



HARWELL SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP 104TH MEETING

Date: Tuesday 5th November 2024
Time: 1000 hrs for refreshments, meeting starts at 1030 hrs
Venue: Jupiter Room, The Satellite Applications Catapult, Electron Building, Fermi Avenue, Harwell Oxford, OX11 0QR

AGENDA

1. **Chairman's remarks:**
 - Welcome guests.
 - Chairman's Notes – Chris Broad (10)
 - Apologies for absence and changes in membership
2. Minutes of the 103rd meeting
3. Matters arising:
4. **NRS Harwell Licensed Site Matters**
 - (a) Site Director's Report – Gary Reid (15)
5. **Reports**
 - (a) Nuclear Decommissioning Authority – Alastair Findlay (10)
 - (b) Office for Nuclear Regulation – Vincent Malachanne (10)
 - (c) Environment Agency – Rebecca Cleverley (10)
6. **NRS corporate update/Think Insights** – Bill Hamilton (10)
7. **NRS site update – Jon Blackmore**
 - a) Update on Management of Chemical Contamination of Groundwater (10)
8. **Campus Matters**
 - (a) Science and Technology Facilities Council – TBC (10)
 - (b) Diamond Light Source – Amy Griffin & Kat Roarty (10)
8. **Any other business**
9. **Next Meeting – TBC**

Emma Burwood – Communications and Socio-economics Lead

Jess Dawson - SSG Secretariat

Jessica Peart - Minutes Secretary

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HARWELL CHILTON CAMPUS Site Stakeholder group meeting

Minutes of the 103rd meeting held at The Satellite Applications Catapult Centre, Harwell on Thursday 18th April 2024.

ATTENDEES:

Chair	Chris Broad, Chilton Parish Council
Deputy Chair	John Sharp, East Hendred Parish Council
Secretary	Emma Burwood, Harwell and Winfrith Communications lead
Minutes	Jessica Peart, Magnox

Emma Burwood	NRS
Laura Street	NRS
Paul Brennan	NRS
Jon Blackmore	NRS
Stuart Clark	NRS
Gary Reid	NRS
Mark Pledger	Jacobs
Derek Witmell	Upton Parish Council
Amy Griffin	Diamond Lightsource
Rebecca Cleverley	Environment Agency
Bill Hanks	Member of the public
Mark Beddow	EHPC
Clive Hooker	West Berkshire Council
Michael Fox-Davies	Harwell Parish Council
John Wilkins	Member of the public

Apologies for absence: ONR, Paul Mount (OCC), Chris Williamson (Head of Health & Safety Harwell Campus), Joe Kelleher (STFC), Bill Hamilton (NRS)

1. Chairmans Remarks – Chris Broad

Chris Broad welcomed everyone to the meeting, and provided some opening comments:

- Chris Broad and John Sharp have had regular update meetings with Paul Brennan to discuss decommissioning progress, and any other site issues.
- An issue of particular importance at Harwell is land release, and its impacts on priorities and funding. Typically, priorities for funding are based upon risk. The Harwell site is surrounded by the Harwell Campus which seeks to influence priorities and timescales.
- The NDA is carrying out a review of SSG's. It is not yet clear what the objectives of this review are at present. A guidance document was presented at a meeting in Manchester on March 20th. The document was discussed and criticised with many claiming that they



had never seen it before the meeting. Inconsistencies were identified and it was felt to be overly complicated. It was concluded that it did provide some useful guidance, however, it was not accepted in its current form.

2. Minutes of the 102nd meeting

- The minutes from the last meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.
- Questions from the last meeting, that remained unanswered were captured as actions, and updated accordingly (see below).

Actions

A1. NRS to review the routing of the bridleway.

- Routing of the bridleway was discussed with Oxfordshire County Council, and the Harwell Campus prior to being implemented. The diversion at present is the only viable option available.

A2. More information to be given on the local impacts of Groundwater Remediation.

- Jon Blackmore (NRS) will be covering this as part of his presentation today (Section 7b).

A3. More information to be given on surveys underway at Downs Way East to identify species residing there.

- The preliminary ecological survey determined that the species potentially present in the area were bats and badgers. Subsequent surveys established that the badger setts in the area are disused. Measures are being put in place to ensure that badgers do not return to the area during the planned works. Bat surveys last summer also confirmed that bats were not roosting in the area.

A4. NRS to provide more information on the Waste Chemical Storage Area.

- The Western Storage Area (WSA) is a permitted former landfill site which was historically used for disposal of chemical wastes. These disposals, into unlined pits in the chalk, resulted in chemical contamination of the groundwater. Several phases of remediation work have been carried out at the WSA (covered within presentation under section 7). The environmental permit will not be able to be surrendered in the foreseeable future unless the permitting regime changes, as contamination, albeit at very low levels, remains in the chalk at the site.

A5. Could an appendix be included within the minutes.

- An appendix has now been included.

3. Matters Arising:

4. NRS Harwell Licensed Site Matters

a) Site Directors Report – Paul Brennan

Paul Brennan (NRS) attended the meeting, and provided the group with an update of what has been happening at NRS Harwell.



- Soft rebrand to Nuclear Restoration Services continues. The new brand strategy reflects the joining together of Magnox and Dounreay.
- There has been no Lost Time Accidents (LTA) in 286 days, as of April 2024.
- Atmospheric and liquid discharges from Site remain well within the permitted limits.
- 19 job roles currently open.
- 3 apprentices joined in September 2023. (1 mechanical, and 2 radiation protection)
- An issue associated with effluent monitoring calibration process was identified. Although of no environmental impact, our arrangements within this area have been revised and discussed with the Environmental Agency (EA).

Site Operations

- Nuclear Materials Transfer (NMT) – a target of 85% shipped offsite is now complete.
- Remote Handled Intermediate Level Waste retrievals (RHILW) has exceeded their target retrieving 10.8Te.
- Over 330m³ of legacy waste has been consigned from the site.
- West Meashill has been remediated in preparation for Delicensing and Land Release.
- B220 Characterisation Contract has been awarded.

