



HARWELL CHILTON CAMPUS LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Minutes of the 102nd meeting held at The Satellite Applications Catapult Centre, Harwell on Thursday November 2nd 2023

ATTENDEES:

Chair	Chris Broad, Chilton Parish Council
Deputy Chair	John Sharp, East Hendred Parish Council
Communicaitons:	Emma Burwood, Magnox, Communications lead (not in attendance)
Minutes	Jessica Peart, Magnox

Judy Roberts	Vale District Council
Paul Bryant	Parish Council
Michael Fox-Davies	Harwell Parish Council
Cath Convery	Harwell Parish Council
John Sharp	East Hendred Parish Council
Paul Brennan	NRS
Davinia Dring	NRS
Laura Street	NRS
Stuart Clark	NRS
Gary Reid	NRS
Dik Third	NRS
Richard Helen	SSTL
Stephen Druce	Chilton Parish Council
Bill Hanks	Member of the public
Christine Williamson	MRC Harwell
Peter Turner	UKHSA
Paul Barty	UKHSA
Ashley Forbes	Jacobs
Amy Griffin	Diamond Light Source
Rebecca Cleverley	EA
Aidan Kelly	EA
Joe Kelleher	STFC
Susan Holdroyd	Member of the public

Apologies for absence

1. Chairmans Remarks – Chris Broad

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

- Paul Brennan has been appointed as the Harwell & Winfrith Site Director.
- Rob Fletcher has been appointed as the new CEO of NRS. (Previously Magnox)



- Significant changes at NDA over the past months, due largely to contractual changes at Dounreay and Sellafield.
- The creation of Great British Nuclear, puts pressure on a talent pool of nuclear specialists.
- Chris Broad has attended meetings at London re; Magnox rebranding to NRS.
- SSG Chair and Vice Chair continue to hold regular meetings with Paul Brennan and Emma Burwood to discuss site and local issues.
- An election to appoint the Chairman of the SSG Chairs 'Chair of Chairs' was carried out on October 16th, with Aled Jones being re-elected.
- Some sites have expressed an interest in housing Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) on their sites.
- Land release at Harwell has been discussed. It was explained that as Harwell is categorised as 'low risk' it does not currently count as a NDA funding priority. Funding is required to provide delicensing, and de-designation to allow land release to the campus. The dialogue continues.

2. Minutes of the 101st meeting

- The minutes from the last meeting were accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising: Nothing to report

4. Magnox Harwell Licensed Site Matters

- A short video was presented unveiling Magnox rebranding to NRS (Nuclear Restoration Services). This rebranding will be implemented over a period of two years to ensure the best value for money, and to give the brand strategy time to be embedded.

Presentation given by Harwell and Winfrith Site Director Paul Brennan

- Paul Brennan introduced himself as the newly appointed Site Director for Harwell and Winfrith.
- No lost time accidents in 185 days, as of October 25th, 2023.
- No significant issues regarding on-site safety have been raised.
- Atmospheric and liquid effluent discharges from Site remain well within permitted limits.
- Data returned from the Environmental Monitoring Programme is within limits and often at limit of detection.

Harwell Land Release

Stuart Clark talked through the status of land release at Harwell.

Land would be released in phases as decommissioning is completed. Progress with decommissioning is dictated by NDA prioritisation where Harwell is a low risk/low priority. NDA, NRS, UKAEA and Campus developer are talking to central government about separate funding for the Harwell Programme.

Programme Update

- Nuclear Materials Transfer (NMT) consignments on track – target of 85% shipped offsite.



- Progress being made on Remote Handled Intermediate Level Waste (RHILW) Retrievals.
- Preparation underway for minor remediation works and delicensing of West Meashill.
- The B220 facility is working on placing a contract for characterisation works.

Nuclear Material Transfers and Remote Handled Intermediate Level Waste (RHILW)

Retrievals

- 5592 drums shipped to date – 84.2% of total drums.
- 46.6% of activity (Bq) removed.
- Forecast 86% drums complete by March/April 2024.
- Project completion stable in 2026.
- Gemini active moves making good progress.
- Rate dependent on receiving plant availability.
- Intermediate Level Waste (ILW) retrievals – 5.9Te versus 7.38te target for 2023/24
- Retrieval Machine 2 is being moved to start recovering from array 54 of 64.
- Waste Encapsulation Plant (WEP) has completed phases 1 and 2 of active commissioning and is now operational.
- Retrieval Machine 1 has recovered and dealing with waste for the first time in 10 years.
- The Post Operational Clear Out project continues to develop solutions to allow cleaning for disposal of the waste storage tubes once emptied.

