



HARWELL SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

105TH MEETING

Date: Thursday, 24th April 2025

Time: 10:00 for refreshments, for a 10:30 start

Venue: Jupiter Room, The Satellite Applications Catapult, Electron Building,
Fermi Avenue, Harwell, Oxford OX11 0QR

AGENDA

1. **Chairman's remarks:**
 - Welcome guests
 - Chairman's Notes – Chris Broad (10)
 - Apologies for absence and changes in membership
2. Minutes of the 104th meeting
3. Matters arising
4. **NRS Harwell Licensed Site Matters**
 - (a) Site Director's Report – Gary Reid (15)
5. **Reports**
 - (a) Nuclear Decommissioning Authority – Alastair Findlay (10)
 - (b) Office for Nuclear Regulation – Graham Simpson (10)
 - (c) Environment Agency – Rebecca Cleverley (10)
6. **NRS corporate update** – Bill Hamilton (10)
7. **NRS site update** – Land Release - Laura Street (10)
8. **Campus Matters**
 - (a) Harwell Campus Joint Venture Partnership
Andy Clayton – ARC (10)
 - (b) Science and Technology Facilities Council – Joe Kelleher (TBC) (10)
 - (c) Diamond Light Source – Kat Roarty (10)
9. **Any other business**
10. **Next Meeting – TBC**

Bethany Sear – Communications and Socio-economics Lead

Tonya Hughes - SSG Secretariat

Jessica Peart - Minutes Secretary

Magnox Limited, Harwell Campus, 392.10 Rutherford Avenue, Didcot OX11 0DF

Telephone: 07712 236774, Email: harwell.ssg@nrservices.uk



HARWELL CHILTON CAMPUS LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Minutes of the 104th meeting held at The Satellite Applications Catapult Centre, Harwell on Tuesday 5th November 2024

ATTENDEES:

Chair	Chris Broad, Chilton Parish Council
Deputy Chair	John Sharp, East Hendred Parish Council
Secretary	Emma Burwood, Magnox, Communications lead
Minutes	Jessica Peart, Magnox
Emma Burwood	NRS
Bethany Sear	NRS
Gary Reid	NRS
Laura Street	NRS
Jon Blackmore	NRS
Bill Hamilton	NDA
Alistair Findlay	NDA
Christine Williamson	MRC Harwell
Amy Griffin	Diamond Lightsource
Kat Roarty	Diamond Lightsource
Rebecca Cleverley	Environment Agency
Aidan Kelly	Environment Agency
Bill Hawks	Member of public
John Wilkins	Member of public
Susan Holdrolds	Member of public
Paul Mann	Oxfordshire County Council
C. J. Broad	Chilton Parish Council
Clive Hooker	West Berks Council
Derek Whitmill	Upton Parish Council
Paul Bryant	Shaw-cum-Donnington Parish Council
Joe Kelleher	ISIS/STFC

Apologies for absence: Bethia Thomas, Vale of White Horse District Council, Mark Pledger, Jacobs, Neil Fawcett, Vale of White Horse District Council

1. Chairmans Remarks – Chris Broad

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

- Gary Reid appointed as NRS Site Director for Harwell & Winfrith.



- 26th April SSG Chairs and Vice Chairs national forum held in Manchester. Concern was expressed regarding the difficulty of getting NDA to attend SSG meetings. NDA responded, admitting a lack of resource available, but did note that recruitment was in progress.
- NDA hosted a Site Stakeholder Group Chairs meeting in Manchester. This was a good opportunity to speak and hear from senior NDA.

2. Minutes of the 103rd meeting

- Minutes from the last meeting were reviewed and accepted.

3. Matters Arising:

4. NRS Harwell Licensed Site Matters

a) Site Directors Report – Gary Reid (NRS)

Gary Reid gave a short presentation to update on site operations and current work programmes at Harwell.

Site Operations

- NMT (Nuclear Materials Transfer) – On target, progressing towards 165 Waste Packages consigned this year.
- RHILW (Remote Handled Intermediate Level Waste) – below target at present. A series of unplanned plant breakdowns have hindered progress, but 7.4Te is still achievable.
- Remaining waste targets across site are progressing well.

NRS Harwell has several programmes underway, including:

- Land Release – NRS has a lot of potential land for release, but it takes time to work through the process of delicensing. Laura Street (NRS) will be submitting a strategic plan to the NRS Board to help prioritise and determine a strategy.
- Nuclear Materials Transfer – One of the largest Nuclear Waste Transfer projects. Roughly two years away from completion.
- Remote Handled Intermediate Level Waste – Estimated four years until completion.
- Legacy Waste – Consigned 150m³ of legacy waste this year. Expect to reach target of 208m³ by end of the financial year.
- Compliance and End States Programme
 - Almost at the end of LETP Land Remediation.
 - West Meashill Land Release – Delicensing case submission due Spring 2025
 - Meashill Trenches Remediation – Progressing with initial options assessment.
 - Downs Way East Land Remediation – Minor remedial works but any further project work has been deferred to prioritise other high priority areas.

Decommissioning



- B220 Characterisation and asbestos survey contract is progressing.
- B418 demolition planned for 2025/26.
- B401.8 asbestos strip out is nearing completion prior to demolition.

Other Site News

- Bethany Sear has been appointed as Communications and Socio-economic Lead for South Sites.
- 15 roles have been filled since April 2024.
- 20 open vacancies
- 5 new apprentices

The meeting was opened to for discussion.

Q1. How did the site exercise run virtually?

A1. A virtual SECC is not first choice, however it does benefit in some scenarios. For example, in an emergency when buildings are locked down, it isn't possible to get everyone together in a centralised control room.

Q2. In the site emergency when a gas leak was discovered, the local community was not connected?

A2. Chris Broad was notified. NRS will take into consideration learning points, and the need for local communities to be notified where appropriate in an emergency.

Q3. Will the Land Release Report produced later this month, be available to be shared with all?

A3. No. This will be intended to secure internal resource to focus on areas that need to be progressed and identify opportunities to bring forward additional plots of land which are not currently scheduled to be released until later in the programme. Laura Street will do a short presentation at a follow up SSG to provide an update.

5. Reports

a) Nuclear Decommissioning Authority – Alistair Findlay

Alister Findlay attended the meeting and provided a brief update on NDAs submitted report.

b) Office for Nuclear Regulation – Vincent Malachanne

ONR submitted a report for review.

c) Environment Agency – Rebecca Cleverley

Rebecca Cleverley and Aidan Kelly (EA) attended the meeting. Rebecca provided and overview of the EAs submitted report.

6. NRS Corporate Update/Think Insights – Bill Hamilton

Bill Hamilton (NRS External Affairs Director) attended the meeting and gave an NRS corporate update.



- Socio-economic funding available – If anyone knows of any community projects that need funding, please get in touch.
- Dounreay have joined NRS.
- A video was shared of the general public's views of living near to an NRS site.

Q1. The message taken from the video is that people living around NRS sites do not know what is going on. Locally can't recall any publications from NRS updating the local communities?

A1. Bill Hamilton advised there has been some press in local papers, but not as much as would like. Bill noted the communications team at NRS is growing and therefore hope to produce more updates for the community.

Q2. It was mentioned NRS are now considering early decommissioning of reactors and plant. For Harwell does DIDO & BEPO appear as a consideration?

A2. Gary Reid advised there is a desire to look at the reactors, however there is a strong argument to let them decay for a period of time.

7. NRS Site Update – Jon Blackmore

Jon Blackmore gave a presentation on the Groundwater at Harwell. (A copy of the presentation included with the meeting minutes).

- An updated map of borehole data was given, as requested at the last SSG.

Q1. Can WSP's report be shared?

A1. At present the report is in draft format so can't be shared at this present time.

Q2. Can a copy of the presentation slides be shared with SSG?

A2. Yes, the slides can be included with the minutes.

8. Campus Matters

a) Science and Technology Facilities Council

Joe gave an update of events at STFC.

b) Diamond Light Source – Amy Griffin

Amy Griffin attended the meeting and provided an update on Diamond Light Source.

- 97% machine up time during the last period.
- Annual review will be published online in the coming months.
- Awarded gold from the Employee Recognition scheme for the Armed Forces covenant.
- Diamond extension construction is progressing, due to finish early 2025.
- Solar panels have been commissioned contributing to 5% of Diamond power usage.
- Public Open Day March 2025. Ballot to enter opens today.

Q1. Is there a cost analysis of Diamond available?



A1. Yes statistics are due to be published, will included in next years SSG.

9. AOB

Nothing to report.

