



WINFRITH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)

Tuesday 13 May 2025

Winfrith Village Hall

Meeting reference SG35

Attendees:

Nic Johnson	Vice Chair and representative of Winfrith Parish Council
Will Matheson	NRS – Regional EHSS&Q Manager
Rob Coan	NRS – Winfrith Site Manager
Andy Philps	NRS – Programme Delivery Manager
Bethany Sear	NRS – Harwell & Winfrith Site Communications
Debbie Paterson	NRS – Minutes
Alastair Findlay	NDA Head of Regional Affairs
Elly Joyce	NRS – Site End State Manager, Harwell & Winfrith
Stuart Clark	NRS – Property Manager
Rebecca Cleverley	Environment Agency (EA)
James Heavingham	Environment Agency (EA)
Ian Jackson	Tradebe
Mark Graham	Tradebe
Jack Inman	Dorset Wildlife Trust
David Cobb	Cobb Framing
Fiona Bowles	Resident

Apologies for absence – Barry Quinn (SSG Chair), Gary Reid (NRS), Graham Simpson (ONR), Alister Wintle (Environment Agency) and Bill Hamilton (NRS).

1. Welcome and Introduction – Nic Johnson

Nic Johnson welcomed attendees to the meeting.

- Apologies received from Barry Quinn who was unable to attend today's meeting due to a personal commitment.
- Condolences were expressed to Sandra Ellis, the previous SSG Chair on the sudden passing of her husband, Trevor.
- In preparation for today's meeting, the event was publicised on local community Facebook pages to encourage representatives to attend. The East Lulworth Community Facebook administration had decided that the meeting was not of interest to residents and subsequently removed the information.
- The SSG Chair/Deputy Chair continue to receive regular updates both in person and via Teams. On the 25 April 2025, the SSG Chair and Vice Chair attended a meeting at site which included a briefing on the work carried out at Dragon followed by a tour of site.
- The Chair and Vice Chair had attended a number of Teams meetings which focused on budgets and an independent SSG review. Initially, the news regarding Government budget cuts on decommissioning would have had an

impact on SGHWR, however after a period of lobbying additional funds were allocated to ensure the project remains on track.

- Lloyd Hatton, MP for South Dorset visited site on the 14 February 2025.
- The next SSG/NDA Chairs meeting would be held in July 2025 in Manchester. The limited travel options available from Dorset had been acknowledged and future meetings would be held in Birmingham.
- The Chair and Vice Chair attended an online forum in March 2025 to discuss the NDA independent report of the SSG. The common thread among SSG chairs is that the meetings should be completely independent and not appointed by the NDA or other organisation.

Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

A copy of the organogram displaying the relationships between Contractors, Regulators and areas of responsibility/ownership requested at the previous meeting had been produced. [Site Stakeholder Groups](#)

2. NRS Winfrith Site Report - Will Matheson

Will Matheson introduced himself to the meeting. Updates were given on the following:

Health, Safety, Security, Environment & Quality Safety Site Operations - Current Work Programmes

- SGHWR reactor decommissioning.
- DRAGON reactor decommissioning.
- Waste – processing / consignment / legacy waste reduction.
- Plant and Structures – ALES operations and Decommissioning.
- DASA – Autonomous Security System trials.
- Thorium Project – Encapsulation trials.
- Asset Care – ALES Fire detection upgrade, Main Gate reconfiguration (re-design) and roof / gutter repairs to building A544.

SGHWR

- Engineering effort currently focussed on underpinning design opportunities.
- Structural alterations continue within the facility with further penetrations having been cut and floors removed to allow for plant installation for Core Segmentation.

Mini-MILWEP

- Intermediate Low Level Waste (ILW) produced is packaged into concrete boxes and cemented ready for transport to Harwell for future disposal. Currently forecast to be delivered by the end of 2025.

DRAGON

- Dragon is currently in the process of remotely removing the core of the reactor using a robotic arm and laser cutter.

Plant & Structures (P&S)

- Sea Pipeline Decommissioning project currently paused due to funding reprioritisation.
- A42/44 old fire station demolition completed.

OFFICIAL

- A511 ALES – Demolition completed.
- Blacknoll Reservoir – Pre-planning application for demolition had gone through process and full planning application is in preparation stage. Schedule for demolition subject to funding priorities before Winter 2026.

Other

- Recruitment for 2025 under review. 3 apprentices completed April 2025 – now transferring to post (1 x electrical / 2 x mechanical from 2021 cohort). 1 x Project Management (Level 6 / degree) apprentice (joined 2024 / 4-year apprenticeship),
- 3 x Health Physics Monitor apprentice vacancies recruitment currently underway.
- Recent site visits include: 10 graduates from the NRS fleet visit to SGHWR and a visit by Paramedic Operation Officers from South-Western Ambulance Service to carry out a deep dive into our First Aid arrangements.