NRS is currently working on a series of programmes at Harwell including:

- Land Release
 - Working to develop a proposal to accelerate and optimise land release plans to support further development of the campus.
- Nuclear Material Transfers
 - 5697 drums shipped to date.
 - 85.7% of total drums.
 - Company performance target achieved.
 - Forecast 89% drums complete by March/April 2025.
 - Dragon fuel is 52% complete in terms of can numbers.
- Remote Handled Intermediate Level Waste Retrievals
 - 10.8Te was processed versus a 7.38 target for 2023/24.
 - WEP is now operational and has grouted 215 drums to date.
 - RM1 (Retrieval Machine 1) is operational, and the radon abatement equipment has completed phase 1 decommissioning.
 - Post Operation Clear Out (POCO) project continues to develop solutions to allow cleaning for disposal of the waste storage tubes.
 - ILW Box Store (HIBS) is going through work to allow final active commissioning ready to receive the first concrete box inn later 2025.
- Legacy Waste
 - Target exceeded. Have consigned over 330m³ this year.
 - Temporary tented structures have been cleared and removed.



- Compliance and End States Programme
 - West Meashill Area:
 - Minor remediation of 3 areas successfully completed in December 2023.
 - Delicensing case submission in early 2025.
 - Downs Way East:
 - Ecological surveys and mitigation have been completed.
 - A desk study to be commissioned through the supply chain in 2024.
 - Further surveys and sampling will be needed to inform the remediation options assessment, currently scheduled for 2025/26.

5. Reports

a) Nuclear Decommissioning Authority – Report Submitted

NDA were not present at the meeting, but a report has been submitted for overview.

- Regional Stakeholder Roadshow held at Bangor University on March 12th, 2024.
- Draft scope of the review of SSGs will be circulated for SSG review. This will provide an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the stakeholder voice within the local community over the last 20 years.
- Finalising SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs event, which will reflect a group wide approach involving the NDA and NRS CEO and Chairs.
- In person Stakeholder Conference will be held later this year.
- In the process of designing a biannual stakeholder survey, with more details available later this year.
- Preparation underway for Strategy V, which is expected to be published in March 2026.

Publications and Policy Updates

- NDA 2023 Mission Progress Report was published in November.
- Consulted on draft Business Plan 2024-2027 which reflects the NDAs most recent strategy. It sets out key activities and the progress expected across all its sites during the next 3 years, in line with funding allocated by DESNZ.

Mission Delivery

- NDA and NRS have underlined their commitment to Government, that where possible to safely accelerate land release at Harwell.
- Sellafield have removed the first of 237 Zeolite skips from the First-Generation Magnox Storage Pond.
- NRS is in the process of updating the Dounreay lifetime plan, which identifies a route map to reach the sites interim end state.
- Destination Nuclear has been launched within the UK, to attract and recruit people into the civil and defence nuclear sectors.

b) Office for Nuclear Regulation – Report Submitted



ONR not present at the meeting, but a report was submitted for overview.

c) Environment Agency – Rebecca Cleverley

Rebecca Cleverley attended the meeting and presented the main topics from within the Environment Agency Report distributed for review.

6. NRS Corporate Update – Bill Hamilton, not attending.

Bill Hamilton did not attend the meeting.

7. NRS Site Update – Jon Blackmore

a) Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant Land Remediation Update

Jon Blackmore (NRS, LETP Senior Project Manager) attending the meeting and presented an update on the Land Remediation Project.

- Bulk Land Remediation work carried out between 2018 to 2021.
- Surveys and sampling for radioactivity carried out in summer 2022. As expected, some minor anomalies that required further remediation were identified.
- Nuvia carried out surveys of the drains, with initial assessment of results indicating no concerns.
- Surveys and sampling at the Sewage Farm were carried out in summer 2023 by WSP. The results were all low and below regulatory limits, except for samples from two soakaways to the east side of LETP, where further data assessment is to be carried out.

Remaining Minor Remediation Works

- Remediation is needed to address three specific areas where enabling works were needed and areas where the results from validation sampling in summer 2022 indicated clean up targets may not have been met.
- This work is scheduled for summer/autumn 2024, subject to the groundwater levels.

Remaining Work – SUDS Lagoon and LETP Reinstatement

- A Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) Lagoon is to be constructed on the Sewage Farm to improve management of potential pollutants within the surface water drainage system.
- Due to be completed in summer 2025, subject to groundwater levels.
- The bridleway can be opened once the SUDS and Reinstatement works have been completed.

Delicensing

- NRS objective is to remove the regulatory controls to allow release of land back to the Harwell Campus.
- The aim is to submit a delicensing case in Autumn 2025.

Q1. Will the new lagoon be connected to the Lydebank brook?



A1. Yes

Q2. 500 m3 of waste yet to be removed, what is the definition of this waste?

A2. Waste will be a mixture of out of scope (non-radioactive) waste, and very low-level radioactive waste (VLLW) consisting primarily of Chalk and some drains.

b) Update on Management of Chemical Contamination of Groundwater

Jon Blackmore presented an update on the Western Storage Area Groundwater Remediation Strategy.

- A background on the chemical contamination of groundwater at Harwell was given.
- The groundwater pathway has an extensive monitoring programme, carried out by contractors. Currently WSP.
- The public water supply boreholes within the area are no longer in use.
- Ongoing liaison with the Environment Agency and local environmental health officers regarding potential new private water supplies in the plume area.
- A closure case for the groundwater plant is being prepared in liaison with the Environment Agency.

Q1. What is the current state of groundwater now. Is it at drinking level standards?

A1. A report is shared yearly with the Environment Agency. Some locations off site e.g. Chilton village Well still have concentrations of the key contaminants at above drinking water standards, noting that concentrations across the area have fallen over the 30 years since monitoring and remediation began.

Q2. Can an updated version of the borehole map shared within the presentation be produced to show where contamination remains to date?

A2. Jon Blackmore advised this can be produced.

Q3. How much contamination is removed each year?

A3. A few kilograms per year (*post-meeting note: 5.2 kilograms in the 2023/24 financial year. In 1995/96 the equivalent figure was 1,351 kilograms*).

8. Campus Matters

a) Diamond Light Source

Amy Griffin attended the meeting and provided a presentation on recent activities within Diamond Light Source.

- Diamond Light Source has celebrated 22 years as a scientific research facility.
- Solar panel installation has been completed and will be connected to the grid/commissioned within the coming months.
- Diamond II project is underway. Phase 1 consists of the construction of Diamond's extension building which commenced in January 2024.

Public Engagement Activities



- Continue to run 'Inside Diamond' public open days. The next one will be happening October 26th.
- Schools Inside Diamond Day – October 23rd.
- Schools Work Experience – Applications closed for July 2024. Will reopen in December for July 2025.
- Harwell Open Week commences Monday 24th June.