10. Next Meeting – 17th April 2025

Harwell Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) 24th April 2025

Gary Reid
Harwell and Winfrith Site Director



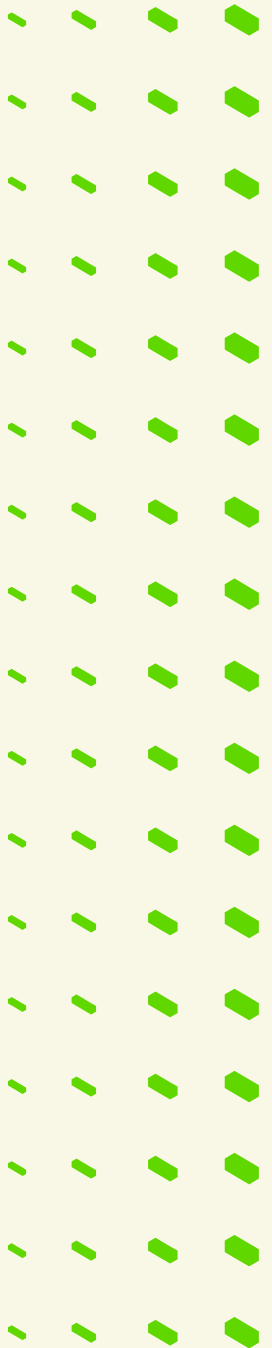
05/11/2024



NRS
Nuclear Restoration
Services

Harwell site – what we will cover

- Achievements FY24/25
- Environment, Health, Safety, Security and Quality (EHSSQ)
- Plans for This Year
- What else is happening on-site
- Sustainability at Harwell
- NRS Socio-Economic Scheme



Achievements for 24/25 FY

- Demolition of B401.8
- Targets met or exceeded for ILW Waste Retrievals, Drum Encapsulation, Nuclear Material Transfers and VLLW Waste Exports.
- West Meashill Delicensing work complete.
- B220 Cell Characterisation Completed.

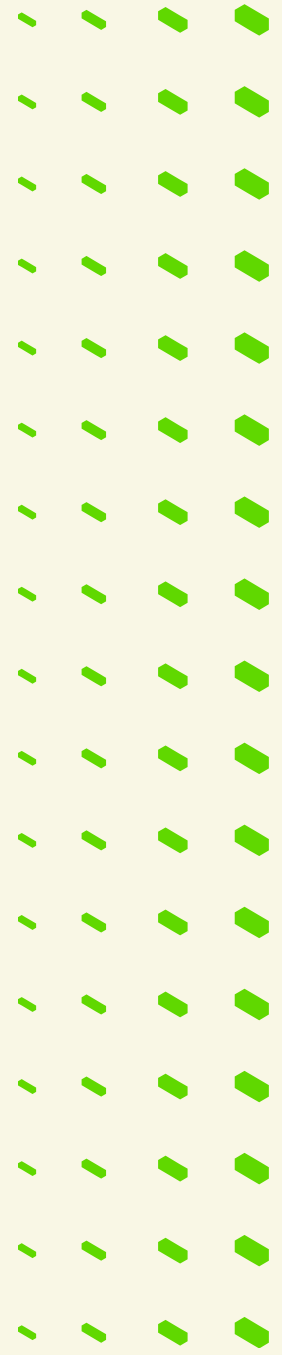


Environment, Health, Safety, Security and Quality (EHSSQ)

- Safety
 - TRIR remains at 0; no LTA in 644 days
 - Asset Management Inspection rated adequate
 - 1x RIDDOR report in January
 - Change to a subcontractor lifting operation caused an imbalance to a FLT; no injuries
- Environment
 - Discharges of radioactivity remain well below permitted levels with no observable trends
 - Minor issues associated with Environmental Monitoring contractor performance
 - Campus diesel spill in February
 - Entered surface water drains
 - Response team mobilised by site; spill managed effectively
 - Environment Culture Inspection
- Security
 - No issues to report

This Year's Plans

- NMT project (Nuclear Materials Transfer) continue Shipping.
- RHILW (Remote Handled Intermediate Level waste) retrievals and Drum Grouting Operations Continue.
- B418 Decommissioning Work Starts to Support Land Release.
- Delicensing Work continues at West Meashill, LETP and Atlas North.
- B220 Characterisation Work is paused while Business Planning is completed.



Harwell land release

- NRS is working with NDA, UKAEA, Central Government, and Campus Joint Venture private sector partner to develop a proposal to accelerate and optimise land release plans to support further development of the campus.



Legacy Waste

- **GKT Legacy Waste 24-25**
- YE target (m3) 189.6 Acceptable 205.2 Good 208.2 Excellent

Final Total 209m3
(19 Consignments)



Nuclear Materials Transfers

- 5930 (was 5817) drums shipped to date. This is 89% of the total (was 87%).
- Dragon fuel is now 67% complete (was 59%)
- Activity removed from Harwell site is 71% (was 64%)
- Project completion is tracking to late 2027



Remote Handled Intermediate Level Waste (RHILW) retrievals and Harwell (ILW) box store

Remote Handled Wastes

- Waste retrievals finished the year at 7.63Te recovered (was 3.8Te)
- The waste encapsulation plant grouted 133 drums (346 of circa 1000 in total).
- Plans are largely firmed up for recovery of currently out of scope wastes using RM1 and a radon abatement system, and RM2 after conversion.
- The Post Operational Clear Out (POCO) equipment continues to be developed to allow final tube cleaning after waste recoveries are completed.

Harwell ILW Box Store (HIBS)

- Work progresses to allow the store to receive both empty and filled boxes. First active box expected 2027.



What else is happening on site

Recruitment

- Recently recruited 2 x Environment Engineers

Apprentices

- **6 x Level 2 Nuclear Health Physics Monitor apprentices**
(Currently in the process of being recruited and due to start September 2025)

Welfare

- New Canteen facilities for staff



Site Restoration

- **LETP Land Remediation**

- Minor remediation work successfully completed in December 2024, despite exceptional rainfall during the works
- Procurement for SuDS Lagoon and LETP reinstatement is a priority - aiming to commence site works late Summer 2025 (groundwater levels remain a risk)
- Materials Management Plan prepared to support sustainable re-use of suitable materials from lagoon to reinstate LETP
- The LETP delicensing case will be progressed during 2025/26

- **Groundwater Remediation**

- Discussions ongoing with the EA in relation to GWP closure case – further work to be carried out by WSP on behalf of NRS

- **West Meashill Area Land Release**

- Delicensing case prepared

- **Meashill Trenches Remediation and Downs Way East Land Remediation**

- Currently paused due to funding prioritisation, although it is hoped that some progress can be made using in-house resources

- **B540/B551 Area (land release area)**

- Non-intrusive surveys have commenced (**Photo**), and intrusive investigations will be carried out during 2025/26



Nuvia's 4x4-mounted GroundHog Gamma Radiation Survey Equipment during the B540/551 Area surveys

Decommissioning

Group Key Target has been completed within B220.

- Business decision has been made to pause further Characterisation

B401.8 Decommissioning and demolition Contract commenced July 2024

- Demolition Completed March 2025
- Contract complete expected July 2025



Sustainability at Harwell

Sustainability and Biodiversity workshops for site staff completed in March.

Work ongoing to support our understanding and implementation of Biodiversity Net Gain across the site, and in conjunction with Harwell Campus JV.

Projects increasingly utilising energy efficient plant, resource minimisation and increased material recycling.



Socio economic funding 2024/25

End of Financial Year:

£1.1m spent across 12 NRS Sites.

**Harwell funded projects =
£53,861.70**

**Good Neighbour – 5 projects
supported totaling £3,861.70**

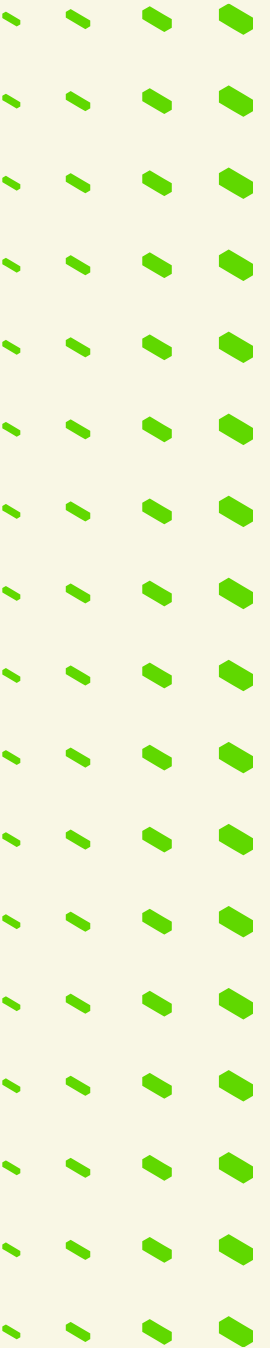
**Multi year project – SOFEA totaling
£50,000.00**

SOFEA is an innovative education and training charity focused on helping young people, especially those at risk of becoming long-term NEET (Not in Education, Employment, or Training).

For further information please visit [NRS working with our communities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

- Good Neighbour applications for Harwell email: Bethany.Sear@nrservices.uk
- Applications over £2,000: email: jessica.dawson@nrservices.uk

Any Questions?





NDA Update for Harwell SSG

April 2025



Contents

1.0 NDA Stakeholder Update April 2025

**NDA Stakeholder Update**

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

Government Update

Following the re-establishment of Parliament in the Autumn the running of government the selection of representation for select committees has concluded alongside familiarisation visits for key Ministers and officials into their appointment areas.

Key appointments include local Sellafield MP Josh MacAlister as Parliamentary Private Secretary (an MP who serves as an unpaid assistant to a government minister) to The Rt Hon Pat McFadden MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for Intergovernmental Relations.

In his new role, Josh will now adhere to the Ministerial Code and will be expected to support the government in divisions in the House. His role will affect how he speaks publicly about the NDA, as Josh is unable to speak in the Commons on matters related to his department. While he can serve on select committees, Josh will be expected to withdraw himself from inquiries concerning the Cabinet Office. Worth noting Josh was also Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group for Nuclear, which is has now stood down from, and a member of the DESNZ Select Committee.

