



WINFRITH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)

Tuesday 31 October 2023

Winfrith Village Hall

Meeting reference SG32

Attendees:

Barry Quinn	SSG Chair and representative of East Stoke Parish Council
Nic Johnson	Vice Chair and representative of Winfrith Parish Council
Paul Brennan	NRS – Harwell and Winfrith Site Director
Emma Burwood	NRS - Winfrith and Harwell Communications Lead
Rob Coan	NRS – Winfrith Integration & Regional Infrastructure Manager
Will Matheson	NRS – Regional EHSSQ Manager
Elly Joyce	NRS – Site End State Manager Harwell & Winfrith
Adam Davis	Environment Agency (EA)
Alister Wintle	Environment Agency (EA)
Neil Doggett	Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)
Alice Paine	Dorset Council (DC)
Eleanor Godesar	Dorset Council (DC)
Graham Duggan	Dorset Council (DC)
Alastair Beaven	Member of the public
Lizzie Barr	Member of the public (Red Lion public house)
David Percy	Member of the public (Red Lion public house)
Fiona Bowles	Winfrith aqua group
Debbie Paterson	Minutes

Apologies for absence – Bill Hamilton (NRS) and Simon Napper (NDA)

1. Welcome and Introduction – Barry Quinn

Barry Quinn welcomed Paul Brennan, Harwell & Winfrith Site Director to his first SSG meeting.

- The SSG chair/deputy chair had met with Paul Brennan and Emma Burwood on the 26 September 2023, for an introductory meeting.
- Thanks were expressed to Susan Adams who had been covering the role as Acting Site Director until the new Site Director had been appointed.
- JFN (James Fisher Nuclear Ltd) principal contractor for the SGHWR project had gone into administration.
- The SSG chair/deputy chair continue to be fully engaged with bids to the Socio-economic fund from local organisations.
- In preparation for today's meeting, the event was publicised to encourage representatives to attend.
- The SSG chair had attended the NDA summit held in Manchester in October 2023.

- The Blue Plaque to mark the contribution of the Winfrith site to nuclear energy continues to be explored by other avenues after the application submitted via the Royal Society of Chemistry was unsuccessful.

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

The new Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) brand video was played to attendees.

2. Winfrith Site Report – Paul Brennan

Paul Brennan introduced himself to the meeting and acknowledged the contribution made by Susan Adams. He explained that a low key launch of the new brand (NRS) was held earlier in the day for the workforce and key stakeholders. Some external changes had been implemented including new signage at the site entrance, updates to the website and social media. Branded materials such as PPE would be replaced gradually over a two year period.

Updates were given on the following:

Health, Safety, Security, Environment & Quality Safety (EHSS&Q)

- No Lost Time Accidents (LTA) for 400 days.
- There had been one environmental issue recorded since the previous meeting. A small spillage of non-active diesel from a generator supplying power to buildings at SGHWR (Steam Generating Heavy Water Reactor) portacabin city. The Environment Agency were informed, the land was remediated and a small volume of affected soil was removed. The generator was removed from service and a new electrical supply installed.
- Increase in dose at the site fence attributable to TRS drum transport project, small % of public dose limit. Paul explained that if you spent 1 year at the fence (and did not move!) this equates to less than a transatlantic flight.
- Psychological safety training had been carried out in June. Further training would be rolled out to all staff throughout January/February 2024.
- Ethnicity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) training would take place on the 23 November 2023.
- There had been 3 driving incidents involving 4 members of staff. No injuries were sustained. Discussions had been held with those involved and the Dorset Police Road Safe team and Dorset Fire & Rescue Service had been engaged to provide appropriate Driver Safety Awareness input – that will be shared with the workforce.

Regulatory Topics

- The Site Security demonstration exercise 'Exeter' was held in September 2023 and had been rated Green (adequate).
- EA inspections took place covering Sustainability & Fire Water Management.
- Office Nuclear Regulations (ONR) carried out inspections covering Commissioning & Competence of staff who handle radioactive waste in October 2023.

Environment

Site Operations

- The funding position is understandably challenging. Business planning discussions for 2024/2025 would commence in November 2023.

Current Activities

- SGHWR reactor decommissioning. A contingency plan was implemented following the JFN administration. Small scale operational and mini MILWEP works delivered by NRS continue. Some delays to the programme as a result of the administration.
- Dragon decommissioning works continue. Some slippage to the programme.

Treated Radwaste Store (TRS) Shipments

- Treated Radwaste Store (TRS) rail shipments of low classification waste was sent to the Low-Level Waste Repository (LLWR). Final shipment of 10 cabriolets planned in the new year. Paul explained this will be great news when the shipments are completed and a good example of working in partnership with other organisations within the NDA estate.

Plant & Structures (P&S)

- Sea pipeline update.
- Active Liquid Effluent System (ALES) decommissioning.
- Blacknoll reservoir work, timescales to be confirmed.
- Preparation for demolition works of the old fire station and telephone exchange in the New Year (2024).

Site End State

- Community input on design.
- Further habitat surveys.
- Engineering design and Risk Assessments (RA) for disposals.
- Permit and planning submission in the next 12 months.

Asset Management & Asset Care

- Dragon roof repair carried out.
- Rationalisation of the telephone system to be conducted.
- Design work for the replacement of the conventional heating system to an air source heat pump system in building A60.

What else has happened?

- Hybrid working arrangements in place.
- Ongoing recruitment.
- Site visits including a visit by the Japanese Atomic Energy Authority (JAEA) and NDA/DESNZ.
- 3 successful socio-economic funding requests granted totalling £81,982. Still money available in good neighbourhood fund, please encourage applications.