9. AOB

10. Next Meeting – 5th November 2024

APPENDIX 1

Term	Definition
NRS	Nuclear Restoration Services
EHSSQ	Environment, Health, Safety & Quality
NMT	Nuclear Materials Transfer
RHILW	Remote Handled Intermediate Level Waste
WEP	Waste Encapsulation Plant
ODP	Offsite Discharge Pipeline
GWP	Groundwater Plant



Harwell Site Stakeholder Group

November 2024



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1.0 NDA Stakeholder Update November 2024



NDA Stakeholder Update

Please find below a brief update on main points of interest since the last meeting.

General Election

Following the General Election the Labour Party, with Sir Keir Starmer as the new UK Prime Minister, won with a majority of c170. Within the Department for Energy and Net Zero the Rt Hon Ed Miliband has been appointed as the new Secretary of State with his team of Rt Hon Lord Hunt OBE as Minister of State for Energy and Net Zero, Sarah Jones MP as Minister of State for Industry, Kerry McCarty MP as Parliamentary Under Secretary for Climate, Miatta Fahnbulleh MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary for Energy Consumers and Michael Shanks MP as Parliamentary Under Secretary for Energy.

The new Secretary of State has advised the priorities for the department are:

1. delivering our mission to boost energy independence and cutting bills through clean power by 2030
2. taking back control of our energy with Great British Energy
3. upgrading Britain's homes and cutting fuel poverty through our Warm Homes Plan
4. standing up for consumers by reforming our energy system
5. creating good jobs in Britain's industrial heartlands, including a just transition for the industries based in the North Sea
6. leading on international climate action, based on our domestic achievements

The announcement and launch of Great British Energy (GBE), a publicly owned, clean-energy company which will be headquartered in Scotland has now been made by the Secretary of State. The aim is to speed up the deployment of mature and new technologies, as well as local energy projects, to support the government's aim of decarbonising the UK's electricity system by 2030 whilst also ensuring we can meet future demand as we further decarbonise the economy. GBE will be paid for by a windfall tax on oil and gas giants and will invest clean power projects all across the United Kingdom. [Juergen Maier](#), former CEO of Siemens UK, has been announced as Chair of Great British Energy.

- Following the election we have seen significant constituency level change at NDA sites with ten now represented by a new MP
- We are contacting new constituency MPs at and around our sites and Ministers in key Whitehall departments introducing the work of the NDA group and seeking an early meeting.



- Additionally, over the coming weeks and months, we will be working through the policy implications of a new government for the NDA group, including the forthcoming spending review.

Board updates

- As previously announced **Adrienne Kelbie CBE**, Chair of Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) board, will be stepping down over Summer 2024 and her successor has been announced as Liz Peace.
- **Harriet Kemp** recently (30th August) joined the NDA board. She has extensive background and experience in HR matters and remuneration matters including working at Compass Plc, Novartis and Pepsi.

Outreach activities

- During the pre-election period outreach activities was limited but a number of planned commitments which were postponed are now being rescheduled. This included a site visit by the new Energy Minister Lord Hunt. Lord Hunt recorded a short video after his visit which can be watched on the Sellafield Ltd Facebook [page](#)

Engagement priorities for 2024

- We recently held our **Stakeholder Conference** on September 17/18 in Manchester. We'd like to thank all those that attended and engaged and if you haven't already we'd like to encourage you to provide us with feedback via [Slido](#). In due course we'll be putting up videos from the event so check out the [NDA linked In page](#). During the event David Peattie announced that the NDA would be investing an extra £5m over the next five years to support around 20 PhDs. This builds on the current annual spend of £45m in early careers, including apprenticeships, graduates and PhDs.
- In response to previous feedback, the first **SSG Chairs and Vice-Chairs event** to reflect a group-wide approach involving the NDA, NRS and other OpCo CEOs was held on July 8/9. This combined event provided richer discussion and a chance for the SSG delegates to talk about their opportunities and challenges. It also featured updates on socio-economics and the NDA's heritage strategy.
- As mentioned in previous updates, our **independent review into the SSGs** is underway. This exercise will provide an opportunity to reflect on the successes of the stakeholder voice in the local community over the last 20 years. It will also allow us to consider how best to address some of the challenges that face us as we think about the future. Our Chairs and Vice-Chairs played a role in helping to draft the scope of the review and they received a short progress update at the SSG Chairs and Vice-Chairs meeting mentioned above.
- We are in the process of developing and designed our next broad **stakeholder survey**. More details will be available in due course.



- Preparation is underway for **Strategy V** which we expect to publish in March 2026. Our strategy document is published every 5 years and describes our high-level approach to delivering our mission. Within that we identify several critical enablers essential to the successful delivery of our mission including public and stakeholder engagement. We will engage early with stakeholders during the development of the document and its subsequent consultation.
- We are working closely with the Nuclear Industries Association (NIA) to establish a **Cross-Party Group** on the Civil Nuclear Industry in the Welsh Parliament. The aim is to have its first meeting in November 2024.

Publications, public service and policy updates

- We have now published our [Annual Report](#) which has also been laid in Parliament. The Annual Report sets out the progress made against our mission, from safely decommissioning existing sites to preparing to take responsibility for more, while managing radioactive waste for our existing programme and new nuclear
- The previous Government and devolved administrations published an updated policy for nuclear decommissioning and managing radioactive substances, including radioactive waste. Publication follows consultation undertaken last year on the proposals. [Read details of the policy here.](#)
- The policy included an expectation that the NDA should explore with stakeholders the potential for optimising the LLW Repository to take suitable, less hazardous intermediate level waste.
- Engagement with the local community and relevant stakeholders will be an important part of this work, alongside further technical evaluation. If appropriate, the project would proceed to creation of a final business case and seek necessary approvals.
- Nuclear Waste Services will be working with relevant key stakeholders to inform its thinking
- The Scottish Government is about to start its review into its policy for higher activity radioactive waste (HAW). The policy framework is set out in a 2011 Policy and the 2016 Implementation Strategy. The anticipated timeline is: Commence review – mid 2024, Hold a public consultation – early 2025, issue a revised Policy document – late 2025.
- The new nuclear industry skills “roadmap” has been launched aimed at attracting and retaining the sector’s workforce of the future. The National Nuclear Strategic Plan for Skills (Skills Plan) is based on sector collaboration, investment in training, leadership development and improving diversity. The NDA is a signatory to the charter, which was signed at Westminster, that underpins the goal to double the number of new apprenticeships by 2026 and recruit 40,000 new jobs by 2030.
- The **NAO value for money study** into whether Sellafield and the NDA are taking a sustainable approach to decommissioning, leading to permanent hazard reduction is underway, with visits to Sellafield and formal interviews now completed. We expect the study to be published on 25 October.