David Mundell, MP for the area covering Chapelcross, is Vice Chair of the Nuclear All-Party Group. The Energy and Net Zero Committee (ESNZ) has also made appointments which include site MPs Josh MacAlister and Julie Minns (MP for Carlisle) and there are three MPs with NDA sites located in their constituencies sitting in the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

David Peattie, along with Corhyn Parr and Euan Hutton, appeared before the ESNZ committee on the 18th December and answered questions on a wide variety of subjects connected to the NDAs mission. If you've not had a chance to watch proceedings, the hearing is available to view online [here](#).

Spending Review

The NDAs budget for 25/26 is broadly flat compared to 24/25 with an overall budget of £4.16bn. Despite this continued investment, as a result of inflation our overall funding will not be enough for all our planned activities across the group next year, which were focused on accelerating the mission and driving growth. As a public body, we must be agile and respond accordingly, and it's likely that we will need to slow down, pause or



stop some areas of work, both in the NDA and in the operating companies, as well improving productivity and efficiencies across the group. Phase 2 of the spending review is now underway and will also have implications for our work going forward.

Business Plan

The NDA 25/26 business plan was published [here](#) and is accepting responses until the 22nd April. It sets out key activities and the progress expected across all NDA sites across the next three years.

Outreach activities

- On the 15/16 January the UK decommissioning sector came together in Telford. On 15 January DECOM 25 took place with delegates from across the decommissioning sector discussing a whole range of topics, including the development of the UK sites and the opportunities for the supply chain, the skills needed to succeed, decommissioning in other sectors and the challenges of preparing for the future of decommissioning. On 16 January there was an NDA supply chain event proving 1700 delegates the opportunity to connect with 300 exhibiting companies – one of the biggest supply chain events in the UK.
- Some stakeholders may be aware that the NDA recently launched its new on-line Stakeholder Survey. Field work continues and we will share key headlines from the survey in due course.
- The latest **Cross-Party Group** took place in the **Scottish Parliament** with the main topic being 'Radioactive Waste - dealing with the legacy'. Topics including how waste was generated, how it is dealt with in Scotland, movement of waste located in Scotland and non-energy sources of radioactive waste. There were around 40 attendees both in person and via Teams.

Engagement priorities for 2025

- The NDA celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, and we are planning some events around this. We would like to mark an SSG meeting at each site with a special presentation reviewing the progress over the last 20 years – more details to follow. Do check out this [article](#) but also our social media channels
- We plan to communicate more on the SSG Review in the near future. There are four main areas of recommendations on how to modernise and provide more support to SSGs. 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.

- Nuclear week in Parliament took place at the end of January and was a very positive platform for engagement with parliamentarians. The NDA, Sellafield Ltd and NRS were all involved in special events and receptions during the week.
- As you will be aware preparation is underway for **Strategy V**. 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. To allow us to take account of the results of the Spending Review we are planning to consult on the Strategy in July this year. Final publication of the strategy is still planned for Spring 2026.
- The NDA has been working closely with the Nuclear Industries Association (NIA) to establish a **Cross-Party Group on the Civil Nuclear Industry in the Welsh Parliament**. The first meeting took place on the 21st January.

Publications, public service and policy updates

- As previously advised we expect the Scottish Government 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 – late 2024, hold a public consultation – early 2025, issue a revised Policy document – late 2025.
- The **NAO value for money study** into whether Sellafield and the NDA are taking a sustainable approach to decommissioning, leading to permanent hazard reduction has now been published and can be found via the following link [Decommissioning Sellafield: managing risks from the nuclear legacy - NAO report](#). The Public Accounts Committee visited Sellafield in February. A hearing took place on 20th March with David Peattie, Euan Hutton and Kate Bowyer from the NDA group and Clive Maxwell (2nd Permanent Secretary) and Lee McDonough (Director General with responsibility for nuclear) from the Department. You can watch the hearing back [here](#). The Public Account Committee will produce a report which would expect to be published in the next two months.



- We have recently published our [Nuclear Heritage Strategy](#). The NDA are tasked with decommissioning the UK's legacy nuclear sites, sites and facilities which have been at the heart of delivering nuclear benefits for the UK, including national defence programmes and supplying safe, low-carbon power, for decades. The heritage strategy enables the NDA group to identify and preserve the tangible and intangible assets, objects, and memories of the nuclear industry, the people who worked in it, and the communities that supported it.
- NDA has published its **Socio Economic Report for 2023/24**, detailing a record investment in projects across the UK - [NDA group investing in our communities - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- Following the publication of the Chapelcross masterplan in August 2024 the NDA has been leading work to identify a strategic partner for the development that will deliver the vision for the sites transformation into a green energy hub. We are now evaluating the proposals from potential partners and hope to be able to make an announcement this Spring.
- The NDA funded a [project](#) in North Wales which has delivered a range of successful outcomes for the low-carbon sector across North Wales. M-SParc's Egni team, based on Anglesey, has worked with a range of partners throughout the three-year programme to deliver impactful projects that support businesses, drive investment and educate the next generation.
- The Egni team was created in 2021 with a £360,000 grant from the NDA's Socio-Economic Fund. The team is now permanently established - with four full-time team members, four associate members and two interns - and will continue to meet the needs of the low-carbon sector as it develops in the future.
- A Government consultation on New Nuclear siting has recently [concluded](#).

Mission delivery

- Future plans for our Chapelcross site in Dumfries and Galloway were unveiled in August, with a long-term vision to develop the site into a Green Energy Hub: [Chapelcross Masterplan - CX Project](#)
- 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.

Thank you for taking the time to read our update. If you have any questions, please feed-back through the Secretariat or raise with the NDA official at the SSG meeting.



Nuclear
Decommissioning
Authority



Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR Site Report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd – Harwell

ONR Site Report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd - Harwell

Report for period: 1 July – 31 December 2024

Authored by: Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: Delivery Lead, DFW Subdivision

Issue No.: 1

Publication Date: April 2025

ONR Record Ref. No.: 2025/13133

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

Site inspectors from ONR usually attend Harwell 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 July to 31 December 2024:

- 6 August 2024
- 18 September 2024
- 23 October 2024
- 20 November 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); and
- 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 NRS Ltd Harwell site covered the following:

- CDM regulations;
- Control of work;

- Safety and security emergency arrangements and preparedness.

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.

2.2. Other Work

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

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.

Reports detailing regulatory decisions can be found on the ONR website at <http://www.onr.org.uk/pars/>.

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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email: Contact@onr.gov.uk

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Environment Agency report

Harwell Site Stakeholder Group

April 2025

This report covers the Environment Agency's regulation of the Harwell Nuclear Licensed Site and related issues for the period between November 2024 and April 2025.

Radioactive substances regulation

We regulate radioactive waste disposals to the environment. We do this through environmental permits that contain limits and conditions aimed at minimising wastes and protecting people and the environment. We check compliance with the permits through routine interaction with the operator, and by making regular inspections at Harwell.

Working with colleagues across the Environment Agency, we also regulate and control other activities through our environmental permits, including surface and groundwater discharges. Through our corporate objectives, aims and general duties, we also provide advice and guidance to protect or enhance the wider environment and support sustainable development.

We record our regulatory compliance interactions in Radioactive Substances Compliance Assessment Reports (RASCARs). These summarise the type of work we have undertaken, describe any non-compliance or observations of good practice, and include actions or recommendations from our findings. They are public register records and can be provided on request. Please see the 'further information' section at the end of this document to find out how to request public register records.

Permitting

NRS holds two radioactive substances activity permits under the Environmental Permitting Regulations (EPR) at the Harwell site: one covers the nuclear licensed site (PB3598DX, the 'nuclear' EPR permit); the second covers smaller areas outside the nuclear licensed site boundary (PB3198DJ, the 'non-nuclear' EPR permit).

No changes have been made to either permit since the last SSG meeting. We are providing regulatory advice and guidance on our requirements to support NRS's plans to apply for partial surrender of its permit in the West Meashill area and at the Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant. We are expecting to receive an application for the surrender of the West Meashill area in July 2025.

Compliance activities

We check compliance with the permits through regular contact with the operator, site meetings, and by making regular inspections at Harwell. We issue RASCARs to summarise inspections, including any identified non-compliances, actions, recommendations and observations of good practice.

We receive and assess a range of monthly reports from the site. We maintain regular dialogue with the operator to ensure we are kept in touch with any emerging issues at Harwell and with progress on actions.

customer service line **03708 506 506**

incident hotline **0800 80 70 60**

floodline **03459 88 11 88**

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We hold weekly meetings with the Environment Manager and team to ensure we are aware of progress on decommissioning, actions and recommendations and any emerging issues at the site. The NRS Internal Assessor joins our meetings. We also receive regular updates from project leads at the site.

In December 2024 we carried out an inspection on environmental leadership and culture. Before the inspection the site provided us with relevant documents so that we could assess its management arrangements in advance of the site visit. We were given access to further documents and records when requested and supplied with further information after the visit. On the day of the inspection the site provided good representation from the Harwell Lead Team, including the Site Director and the Site Manager, as well as the Environment Team, and other operational teams across the site. The staff we spoke to were knowledgeable, open to questioning and committed to compliance. We did not identify any non-compliances with the site permit. We made a recommendation with regards to the level of resources in the Environment Team at Harwell as at the time the number of vacancies in the Environment Team presented a risk of not having sufficient resource. Since the inspection took place NRS Harwell has been able to finalise recruitment into the two vacant posts at the Harwell site.

