



Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

AGENDA

Agenda for the SSG meeting to be held on Wednesday 21 August 2024

**Annan Athletic Football Club
Galabank
North Street
Annan
DG12 5DG**

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- 1. (11:00 – 11:02) Chairman's welcome**
 - 2. (11:03 – 11:05) Announcements and apologies (*including any Declarations of Interest*)**
 - 3. (11:06 – 11:08) Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising**
 - Oli Smith – Scottish Government**
 - 4. (11:09 – 11:29) Chapelcross Site Director's Report (*including update on Magnox Socio-Economic Scheme*)- *Richard Murray, Chapelcross Site Director.***
 - 5. (11:30 – 11:45) NDA Update – *David Wallace, NDA***
 - 6. (11:46 – 12:10) NRS – Introduction to Think Insight – **Bill Hamilton****
 - 7. (12:11 – 12:35) Other reports from SSG bodies - **ONR, SEPA, Scottish Government****
 - 8. (12:36 – 12:38) External Meetings and Invitations**

17TH – 18TH September 2024 Stakeholder Summit - Invite for SSG Chair / Vice Chair

9. **(12:39– 12:49)** CX Project Update – *Helen Emberson, CX Programme Lead*
10. **(12:50 – 12:51)** SoSE Update – Donna Mounce
11. **(12:52 – 12:55)** Any Other Business
12. **(12:56 – 13:00)** Public Forum

Next Meeting - 10am, Wednesday 20 November 2024



**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CHAPELCROSS STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT ANNAN ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB, ANNAN
WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2024**

Attendance/Apologies list

Attendance

Cllr Archie Dryburgh MBE
Cllr George Jamieson
Neil Carruthers
Helen Emberson
Cllr Sean Marshall
Willie McNairn
Carol Midwood
Donna Mounce
Jaime Nicholson
Ian Park
Andy Stott
Carolyn Wilson
Ian Winchester

Annandale East and Eskdale (Chair)
Annandale South (Vice Chair)
Royal Burgh of Annan Community Council
Dumfries & Galloway Council, CX Programme Lead
Dumfries & Galloway Council
2km Resident Representative
Federation of Community Councils/Canonbie and District CC
SOSE
Dumfries & Galloway Council
NRS Trade Union Representative
Restoring Annan's Waters
Dumfries & Galloway Council
JEMR team, Cumbria

Operators and Officers

Claire Aitken
Colin Hargreaves
Peter Hughes
Richard Murray
Danny Reynolds
David Wallace
Geoffrey Dore

NRS
NRS
ONR
Site Director, Chapelcross
ONR
NDA
Minute Taker

Apologies

Dianne Hamilton
Bill Hamilton
David Stone

Scottish Government
NRS
SEPA

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

Cllr Archie Dryburgh welcomed the attendees to the Chapelcross SSG meeting.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Daine Hamilton, Bill Hamilton and David Stone.

Neil Carruthers confirmed that he is employed by NRS and was attending the meeting as a representative of the Royal Burgh of Annan Community Council.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

An update to the current outstanding actions was included in the meeting pack.

Cllr Sean Marshall referred to agenda item 10 and the statement, 'There had been an original thought that there would be a spend of £26 million, with £30 million spent externally, mainly on the B722.' He clarified that he had stated that there would be an allocation of £26 million, with half to be spent on external roads.

The minutes were proposed by Willie McNairn and seconded by Cllr Sean Marshall.

4. CHAPELCROSS SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Richard Murray, (Site Director, Chapelcross)

EHSS&Q Performance

Richard Murray reported that performance remained unchanged. There had been significant damage encountered during storms Isha and Jocelyn, including a loss of cladding on reactors 3 and 4. Work was taking place to replace window banks for reactor 1. 90% had been repaired. There had been a loss of 24 hours of site access.

Site News

Eight MAC and cobalt MOSAIKS had been retrieved to the intermediate level waste (ILW) store. 44 of 52 500-litre drums had been filled and transferred to the ILW store. The last drum had also been packaged. 13 of the 14 low-level waste (LLW) consignments had been concluded. The cooling tower design work had been completed. Asset care delivery was progressing.

Cllr Sean Marshall asked if the March target for the remaining eight drums would be met. Richard Hughes responded that it would be.

Recruitment

New recruits:

- CXPP production technician
- Senior project engineer

External recruitment currently in progress:

- Assistant design support officer
- Safety and quality advisor x 3
- Project engineer
- Environment engineer

Emma Harper, David Mundell MP, Oliver Mundell MSP and Mark Leigh had all visited the site.

CXPP Decommissioning

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Richard Murray reported on the cave line ILW retrievals. Size reduced wastes had been removed in bags from the breakdown cave and packaged into CXPP 500-litre annular drums. The drums had then been loaded into stillage for long term storage in the ISF. The current financial year target of 52 drums had been achieved. 88 drums had been packaged to date. Work was taking place into the next cave line.

Pond Decommissioning

The MAC and cobalt MOSAICS work had been completed. All plant and equipment associated with the processing of the retrievals had now been removed from the pond building. Installation of the new zeolite skip retrieval equipment was almost complete.

Cooling Tower Remediation

The strategy for remediation of the cooling tower areas had been determined. Planning permission documentation was currently being produced to allow removal of the crushed concrete to be used as capping at NWS (Drigg).

Waste

There had been 13 shipments of LLW waste from the site. 130m³ of legacy waste had been removed from the site this financial year. Legacy waste had been repackaged into the disposable container/bags, while non-radioactive legacy waste had been shipped.

Asset Care

Glazing replacements continued on reactors 1 and 2. The portable water replacement had been put out to tender. Parts of the fire system had been upgraded. Several improvements had been made to the site traffic management, while several roofs had been replaced.

Socio Economic Update

NRS had spent over £1 million across its 12 sites, also supporting local projects. NRS was due to support the Canonbie Flower Show.

Ian Park asked how Chapelcross could accelerate its knowledge transfer. Richard Murray explained that NRS had a succession plan in place. Several trainees were on site. The environment was extremely challenging.

Cllr George Jamieson noted that NRS had accumulated £20 million in annual maintenance costs. Richard Murray clarified that the £20 million figure was related to the 12 NRS sites. There had been £3 million in maintenance costs for Chapelcross.

Cllr Sean Marshall noted that the reactor programme would take five years. However, storm damage was one of the most susceptible areas. He asked if the maintenance budget allowed for scope to accelerate work on storm prevention. Richard Murray responded that this had been reviewed, and NRS was adopting a risk-based approach. It would first work on the front elevations before turning attention to the rear phases. Regarding its prioritisation of asset funding, Chapelcross had a greater budget than other sites.

Ian Winchester queried the pathway for oil, liquid and graphite disposal. Richard Hughes stated that the oil and liquid were incinerated. A path had yet to be determined for the graphite.

Andy Stott noted that a planned visit had been cancelled and asked if it would be rescheduled. Richard Murray responded that several dates would be proposed for the rescheduled visit.