Compliance and End States Programme

Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant (LETP) - Land Remediation

- Surveys and sampling completed in and around LETP in August 2023.
- Minor remediation works within the LETP deferred until April 2024.
- Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) lagoon Construction and LETP Reinstatement deferred until 2025.
- Bridleway diversion has been extended until the end of 2024, with a further extension required to late 2025.
- Delicensing case submission – Summer 2025.

West Meashill Area Land Release

- Extensive surveys and sampling works carried out.
- Minor remediation works underway.
- Delicensing case submission – early 2025.

Downs Way East Land Remediation

- Ecological surveys have been carried out and mitigation measures are underway.

Groundwater Remediation

- Discussions being held with the EA over the closure of the Groundwater Plant.

Decommissioning (Reactors and Rad Programmes)

B220 – Radiological Characterisation and asbestos survey contract has been tendered, with contract award expected January 2024.



B418 – Intrusive Characterisation works are ongoing, and due for completion in Spring 2024. Demolition planned for Spring 2025.

Socio-economic Funding

- £2,405 Good Neighbourhood funding remaining out of £6,000, a reminder to get any applications in.
- 7 Harwell funding requests totalling £181,373.
 - Assisted reading for children
 - 1st Harwell Scout Group
 - Home Start Oxfordshire
 - Chilton Parish Council
 - Oxford Wood Recycling
 - South Oxfordshire Food and Education Alliance

Other

- 17 roles have been filled since January 2023. 10 external, and 7 internal.
- 3 apprentice vacancies for September 2023 (x1 MOET, and x2 Rad Protection).

Questions

Q1: The footpath between North Drive and the campus, is this closed by NRS or the Harwell Campus? And when will it be opened.

A1: Stuart Clark confirmed it is closed by NRS due to work within the area. The delay experienced collecting samples has pushed back the excavation of the balance pond into the winter period, this is not feasible in the winter months due to groundwater levels. Expected closure to last until December 2025, with possible further delays.

Q2: Can a more refined footpath diversion be considered?

A2: Paul Brennan said NRS would review the routing of the bridleway - ACTION.

Q3: Can some more information be given on the local impact of ground water remediation?

A3: Paul Brennan advised this would be included as an item at the next SSG meeting to update further - ACTION.

Q4: Downs Way East Remediation – could some more information be given?

A4: Surveys are underway to identify species residing on the site. More detail can be given once surveys have been completed – ACTION.

Q5. Could more information be provided on the intentions for the Waste Chemical Storage Site.

A5. NRS to provide more information at the next SSG -ACTION.

A note was made to insert a glossary of terms within the minutes. These are included at the back as an appendix.



5. REPORTS

NDA Report

NDA were not present at today's meeting but have submitted a report for overview.

- Claire Coutinho has been appointed as DESNZs new Secretary of State.
- NDA's new interim Chair is Chris Train. Chris met with the SSG Chairs, and Vice-Chair in Manchester on 16-17th October.
- Preparations are underway for the next in person stakeholder summit in Cumbria in 2024.
- Two successful regional events have been held, showcasing how innovation and technology help the NDA to deliver its mission.
- This year's edition of the NDAs Mission Progress Report is expected to be published in November.
- The socio-economic strategy team has been visiting key stakeholders around the country as part of its three yearly checks that it is fit for purpose. A revised strategy will be shortly published, and a full formal consultation will start in December. All members of the SSG are invited to take part.
- NDA took part in the Nuclear Industry Association's 'Week in Parliament' this September. It presented an opportunity for MPs and other parliamentarians to gain a better understanding of the contribution nuclear makes to the economy.
- NDA's Annual Report and Accounts was published mid-September. It outlines the mission progress on hazard reduction and decommissioning across the UKs civil nuclear sites.
- Phase one of 'One NDA' which has created a simpler group structure has been completed, with Dounreay becoming a division of Magnox.
- NDA has developed a draft code of practice to provide guidance to sites, and site licenced companies. This will be discussed with the sites, regulators and SSG ahead of publication.