The week before the SSG we will be undertaking an inspection of higher activity waste arrangements at the site. We will report in person to the SSG on this.

Environmental impact

The site environmental permit requires NRS to monitor and assess the impact of discharges on the environment. The results of NRS's environmental monitoring programme (EMP) indicate that the environmental impact from permitted discharges remains low. NRS's results continue to be consistent with our independent programme, and do not indicate any results of concern or significant change from previous years.

The Environment Agencies and Food Standards Agency carry out independent environmental monitoring around nuclear sites. These monitoring programmes support our regulatory function and provide reassurance that public radiation exposures are within legal limits. The results of this work are published annually and the most recent report, *Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2023 (RIFE 29)*, was published on the GOV.UK website in November 2023.

[Radioactivity in food and the environment \(RIFE\) reports - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/rife-reports)

This report gives a detailed assessment of radioactivity in food and the environment and the public's exposure to radiation during a specific year. It shows that the public's exposure to permitted discharges and direct radiation near nuclear and non-nuclear sites is low and within dose limits.

The report brings together the nationwide monitoring programmes of the UK's food standard agencies and environment agencies. This monitoring is independent of, and is also used as a check on, the monitoring carried out by site operators.

The RIFE report presents a yearly assessment of radiological dose to individuals in the local population who are most exposed to radiation from each nuclear licensed site (known as the 'representative person'). In 2023, the attributed total dose to the representative person from all pathways and sources of radiation from the Harwell site was less than 0.005 millisieverts. This is less than 1% of the annual limit for radiation exposure for a

member of the public of 1 millisievert/year, and less than 0.5% of the average annual amount of radiation we all receive from natural sources (2.7 millisieverts/year). The RIFE report notes that the attributed total dose from Harwell site remains broadly similar to that for previous years.

The report for 2023 continues to show that, overall, total doses to the public from permitted discharges and direct radiation around nuclear sites remained below the legal limit set to protect members of the public (set at 1 millisievert per annum (mSv)). Radioactivity from natural background, rather than nuclear sites, continues to be the more significant source of exposure to communities in all areas of the UK. Artificial radioactivity in the environment, from the nuclear industry and from past testing of nuclear weapons, accounted for less than 0.2% of the exposure to the UK population.

Further information, including the most recent breakdown of the average individual dose to the UK population by source of exposure, is available on the UKHSA website here <https://www.ukhsa-protectionservices.org.uk/radiationandyou/>

Discharge reports

The site's environmental permit requires NRS to use the best available techniques (BAT) to produce the minimum amount of radioactive waste and minimise permitted disposals into the environment. Disposal of wastes – as solids, liquid or gases can only be made via permitted routes or to permitted sites. The site is required to report liquid and gaseous discharges to the environment to us on a regular basis. We examine these reports and produce RASCARs for them. Copies of the discharge reports and the RASCARs are made publicly available. See the 'further information' section at the end of this document to find out how to request them.

Both liquid and gaseous discharges from Harwell continue to be at levels well within permitted limits. It is noted that the relative level of these discharges may fluctuate as the decommissioning programme evolves.

Incidents and enforcement

There have been no incidents or events leading to enforcement action at Harwell in the period since the last SSG meeting.

Corporate news updates

Public consultation now closed: Regulation of solid radioactive waste disposal facilities - proposed guidance

The Environment Agency, NRW and NIEA consulted on proposals to update the guidance on how we regulate near surface and geological disposal facilities between November 2024 and February 2025. The draft guidance documents explain what an operator must show us to obtain an environmental permit or permits for such a radioactive waste disposal facility. The draft guidance we consulted on consists of:

- Disposal facilities for solid radioactive waste: guidance on the requirements for authorisation (GRA)
- Guidance on staged regulation

The consultation on the draft GRA applied to England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. There is a separate consultation on a version of the [GRA for Scotland](#) which runs until 5 May 2025. The consultation on our staged regulation guidance is for England only.

The documents are still available to read.

GOV.UK [Regulation of solid radioactive waste disposal facilities: proposed guidance - GOV.UK](#)

Consultation response page [Guidance on the requirements for authorisation and staged regulation for the disposal of solid radioactive waste - Environment Agency - Citizen Space](#)

We are now carefully considering all the relevant information we received during consultation, together with existing information. We will publish a summary of relevant responses made during this consultation in the summer of 2025. We aim to publish our new guidance in 2026.

Geological disposal: scrutiny of Nuclear Waste Services' work - annual reports

Our annual report was published on GOV.UK in October 2024.

[Geological disposal: scrutiny of Nuclear Waste Services' work - annual reports - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Through our joint scrutiny work, the Environment Agency and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) provide regulatory advice to Nuclear Waste Services about implementing geological disposal.

These annual reports explain what we examined through our scrutiny work and the main comments provided to Nuclear Waste Services. They also highlight areas where Nuclear Waste Services needs to improve.

The Environment Agency and ONR will make sure that any future geological disposal facility meets our high standards for environmental protection, safety, security, radioactive waste transportation and safeguards.

Assessing new nuclear power station designs – Have your say

Generic Design Assessment (GDA) is an open and transparent process. A nuclear power station design company going through GDA must set up a website to:

- publish information about the design
- invite the public to ask questions and make comments

The design company must respond to any comments or questions they receive. The regulators will see the comments and questions and the responses provided. We can also use this information to help inform our assessment work.

The Environment Agency has:

- completed step 2 and started step 3 of the [Generic Design Assessment](#) on Rolls-Royce SMR Limited's 470MWe small modular reactor on 30 July 2024. The [public comments process](#) for this GDA opened at the start of Step 2 and you can make a comment through the company website.

- completed step 1 and started step 2 of the [Generic Design Assessment](#) on Holtec International's small modular reactor SMR-300 on 1 August 2024. The [public comments process](#) for this GDA opened at the start of Step 2 and you can make a comment through the company website.
- completed step 1 and started step 2 of the [Generic Design Assessment](#) on GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy's BWRX-300 small modular reactor on 12 December 2024. GDA Step 1 of the GE-Hitachi SMR: statement of findings - GOV.UK The [public comments process](#) for this GDA opened at the start of Step 2 and you can make a comment through the company website.

Learn more about assessing new reactor designs [New nuclear power stations: assessing reactor designs - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Read our blogs

<https://environmentagency.blog.gov.uk/2025/02/05/how-the-environment-agency-is-assessing-new-nuclear-power-station-designs/>

[Ensuring nuclear reactor designs meet high standards of environmental protection – Creating a better place \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

Updated guidance: Regulatory expectations for successful land quality management at nuclear licensed sites

The environment agencies and the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) have [published updated guidance](#) that sets out our high-level regulatory expectations for the prevention and management of radioactive and non-radioactive contamination of the ground and water on nuclear licensed sites.

It updates joint guidance issued in 2014, reflecting how some land quality issues can also now be covered through the Site Wide Environmental Safety Cases and Waste Management Plans created under our guidance on “Management of radioactive waste from decommissioning of nuclear sites: Guidance on Requirements for Release from Radioactive Substances Regulation” (the GRR).

The guidance highlights the five key principles that we expect operators / licensees to consider when preventing and managing land and water contamination, namely:

- establish strategies and plans for land quality management
- prevent new contamination of land or the water environment
- understand the land quality and contamination characteristics of the site
- manage land quality to mitigate safety and environmental risks
- work with stakeholders and other interested parties

The guidance describes our shared and complementary interests in land quality matters, explains how we expect climate change and sustainability to be taken into account and provides a reference list of further reading.

[Land quality management | Office for Nuclear Regulation](#)

Chief Regulator's report

customer service line **03708 506 506**

incident hotline **0800 80 70 60**

floodline **03459 88 11 88**

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We've published the first Chief Regulator's report. It summarises the performance of the businesses and activities regulated by the Environment Agency in England in 2023-24. It outlines key outcomes of our regulation, providing assurance and transparency across our wide regulatory remit, and it sets out the aims and ambitions of our Chief Regulator, Dr Jo Nettleton.

The report covers our work regulating the nuclear industry and radioactive substances during 2023-24. [Environment Agency Chief Regulator's report 2023-24 - GOV.UK](#)

Further information

A public register service is available on the GOV.UK website at <https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/index>

You can also request access to public documents by contacting the Customers and Engagement Team in the Wallingford office. Please email WTenquiries@environment-agency.gov.uk

Further information on our role in regulating the use of radioactive substances and related activities on nuclear licensed sites can be found on the Environment Agency pages of the Gov.UK website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nuclear-regulation-in-the-environment-agency>

Our enforcement and sanctions policy is available on the GOV.UK website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-enforcement-and-sanctions-policy/environment-agency-enforcement-and-sanctions-policy>

The UK Health Security Agency has placed guidance on ionising radiation dose comparisons on the GOV.UK website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/ionising-radiation-dose-comparisons>

All our open consultations will appear on this webpage [Nuclear consultations - Environment Agency - Citizen Space \(environment-agency.gov.uk\)](#)

Follow our Environment Agency Linked in page for news and information about regulating radioactive substances <https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/regulating-radioactive-substances>

The Environment Agency's lead nuclear regulator for the Harwell site is Rebecca Cleverley. Rebecca is part of the national Nuclear Regulation Group (South) (NRG (South)) which is based at the Environment Agency's Wallingford office in Oxfordshire.