Demolitions

- Winfrith Fire Station, Telephone Exchange and SECC and A51.1 structures and garages.

DASA – Autonomous Security System Trials

- Supplier innovations are deployed onsite.
- Mid-trial showcase with government bodies on the 25 / 26 June 2025 where suppliers will demonstrate their innovation capabilities to a range of Government stakeholders.

Sustainability

- Solar hybrid generators installed to provide power to four projects operating
- Supplier innovations are deployed onsite.
- A series of nature walking routes would be mapped out so staff can enjoy the diverse array of plants and animals onsite during their lunchtime walks.
- Surplus timber had been repurposed into picnic benches to provide seating on newly established nature walks.

Magnox Socio-economic Funding Support 2024-2025

Winfrith funded projects 2024/2025 to date as follows:

- Good neighbour - 2 projects totalling £2,364.46
- Tumbledown Farm - £85,000
- Dorset Wildlife Trust (Multiyear project) - £26,910.00

For further information please go to:

[NRS working with our communities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/nrs-working-with-our-communities)

Dorset Wildlife Trust - Heathland Heritage Traineeships

The Dorset Heathland Heritage Traineeships project provides training and work experience in the countryside management sector for six young people local to the NRS Winfrith area.

- The set up of 18 volunteering tasks for the local community.
- 900 hrs of volunteering time created.
- 4 trainees recruited – one who has entered full time employment after training.
- 30 different activities have been created to engage local community.

Questions?

On a previous visit to site, the question was raised as to whether any hazardous substances are discharged via the pipeline to Arish Mell. It was explained that when

the pipeline is decommissioned it would be cut into sections, transferred to the Winfrith site for cleaning, encased and sent to Harwell for onward disposal.

Q1: If the pipeline is left in situ is there a risk of contamination to the land and why is the pipeline cleaned?

A1: Discharges of radioactive material from either the stack or via the pipeline are done so in strict accordance with the permit issued by the Environment Agency. Cleaning of the pipeline would be carried out in order to comply with regulations. Any work carried out would be undertaken under strict controls with nothing prejudicial to members of the public or the environment.

Q2: When will End State be achieved?

A2: End State is expected to be achieved between 2036 – 2040 subject to funding.

Q3: The earlier video provided an overview of achievements over the last 12 months but does not include an insight against programme delivery timescales or the impact of government budgets/funding. Would it be possible to include this information in future meetings?

A3: The Site Progress summary provides a snapshot of the targets for the financial year, and the progress made. A more detailed explanation could be made available in order to provide a bigger picture.

Q4: If low level radiation is present in the pipeline, can it not be sealed and left in place as opposed to removal, which would be a more disruptive option?

A4: A good question. Various optioneering studies had been carried out in 2020. At that time, removal of the pipeline was considered the best option. The project is currently paused. Further updates would be provided via forums such as the SSG as and when the project progresses.

3. Update on Dragon Decommissioning Work - Andy Philps

Andy Philps, Programme Delivery Manager, provided a presentation on the Reactor Core Decommissioning, dismantling the reactor core using Laser cutting technology. A copy of the presentation can be found by clicking on the link.

[Site Stakeholder Groups](#)

4. NDA Report - Alastair Findlay

Alastair Findlay provided a short presentation celebrating the 20th year anniversary of Nuclear Decommissioning and strategic milestones.

The NDA Report had been issued prior the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link. [Site Stakeholder Groups](#)

5. NRS Corporate Update - Bill Hamilton (not in attendance)

Bill Hamilton submitted his apologies for the meeting. An NRS Corporate update will be provided at the next meeting.

6. Regulators

6a. Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) - (not in attendance)

The ONR Report was issued prior the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link. [Site Stakeholder Groups](#)

6b. Environment Agency (EA) - Rebecca Cleverley and James Heavingham

Apologies received from Alister Wintle who was due to attend today's meeting.

- Alister Wintle would be replaced by Rebecca Cleverley as the new Site Regulator.
- Solid Waste Management inspection on 04 June 2025 covering environmental monitoring and characterisation.

James Heavingham would lead the Winfrith Permit Variation to vary Radioactive Substances Regulation application submitted in December 2024 as Permit Project Manager. A high level review of the application would be conducted. The first public consultation would be held on the 03 June 2025 and would allow members of the public and other stakeholders to examine NRS's proposal and comment. The consultation period would last for 12 weeks.

The EA Report had been issued prior to the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link [Site Stakeholder Groups](#)

7. Project Update - Update on end state proposals and applications - Elly Joyce

Covered as part of the earlier discussions.

8. Any Other Business - Nic Johnson

Nic Johnson thanked attendees for their participation.

He commented that it can be difficult to fully understand some of the terminology around the various discussions.

Rebecca Cleverley (Environment Agency) referred to the 'Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2023' which is published on the GOV.UK website which provides lots of useful information and explanation around radiation. A copy of report can be found by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports>

Date of Next Meeting – 18 November 2025