ACTION: Proposed dates for the rescheduled site visit to be circulated.

Cllr Archie Dryburgh asked if any Chapelcross staff had been seconded to other NRS sites. Richard Murray said one individual would be transferring to Dounreay, and a couple of individuals would be promoted into a central programme team.

Cllr Archie Dryburgh queried Chapelcross's approach to AI and robotics. Richard Murray explained that a company was looking at the future of this and had put forward several scheme designs. Richard Murray was of the view that this was a long-term investment. NRS had to ensure that it continued this forward programme of work.

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Cllr Archie Dryburgh asked if NRS would request that any staff working from home return to the site. Richard Murray responded that most NRS employees who worked virtually were expected to attend the site two days a week.

Cllr Archie Dryburgh asked if there was a continued link between Hunterston and Chapelcross. Richard Murray said there was a sharing of a few roles in the programme space.

Cllr Sean Marshall asked if there was any significant to report following NRS's rebranding. Richard Murray stated that Chapelcross had continued with business as usual. There had been no impacts at a local level. However, there had been some reorganisation of the target operating model that had mainly impacted the central function teams. xxs

5. NDA UPDATE

A. David Wallace (NDA)

David Wallace reported that he had attended a regional roadshow event in Wales on 12 March. Topics such as graphite and AI (artificial intelligence) had been discussed. Work was taking place with Strathclyde and other universities to identify challenges in advance.

The UK government was due to publish its consultation on the management of radioactive substances on 14 March. The consultation would be circulated to SSG stakeholders. The social impact strategy was due imminently.

A Civil Nuclear Industry cross-party group (CPG) meeting was scheduled for 27 March, at 18.00, with a drop-in session from 14.30 to 17.30. The CPG would address nuclear decommissioning issues in Scotland. There would be four meetings per year, and a report would be provided to the SSG. Only interested parties and individuals interested in decommissioning would be invited to the meetings, and all attendees would need to be approved by the MSPs. The agenda and Teams link would be circulated on 14 March. Ian Park asked if there would be any trade union representation. David Wallace responded that trade union representatives had been invited, but there had been no response.

ACTION: Ian Park to send David Wallace a note of potential trade union representatives to invite to the cross-party group meeting.

Peter Hughes asked if any regulators had been invited. David Wallace responded that SEPA, the ONR and the Environment Agency (EA) had been.

There had been some engagement on the near-site, near-surface disposal. A technical report had reviewed various design options for near-site, near-surface disposal in Scotland. The NDA's secondment, in line with the Scottish government, had presented potential design options. There would be additional consultation, and it was hoped that common sense would prevail.

Oli Smith had been seconded to the Scottish government from NRS. There would be an additional secondment into the NDA from the Scottish government. An individual from the Scottish government was also working within NRS's future missions' team on a scope of work that would review NRS in Scotland in the next five to 10 years.

Cllr Sean Marshall welcomed the formation of a CPG. He added that some MSPs had communicated that there was an opportunity to not only focus on decommissioning but also green energy. Cllr Sean Marshall also commended the engagement on near-site, near-surface. However, this was the beginning of the journey, and there was much work to undertake. David Wallace voiced his appreciation for the input provided by Cllr Sean Marshall during the seminar.

Ian Park said the workforce assumed that there was an ILW store. He also noted that he worked in higher activity radioactive waste (HAW). He stated that the current site plan was to store the waste for a 300-year period, a near-site, near-surface disposal site implied that this maybe not the case. If this was not the case, it needed to be communicated to the workforce. Cllr Archie Dryburgh said he thought Ian Park was referring to something different. The ILW stores on site would remain in position. The HAW stores would be in place for all nuclear sites.

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David Wallace confirmed that there would be a tender process. Cllr Sean Marshall stated that the policy was reviewing the disposal of the HAW.

Cllr George Jamieson stated that the CPG meeting would have little impact. While he welcomed the engagement, nuclear decommissioning needed to be separated from new nuclear. There also needed to be common ground. David Wallace said, while the CPG did not have any powers, it could ask questions. The right questions could influence some of the major agencies.

David Wallace explained that the aim was to promote a Scottish story. As the meetings progressed, certain issue would need to be discussed. Cllr George Jamieson stated that it was important for everyone to be on the same page. David Wallace said he was conscious that there would be questions regarding reviewing new nuclear in the context of decommissioning. It would be naïve to think that some politicians would not take advantage of the opportunity to highlight new nuclear. Cllr George Jamieson suggested that decommissioning and new nuclear not be intertwined.

Ian Winchester highlighted storage and disposal and asked if any lessons had been identified in England and Wales that could benefit Scotland. David Wallace responded that many lessons could be learned.

6. NRS UPDATE

A. Bill Hamilton (NRS)

It was noted that Bill Hamilton had offered his apologies.

ACTION: Claire Aitken to request a written NRS report from Bill Hamilton.

7. OTHER REPORTS FROM SSG BODIES

ONR

Peter Hughes reported that, for the period 1 October to 31 December 2023, he had conducted an inspection on incident reporting on 27 November. No issues had been reported. A quality of assurance inspection had also been carried out, with no issues highlighted. Peter Hughes would conduct an on-site inspection later in the week and would report on this at the next SSG.

Cllr Sean Marshall asked if the meeting with the health and safety representatives had been positive. Peter Hughes responded that it had been. The meeting had highlighted areas that he could use as regulatory intelligence.

SEPA

It was noted that David Stone had sent in his report. The report was taken as read.

Cllr Sean Marshall noted that the report had stated that, in line with Chapelcross applying for a further variation to its EASR permit, SEPA would undertake a public consultation on the application. He requested additional information on what the public consultation would entail.

ACTION: SEPA to provide additional information regarding its planned public consultation concerning Chapelcross's application for a further variation to its EASR permit.

Scottish Government

It was noted that Diane Hamilton had circulated a report.

8. EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND INVITATIONS

Cllr Archie Dryburgh reported that the following meetings had taken place:

- SSG National Forum Meeting on 12 January

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- Technical Investigation of the near-surface of high activity waste from sites in Scotland on 21 February

It was noted that the Chair and Vice Chair would be unable to attend the SSG Chairs' Workshop on 20 March. David Wallace stated that, in the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, a report could be circulated.

Cllr Archie Dryburgh proposed extending an invitation to Scottish Water to attend the SSG.

ACTION: Scottish Water to be invited to send a representative to attend the SSG meetings.

9. CX PROJECT & SOSE UPDATE

Helen Emberson stated that progress was being attained. Ironside Farrar had been appointed to review the strategic development framework. It was currently evaluating all market interests and mapping them to the site to obtain the optimal adjacencies. The next stage involved a technical assessment and engagement with the services. Discussions had taken place with Scottish Power Energy Networks and Scottish Gas Networks, with Scottish Water and SEPA also in attendance.

