



WINFRITH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)

Tuesday 13 November 2024

Winfrith Village Hall

Meeting reference SG34

Attendees:		
Barry Quinn		SSG Chair and representative of East Stoke Parish Council
Nic Johnson		Vice Chair and representative of Winfrith Parish Council
Gary Reid		NRS – Harwell & Winfrith Site Director
Will Matheson		NRS - Regional EHSS&Q Manager
Emma Burwood		NRS - Winfrith and Harwell Communications Lead
Debbie Paterson		NRS - Minutes
Bethany Sear		NRS – Harwell & Winfrith Site Communications
Alastair Findlay		NDA – Head of Regional Affairs
Andrew Forrest		NRS – Chief Technical Officer
Elly Joyce		NRS – Site End State Manager Harwell & Winfrith
Steve Smith		Wool Parish Council
Alex Clothier		Dorset Council
David Carson		Amentum
Alister Wintle		Environment Agency (EA)
Sally Thompson		Environment Agency (EA)
Sarah Jackson		West Lulworth Parish Council
Ian Jackson		Tradebe
Paul Hayes		Resident
Rob Bell - ?		Resident
John Yonwin		Resident
Vincent Helmut		

Apologies for absence – Rob Coan (NRS), Bill Hamilton (NRS), Vincent Malachanne (ONR), Eren Balkir (DC), Eleanor Godesar (DC), Luke Johns (Dorset Wildlife Trust), Mike Baker (West Purbeck Dorset Councillor), Alex Clothier (DC), Sarah Jackson (Lulworth DC)

1. Welcome and Introduction – Barry Quinn

Barry Quinn welcomed attendees to the meeting.

- The new Harwell & Winfrith Site Director, Gary Reid, who had taken over from Paul Brennan and Bethany Sear, who will replace Emma Burwood as Harwell & Winfrith Site Communications, were welcomed to the meeting.
- In preparation for today's meeting, the event was publicised on local community Facebook pages to encourage representatives to attend.
- The SSG Chair/Deputy Chair continue to receive regular updates both in person and via Teams.

OFFICIAL

- The impact on funding following the change in government and the recent budget was not yet known.
- Due to personal commitments the SSG Chair was unable to attend the Chairs meeting in Manchester in July.
- The SSG Chair attended the annual NDA summit in Manchester in September 2024. Feedback from the meeting was that there were too many breakout sessions relevant to the Winfrith site to be able to join them all. Suitability of Manchester as a venue was also questioned due to the limited travel options available from Dorset.
- The SSG Chair had made contact with Elizabeth Norton, NDA Heritage Officer at the NDA summit to discuss the Heritage Strategy, draft Collection Policy and the possibility of obtaining a Blue Paque to mark the contribution of the Winfrith site to nuclear energy.

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

Matters Arising

A copy of an organogram displaying the relationships between Contractors, Regulators and areas of responsibility/ownership requested at the previous meeting had been produced. (copy attached).

2. Winfrith Site Report – Gary Reid

Gary Reid introduced himself to the meeting. Updates were given on the following:

Health, Safety, Security, Environment & Quality Safety

- Finger injury sustained by a steel erection subcontractor. Principal causal factor being lack of situational awareness. Work around cultural development, supervision, signage and physiological safety continues.
- Slightly elevated tritium levels had been detected in the River Win.
- No issues regarding on-site safety raised via the Health and Safety Committee (HESAC).
- Atmospheric and liquid effluent discharges from site remain well within permitted limits.

Q1: What is tritium used for?

A1: Tritium has been used commercially for its luminous qualities in the manufacture of items such as telephone dials, road/motorway signage and in heavy water reactor operations. It has a lifespan of approximately 13 years.

Regulatory Topics

- The Environment Agency (EA) CEO and NRS CEO had visited site on 31 October 2024 to discuss the principles and resources around delivering End State.
- Environment Agency (EA) inspections covering atmospheric and liquid discharges. No non compliances noted.

Site Operations - Current Work Programmes

SGHWR

- Opened in 1967. Operations ceased in 1990.
- Headline project for the NDA.
- Entered into a period of exciting and innovative decommissioning work including a robotics demonstration facility for core cutting activities.

Mini-MILWEP

- Intermediate Low Level Waste (ILW) produced is packaged into concrete boxes and cemented ready for transport to Harwell for future disposal.