NRG (South) undertakes environmental regulation of radioactive substances on nuclear licensed sites in southern England. It works closely with the local Environment Agency teams in those areas as well as external bodies such as the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

Members of the local Environment Agency team cover the site for general (non-radioactive substances) environment protection matters such as regulation of groundwater, contaminated land, waste management and water abstraction.

Address: Environment Agency, Red Kite House, Howbery Park, Wallingford, Oxfordshire, OX10 8BD

Email: nrg@environment-agency.gov.uk

Harwell Land Release Overview

Laura Street



NRS
Nuclear Restoration
Services

The Vision

Harwell Today



Interim State
Science Campus + Small
Licensed Area



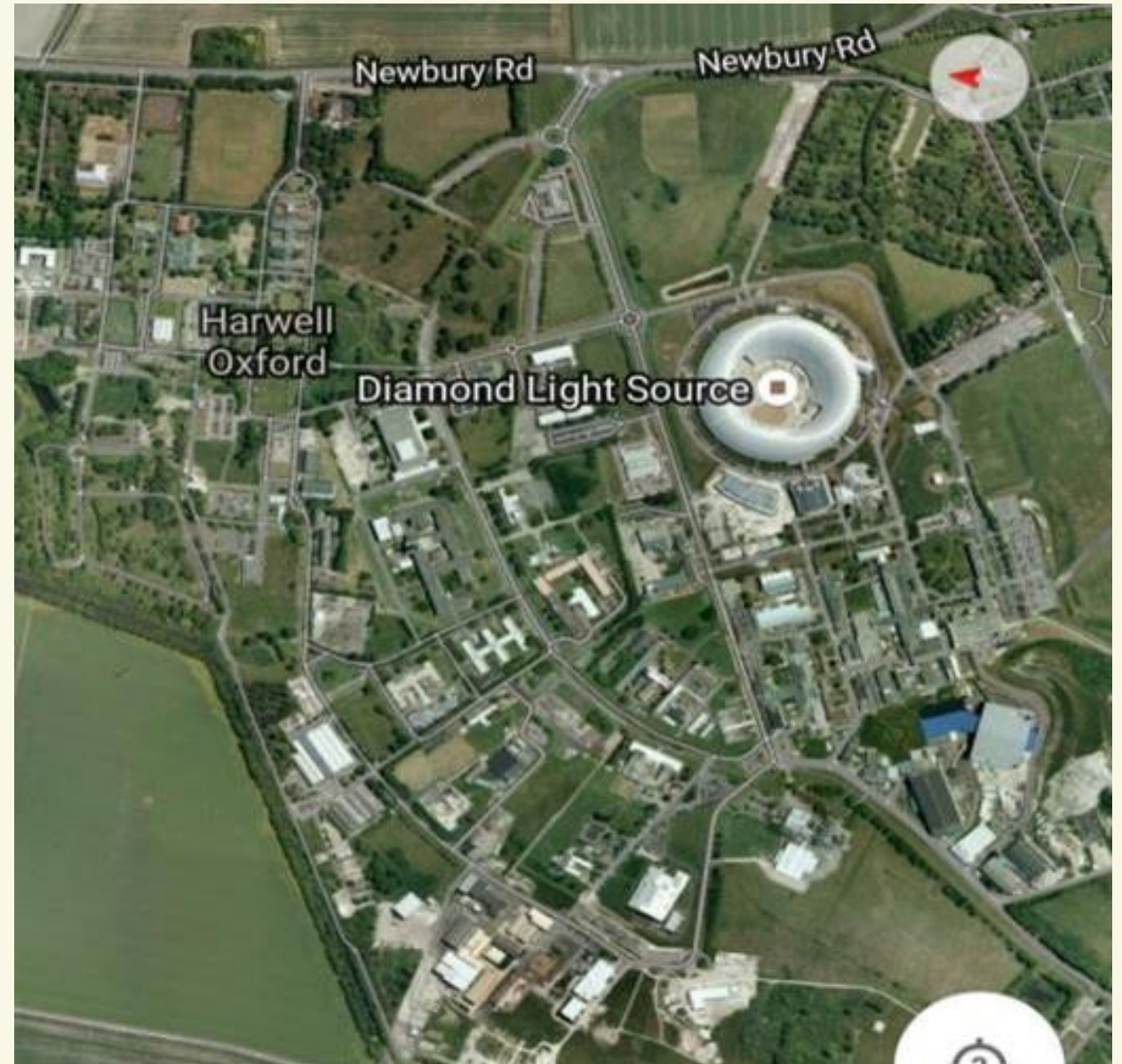
Final State
Science Campus



GDF

Harwell

- Now decommissioning under NDA programme
- Unlike other NDA sites, the land is still owned by UKAEA.
- UKAEA have a joint venture with the adjacent science campus to develop the land at Harwell



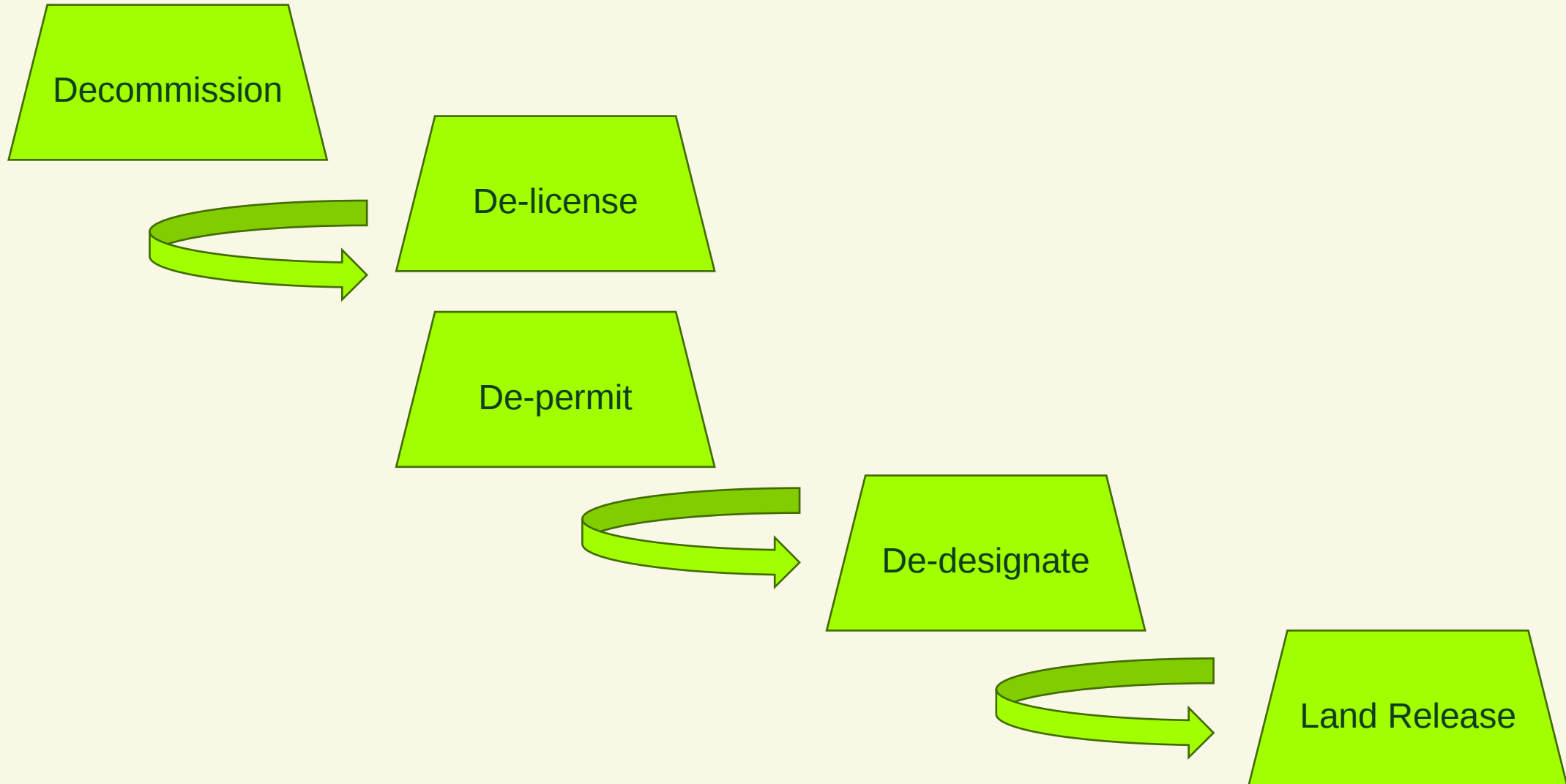
Benefit of Land Release

“B418 (Fermi Gate) case study

- It will create a vast new ‘campus within a campus’ - of cutting-edge laboratory, advanced engineering and office space. There is nowhere else in the region that can do this in the time frame these businesses require.
- Fermi Gate development has outline planning permission and is strategically important to UK’s life science industry because it uniquely offers the ability to accommodate large international organisations this decade within Harwell’s established collaborative eco-system and the UK’s Golden Triangle.
- Fermi Gate will:
 - **Create 750,000 sq. ft of advanced life sciences property** (the total floorspace of the Shard is around 600,000 sq. ft)
 - **Unlock c.£250 million of inward investment**
 - **Generate thousands of construction and supply chain jobs**
 - **Be filled with science and innovation companies from 2029 employing 1-2,000 people**
 - **Generate rental income of c. £25 million per annum”**

Land Release Steps

PRC (Proportionate Regulatory Controls) should help simplify the delicensing process. ONR has said that we should expect a couple of years before PRC implemented.