Chapelcross had met with Openreach to discuss fibre connectivity to the site. The master plan would be submitted to the utility companies.

The NDA had engaged its commercial arm to determine how best to commercially dispose of the site. NRS was also reviewing the sustainability footprint of the site.

Richard Murray was ascertaining the sustainability footprint of NRS. Avison Young continued to market the site and field enquiries.

Helen Emberson reported on SOSE's purchase of zone 3. Ground investigation work was being undertaken to determine future uses for the site. This provided some acceleration and Chapelcross with available land.

Donna Mounce stated that SOSE had completed all site surveys. Ironside Farrar had been appointed to produce a mini master plan and was expected to circulate its report within the next month. Fencing was being erected, while a sign would be placed on site that would state that the land had been purchased by SOSE. The pedestrian access and gate would be maintained, though there would be signage that would state access would cease once development commenced. There were ongoing discussions with utilities. Cllr Archie Dryburgh welcomed the attainment of progress.

Willie McNairn welcomed the commissioning of work on the east section of the site. He noted that, 40 years ago, British Nuclear Fuels Limited had proposed converting the east section of the site to manufacture 40-gallon drums. However, this had not materialised. Willie McNairn was happy to see that a scope of work was being progressed. Donna Mounce said SOSE was hopeful. Conversations were taking place with stakeholders. She did not want to wait another 40 years for Chapelcross to start manufacturing 40-gallon drums. Donna Mounce added that she understood the anxiety and anticipation.

Ian Park stated that there was not a housing unit for the workforce near the site. He asked if there was a provision to get people to the site without the use of cars. Jaime Nicholson explained that there was an ongoing village links project that aimed to link Gretna to Powfoot and extend the link between Annan and the Chapelcross site. An update would be provided at a future meeting.

Andy Stott asked if the wind turbine recycling facility would be located on the site. Donna Mounce responded that confidential discussions were ongoing with several companies regarding this topic. Andy Stott stated that any shipping of turbine blades would have an impact on the roads. Consequently, access to the site would be important.

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Andy Stott queried the potential size of the hydrogen production facility. Helen Emberson responded that, from early discussions, there was to be a preference to adopt a phased approach, ensuring that supply matched demand. Andy Stott stated that, in any event where hydrogen was produced by water, the water used would end up back in the river. He wondered if anyone had reviewed the impact to the river, as any removal of water from the river would result in a reduced waterflow. Richard Murray clarified that Chapelcross' water had gone back into the estuary rather than the river. The environmental impact had been deemed to be sustainable.

Cllr George Jamieson highlighted the routes from Annan to Eastriggs and stated that the hill between Eastriggs and Chapelcross needed to be developed. He hoped for a reassurance that the project was being driven forward. Cllr Archie Dryburgh seconded Cllr George Jamieson's comments. Donna Mounce agreed to provide an overview of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) to SSG members via email. She added that she had experienced a strong partnership between SOSE, Dumfries and Galloway Council and the NDA. All three parties were committed.

ACTION: Donna Mounce to provide an overview of the MoU between SOSE, Dumfries and Galloway Council and the NDA via email.

Cllr George Jamieson said outcomes were necessary. The Chapelcross project had been viewed as an opportunity to develop Annandale south and east. It was hoped that the SSG would receive an assurance that the money was being well spent and that there would be outcomes. He proposed that the aims and objectives be clearly articulated. Donna Mounce stated that SOSE was aware of this. It did not want public money to be wasted, and it also wanted benefits for the community.

David Wallace suggested that Cllr George Jamieson's comments be directed to the communications team.

Cllr Sean Marshall asked if the land would be released in parcels. He also asked if there would be separate access for the site. Helen Emberson responded that the current study would attempt to determine the appropriate area for site access. It was likely that hydrogen would be preserved at the strategic site, and the smaller units located on the SOSE site. Regarding the parcels land, the aim was to cover the entirety of the site with utilities and not just parcels.

Ian Park asked if there had been any interaction with Harwell to obtain learnings. Richard Murray responded that Harwell was uniquely different. There was a real demand for the land at Harwell, which belonged to the campus. Cllr Archie Dryburgh explained that Chapelcross had a special planning zone. It did not have sections of land that were ready for onward sale. The project was huge and needed to be properly managed. The utilities and infrastructure needed to be in place. Donna Mounce said the cost of inserting utilities was prohibitive to most private sector investors. This necessitated a need for public sector interventions to offset some of the costs and entice private sector investment.

Jaime Nicholson stated that there was a need for local business units. She hoped that this was advertised locally. Donna Mounce responded that it would be. SOSE would review all local and national interests. There needed to be a conversation regarding expansion units for small businesses, start-ups or bigger investors.

Helen Emberson said there was a local development plan in place that covered the front two sections of the Chapelcross site. However, this needed to be updated. Ironside Farrar would determine if it was feasible to have a master plan concept area. The planning would be updated.

ACTION: Helen Emberson to circulate the link for the Chapelcross update video to SSG members.

Cllr Sean Marshall asked if SOSE would commence with developing the area opposite Annan business park. Donna Mounce agreed to check this.

ACTION: Donna Mounce to check if SOSE will update the area opposite Annan business park.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

David Wallace explained that, following a period of inactivity, the Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS) would reconvene its meetings. SCCORS would partner with Nuleaf, and the NDA would fund Nuleaf's appointment of an engagement officer. The engagement officer would work for SCCORS and engage with local authorities. The paper and job description for the engagement officer would be circulated to SSG members.

11. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no comments.

Next Meeting date: Wednesday 21 August 2024.

DRAFT

**CHAPELCROSS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP
SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FROM THE MEETING
WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2024 AT 10.00 AM AT ANNAN ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB, ANNAN**

Chairman's Welcome, Announcements and Apologies

Cllr Dryburgh welcomed the attendees to the meeting. Apologies were read.

Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising

Actions from the previous meeting were noted. The minutes were proposed by Willie McNairn and seconded by Cllr Marshall.

Chapelcross Site Director's Report – Richard Murray

Performance remained unchanged. There had been significant damage encountered during storms Isha and Jocelyn, resulting in a loss of 24 hours of site access. Eight MAC and cobalt MOSAICS had been retrieved to the intermediate level waste (ILW) store. 44 of 52 500-litre drums had been filled and transferred to the ILW store. 13 of the 14 low-level waste (LLW) consignments had been concluded. The cooling tower design work had been completed. Updates were also provided on recruitment, site decommissioning, cooling tower remediation, waste, asset care and socio-economic matters.

NDA Update – David Wallace

David Wallace reported that he had attended a regional roadshow event in Wales on 12 March. The UK government was due to publish its consultation on the management of radioactive substances on 14 March. A Civil Nuclear Industry cross-party group (CPG) meeting was scheduled for 27 March. A technical report had reviewed various design options for near-site, near-surface disposal in Scotland. Oli Smith had been seconded to the NDA from NRS. An individual from the Scottish government was also working within NRS's future missions' team on a scope of work that would review NRS in Scotland in the next five to 10 years.