Q1. The report mentions that a draft code of practice has been developed and will be discussed with SSG. What timescale is that on?

A1. The Chair couldn't advise the timescale at today's meeting but will find out and feedback. ACTION

Environment Agency (EA) Report – Rebecca Cleverley

Rebecca Cleverley and Aidan Kelly attended the meeting to present the EA report.

- The EA receives discharge returns and environmental monitoring returns from the site each month. The discharge returns are well below permitted rates, and no trends of concern are being seen.
- Meetings are held between the EA and Environment Manager on a weekly basis.
- Quarterly project update meetings are held to discuss what is happening with projects across site.
- Two inspections carried out since the last SSG. In June an inspection of the arrangements for the management of surface water drainage related assets and



prevention of fire water runoff from the Harwell Site. In October an inspection of the asset management arrangements on site took place.

- Buildings on site, particularly under care and maintenance, are being kept cool and dim opposed to cold and dark, and a positive difference is being seen in the condition of the building.
- 28th edition of 'Radioactivity in food and the environment' report has been published today.
- The RIFE Report notes that the attributed total dose from the Harwell Site remains similar to that for previous years and is slightly lower than in 2020.

Q1. Does the EA require the site to carry out any monitoring for Perfluoroalkoxy alkanes (PFAS)?

A1. RC advised this was looked at across the industry and will come back via the Chair with more information. ACTION

6. NRS UPDATE

Presentation on Building 220, Radiochemistry Research Laboratory – Gary Reid

Gary Reid gave a brief history about Building B220, and summarised what decommissioning has taken place for far.

Extensions to B220 over the decades

- B220.7 Shielded Vells.
- B220.8 Extension for plutonium work.
- B220.29 remote handled facility, opened in 1986.
- New electrical supplies and filtered general extract.
- Various office extensions.

B220 Post 1990

- Leased to AEA Technology from 1996 to 2004
- Commercial Medical/Industrial Radioactive Source Production.
- Extensive decommissioning activities from 1990 onwards.

Present Activities

- Radiological characterisation of the facility to allow accurate final decommissioning estimates.
- Upgrading of existing ventilation, fire detection and electrical systems to align with decommissioning activities.

Q1. What is the impact of asbestos within the site buildings on the local area?

A1. Safety controls are in place when dealing with asbestos. (Air flows, containments, modular containments & the wearing of the correct personal protective equipment) will not present any issues for the local area.

Q2. What is happening to acknowledge historic buildings on site once they have been decommissioned/demolished.



A2. Blue Plaques have been issued by English Heritage and are displayed at the old Main Gate entrance to site, and at the entrance to 220. GR would like to see the Blue Plaque at 220 displayed in the local area after decommissioning and land release, for future generations to view.

CAMPUS MATTERS

STFC Presentation – Joe Kelleher

- Joe Kelleher gave a presentation on the central laser facility.
- Joe explained the photonics application centre has recently opened, which will contain a laboratory housing a laser which can fire 10 times per second.

Diamond Light Source – Presentation by Amy Griffin

- Amy Griffin gave a presentation on recent changes/works happening at Diamond Light Source.
- Gianluigi Botton has been appointed as the new CEO.
- The Government has awarded £519.4 million to complete the Diamond II upgrade programme.
- Solar panel array installation on the roof of Diamond is nearing completion.

Q1. How long is the Diamond Source going to be down, while the upgrades take place?

A1. The down period is approximately 18 months. An engineering building will be built to manufacture as many girders as possible, ahead of turning the machine off to minimise the dark period.

7. AOB

- Chris Broad and John Sharp have been reappointed as Chair and Deputy Chair of SSG.

Next Meeting 18th April 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



Steps for Land Release at NRS Harwell:

1. Decommissioning – removal of radioactive hazards from buildings/facilities followed by demolition.
2. Land quality surveys and sampling – remediation (excavation of contaminated soils/structures in the ground) if required.
3. For each area, application to Office for Nuclear Regulation to remove the Nuclear Site Licence, and to the Environment Agency to surrender the Environmental Permit for Radioactive Substances Regulation. This stage can be referred to as site clearance.
4. De-designation – this process is carried out by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to remove the areas in question from the Designated Site (Energy Act 2004).
5. Land release – once all the preceding steps have been completed, the land at Harwell is released back to the land owner, the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, a component of the Harwell Campus JV.