Q1: Do you anticipate you will be able to recover the time lost as a result of the JFN administration?

A1: At the moment this is unknown, however we have the opportunity to re-evaluate how we are working. It is hoped that we would recover this time in the long term.

3. NDA Report – Simon Napper (not in attendance)

A copy of the report can be found by clicking on the link [Site Stakeholder Groups\(nrsssg.com\)](https://www.nrsssg.com/SiteStakeholderGroups)

4. Magnox Corporate Update – (Paul Brennan on behalf of Bill Hamilton)

A programme of engagement work was being carried out with communities – ‘The Big Conversation’. The SSS Chairs had been briefed by the company who are completing the work. The survey consists of a number of online conversations with people living both nearby and away from site to provide a contrasting sample, culminating in a 2,000 strong survey of people. The survey would also include young people. The questions include opinions on people’s attitude to their site and its significance to the local community. The survey is being run externally and feedback is anonymous. During October/November 2023 random surveys would be issued. Feedback on the results would be communicated at future SSG meetings.

On behalf of Bill Hamilton, Paul Brennan thanked the SSG.

Q2: How would the funding challenges impact the site in the middle of a decommissioning programme?

A2: The NDA are responsible for all government licensed sites and for allocating funds. With an overall budget of £4.5bn per annum, approximately £2.8bn is allocated to Sellafield due to the risk associated with that site, with the remainder of the budget allocated across the other sites. NDA are keen to progress sites such as Harwell where the release of land for business use and development would take priority over land reverting to heathland. A reduction in the budget would mean we would have to amend our plans and timescales accordingly.

Q3: Would a reduction in funding be reduced to the point that work could not continue?

A3: This would be highly unlikely but may result in us not delivering a fully decommissioned site within original timescales.

5 a) Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) – Neil Doggett

The ONR Report had been issued prior to the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link [Meeting-pack.pdf \(nrsssg.com\)](https://www.nrsssg.com/Meeting-pack.pdf)

In addition, Neil added:

- Regular contact with the Magnox management team regarding contingency arrangements following JFN liquidation.
- Engagement with NRS staff to provide support with TRS waste shipments.
- The 2023 Energy Act had been approved. Delicensing arrangements would change slightly which would result in the ONR taking a lesser role with the EA becoming more heavily involved.
- Paul Jenneson would take over the role as Site Inspector from Neil Doggett.

5 b) Environment Agency (EA) – Adam Davis

The EA report had been issued prior to the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link [Meeting-pack.pdf \(nrsssg.com\)](https://www.nrsssg.com/Meeting-pack.pdf)

Adam Davis provided positive feedback on the recent in person community engagement sessions. He welcomed the increase in the level of community engagement which leads to more robust decision making.

Adam Davis advised that he would have increased involvement in supporting End State activities and introduced Alistair Wintle as the new Site Inspector.

Q4: Given the difficulties the EA have in covering activities day to day how would they cope in taking on an extended role under the new process?

A4: End State is several decades in the future. The EA is funded directly by the various nuclear operators.

6. Project Update – Feedback from Winfrith End State community engagement – Elly Joyce

Elly Joyce reported on the feedback from the community engagement held in June/July.

- The recent engagement built on to previous engagement sessions and was used to seek views which will be used to input into plans and designs, ahead of the application(s) being submitted in 2024.
- The events were promoted via social media, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Parish Councils, and newsletters.
- In addition, there was also a virtual platform that was built to replicate the information from the in person events.
- 51 people attended in person. 710 views to the virtual website.
- Positive feedback received.
- 1 objection received.

Key feedback received:

- 98% of the respondents agreed with the proposals.
- Responses across a range of questions show that the retention of the natural environment is a priority over further development of the site.
- One objection was made regarding the end state, indicating use for further nuclear development would be better.
- 3 suggestions to include a blue plaque to commemorate the work done.

Specific feedback received:

- Provision of car parking spaces – this will be addressed in the Restoration Management Plan, however there were some concerns regarding fly tipping.
- Build a new nuclear reactor – The next land use (suitable for heathland with public access of amenity value to the local community) was agreed through extensive community consultation. In addition, there are significant logistical issues (size of the site, availability of fresh water and effluent routes) that mean previous assessment of suitability for nuclear new build have shown it would not be an easy site for new builds.

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- Retain fence for wildlife protection – The restoration management plan will identify means of protecting wildlife and providing public access through routing footpaths away from sensitive areas.
- Commemoration on site – to be discussed further.

Q5: Has consideration been given to the consequences of re-wilding the site and the increase of insects and reptiles such as ticks and snakes?

A5: There is a legal duty to manage and monitor the heathland and to maintain the areas of gorse and invasive species. Following end state, the site would be similar in appearance to Tadnoll heath.

Q6: How would drainage to the site be restored?

A6: The drainage onsite would be managed to ensure there is no increased flood risk. The 7km of drainage pipes would be capped and more natural drainage methods would be employed. Further information on how this would be managed would be provided in the Planning Application to be submitted in October 2024.

Q7: Would the methods employed have any impact on wildlife and reptiles such as lizards?

A7: There would be some losses as the site reverts to a wetland heath habitat.

7. Any Other Business – Barry Quinn

Barry Quinn thanked attendees for their participation. He commented that from the presentations provided we could be reassured that the site was being operated safely and securely and in an environmentally conscious manner.

The next meeting would be held in Spring 2024. The date of the meeting would be subject to local elections which may affect dates in the future.

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday, 14 May 2024.