLEDGE SCHEMES

Hinkley Point C and Taunton College

Visit Evaluation

Scheme: Energy and Environment 2025/26
Module: 001
Location: Hinkley Point C, Somerset and National College for Nuclear, Taunton
Date of visit: 21st November 2025
Date of Report: 24th November 2025

Attendees (MPs)
Jonathan Davies MP
Bambos Charalambous MP
Graham Leadbitter MP
Lord Godfrey Cromwell

Knowledge Growth Metric	Result	Supporting Quote
Knowledge Gap	**100% (4 of 4)**	"The scale of it is absolutely incredible... It's been over 30 years since we've had a new nuclear power station" – Jonathan
Specific Knowledge Acquired	**3.5 facts per person (average)**	"6 million homes... 3600 km of pipes and 11k km of cabling... largest bus fleet outside London" – Multiple MPs
Emotional Engagement	**75% (3 of 4)**	"Absolutely incredible... truly inspirational... I was also impressed by the very frank way the team addressed questions" – Multiple MPs
Systems Context	**100% (4 of 4)**	"Looking forward to comparing views on best energy mix... how much of the supply chain was UK oriented" – Graham & Lord Cromwell
Knowledge into Practice	**75% (3 of 4)**	"It will inform my work in Parliament... ensuring we move to a just transition to net zero" – Jonathan

Summary

We launched the Energy and Environment Scheme with a visit to Hinkley Point C nuclear power station and the National College for Nuclear in Somerset with 3 Members of Parliament and one Member of the House of Lords.

100% of participants (4/4) expressed surprise at the scale and scope of the Hinkley Point C project and nuclear training infrastructure. The cohort cited an average of 3.5 specific facts they learned, with 75% expressing emotional engagement with the visit. All MPs demonstrated understanding of how nuclear energy fits within the broader energy system and supply chain, and 75% expressed clear intent to use this knowledge in their parliamentary work or constituency engagement.

Framework Overview

The Parliamentary Knowledge Foundation uses MPs' own words to measure the immediate impact of a visit. This framework analyses post visit interviews through five interconnected metrics.

Each metric captures a different dimension of learning, from initial thoughts to systems level awareness from the transcripts of interviews given directly after the visit. Providing a broad picture of their experience in their own words, without bias or political direction.

Medium term impact is judged through MPs interactions in the Chamber and on social media.

Long term is through further Chamber discussions, legislation, future roles in Parliament/Government and signing onto to future Scheme.

Measurement Metrics

Knowledge Gap Metric

Hinkley Point C Visit Results: 100% of cohort (4/4)

What it measures: The gap between MPs' prior understanding and what they discovered through the visit.

Methodology: Analysis of feedback identifies expressions of surprise using phrases such as "I didn't know," "surprised me," "eye opener," "wasn't aware," or "didn't realise."

Jonathan: "I think the scale of it is absolutely incredible, but also the enormity of what it will produce when it comes online in the 2030s. It's been over 30 years since we've had a new nuclear power station in the UK."

Bambos: "So much I didn't know that I've learned from today's visit. First of all, the scale of Hinkley C, just how much energy is provided, just the sheer logistics of organising everything."

Graham: "Biggest surprise was the scale of both on and off site training and education opportunities... The sheer scale of the Hinckley C project is quite incredible."

Lord Cromwell: "There is nothing like visiting the site to get an understanding of its scale - 3600 km of pipes and 11k km plus of cabling, not to mention the massive crane."

Summary: Every MP expressed genuine surprise at the scale and complexity of the Hinkley Point C project, particularly regarding the infrastructure, training facilities, and long term planning required for modern nuclear energy generation.

2. Specific Knowledge Acquisition

Hinkley Point C Visit Results: 3.5 facts per person (average, based on 4 complete responses)

What it measures: Specific facts, statistics or operational details MPs can articulate after the visit, demonstrating awareness of new information.

Methodology: Count of specific facts mentioned in feedback, including statistics, programmes, technical details, historical facts, or operational processes.