NRS Update – Bill Hamilton

Bill Hamilton had offered his apologies.

ONR Report – Peter Hughes

Incident reporting and quality of assurance inspections had been conducted for the period 1 October to 31 December 2023, with no issues reported.

SEPA Update– David Stone

The report was taken as read.

External Meetings and Invitations – Cllr Archie Dryburgh

The SSG National Forum Meeting had taken place on 12 January, and the Technical Investigation of the near-surface of high activity waste from sites in Scotland had occurred on 21 February. It was noted that the Chair and Vice Chair would be unable to attend the SSG Chairs' Workshop on 20 March.

CX Project & SOSE Update – Helen Emberson & Donna Mounce

Helen Emberson stated that progress was being attained. Ironside Farrar had been appointed to review the strategic development framework. Discussions had taken place with Scottish Power Energy Networks and Scottish Gas Networks, with Scottish Water and SEPA also in attendance. Chapelcross had met with Openreach to discuss fibre connectivity to the site. The master plan would be submitted to the utility companies. The NDA had engaged its commercial arm to determine how best to commercially dispose of the site. NRS was also reviewing the sustainability footprint of the site.

Donna Mounce stated that SOSE had completed all site surveys. Ironside Farrar had been engaged to produce a mini master plan and was expected to circulate its report within the next month. Fencing was being erected, while a sign would be placed on site that would state that the land had been purchased by SOSE. The pedestrian access and gate would be maintained, though there would be signage that would state access would cease once development commenced. There were ongoing discussions with utilities.

Any Other Business

It was announced that the Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances (SCCORS) would reconvene its meetings in partnership with Nuleaf.

Public Forum

There were no comments.

Questions and Observations

After each presentation, several questions were asked by members. These can be read with the responses in the full Minutes of the meeting, available from the SSG Secretariat.

Next Meeting – Wednesday 21 August 2024, at Annan Athletic Football Club.

Actions from Chapelcross SSG Meeting of 13 March 2024:

Proposed dates for the rescheduled site visit to be circulated.

Ian Park to send David Wallace a note of potential trade union representatives to invite to the cross-party group meeting.

Claire Aitken to request a written NRS report from Bill Hamilton.

SEPA to provide additional information regarding its planned public consultation concerning Chapelcross's application for a further variation to its EASR permit.

Scottish Water to be invited to send a representative to attend the SSG meetings.

Donna Mounce to provide an overview of the MoU between SOSE, Dumfries and Galloway Council and the NDA via email.

Helen Emberson to circulate the link for the Chapelcross update video to SSG members.

Donna Mounce to check if SOSE will update the area opposite Annan business park.

Actions from previous Chapelcross SSG Meetings:

Action (ONGOING) – Bill Hamilton to present results from the polling exercise at the next SSG.

Action (ONGOING) – Secretariat to arrange site visit for Site Stakeholder Group members wishing to attend – previous attempts to arrange had to be postponed. A visit will be arranged for summer, likely August, on which details will be forwarded nearer the time.

Response – Due to a proposed number of changes and amendments to the Chapelcross SSG membership, it is recommended that a visit to Chapelcross be arranged once all these membership changes and amendments have taken place.



NDA Update for CPX SSG

August 2024



Contents

1.0 NDA Stakeholder Update August 2024



NDA Stakeholder Update

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

General Election

Following the recent 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, including Josh MacAlister covering the sites at Sellafield and Drigg, Julie Minns for Carlisle and the NTS offices and Michelle Scrogam for Barrow and Furness.



- 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.

Board updates

- As previously announced **Adrienne Kelbie CBE**, Chair of Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) board, has stepped down and her successor has been named as Liz Peace. Liz has more than 35 years' experience in government and the property sector, including as Chief Executive of the British Property Federation for 13 years, and currently holds a range of Chair, non-executive and advisory roles. She was awarded a CBE in 2008 for services to the property industry. The full announcement can be read [here](#)

Outreach activities

- During the pre-election period outreach activities was limited but a number of planned commitments which were postponed are now being rescheduled including a Treasury department visit to Sellafield and a site visit by the officials from DESNZ and UKGI.
- The next **Cross-Party Group** will be held on Wednesday 11th September 2024 in Committee Room 5 at the Scottish Parliament. 'Skills' will be the main topic for consideration.
- NDA is working with NIA to establish a similar **CPG in the Welsh Parliament**.
- Gillian Martin MSP has been appointed as **Acting Cabinet Secretary** for Net Zero and NDA is in the process of arranging its annual Ministerial briefing.
- NDA will be supporting the **SEPA Vibes Awards** to be held in Glasgow in November 2024.

Engagement priorities for 2024

- 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.

- Our next in person **Stakeholder Conference** will be held on September 17/18 in Manchester at the airport Radisson Blu hotel. We are working with a range of stakeholders to draft the content and agenda to ensure we create an event of value to all delegates.
- 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.
- **SCCORS** (Scottish Councils Committee on Radioactive Substances), has established closer links with NuLeaf and have commenced the recruitment process for an Engagement Officer to promote closer links with Scotland's local authorities.
- NDA was pleased to support the recent **CPX Masterplan** announcement and is leading the search for a Strategic Partner.

Publications, public service and policy updates

- 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
- We expect to publish our Annual Report and Accounts in September.
- 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.
- NDA is in the process of recruiting for its third **secondment** into SG's Radioactive Waste Substances Team – supporting the review and consultation for Scotland's HAW Policy.



- 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 23 October.

Mission delivery

- 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.
- Industrial action at **NRS Dounreay** was suspended and work to rule ceased in period, to allow employees to be balloted on a new pay offer which was accepted.

Thank you for taking the time to read our update. If you have any questions, please feed-back through the Secretariat.



Nuclear
Decommissioning
Authority

The Future of NRS sites

Chapelcross - 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.