- We have recently published our **Nuclear Heritage Strategy**. The NDA are tasked with decommissioning the UK's legacy nuclear sites, sites and facilities which have been at the heart of delivering nuclear benefits for the UK, including national defence programmes and supplying safe, low-carbon power, for decades.
- The [heritage strategy](#) enables the NDA group to identify and preserve the tangible and intangible assets, objects, and memories of the nuclear industry, the people who worked in it, and the communities that supported it.
- NDA has published its **Socio Economic Report** for 2023/24, detailing a record investment in projects across the UK - [NDA group investing in our communities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Mission delivery

- The NDA recently launched its brand-new, specialised cyber facility to accelerate collaboration and innovation across nuclear operators and the supply chain, enhancing the collective ability to successfully defend against cyber threats. The Group Cyberspace Collaboration Centre (GCCC) provides a space for experts in cyber, digital and security to come together and share knowledge and learning on how best to defend against evolving threats. The centre is a multi-functional space for collaborating, brainstorming, workshops, talks, learning and tutorials, cyber exercising, incident management and more. It aims to encourage our cyber, digital and security experts to think and work differently, with our shared future foremost in mind.
- Future plans for our Chapelcross site in Dumfries and Galloway were unveiled in August, with a long-term vision to develop the site into a Green Energy Hub: [Chapelcross Masterplan - CX Project](#)
- NWS and the NDA have established an innovative partnership for the enhanced management of asbestos waste, awarding two contracts to establish the **Asbestos Innovation Partnership**. This partnership will work with the NDA group and the supply chain, to test and develop new solutions to treat asbestos waste, helping to deliver efficiencies and enable more effective waste management.
- A collaboration between NRS, NTS and NWS has achieved a significant milestone by transporting the final waste from the Treated Radwaste Store (TRS) in Winfrith to the LLWR for disposal. The completion of this project ahead of schedule means that the need for **waste storage at Winfrith** which closed in 1990 has been removed, leaving the site ready for decommissioning.
- NDA and NRS have underlined their commitment to Government to, where possible, safely accelerate **land release at Harwell** site to maximise the economic impact of decommissioning. We have identified clear areas of strategic importance and will work together with the Harwell Campus joint venture on developing options for those areas. We are at early stages and still progressing the current release of plots, aiming to have a broader plan for land release this autumn.



- At Sellafield, the first transfer of fuel from an A1 skip to the new 63 can rack in support of the AGR programme has been made. This is a significant milestone presenting new capability that will, via further 63 can racks, enable storage of the volumes of EDF fuel needed into the 2030s.
- The hearing for the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) charges against Sellafield Ltd under the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 took place on 20 June at Westminster Magistrates Court in London. Sellafield Ltd entered a guilty plea to all charges. The sentence was pronounced on 2nd October with a fine of £332,500.00 being imposed.

Thank you for taking the time to read our update. If you have any questions, please feed-back through the Secretariat or ask David Wallace, who will be attending the meeting.



Nuclear
Decommissioning
Authority



Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR Site Report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd – Harwell

ONR Site Report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd - Harwell

Report for period: 1 January – 31 June 2024

Authored by: Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: Delivery Lead, DFW Subdivision

Issue No.: 1

Publication Date: July 2024

ONR Record Ref. No.: 2024/30992

Foreword

This report is issued as part of ONR's commitment to make information about inspection and regulatory activities relating to the above site available to the public. Reports are distributed to members for the Harwell Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/llc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Harwell Site Stakeholder Group meetings where these reports are presented and will respond to any questions raised there. Any person wishing to inquire about matters covered by this report should contact ONR.

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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of Inspection

ONR did not undertake compliance inspection over this period.

2. Routine Matters

2.1. Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- the conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- the Energy Act 2013
- the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 (HSWA74); and
- regulations made under HSWA74, for example the Ionising Radiations Regulations 2017 (IRR17) and the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 (MHSWR99).

The inspections entail monitoring the licensee's actions on the site in relation to incidents, operations, maintenance, projects, modifications, safety case changes and any other matters that may affect safety. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence in order to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period the focus was to close some outstanding issues with fire safety and complete the site handover. No compliance inspection were undertaken.

Members of the public, who would like further information on ONR's inspection activities during the reporting period, can view site intervention reports at www.onr.org.uk/intervention-records on our website www.onr.org.uk.

Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.

2.2. Other Work

Throughout this reporting period, ONR nominated site safety inspector had several meetings and interactions on site to understand the priorities and get familiar with the projects on site.

The site land remediation plan and decommissioning of building 220 are of particular interest to ONR and inspections over the remaining of 2024 will ensure that from its initiation, the building 220 characterisation project is established and undertaken safely and securely.

In addition to routine meetings with NRS, other works include discussions over the management of site security moving forward and the land remediation and delicensing of parts of the site.

No significant issues were highlighted by ONR.

3. Non-Routine Matters

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. ONR inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

No significant event was reported over this period.

4. Regulatory Activity

ONR may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, ONR issues regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken; these are usually collectively termed 'Licence Instruments' (LIs) but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an Enforcement Notice.

- No LIs, Enforcement Notices or Enforcement letters were issued during this period.

Reports detailing regulatory decisions can be found on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/>.

5. News from ONR

For the latest news and information from ONR, please read and subscribe to our regular email newsletter 'ONR News' at www.onr.org.uk/onrnews.

6. Contacts

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Environment Agency report

Harwell Site Stakeholder Group

November 2024

This report covers the Environment Agency's regulation of the Harwell Nuclear Licensed Site and related issues for the period between April and October 2024.

Radioactive substances regulation

We regulate radioactive waste disposals to the environment. We do this through environmental permits that contain limits and conditions aimed at minimising wastes and protecting people and the environment. We check compliance with the permits through routine interaction with the operator, and by making regular inspections at Harwell.

Working with colleagues across the Environment Agency, we also regulate and control other activities through our environmental permits, including surface and groundwater discharges. Through our corporate objectives, aims and general duties, we also provide advice and guidance to protect or enhance the wider environment and support sustainable development.

We record our regulatory compliance interactions in Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCARs). These summarise the type of work we have undertaken, describe any non-compliance or observations of good practice, and include actions or recommendations from our findings. They are public register records and can be provided on request. Please see the 'further information' section at the end of this document to find out how to request public register records.