Jonathan: "When this place is up and running, it's going to power 6 million homes... It's been over 30 years since we've had a new nuclear power station in the UK... comes online in the 2030s."

Lord Cromwell: "3600 km of pipes and 11k km plus of cabling... bus station (largest bus fleet outside London)... massive chambers made in Wales and ducting from Leeds... slag waste from Wales to mix into the cement to create the special concrete required."

Graham: "Scale of both on and off site training and education opportunities... the experience and depth of knowledge from the people we engaged with."

Summary: MPs retained substantial detail about the project's scale, capacity, supply chain, and training infrastructure. The most memorable facts were precise numbers (6 million homes, 3600 km of pipes, 30 year gap) and surprising operational details (largest bus fleet outside London, UK focused supply chain).

3. Emotional Engagement Score

Hinkley Point C Visit Results: 75% of MPs (3/4)

What it measures: Depth of connection beyond intellectual understanding. Emotional engagement indicates memorable, impactful experiences that are more likely to stay with MPs.

Methodology: Identification of emotional language in feedback, including words such as "struck," "moved," "emotional," "impressed," "humbled," "powerful," or "touching."

Jonathan: "That's just something that's absolutely incredible… to see what came out of the science and technology, which was initially mobilised to cause massive destruction, but has been harnessed for peace and opportunity and prosperity has been truly inspirational."

Bambos: "Very, very informative. I've learned so much today… it's been great… meeting the experts."

Lord Cromwell: "I was also impressed by the very frank way the team addressed questions around cost, completion times… It was heartening to hear how much of the supply chain was UK oriented."

Summary: The majority of MPs formed emotional connections to the project's scale, ambition, and the life journey of nuclear technology from weapons to energy generation on this site.

4. Sector Context

Hinkley Point C Visit Results: 100% of MPs (4/4)

What it measures: Understanding of how organisations operate within larger systems and interact with other entities.

Methodology: Analysis of references to integration, interaction, comparison with other organisations, or how different entities work together within a system.

Jonathan: "Electricity underpins our lives… often we don't think about the process that's gone through to generate that. All the infrastructure that supports it… what's happening here is supporting [Rolls Royce and the SMRs, the AMRs, and the new dreadnought class submarines]."

Graham: "Looking forward to comparing a range of views from across the course events on the best energy mix and electricity grid design."

Lord Cromwell: "Understanding of their evolution, intake, collaborative approach with other bodies and employers… how much of the supply chain was UK oriented - with massive chambers made in Wales and ducting from Leeds."

Bambos: "Looking at the insights that we can have in areas that I know just a tiny bit about… learning from experts."

Summary: MPs demonstrated strong systems level thinking, understanding how nuclear energy fits within the wider energy landscape, connects to defence infrastructure, integrates with the UK supply chain, and requires collaboration across multiple sectors. They showed awareness of how this visit connects to future scheme modules exploring different aspects of energy policy.

5. Knowledge into Practice

Hinkley Point C Visit Results: 75% of MPs (3/4)

What it measures: Whether MPs plan to use knowledge gained, either in their constituency work, parliamentary activities, or by sharing with others. Indicating potential real world application.

Methodology: Identification of stated intentions using phrases such as "I want to share," "in my constituency," "I'll tell," "keen for people to know," or "celebrate."

Jonathan: "It will inform my work in Parliament. It will inform my work, ensuring that we move to a just transition to net zero and do our bit for the environment and reduce our dependency on fossil fuels." Made direct connection to skills development supporting Rolls Royce in his Derby constituency.

Graham: "Looking forward to comparing a range of views from across the course events on the best energy mix and electricity grid design," demonstrating intent to use insights from this visit in context of future learning.

Lord Cromwell: "A very worthwhile and educational visit giving topical insights into the future of the UK nuclear industry," indicating value for future parliamentary work.

Summary: Three quarters of MPs expressed clear intent to use their new knowledge in parliamentary work, particularly around energy policy, net zero transition, and constituency connections. MPs with direct constituency links (Derby and Rolls Royce) made immediate practical connections, while others expressed desire to integrate this knowledge with future scheme visits and broader energy policy considerations.
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