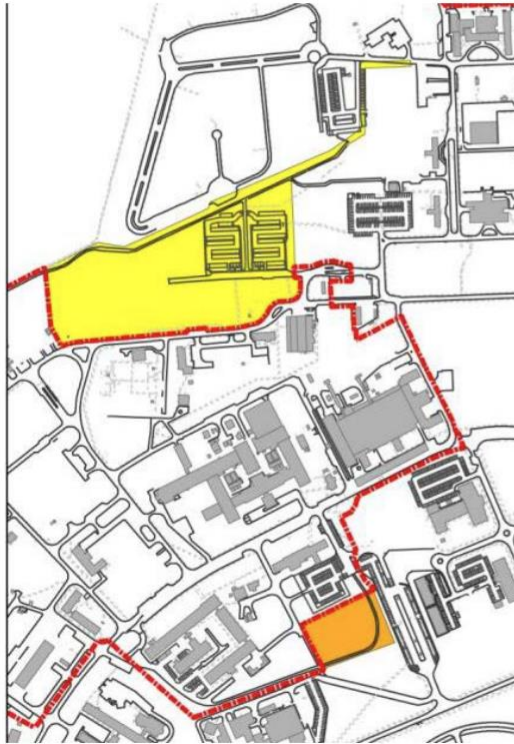
Land Release Already Achieved

- First area of site (Pilot Zone) was delicensed Sept 2006; followed by Eastern Area Facilities (EAF), North Gate and 146/149 zones. These collectively de-designated and released to UKAEA as “Eastern Area” in Jan 2015



Land Release Already Achieved 2

- UKAEA made specific request for release of VEC Area to accommodate expanding space cluster (NSTF). Released Jan 2019
- 353 Field will follow Dec/Jan 2020



In Progress land release plots

Plot	Current Release date	Size (Ha) (approx.)	Status	Proposal
West Meashill	Mar 27 2025	12	Delicensing case in final stages	Continue
LETP	Jun 27 2025	4	SUDS required	Continue
540/551	Jun 28 2025	4	Small remediation required	Continue
B418	Apr 31 2026	5	Extensive decommissioning required	Prioritise

What is happening now B418 (Fermi Gate)...

- Delay to characterisation due to anomalies in samples taken requiring further analysis
- Final characterisation report now under review
- Characterisation will inform the optimum delivery strategy



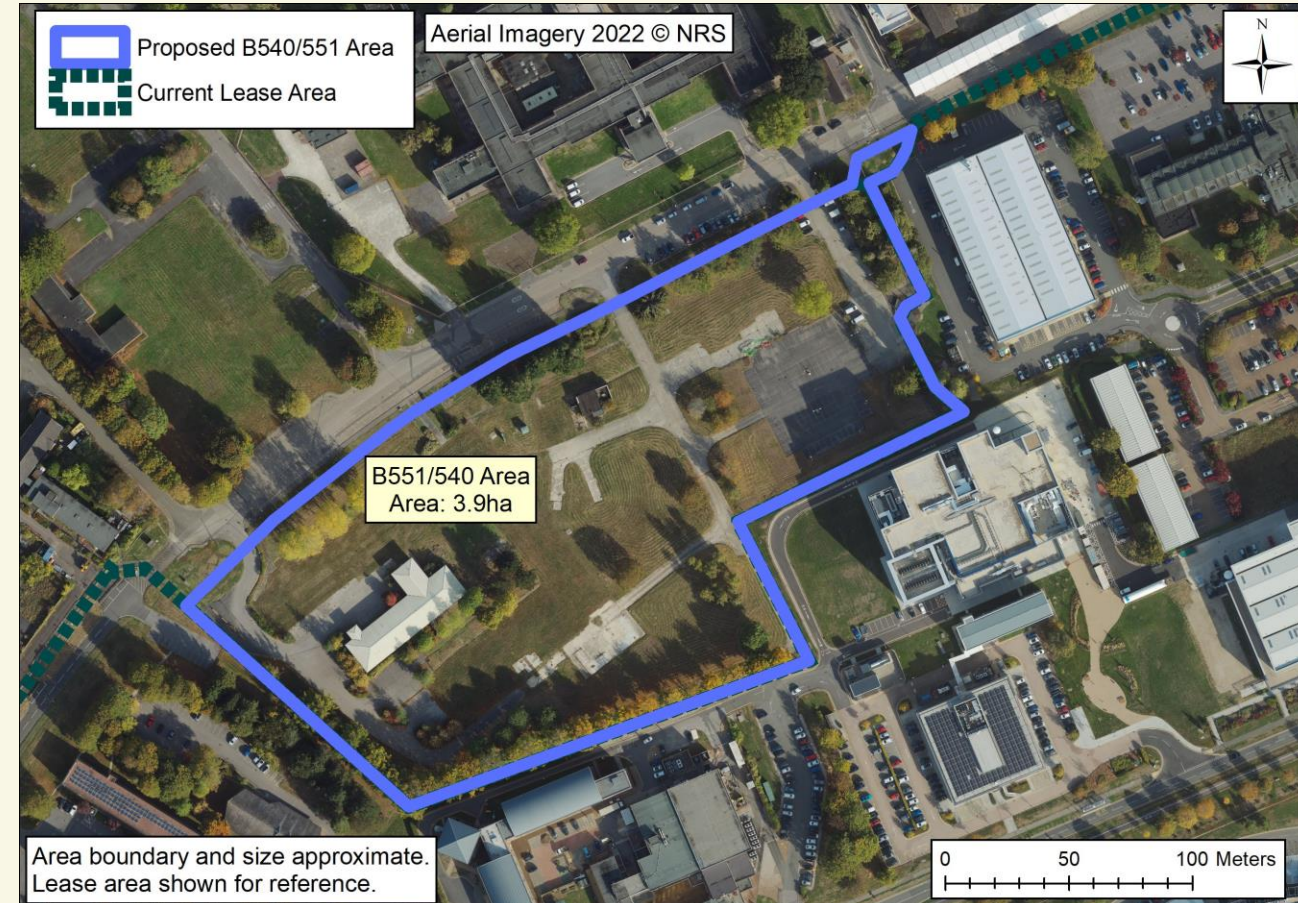
What is happening now LETP

- Remediation of minor anomalies and drains –complete
- Construction of SUDS Lagoon and reinstatement of LETP scheduled for Q2-Q3 2025/26
 - Materials Management Plan (CL:AIRE code of practice) – drafted by consultant (WSP), soon to be issued to EA and VWHDC
 - Groundwater flooding remains a risk to completion of the SUDS and reinstatement work next year
- Delicensing case due for submission to regulators Q1 2026/27
 - Ongoing dialogue with ONR and EA to de-risk final case submission



What is happening now 540/551

- Characterisation / investigation – 2025 to 2026
- Minor remediation works if required – 2026/27
- Delicensing Case and Radioactive Substances Regulations Permit Surrender Application estimated submission to regulators – 2027/28