Permitting

NRS holds two radioactive substances activity permits under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) at the Harwell site: one covers the nuclear licensed site (PB3598DX, the 'nuclear' EPR permit); the second covers smaller areas outside the nuclear licensed site boundary (PB3198DJ, the 'non-nuclear' EPR permit).

No changes have been made to either permit since the last SSG meeting. We are providing regulatory advice and guidance on our requirements to support NRS's plans to apply for partial surrender of its permit in the West Meashill area and at the Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant.

Compliance activities

We check compliance with the permits through regular contact with the operator, site meetings, and by making regular inspections at Harwell. We issue RASCARs to summarise inspections, including any identified non-compliances, actions, recommendations and observations of good practice.

We receive and assess a range of monthly reports from the site. We maintain regular dialogue with the operator to ensure we are kept in touch with any emerging issues at Harwell and with progress on actions.

We hold weekly meetings with the Environment Manager and team to ensure we are aware of progress on decommissioning, progress on actions and recommendations and any emerging issues at the site. The NRS Internal Assessor joins our meetings. We also receive regular updates from project leads at the site.

In April we inspected the arrangements for the management of liquid discharges at Harwell. We visited the Replacement Effluent Treatment Plant (RETP) and the Radiochemistry Facility (B220), which both discharge to the sewer. In our April report we noted that there had been a discrepancy in reporting discharges from B220. During the inspection we were shown evidence that NRS has updated its processes with the lessons learned from this event.

In September we inspected the arrangements for the management of gaseous discharges at the site. We visited B220 to inspect its discharge systems.

Before both inspections the site provided us with relevant documents so that we could assess its discharge management arrangements in advance of our site visits. When we visited the site we met with the Environment Manager and other members of the Environment Team staff, and the appropriate staff at each facility who answered our questions about effluent discharge processes and practices. We were given access to further documents and records when requested and supplied with further information after the visits.

In both inspections we identified no non-compliances with the site permit. During both inspections the staff we spoke to were knowledgeable, open to questioning and committed to compliance.

Also in September, we visited the Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant (LETP) with Office for Nuclear Regulation and UK Health Security Agency colleagues to observe minor remediation work which is taking place. We inspected arrangements for disposal of waste arising from the work. We made a recommendation about the arrangements for the temporary storage of waste in the area covered by PB3198DJ, the 'non-nuclear' EPR permit. NRS quickly acted on this and sent us photographs to show how it had delineated areas to avoid inadvertent misconsignment of waste.

Environmental impact

The site environmental permit requires NRS to monitor and assess the impact of discharges on the environment. The results of NRS's environmental monitoring programme (EMP) indicate that the environmental impact from permitted discharges remains low. NRS's results continue to be consistent with our independent programme, and do not indicate any results of concern or significant change from previous years.

The Environment Agencies and Food Standards Agency carry out independent environmental monitoring around nuclear sites. These monitoring programmes support our regulatory function and provide reassurance that public radiation exposures are within legal limits. The results of this work are published annually and the most recent report, *Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2022 (RIFE 28)*, was published on the GOV.UK website in November 2023.

[Radioactivity in food and the environment \(RIFE\) reports - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/rife-reports)

The RIFE report presents a yearly assessment of radiological dose to individuals in the local population who are most exposed to radiation from each nuclear licensed site (known as the 'representative person'). In 2022, the attributed total dose to the representative person from all pathways and sources of radiation from the Harwell site was less than 0.005 millisieverts. This is less than 1% of the annual limit for radiation exposure for a member of the public of 1 millisievert/year, and less than 0.5% of the average annual amount of radiation we all receive from natural sources (2.7 millisieverts/year). The RIFE

report notes that the attributed total dose from Harwell site remains broadly similar to that for previous years.

The report for 2022 continues to show that, overall, total doses to the public from permitted discharges and direct radiation around nuclear sites remained below the legal limit set to protect members of the public (set at 1 millisievert per annum (mSv)). Radioactivity from natural background, rather than nuclear sites, continues to be the more significant source of exposure to communities in all areas of the UK. Artificial radioactivity in the environment, from the nuclear industry and from past testing of nuclear weapons, accounted for less than 0.2% of the exposure to the UK population.

At the time of writing *Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2023 (RIFE 29)* had not been published, however we have seen a draft of the report and the total dose to the representative person from the Harwell site was unchanged in 2023.

Further information, including the most recent breakdown of the average individual dose to the UK population by source of exposure, is available on the UKHSA website here <https://www.ukhsa-protectionservices.org.uk/radiationandyou/>

Discharge reports

The site's environmental permit requires NRS to use the best available techniques (BAT) to produce the minimum amount of radioactive waste and minimise permitted disposals into the environment. Disposal of wastes – as solids, liquid or gases can only be made via permitted routes or to permitted sites. The site is required to report liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment to us on a regular basis. We examine these reports and produce RASCARs for them. Copies of the discharge reports and the RASCARs are made publicly available. See the 'further information' section at the end of this document to find out how to request them.

Both liquid and gaseous discharges from Harwell continue to be at levels well within permitted limits. It is noted that the relative level of these discharges may fluctuate as the decommissioning programme evolves.

Incidents and enforcement

There have been no incidents or events leading to enforcement action at Harwell in the period since the last SSG meeting.

Further information

A public register service is available on the GOV.UK website at <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/index>

You can also request access to public documents by contacting the Customers and Engagement Team in the Wallingford office. Please email WTenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Further information on our role in regulating the use of radioactive substances and related activities on nuclear licensed sites can be found on the Environment Agency pages of the Gov.UK website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-regulation-in-the-environment-agency>

Our enforcement and sanctions policy is available on the GOV.UK website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-enforcement-and-sanctions-policy/environment-agency-enforcement-and-sanctions-policy>

The UK Health Security Agency has placed guidance on ionising radiation dose comparisons on the GOV.UK website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-dose-comparisons>

The Environment Agency's lead nuclear regulator for the Harwell site is Rebecca Cleverley. Rebecca is part of the national Nuclear Regulation Group (South) (NRG (South)) which is based at the Environment Agency's Wallingford office in Oxfordshire.

NRG (South) undertakes environmental regulation of radioactive substances on nuclear licensed sites in southern England. It works closely with the local Environment Agency teams in those areas as well as external bodies such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

Members of the local Environment Agency team cover the site for general (non-radioactive substances) environment protection matters such as regulation of groundwater, contaminated land, waste management and water abstraction.

