



Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

AGENDA

Agenda for the SSG meeting to be held on Wednesday 4 November 2026

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

-
- 1. (10:00 – 10:02) Chairman's welcome**
 - 2. (10:03 – 10:05) Announcements and apologies (*including any Declarations of Interest*)**
 - 3. (10:06 – 10:08) Minutes of previous meeting and Matters Arising**
 - 4. (10:09 – 10:29) Chapelcross Site Director's Report (*including update on NRS Socio-Economic Scheme*) - Richard Murray**
 - 5. (10:30– 11:05) Other reports from SSG bodies - ONR, SEPA, Scottish Government.**
 - 6. (11:06 – 11:38) External Meetings and Invitations.**
 - 7. (11:39– 11:49) CX Project Update - *Helen Emberson, CX Programme Lead*
*SoSE Update - Donna Mounce.***
 - 8. (11:49 – 12:00) Adoption of Chapelcross SSG Revised Constitution**
 - 9. (12:00 - 12:10) New Chapelcross SSG Membership Requests**

10. (12:10 – 12:20) Any Other Business

11. (12:20 – 12:30) Public Forum

Next Meeting 2027

TBC

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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
CHAPELCROSS STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)
HELD AT ANNAN ATHLETIC FOOTBALL CLUB, ANNAN
WEDNESDAY 26 AUGUST 2026**

Attendance/Apologies list

Attendance

Cllr Archie Dryburgh MBE
Cllr George Jamieson
Cllr Sean Marshall
Cllr Stephen Thompson
Cllr Carolynne Wilson
Neil Carruthers
William McNairn
Carol Midwood
Chris Austin
Ian Park

Annandale East and Eskdale (Chair)
Annandale South, Dumfries & Galloway Council (Vice Chair)
Annandale South, Dumfries & Galloway Council
Annandale North, Dumfries & Galloway Council
Annandale North, Dumfries & Galloway Council
Annan Community Council
2km Resident Representative
Federation of Community Councils/Canonbie and District CC
Local Resident
Member of Public

Operators and Officers

Claire Aitken
Richard Murray
Tanya MacLeod
Anthony Stuart Hadfield
Gary Walker
David Stone
Graeme Anderson
Max Anderson
Philip Carson
Helen Emberson
Jaime Nicholson
Donna Mounce
Selina Li

NRS Regional Comms & Socio-economic Lead – Scottish Sites
Site Director, Chapelcross
ONR
ONR
Head of Specialist Regulation, SEPA
SEPA
Chief Executive Officer, CX Power
Director, Project Management & Engineering, CX Power
NRS
CX Programme Lead, Dumfries & Galloway Council
Ward Officer, Annandale South, Dumfries & Galloway Council
SOSE
Minute Taker

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Apologies

Diane Hamilton
Peter Dreghorn
Jane Tideswell
Cllr Denis Male
Mair Jones

Scottish Government
Restoring Annan's Waters
Senior Emergency Planning Officer
Councillor for Annandale East and Eskdale
Socio-economics Lead

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1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

The Chair opened the meeting at 10.04.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Diane Hamilton, Peter Dreghorn, Jane Tideswell, Cllr Denis Male and Mair Jones.

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING

Claire Aitken stated that the minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated.

Claire Aitken reported that the 'Renewable Power for Homes' leaflet that William McNairn had requested could not be located from Elgin Energy.

Philip Carson noted a correction on page 8. Diane Hamilton's update had been marked as SOSE.

Cllr Sean Marshall commended Georgia Wardle on the minutes. He asked if there was an update on his ask for formal clarification from the NDA regarding future attendance and reporting arrangements. Claire Aitken confirmed that she had raised this matter, and John McNamara would speak to the chairs at the meeting in Manchester in September.

Cllr Sean Marshall noted that, under 'Any Other Business', he had raised that a request had been received from Ian Park to become a SSG member.

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed by Cllr Sean Marshall and seconded by Carol Midwood.

4. CHAPELCROSS SITE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Richard Murray (Site Director, Chapelcross)

Regarding EHSS&Q performance, a worker had suffered a minor hand injury while moving a fork on a forklift.

There was nothing to report on the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations (RIDDOR) or environmental.

Contingency arrangements had been demonstrated with participation from the Police, Fire and Ambulance services of Scotland.

22.61 tonnes of intermediate level waste (ILW) remained to be retrieved. 9.73 tonnes had been retrieved to date. 45 ILW packages were to be transferred to ISF. 11 had been completed and eight were due to be transferred.

There were seven consignments of low-level waste outstanding. Two had been completed.

Reactor 1 and Reactor 3's east faces' cladding and glazing had been completed. The next target was to have reactors 2 and 4's east faces completed.

Sludge equipment design was nearing completion with installation due to start at the end of November 2026.

Recruitment was continuing at pace. 14 current vacancies were open. New hires had been recruited, including electricians, fitters, a work control scheduler and two craft apprentices. Four health physics monitor trainees would be joining. A younger group of employees had started a new network to drive new ways of thinking and help to shape the future of the site.