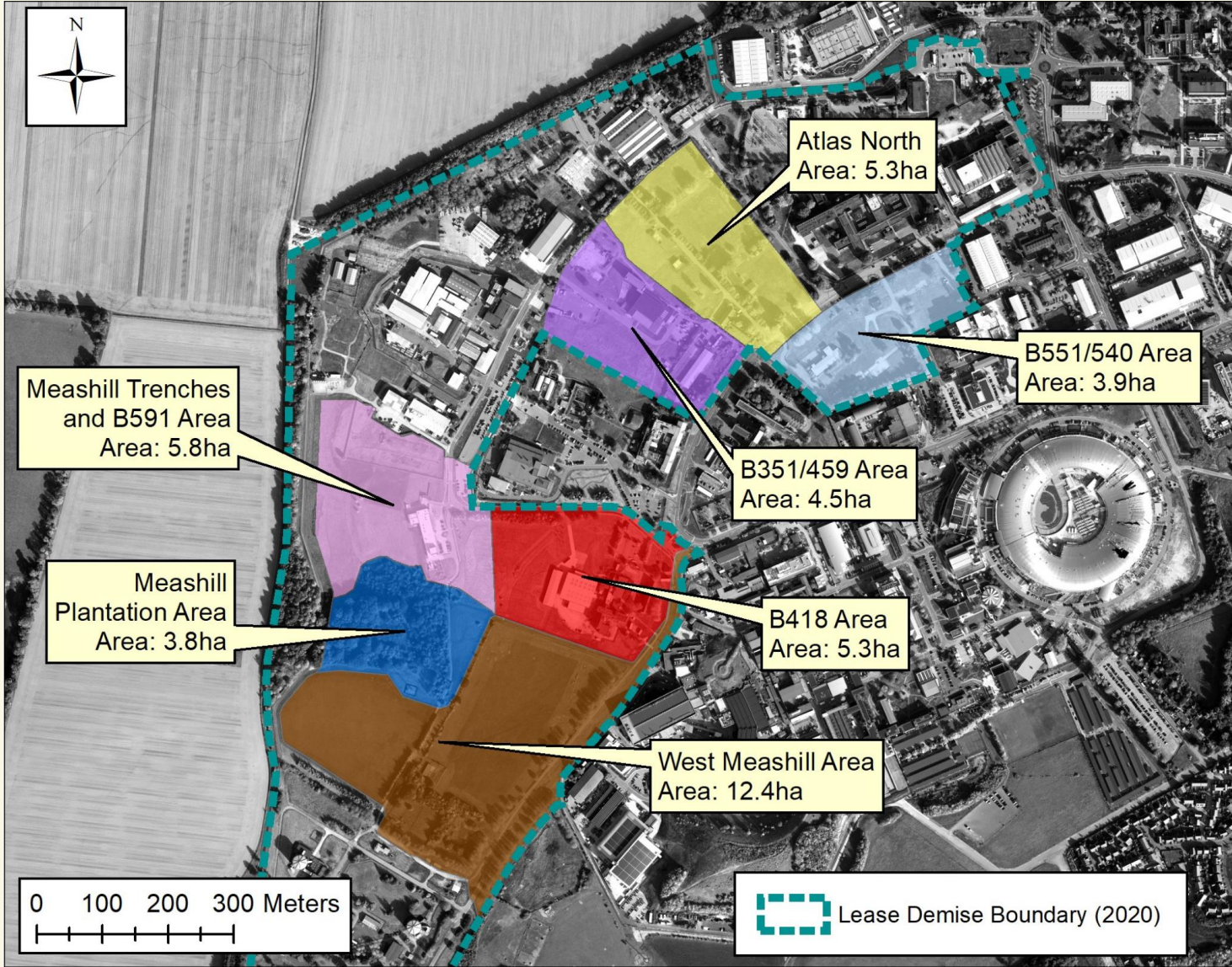


West Meashill Delicensing & Permit Surrender Status

- Minor remediation localised areas completed in 2023
- Delicensing Case and Radioactive Substances Regulations Permit Surrender Application due for submission to regulators Summer 2025
 - Ongoing dialogue with ONR and EA to de-risk final case submission



Potential Land Release Plots



Atlas North:

Scope:

Area still pending a site investigation.

Radiological liabilities in footprint:

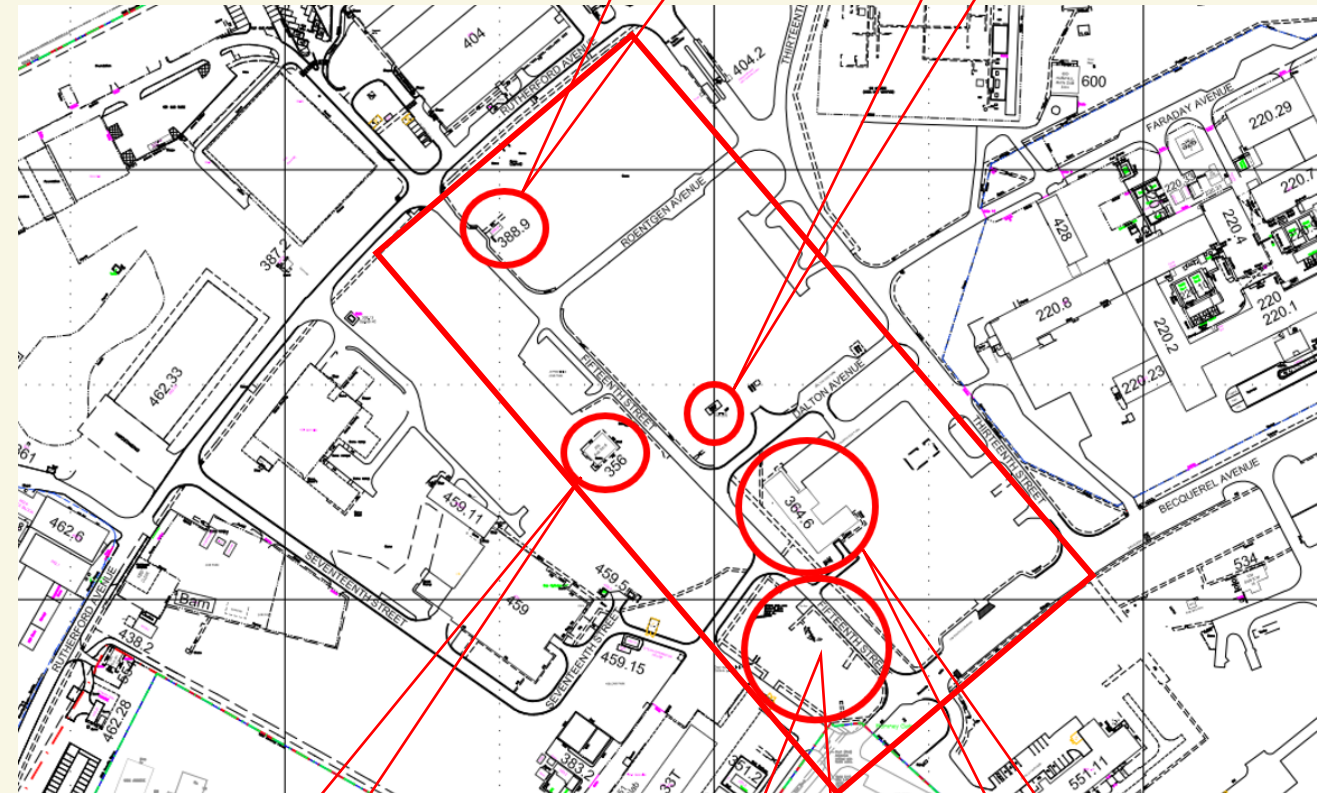
- Trade Waste Drainage under B364.6 Telecoms Building - L12411
- B393.6 delay tank bund – L12506
- Buried structure around 351.28, 351.15, 338.3
- Previous buried structures.

Assets in footprint:

- B388.9 - IT Hub
- B356 – Electrical Sub Station 8
- B364.6 - Telecoms Building

Work to date

- Large Area Gamma Survey for 540/551 scope increased to cover Atlas North and Bequerel Avenue ongoing



Meashill Plantation

- Wooded area adjacent to West Meashill
- Requires remediation- Contaminated land and buried waste in pits rad, Chemical and asbestos.
- May be some nature protection issues
- Previous munition finds in area
- Approx £11m
- ~6 year programme
- Could be brought forward in LTP and timed to complete alongside B418



B459 & 351 Land Remediation

- Post Irradiation Examination Facility
 - Requires characterisation
 - Extensive cell lines (some ILW)
- Contaminated Land around previous building B351 requires remediation
- 5Ha plot
- Approx £45m (will be more accurate following characterisation)
- ~9 year programme
- Currently due to complete ~2038
- Could be brought forward in LTP and timed to follow on from Atlas North and release the whole Central Area of Site



Challenges to overcome



END

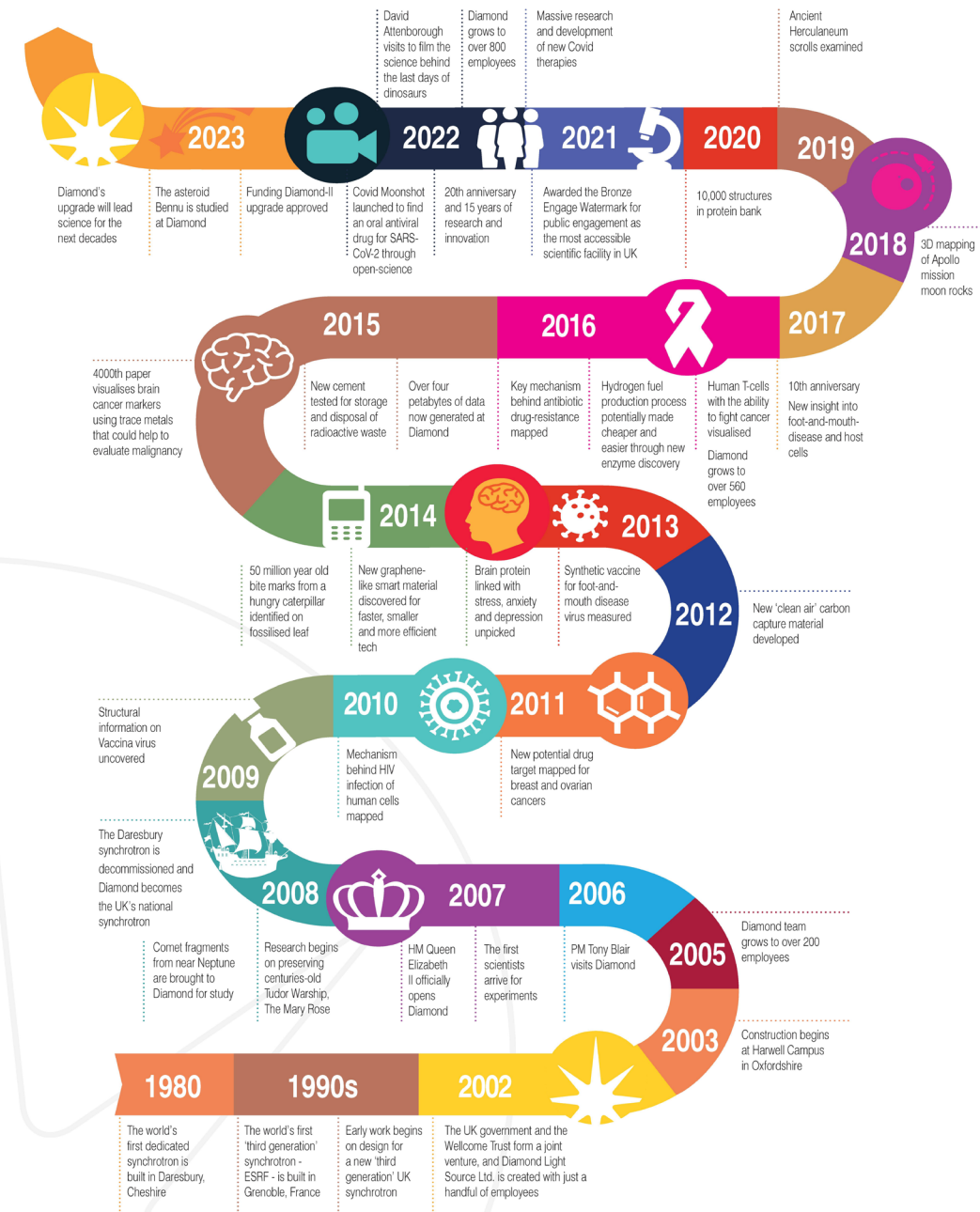
A rectangular sign with a metallic finish. On the left is a circular logo featuring a stylized diamond or flower-like pattern. To the right of the logo, the word "diamond" is written in a bold, lowercase, sans-serif font. Below "diamond", the words "Diamond Light Source Ltd" are written in a smaller, lighter font. The sign is mounted on two vertical posts.