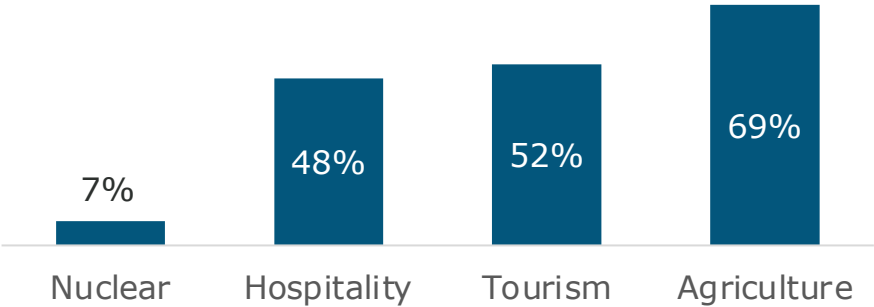
It is also worth noting that views towards priorities and strategies for decommissioning are consistent across the sites, and these can be found in more detail in the full report, which contains analysis across all NRS sites and from all phases of the research (the online community, deliberative workshops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

Key findings



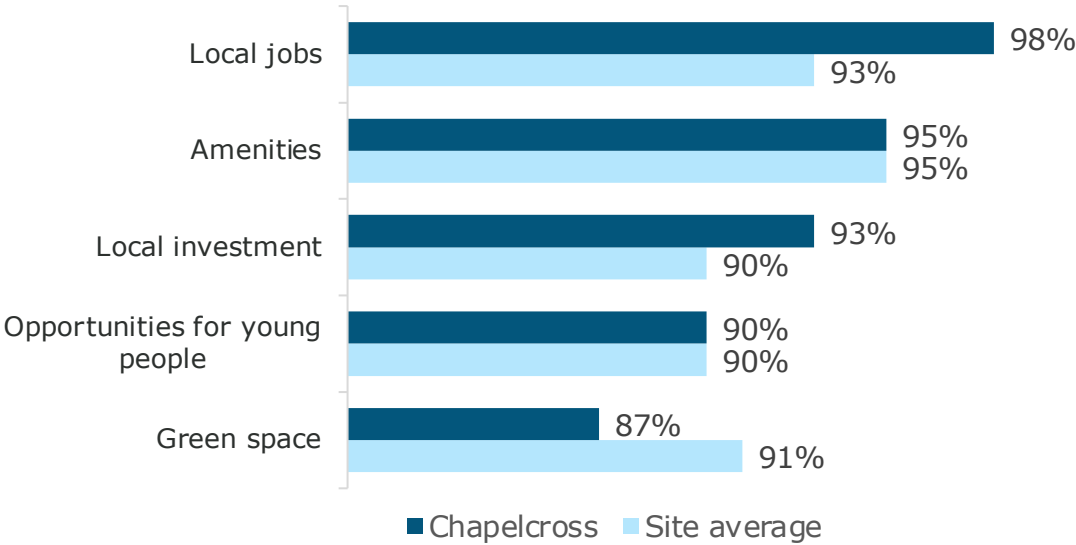
Residents mainly associate their local economy with agriculture

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



Very few residents spontaneously associate Chapelcross with nuclear energy production (7%).

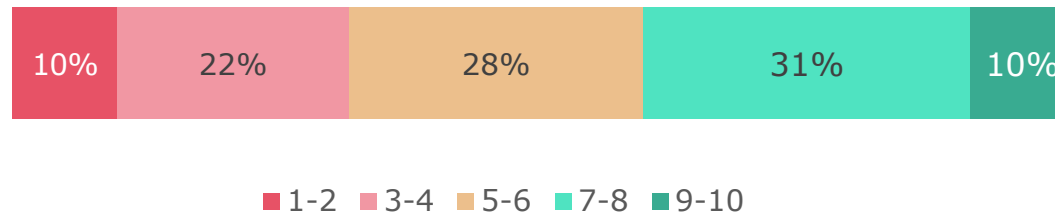
Which areas of public life are important for the future of your local area? Showing % who scored 7-10 / 10 (Top 5 Chapelcross responses)



Chapelcross' score is the highest in the sample for local jobs. Priorities for the local area are otherwise broadly consistent with the other sites.

Chapelcross residents' knowledge of nuclear energy is mixed, but support is consistent with other sites

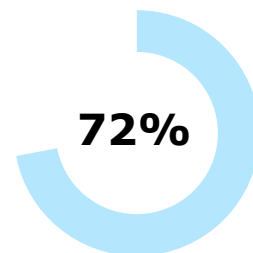
How much do you feel you know about nuclear energy in the UK?



A large majority of those local to Chapelcross know at least something about nuclear energy (86%), remaining consistent with other sites.

The proportion reporting higher knowledge (7-10/10) is also consistent with other sites (41% vs. 49%), as is Chapelcross' mean score (5.7/10 vs. 6.0).

Support for nuclear power to provide energy in the UK



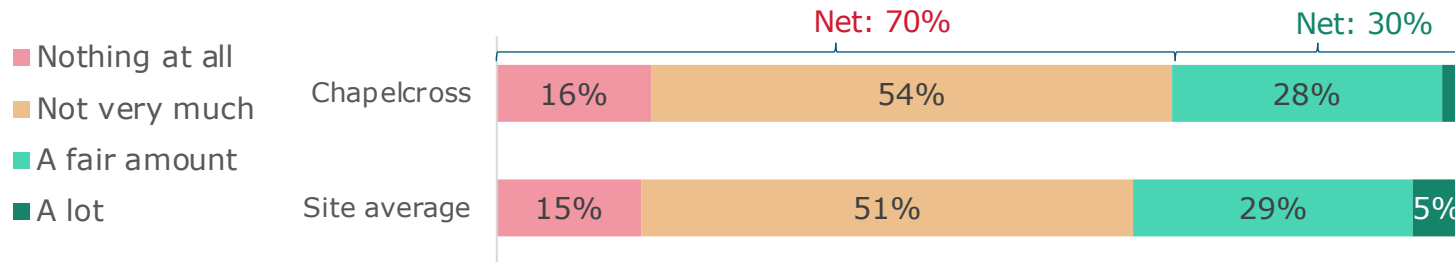
Site average:
72%

"[The site] is probably producing more power due to the energy crisis."

Online community, Chapelcross

Awareness of Chapelcross is similar to other sites, with local news acting as the main source of information

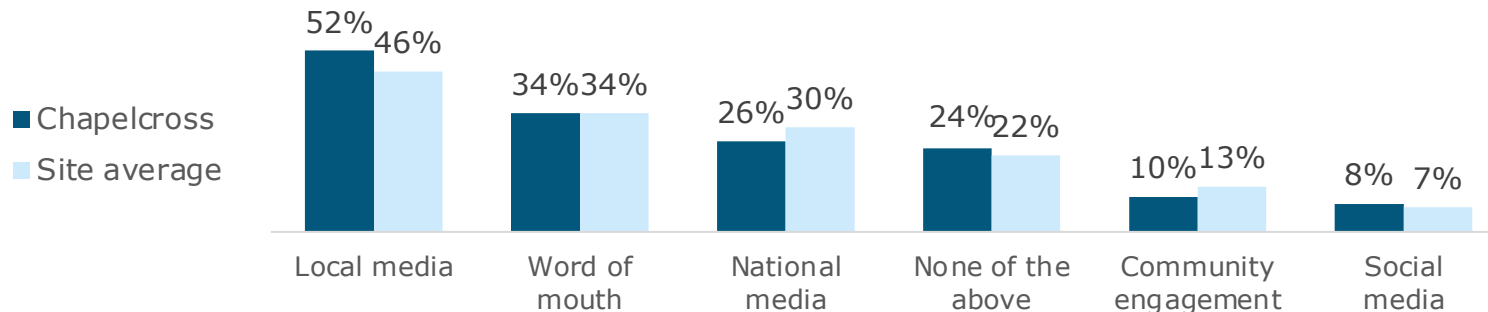
How much do you feel you know about your local nuclear site?