Address: Environment Agency, Red Kite House, Howbery Park, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 8BD

Email: nrg@environment-agency.gov.uk

The Future of NRS sites

Harwell - Site-specific report

Thinks Insight & Strategy

About the site-specific reports

The following site-specific reports have been written using data from the quantitative survey conducted by Thinks as part of their public research on behalf of NRS. Verbatim responses from the online community have also been included to illustrate the findings.

The survey asked 2100 respondents, comprising:

- **Nat rep sample:** 1000 people, demographically representative of the UK
- **Local boost:** 600 respondents who live within 40 minutes of an NRS site (50 participants in each of 12 sites)*
- **Young people boost:** A boost of 500x 11-18-year-olds

The data informing the site-specific reports comes from a combination of the local boost sample and those in the Nat rep sample who live near an NRS site. Please note that this means the base sizes for each site are small (<100). Differences between the sites are therefore to be treated indicatively, rather than as statistically significant.

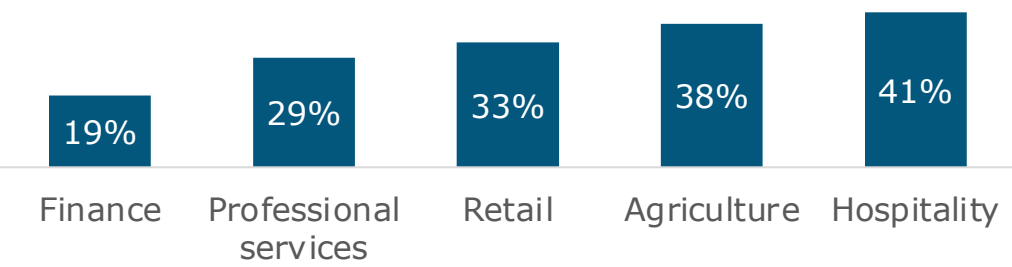
It is also worth noting that views towards priorities and strategies for decommissioning are consistent across the sites, and these can be found in more detail in the full report, which contains analysis across all NRS sites and from all phases of the research (the online community, deliberative workshops and the survey).

Key findings

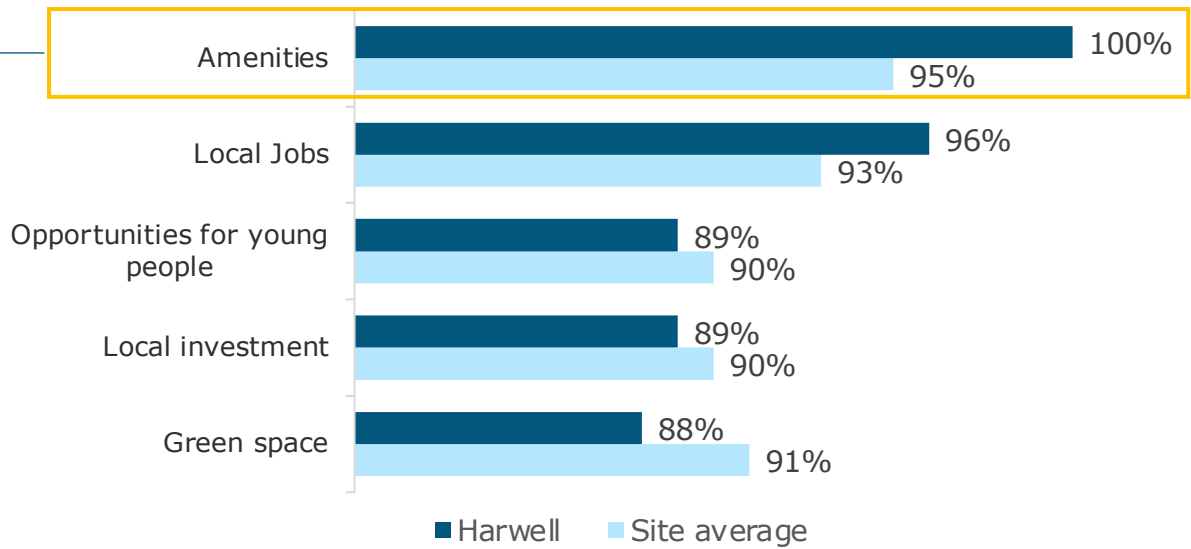


Harwell's economy is built on a mixture of areas; local economic development and amenities are the most important aspects of public life locally for residents

Which of the following areas do you feel has the biggest positive impact on your local economy? Harwell - Selected responses



Which areas of public life are important for the future of your local area? Showing % who scored 7-10 / 10 (Top 5 Harwell responses)



Harwell's most frequently chosen aspect of public is Amenities. Harwell's priorities for their local area are consistent with the other sites.

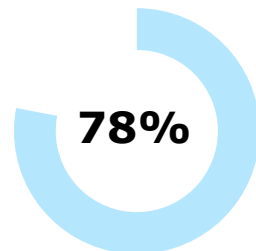
Residents' support for nuclear power is high, in line with the average of those living close to a site

How much do you feel you know about nuclear energy in the UK?



■ 1-2 ■ 3-4 ■ 5-6 ■ 7-8 ■ 9-10

Support for nuclear power to provide energy in the UK



Harwell residents mean score is 6.3/10, consistent with a site average of 6.

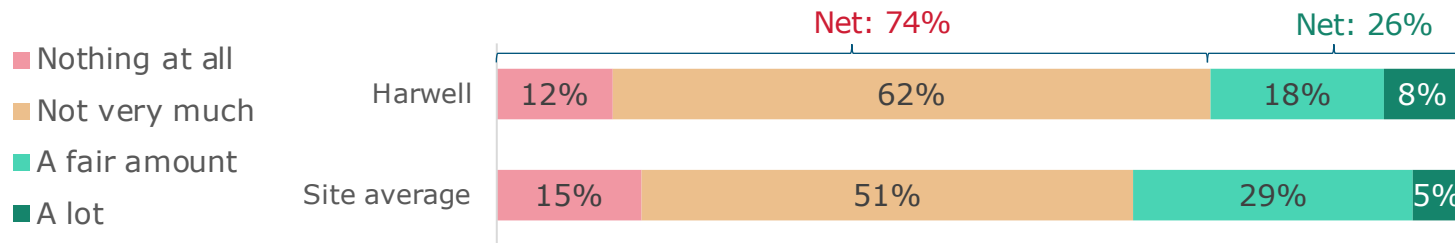
Local support for nuclear power is consistent with other sites, with over three quarters supporting its use in the UK.

"While I acknowledge the importance of the site for scientific research and development, I am not overly concerned about its presence and believe that it brings valuable opportunities to the community. However, I remain mindful of any potential impacts on the environment and the need for proper safety measures."