Diamond Light Source

Kat Roarty
Impact Manager

Diamond overview

- Chief Executive Officer is advised by committees representing key stakeholder groups:
 - *Science Advisory Committee (SAC)*
 - Advises on scientific and technical issues
 - *Diamond Users' Committee (DUC)*
 - DUC is a platform for discussion between Diamond and the user community on matters relating to the operation and strategy of our facility
 - *Diamond Industrial Science Committee (DISCo)*
 - Advise on all matters relating to industry and industrial users of our facility
- Chief Executive Officer reports to Board of Directors



New chair of the Board – Prof Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, FRS FMedSci

- Assumed post on 7th December 2024
- Replaces Sir Adrian Smith
- Distinguished career in scientific research and administration
- Vice Chancellor Emeritus at University of Cambridge
- Knighthood in 2001 for contributions to medical research and education
- Fellow of the Royal Society and a founding Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences



The UK's national synchrotron – key stats



35

Beamlines



9

Electron
Microscopes



3,600+

Scientific
researchers



18,000

User community



820+

People are
employed by
Diamond



14,000+

Research articles



440+

Events*

**Since April 2020*



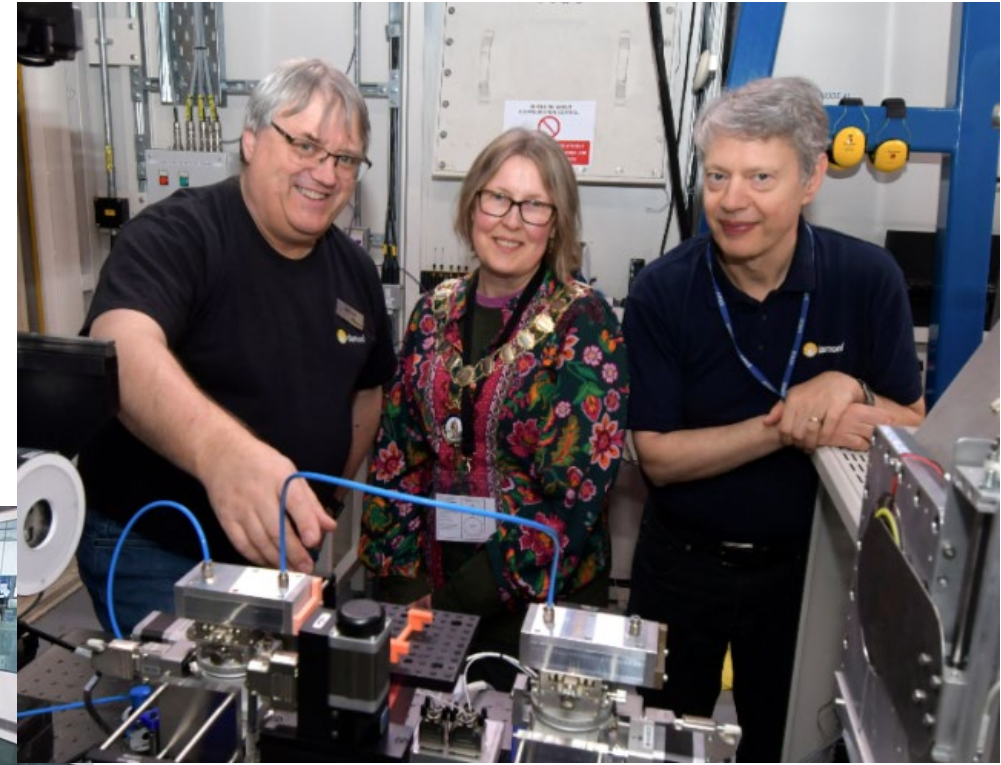
27,500+

Event participants*

Public Engagement Activities @ Diamond

- **Public Inside Diamond** - Saturday 31st May – **Ballot now open!**
- **Schools Inside Diamond** - Wednesday 4th June - Ballot closed!
- **Schools/College Work Experience** - Applications now closed!
 - Monday 30th June to Friday 4th July for students in Years 10-13 (age 14 – 18)

For more information, please visit – www.diamond.ac.uk/Public



Diamond welcomed Angela Dunford, Mayor of Wantage to the most recent Public Open Day in March

Uncovering ancient text from the Oxford Herculaneum scroll

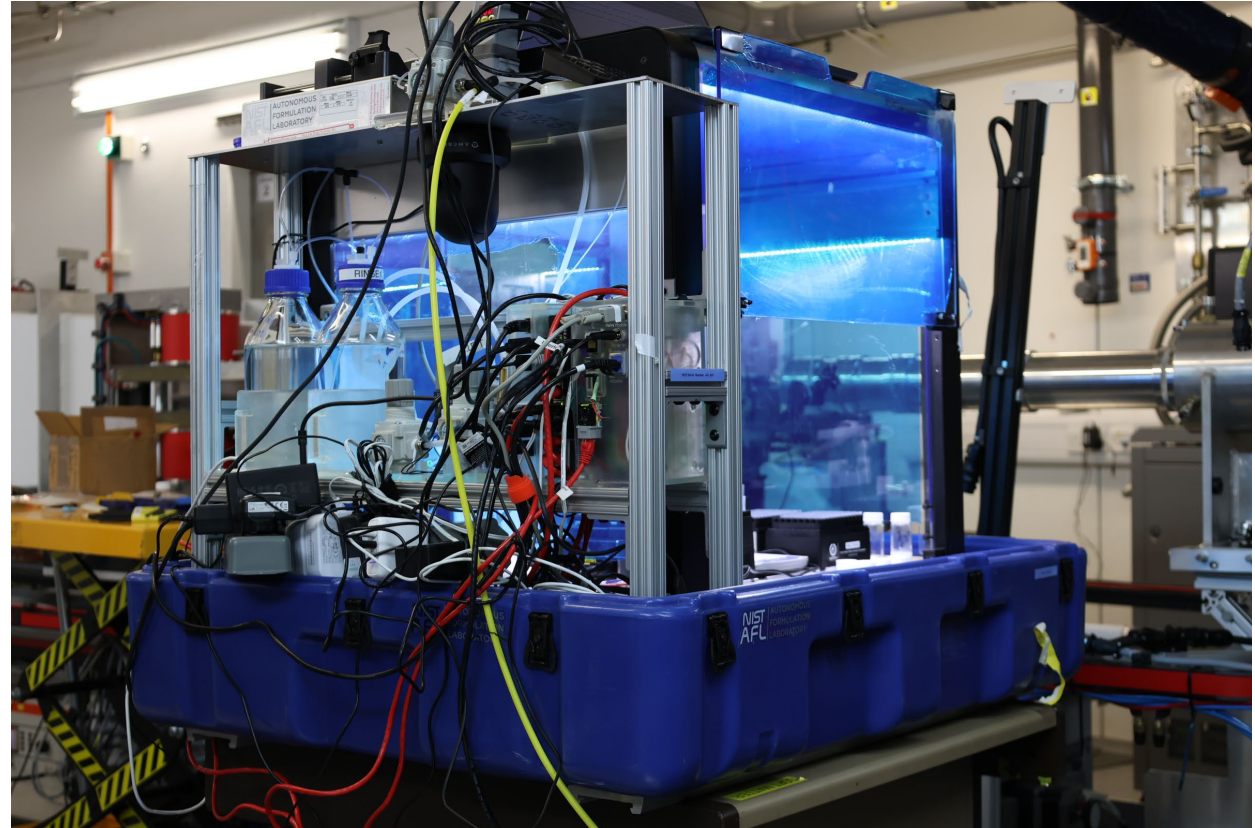
- Breakthrough discovery
- Advanced techniques
- Significance



The Bodleian Libraries Herculaneum scroll.

Simultaneous experiment unlocks new collaborative research potential utilising a joint AI platform

- Groundbreaking experiment
- Collaborative research
- Technological achievement
- Objectives
- Significant effort



Cancer Research Horizons and Diamond Light Source establish drug discovery partnership

- Partnership formation
- Technological Integration
- Research enhancement
- Industry engagement

