



HARWELL CHILTON CAMPUS LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Minutes of the 105th meeting held at The Satellite Applications Catapult Centre, Harwell on Thursday 24th April 2025

Date 24th April 2025
Chair Chris Broad, Chilton Parish Council
Deputy Chair John Sharp, East Hendred Parish Council

Secretary Bethany Sear, NRS, Communications lead
Minutes Jessica Peart, NRS

Attendees

Alistair Findlay – NDA	Alex White – EA
Andy Clayton – ARC	Gary Reid – NRS
Laura Street – NRS	Bethany Sear – NRS
James Craig – NRS	Dik Third – NRS
John Blackmore – NRS	Bill Hamilton – NRS
Stuart Clark – NRS	Paul Mann – Oxfordshire County Council
Kat Roarty – Diamond Light Source	Bethia Thomas – Vale of White Horse
Bill Hanks – Member of the public	Clive Hooker – West Berkshire Council
Graham Simpson – ONR	John Wilkins – Member of the public
Louise Aitken – Harwell Campus	Mike Fox-Davies – Harwell Parish Council
Sally Thompson – EA	Rebecca Cleverley – EA
Charlotte Cottingham – Didcot Garden Town	
Chris Williamson – MRC Harwell	
Natalia Novokhatska – Member of the public	

1. Chairmans Remarks

- Chris Broad chaired and opened the 105th SSG.
- Welcomed Bethany Sear as the new Communications and Socio-economic Lead for NRS, Harwell & Winfrith, replacing Emma Burwood who has moved onto a new role.
- NDA NGO forum held in Cumbria on April 7th & 8th.

2. Minutes of the 104th Meeting

- Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted.
- Typo 'Hawks' to be corrected to Hanks.

3. Matters arising

None



4. NRS Harwell Licensed Site Matters

a) Site Directors Report - Gary Reid

Gary Reid gave a presentation, updating the SSG on NRS achievements for 24/25, and plans for the upcoming financial year.

- Dounreay become part of NRS last year. Some EDF AGR sites are also integrating into NRS.
- Organisation being split into 3 managing director units.

Achievements 2024/25

- Demolition of B401.8. This building originally housed the UK's first experimental reactor.
- ILW Retrievals/Shipments – Targets met for the year.
- West Meashill Delicensing work completed, which is key for land release at Harwell.
- B220 Cell Characterisation completed.

2025/26

- Nuclear Materials Transfer to continue shipping.
- Remote Handled Intermediate Level Waste retrievals and Drum grouting operations to continue.
- B418 Decommissioning work to start.
- Delicensing work continues at West Meashill, LETP and Atlas North.
- B220 Characterisation work paused. Gary Reid proposed given a more detailed presentation on B220 at the next SSG.

Questions

Q1. Mentioned Nuclear Materials Transport is nearing completion date. What happens once this completes? Are there any subsequent security implications?

A1. There is a related security project happening. The plan will to be eventually reduce the presence of CNC on site, which costs roughly £9.5 million a year.

Q2. Mentioned further work is ongoing with Groundwater Remediation – what is this further work?

A2. NRS is working with WSP to do risk assessments in line with the Environment Agency Framework. Also looking at what work would follow if the Groundwater Plant were shut down.

5. Reports

a) Nuclear Decommissioning Authority - Alistair Findlay

Alistair Findlay attended the meeting and provided a summary of the NDA's report submitted.

- 2025/26 funding has been challenging.
- Strategy 5 conversations due to begin next month. This will be the first strategy under the new operating module.



- Business Planning held.
- NDA 20th anniversary.

b) Office for Nuclear Regulation - Graham Simpson

Graham Simpson ONR Inspector for Harwell attended the meeting and provided some opening comments.

- LC26 Control of work, and CDM regulations Inspection of B220, compliance inspections have been carried out. Both were given a green adequate rating.
- Emergency Arrangements exercise held in September; this was deemed inadequate. ONR continue to monitor NRS' improvement and corrective actions. A redemonstration exercise will be taking place on May 14th.

Q1. Previous ONR inspectors held meetings with the TU reps; will these be reinstated?

A1. Graham advised these should not have stopped and will be looking to have quarterly catchups.

Q2. Why was the Emergency Arrangements Exercise deemed inadequate?

A2. Gary Reid advised this was due to getting first aid support to a casualty in a timely manner. Although staff had been identified to support the casualty, there was an assumption CNC was responding, which was not accurate.

c) Environment Agency - Rebecca Cleverley

The EA submitted their environmental report covering the period of November 2024 to April 2025. Rebecca Cleverley (lead regulator) attended the meeting and provided some opening comments.

- Sally Thompson will be taking over as the EA Lead Regulator for the Harwell Site.
- Rebecca Cleverley will be transferring to become Lead Regulator at the Winfrith Site.
- Alex White joined the EA as Environment Agency Nuclear Graduate and will be transferring to NRS in the coming months.
- EA inspection of HAW (Higher Active Waste) arrangements was carried out last week. No non-conformances to note.
- Continuing to discuss the West Meashill Delicensing project with NRS.
- Continuing to discuss LETP Delicensing.
- Partial permit surrender for West Meashill will be a large focus this coming year.

6. NRS Corporate Update - Bill Hamilton

Bill Hamilton NRS External Affairs Director attended the meeting.

- Internal restructuring at senior level, makes it clear each site director is reporting to a managing director.
- An update on the 2025/26 spending review given.



7. **NRS site update - Harwell Land Release - Laura Street (NRS)**

Laura Street, Harwell's Site Manager, gave an overview of Harwell's Land Release strategy.

- The vision at Harwell will see the entire site eventually being handed over to the Joint Venture for further development. This will create thousands of future jobs, both in the construction industry, and science community.
- The land occupied at Harwell is still owned by the UKAEA, who themselves have a joint venture to develop the land into a science campus.

There are different steps that need to be undertaken to enable land release:

- Decommissioning what is remaining on site.
- De-licence/De-Permit – build a justification that the land has been left in a state of no danger.
- De-designate.
- Land Release.

Land Release Plots being Progressed:

- West Meashill – planned release date March 2027
- LETP – Planned release date June 2027
- 540/551 – Planned release date June 2028
- B418 – Planned release date April 2031
(Subject to uncertainty associated with characterisation/ decommissioning, and assuming similar levels of funding are provided)

Potential Plots for Land Release

- Atlas North
- Meashill Plantation
- B459 and 351

Q1. When decontaminating areas, when is it decided that there is no contamination or radiation left?

A1. The ONR and EA have a set of criteria that must be met. These are very low levels, and very low risk levels.

Q2. How would the Meashill plantation be handled from an ecological perspective?

A2. Looking at biodiversity net gains and working closely with JV to preserve areas.

8. **Campus Matters**

a) **Harwell Campus Joint Venture Partnership – Andy Clayton**

- Andy Clayton advised a Joint Venture update will be provided at the next meeting with support from Laura Street.

b) **Science and Technology Facilities Council – Joe Kelleher (not in attendance)**

Update to be provided at next meeting.



c) Diamond Light Source - Kat Roarty

- Kat Roarty attended the meeting and provided an update on what has been happening at Diamond Light Source since the last meeting.

9. Any Other Business

Nothing to report.

10. Next Meeting - TBC