Online Community, Harwell

Awareness of the Harwell site is similar to other sites, with local media the main source of information for those living nearby

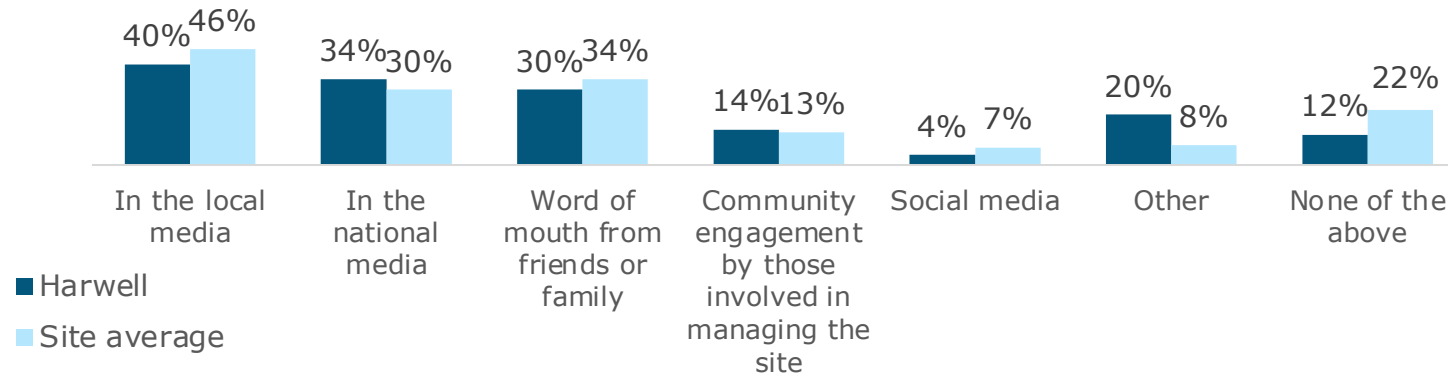
How much do you feel you know about your local nuclear site?



"I don't know about the contribution of the nuclear site to the area. I know the other power station provided jobs, so I assume this did as well."

Online Community, Harwell

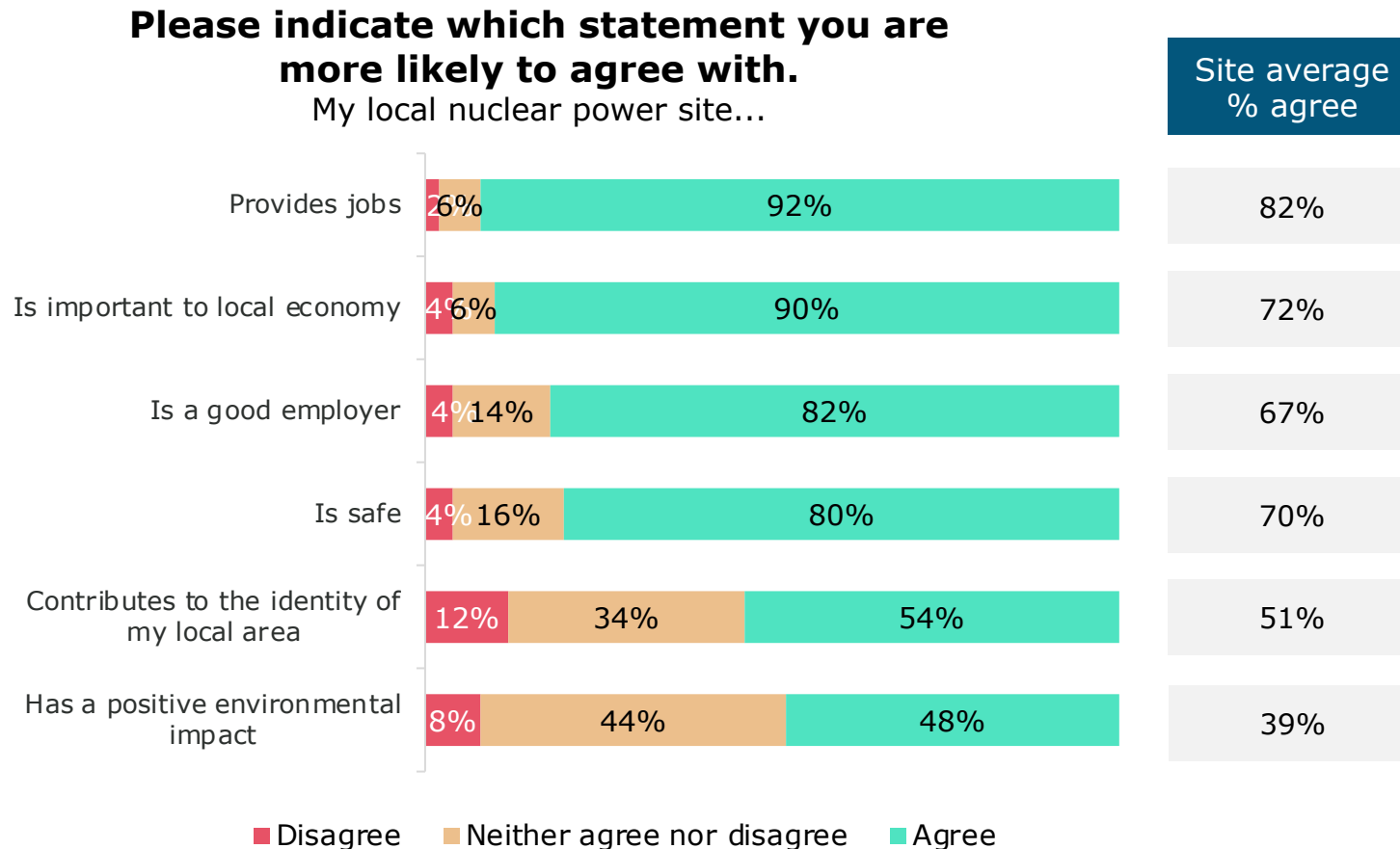
Where, if anywhere, have you heard about your local nuclear site?



"It is being decommissioned, only heard about this when signing up for this research."

Online Community, Harwell

Harwell residents are positive about the local nuclear site; it is a big contributor to the local economy



The local nuclear power site in Harwell is valued as an **important contributor to the local economy** – more so than any other site.