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Cllr Stephen Thompson asked how many hires had come from within a 20-mile radius. Richard Murray responded that around 95% of hires had been local hires. A few graduates had been hired from the NDA graduate programme.

There had been successful site visits. Joe Griffin, who was the permanent secretary to the Scottish Government, had visited. NRS had hosted Nuleaf. Nuleaf is the voice of local government (England and Wales) on nuclear decommissioning and radioactive waste management. Duncan Dunlop, who was the newly elected MSP for South Scotland, had visited. Filming had taken place at various locations on site for *Vanished Britain*, which would be broadcast on ITV in 2027.

Wellbeing initiatives had been organised. Employees had donated blood, and there had been organised walks and bike rides.

The decommissioning of the process plant was going well. The process panel was completely empty. Six of the eight tanks had been removed and size-reduced and would be packaged.

The next phase of operational activities was in the matrix store. There were some legacy items in the store. Installation work is completing and would then proceed to an active commissioning phase.

Pond decommissioning is on the sites critical path. 17 of 50 Zeolite skips had been retrieved to date. Buffer storage of Zeolite packages had commenced. This storage option has been introduced so the grouting plant is out of service retrieval operation can still carry on. Discussions were being held with Sellafield to explore the opportunity of size-reducing skips at its plant. Another opportunity was a concept design from an oil and gas decommissioning company that could size-reduce the skips underwater without the need to use divers. The opportunity looked promising, and a contract was being agreed with the company to produce a finalised design.

Remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), which were small sub-type equipment, would be used to de-sludge the pond. The ROVs had been successfully tested at Solway Swim Swimming Pool. Further testing would be carried out at another facility to test the ability of the ROVs to remove sludge. The plant's design was in a quiescent phase. The design of the wet waste transfer facility was being reassessed to make it fit for purpose.

Market engagement had commenced for cooling towers. The aim was to be in contract by the end of the financial year and to complete final remediation by summer 2028.

Legacy waste had been disposed of from site.

Asset care work had been the largest programme of work in 2026, and this programme continued to be busy. Removal of the roof vents at 176 Blower House had been completed. Cladding had been replaced on the east phase of reactor 3. Replacements of roofs and other repairs were ongoing.

On the socio-economic scheme, approximately £21,000 had been donated in the last financial year. NRS had sponsored some new strips for a girls' football team in Annan. In 2026, £10,000 had been donated towards the refurbishment of Canonbie Tennis Club.

Cllr Sean Marshall asked if there had been any progress in demolishing part of the old admin building. Richard Murray stated that around £500,000 was available in the next five years, and funding was being sought to demolish the whole of the admin building.

Cllr Sean Marshall requested a breakdown on recruitment statistics for future reports to identify new or replacement posts and the numbers of employees, agencies and contractors.

Carol Midwood asked if the accident had resulted in any retraining. Richard Murray replied that an investigation had been conducted upon the worker's return to work in order to identify what had happened and any improvements to be made. It was probable that there had been a lapse of concentration whilst moving the forks as this operation can be done multiple times a day.

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Cllr Stephen Thompson reported that, following the visit from the permanent secretary, he had spoken to the chief executive of Council. The feedback had been positive, and the significance of the assets in Dumfries and Galloway, including Chapelcross, had been recognised. Cllr Stephen Thompson had written to the first minister encouraging a visit to Chapelcross to promote understanding of the multi-agency partnership opportunities available.

5. OTHER REPORTS FROM SSG BODIES

ONR

Tanya MacLeod stated that she was the new site inspector from ONR who had taken over from Peter Hughes from February 2026. ONR's policy was to produce reports every six months. An ONR report would be available at the next SSG meeting.

Tanya was working closely with Stuart Hadfield, a former HSE inspector with specialist technical knowledge of conventional health and safety on site. A site inspection had been undertaken in February 2026, focused on the Chapelcross processing plant. There had been no significant findings, and safety had been rated green. There had been an inspection on the control of contractors focused on reglazing works, which had also been rated green. There would be a visit to some of the sites' welfare facilities that were due for refurbishment to ensure that these were adequate for staff.

As the risk profile shifted to demolition work, focus was needed on conventional safety without losing sight of nuclear safety.

SEPA

David Stone reported that involvement was ongoing in the determination of the two variation applications on site. The site limit for gaseous discharge had been increased on the first application. A public consultation package had been prepared and would be published on the SEPA website in the next six weeks. David Stone would inform the SSG when the package was published.

The second application was for an increase to the site sub-limit for the interim storage facility to support waste packaging, transfer and storage in accordance with the Scottish Government's higher-activity waste policy. A regulatory inspection had been undertaken on site to examine the site's management arrangements for the maintenance of the liquid effluent discharge line. The focus of this was on routine maintenance management and bringing the line into operation following periods of quiescence.

The ability for the site to discharge was dependent on the ambient temperature. The discharge point at Seafeld and the work control arrangements on site had been inspected. There had been no issues of regulatory concern identified.