30% say they know 'a fair amount' or 'a lot' about their local site.

Qualitatively, awareness of the local site is driven by its **presence in the area and personal relationships** with the site.

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



"The building is old, there are large towers on them and my mum used to work at the site."

Online Community, Chapelcross

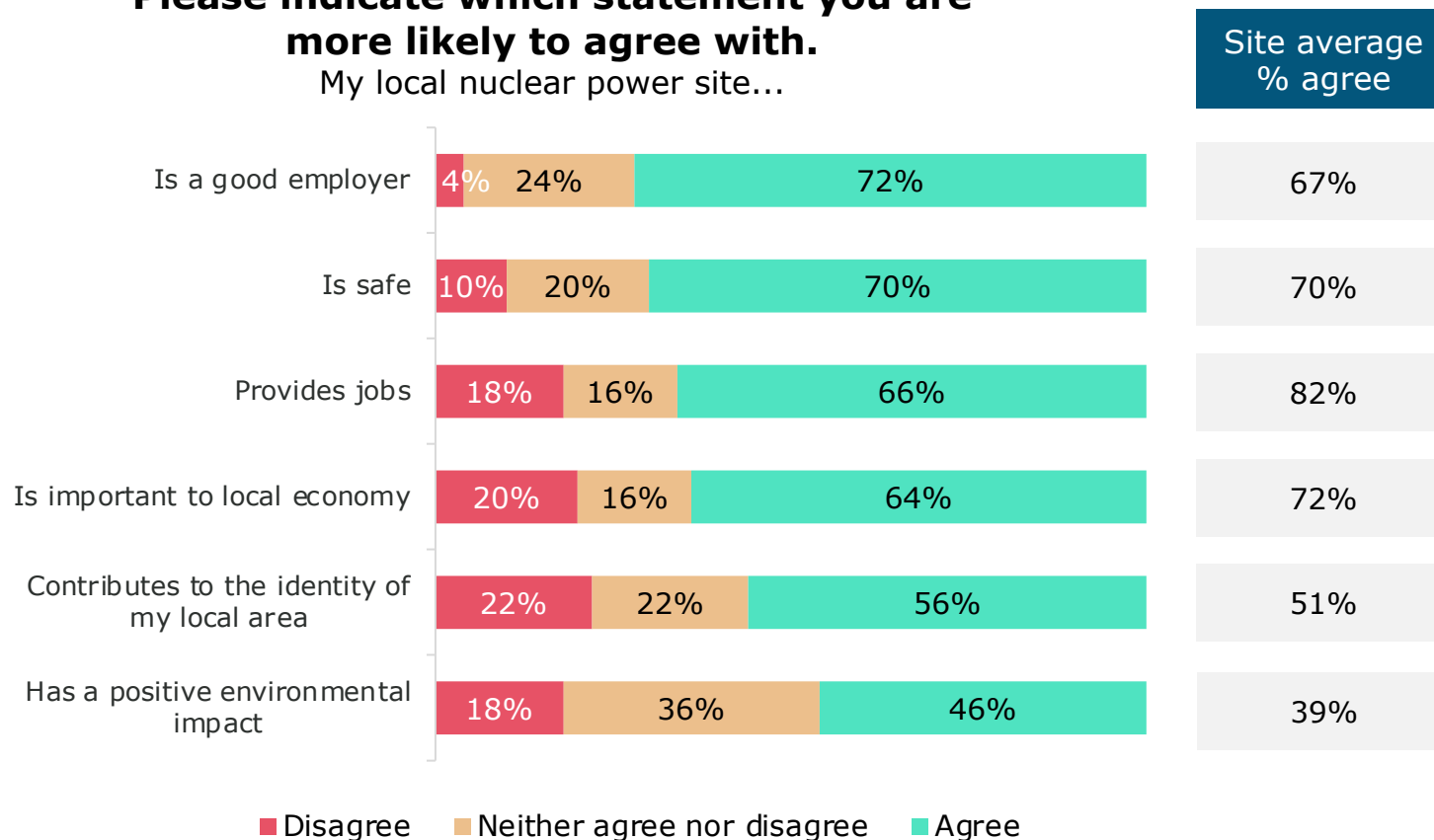
"I saw on local news a year or so back that it was getting decommissioned but unsure what that includes."

Online Community, Chapelcross

Chapelcross is valued as being a good employer and is seen as safe

Please indicate which statement you are more likely to agree with.

My local nuclear power site...



"It offers excellent employment for the local community."

Online Community, Chapelcross

"I believe it would have had a high influence on job opportunities whilst operational."