DRAGON

- A high pressure / high temperature reactor which ceased operations in 1978.
- Dragon reactor laser core cutting had commenced.

Plant & Structures (P&S)

- Sea Pipeline. Currently preparing the business case to obtain funding for the next phase of the project.
- Demolition of the A42/44 old fire station and telephone exchange in progress.
- A55 Delay tanks demolished and pump house decommissioned.

Other

- Blacknoll Reservoir pre-planning application for demolition had gone through process. Full planning application scheduled for 2026.
- Recruitment remains challenging in the nuclear industry.
- Apprenticeship programmes had been re-invigorated.

Sustainability

- Upgrade to lighting in corridors, meeting rooms and offices around site reducing power consumption.
- Quarterly litter picks to include Gatemoor Road and surrounding areas continue to be a success.
- Nature walks hosted by staff member scheduled throughout 2024.

Magnox Socio-economic Funding Support 2022-2023

Winfrith funded projects 2024/2025 to date as follows:

- Good neighbour: £820
- Wessex FC (Girls Team) - £506 – Football Kits for 11 players.
- Tumbledown Community Growing - £85,000.
- Dorset Wildlife Trust - £26,910 over 3 years.

For further information please go to:

[NRS working with our communities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/nuclear-regulator/about-us/working-with-our-communities)

Q2: When would the demolition of the A42/44 fire station complete?

A2: Demolition is expected to complete by the end of the financial year (April 2025).

Q3: What is the plan for the Blacknoll Reservoir?

A3: The concrete hatches would be sympathetically removed so they are no longer visible. The planning application outlines the methodology which safeguards wildlife and local habitats.

3. NDA Report – Alastair Findlay

- The new Secretary of State had advised the priorities for 2030.
- Rt Hon Lord Hunt OBE, Minister of State for Energy and Net Zero had visited Sellafield in August 2024.
- New Chair of Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) had been appointed.
- New NDA Board member had been appointed.
- Strategy V is due to be published in March 2026. The document outlines the high level approach for delivering the NDA mission.

The NDA Report had been issued prior the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link. [Site Stakeholder Groups \(magnoxstakeholdergroups.com\)](https://www.magnoxstakeholdergroups.com)

4 a) Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) – (not in attendance)

The ONR Report had been issued prior the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link. [Site Stakeholder Groups \(magnoxstakeholdergroups.com\)](https://www.magnoxstakeholdergroups.com)

No significant issues reported.

b) Environment Agency (EA) – Alister Wintle

- An Aqueous Waste Arisings inspection was completed in June 2024. No permitted non compliances noted.
- A Gaseous Waste Emissions Process inspection was completed in September 2024. Report pending.
- Slightly elevated Tritium levels had been found in the River Win above the expected historic trend but within permit levels. Additional sampling undertaken.
- Slight increase in dose 0.028 to 0.054 mSv. Fluctuations are dependent on site activities. The increase from radiation shine is attributed to operational activities such as the removal for disposal of the TRS drums in 2023 which may account for the increase. Levels are expected to decrease in 2025.
- 'Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2022' is published on the GOV.UK website. All sites are below the legal limit. Further information can be found <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports>

The EA Report had been issued prior to the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link [Site Stakeholder Groups \(magnoxstakeholdergroups.com\)](https://www.magnoxstakeholdergroups.com)

Q4: What is Radiation shine and how far does it travel?

A4: Radiation shine is gamma radiation. An example of this is the radiation received during a medical x-ray. Boundary fences are regularly monitored and there is no dose uptake.

5. Project Update – Winfrith End State – Updates and Applications – Elly Joyce

A presentation was delivered which provided an update, stages and timeline associated with the submission of the various applications.

Applications are being made to support the implementation of end state include:

- Two environmental permits to allow waste disposals.
- Planning application for restoring the site to heathland with public access, including waste disposals.
- Permit Application under the Environment Agencies Guidance on Requirements for Release from Radioactive Substances Regulation (known as GRR).
- Permit Application Recovery of wastes. Application to recover non-radioactive demolition wastes for the purpose of backfilling voids at SGHWR and Dragon.

6. Any Other Business – Barry Quinn

Barry Quinn expressed thanks to Emma Burwood for her support during his previous tenure as SSG Vice Chair and as SSG Chair, and wished her well in her new role. He looked forward to working with Bethany in the future.

Date of Next Meeting – 13 May 2025 (to be confirmed)