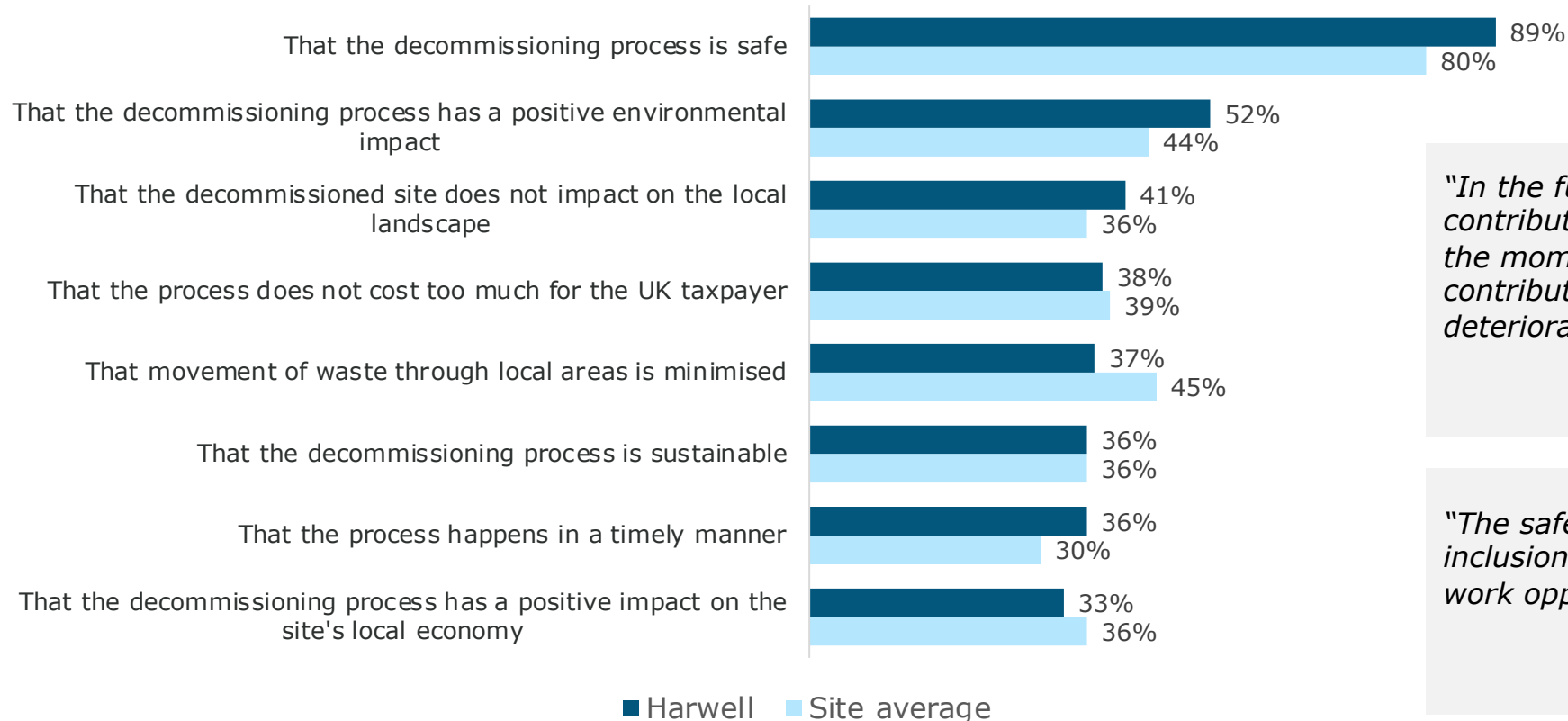
Locals believe this site has had a **positive impact** on their community in the past (60%) and see it contributing in a positive way in the future (62%).

"It has contributed to the area by driving economic growth, advancing scientific research, and fostering community development."

Online Community, Harwell

Safety is the main priority for Harwell residents in decommissioning, in line with those close to other sites

Decommissioning criteria selected as very important



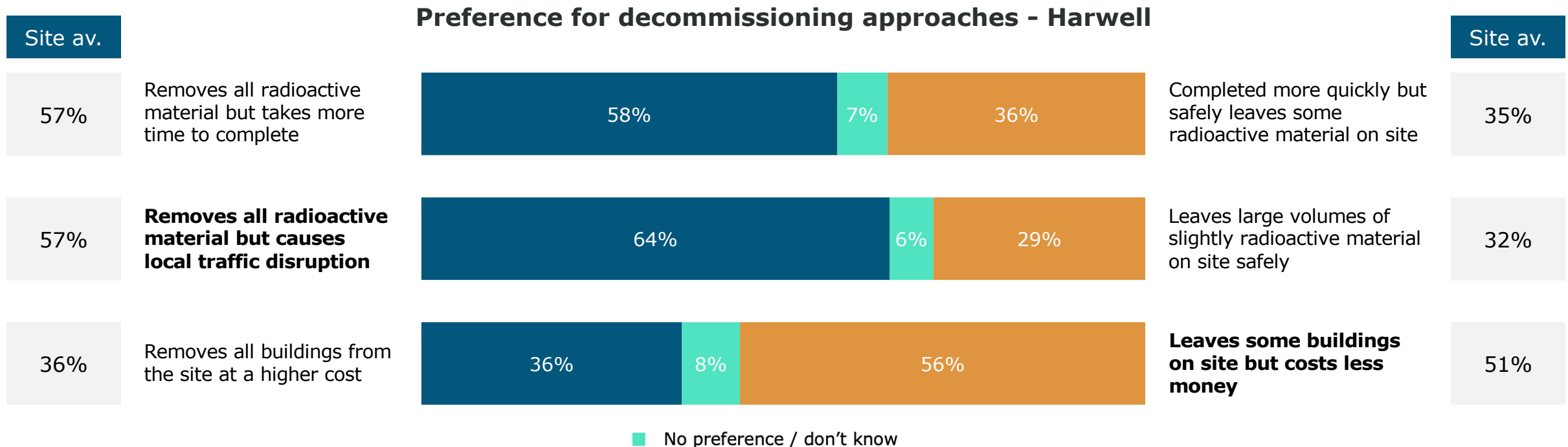
"In the future it could have a big contribution depending how it is used. At the moment I don't know what size contribution it has. If it was just left to deteriorate, that would not be good."

Online Community, Harwell

"The safety of local residents, and inclusion of local students by giving them work opportunities."

Online Community, Harwell

In line with the total sample, Harwell is in favor of removing all radioactive material even if it takes longer or causes disruption





Thank you!

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