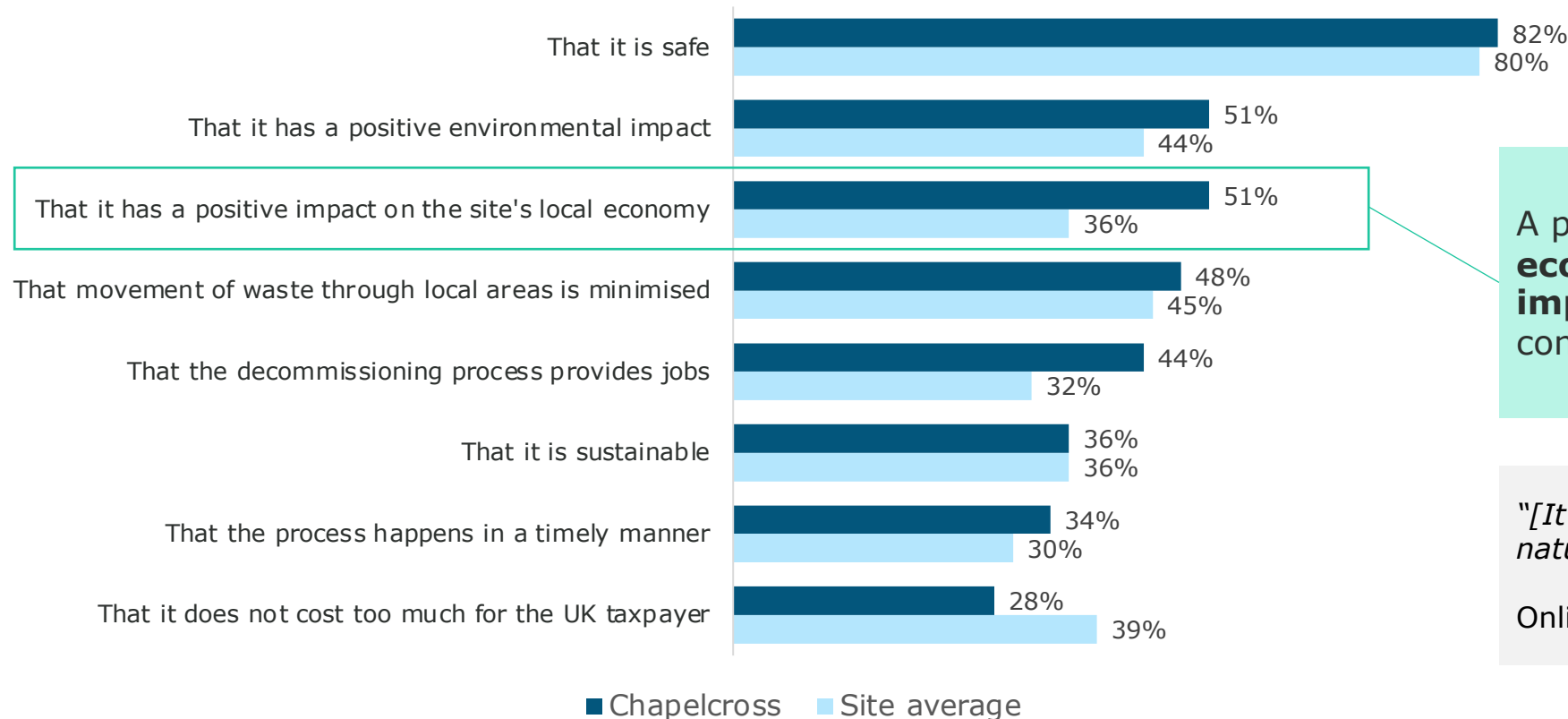
Online Community, Chapelcross

"It provided a lot of jobs to a small community that does not have many larger businesses."

Online Community, Chapelcross

Alongside safety and the environment, local economic benefits are of high importance for Chapelcross

Decommissioning criteria selected as very important

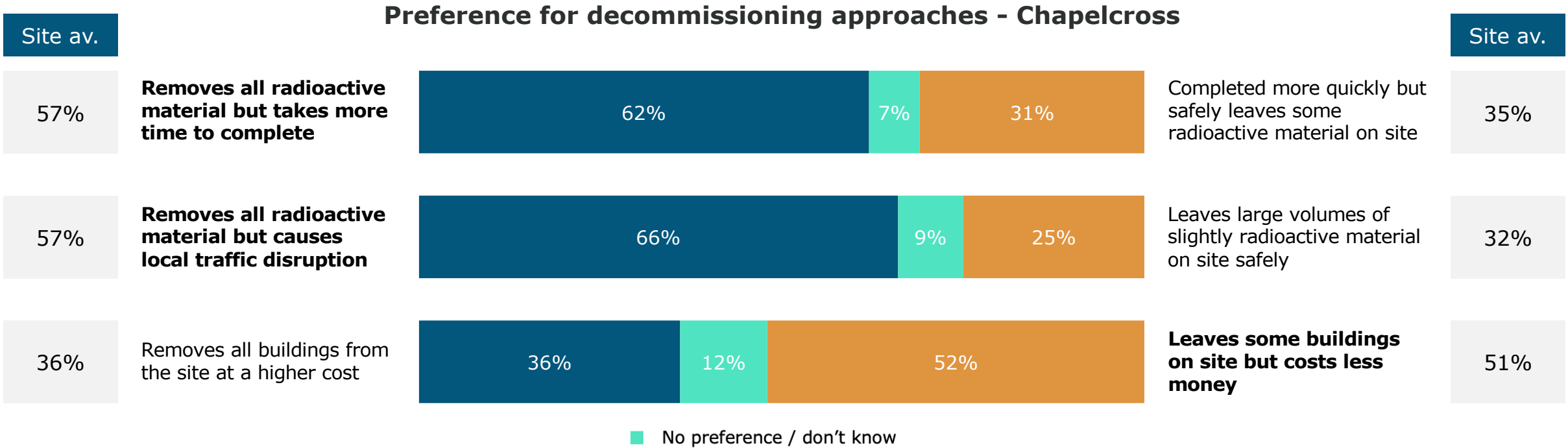


A positive impact on the **local economy** is of **greater importance** in Chapelcross compared to other sites.

"[It could] try to become more natural and nature friendly."

Online community, Chapelcross

Views towards decommissioning strategies are very consistent with other sites





Thank you!

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Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR Site Report

Nuclear Restoration Services – Chapelcross

ONR site report

Nuclear Restoration Services - Chapelcross

Report for period: 1 January – 31 March 2024

Authored by: Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: Delivery Lead Decommissioning, Fuel, and Waste

Issue No.: 1

Publication Date: Apr-24

ONR Record Ref. No.: 2024/16003

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 Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on the ONR website (<http://www.onr.org.uk/lrc/>).

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Chapelcross 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

The ONR site inspector made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 January – 31 March 2024:

- 13-14 March 2024

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)
- 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, routine inspections of Chapelcross covered the following:

- modifications to plant, equipment and safety cases.

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.

During the inspection I also held meetings on the following topics:

- follow-up work related to previous difficulties
- topical plant matters (including modifications)
- topical safety management matters
- topical compliance matters

2.2. Other work

Throughout this reporting period, ONR's nominated site safety inspector has held regular telephone meetings with Chapelcross leadership team representatives to maintain situational awareness of matters related to nuclear safety. No significant issues were highlighted to ONR.

The site inspector held a periodic meeting with safety representatives, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety and welfare at work.

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.

There were no such matters or events of significance during the 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.

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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Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

SEPA Update- Chapelcross

21st August 2024

Regulation

Environmental Authorisations (Scotland) Regulations 2018 (EASR)- Radioactive Substances

Following on from the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated restrictions, telephone communication with the site has continued including formal monthly staying in touch telephone calls. Routine teleconferences with the Chapelcross site and the corporate Magnox Ltd team on strategic issues have also continued as before.

SEPA has undertaken two regulatory inspections since the last Stakeholder Group meeting. The first involved an inspection of the site's arrangements to develop, implement, maintain and review an environmental monitoring programme to monitor the levels of radioactivity in the environment and food caused by their disposals of radioactive waste. There were no issues of concern identified during the inspection.

The second inspection was focussed on the site's ongoing programme to manage and dispose of 'legacy' items of low level radioactive waste that are currently stored on the site. The programme remains ongoing and, on the basis of the inspection, SEPA is confident that it is proceeding in accordance with the scope and timescales agreed between the site and SEPA.

The site's application for variation to the sub-limit for the discharge of the gaseous 'all other radionuclides excluding tritium' associated with the operation of the Advanced Vacuum Drying Facility (AVDS) given in their EASR (2018) permit has been determined and granted.

The site has recently applied for a further variation to their EASR permit. This application relates to an increase in the site limit for the discharge of gaseous radionuclides excluding tritium. SEPA is determining this application. Given that it relates to an increase in a site limit SEPA will be undertaking a public consultation on the application.

SEPA are also engaging with the site on a number of issues to support the ongoing decommissioning of the site. This includes discussions on the optimisation of gaseous discharges arising from waste management operations in the site's ponds building.

Non-Rad Regulation

There have been no environmental issues relating to non-radioactive regulation since the last scheduled SSG meeting.

Environmental Events

There have been no environmental events reported to SEPA by the Chapelcross site.

Radioactivity in Food & the Environment (RIFE)

RIFE is a collaborative report on work carried out by SEPA, the other UK environment agencies, Food Standards Scotland and Food Standards Agency on the radiological monitoring of food and the environment in the UK. The RIFE reports aim to provide an in-depth assessment of radioactivity in food and the environment in the UK and the public's exposure to radiation, including in the vicinity of the Chapelcross site. The RIFE report incorporates the results from the analysis of a wide range of samples and key information on local habits to demonstrate both that food remains safe and that the public's exposure to ionising radiation is within legal limits.

The latest edition (RIFE 28) covering 2022 has just been published and can be obtained from SEPA's website along with previous year's reports at [Reports | Scottish Environment Protection Agency \(SEPA\)](#) .

Dr David Stone

Radioactive Substances Specialist

13 08 2024

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE TO CHAPELCROSS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP – 21ST AUGUST 2024

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING POLICY TEAM

Revised UK Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning Policy Framework

The revised UK policy framework was published on the 18 May 2024 and replaces Command Paper 2919, Review of Radioactive Waste Management Policy: Final Conclusions published in 1995 and a number of other documents. It updates, clarifies and consolidates a number of policies into a UK-wide policy framework. It sets out clearly those policies that are pursued jointly by the UK Government and Devolved Administrations and any separate policies that apply in any one nation. The revised policy framework and response to the consultation exercise can be found at the following link;

[Managing radioactive substances and nuclear decommissioning - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/managing-radioactive-substances-and-nuclear-decommissioning)

Review of Scotland's Higher Activity Waste Policy

The Scottish Government places great importance on the need to address Scotland's radioactive waste legacy and is committed to the safe, secure and responsible management of waste with care for people and the environment. Our policy framework for higher activity radioactive waste (HAW) is set out in a [2011 Policy](#) and [2016 Implementation Strategy](#).

The [Implementation Strategy](#) committed the Scottish Government to reviewing this policy framework no more than 10 years from 2016. We have now commenced this review, the anticipated timeline for which is set out below:

- Commence review – mid 2024
- Hold a public consultation – early 2025
- Issue a revised Policy document – late 2025

To inform this review and development of the public consultation we are inviting your initial views on the issues, as previously communicated. If you would like to share your thoughts in writing, we would ask that these be sent to oli.smith@gov.scot.

Scottish Government Ministerial Changes

Mairi McAllan MSP is now on a period of maternity leave until early 2025, and so Gillian Martin MSP has taken up the role of [Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy](#) in her absence which includes responsibility for our work on Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning.

Public Attitudes to Radioactive Waste Management Survey

The 2016 Implementation Strategy identifies that we will *identify public attitudes and societal concerns in Scotland of the topic of radioactive waste management*. In January this year, public attitudes were surveyed in an online questionnaire and the results of this survey are now available online. Included in the publication is a short summary of some of the key findings for ease of reference:

[Radioactive Waste Management - Public Attitudes Survey for Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

The survey explored four key areas:

- Knowledge of radioactive waste management
- Attitudes towards radioactive waste management
- Priorities in radioactive waste management
- Decision-making in radioactive waste management

As we review the 2011 Policy, the insights provided by this survey will help to inform our approach and appreciation of the issues to address, alongside the range of other engagement and development work we already undertake.

Scottish Nuclear Sites Stakeholder Group Meeting (SSSG)

The next SSSG meeting has been scheduled for the 14th of August at 11am. Due to building works at Victoria Quay, the meeting will now be wholly virtual. If you would like to attend the SSSG and are not currently on the distribution list, please contact me via email (diane.hamilton@gov.scot).

Diane Hamilton
Scottish Government

Chapelcross Programme Update Report to Site Stakeholder Group

Date	07/08/2024	Stage	Outline Business Case
Progress this period			
Summary The Chapelcross programme is focussed on developing the site into a high quality, green energy-focussed regional employment centre acting as a transformational project within the region. Conditional funding of £15.3m has been given from the Borderlands Growth Deal towards the project. Together with funding of £5.5m, committed by Dumfries and Galloway Council, the capital investment will be used to unlock the site for development through servicing and road improvements to access the site. Work is underway to develop the Outline Business Case (OBC), based on the recent masterplan for the site. Strategic Development Framework / Masterplan The purpose of the development framework is to shape a site layout, transport assessment and service requirements as an input to the OBC for Borderlands. The masterplan defines a series of development campuses, creating an adaptable land-use framework that build on the core site strengths, reflects national and regional policy and adopt industrial masterplan best practice. The hydrogen campus will be a core driver and enabler of Chapelcross' future as a Green Energy Hub. It provides a flexible, large-scale land area with the ability to offer downstream production and co-location with capacity for large-scale hydrogen production and related commercial and skills & innovation activity. The Green Industry Campus and Enterprise Campus provide the business space and infrastructure to accommodate energy transition supply chain and complementary commercial uses within the Green Energy Hub. The Energy Campus at Chapelcross relates to residual areas of the site within Nuclear Decommissioning Authority ownership – separate from planned Hydrogen, Green Industrial and Enterprise Campuses. It is included as part of the masterplan to ensure a coordinated approach to development across the site as a whole. Strategic Development Partner The programme will now find a strategic partner who will bring expertise and private finance to help deliver the partners' vision for the site. Avison Young, land agent for the NDA, released a Request for Proposal for the private sector to develop the northern area of the Chapelcross site. Responses are due late autumn, followed by an evaluation and contract negotiation period that should see the partner in contract by spring 2025. SOSE and CX South Purchase of Zone 3 (6.46 Ha) was successfully concluded in November 2023. SoSE have completed ground investigations and are examining site drainage options, whilst conversations with prospective occupants continue. Scottish Government – Regional Hydrogen Hub Chapelcross is included in the Scottish Government Hydrogen Action Plan as a regional hub. GB Energy The Leader of Dumfries and Galloway Council, Councillor Gail Macgregor, has written to The Rt Hon Ed Milliband, Secretary of State for Energy Security and Net Zero, and The Rt Hon Ian Murray, Secretary of State for Scotland, to express the interest of Dumfries and Galloway Council in hosting the new headquarters of the prospective GB Energy company at Chapelcross.			



Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period

- Engage Creca and Chapelcross adjacent residents regarding masterplan with a drop in session in Annan Town Hall on the afternoon of 21st August.
- Request committee approval to update planning guidance to incorporate Chapelcross Masterplan
- Engage with local landowners to assess site access improvement options
- Develop prioritised improvements and the procurement strategy for their delivery
- Avison Young will maintain dialogue with potential private sector partners throughout the Request For Proposal process.
- SoSE are now designing the site infrastructure in order to create serviced development plots. A 2MW electrical connection has been secured and is being connected this year.