Scottish Government

Philip Carson informed the members that Gillian Martin was still the cabinet secretary with responsibility for radioactive substances and decommissioning issues. The energy portfolio that Gillian Martin used to hold in the previous Parliament had moved to Stephen Gethins, who was the Minister for Energy, Europe and External Affairs.

Philip Carson had recently joined the Scottish Government in May 2026 on an 18-month secondment from the NRS. His focus would be on reviewing the higher activity waste policy.

The Joint Convention Report was an exercise that colleagues from ONR were leading, and the Scottish Government had recently engaged in it alongside other bodies. There had been a scoping workshop for the report to ensure that Scottish policy and good practices from decommissioning in Scotland were reflected. This was a long-term piece of work that would

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culminate in a report for the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna at the end of March 2028.

The Scottish Nuclear Site Stakeholder Group meeting would take place at Victoria Quay in Edinburgh on 21 October 2026. Philip Carson encouraged any parties interested in attending who had not already been invited to reach out to him or Diane Hamilton.

Cllr Sean Marshall asked if a timeline would be established for the consultation and publication of the work on the higher-activity waste policy. Philip Carson replied that he hoped to be able to provide a more detailed update at the October meeting in Victoria Quay.

6. EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND INVITATIONS

Claire Aitken reported that the Chair's one-to-one meetings with the NDA had happened over the spring.

The SSG Chair's quarterly meeting had been held in June 2026 in Manchester.

The NDA stakeholder meeting would be held on 15 and 16 September 2026 in Manchester.

7. CHAPELCROSS PROJECT UPDATE

A. Helen Emberson (CX Programme Lead)

The Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal had offered £17.3 million of funding instead of the £15.3 million that had previously been agreed, and this was dependent upon submitting an outline and full business case for approval by both the UK and Scottish Governments. The funding would be used to help unlock the site for development. Helen Emberson and Donna Mounce were in regular conversation with CX Power and colleagues from the Borderlands and the UK and Scottish Governments on the development of the outline business case. An introductory meeting had been held with Ironside Farrar, which was the consulting company appointed by CX Power. An outline of a business case would be developed over the next few months outlining the goals, benefits and the timeline for delivery.

Community engagement had been strong over the summer. Many people had attended the sessions held in Annan and Creca.

Max Anderson had begun engagement with the Council on the graduate programme to discuss aspects that had worked well previously and ones that could be changed.

A submission had been made in May 2025 to the UK government for MoD Easttriggs to be an artificial intelligence growth zone. A review was underway.

Cllr George Jamieson asked how positive the view of the MoD was on the development of Chapelcross given commercial sensitivity and political judgment. Donna Mounce replied that she was positive about the collaborative efforts. Given the change in political administrations, some time was needed for the review to take shape.

Cllr Sean Marshall raised that local residents expected improvements to be made to the road network around and within the Chapelcross site. Donna Mounce explained that the planning and principal application from CX Power and the EIA would be received in September 2026. The transport assessment would be included in the EIA and would define the state of the roads, anticipated construction and operational traffic. Colleagues would examine the reports, and recommendations would be made. There would be a session with Ironside Farrar to discuss roads. It was important that members were involved in the journey so that the delivery was aligned with expectations.

Cllr Stephen Thompson asked how elected members would track education in a structured way. Donna Mounce responded that she was working with SOSE and Frances Woodfield on education.

CX Power Update

A. Max Anderson (Director, CX Power)

Max Anderson and Graeme Anderson were working in partnership with the NDA and local stakeholders including the NRS, SOSE, and Dumfries & Galloway Council on the development of a technology campus comprised of eight data centre buildings, a series of light industrial units, and a training centre.

CX Power recognised that the potential negative effects of data centres on the community were a key concern from the public. The aim was to minimise environmental impact to the area.

Planning permission would be submitted to Dumfries & Galloway Council in September 2026 with a full EIA. The campus would employ between 650 and 750 construction workers over the eight-year building period. Once construction was complete, there would be around 400 permanent jobs and 650 indirect permanent jobs created for local people.

40 apprentices would be hired per year on campus. At present, there was no local centre for apprentice training. CX Power was working with the Scottish Government, Scottish Education, Dumfries & Galloway and Cumbria Councils to ensure that the training centre benefitted local people. CX Power was engaging with local business to encourage them to participate in apprenticeship schemes.

To date, CX Power had made donations and sponsorships to around 28 organisations including businesses, charities and schools totalling £30,000 a year.

Max Anderson presented a visual representation of the campus. The building would be split into four phases. Phase 1 would begin along the B722. There would be additional sustainable underground drainage systems (SUDS) integrated.

Many residents were worried about their bills being affected. CX Power had no influence on energy bills. The aspiration was to have a private 40-megawatt connection to the grid for the site using locally renewable power sources and to operate at net zero carbon emissions.

Water consumption was another concern. The site would use close-looped systems. Clean air in the area would allow chillers to run for around 25% of the year. Water consumption per building would be equivalent to around four households per year.

Noise modelling had been undertaken, and noise would be under the limit of 10 decibels.

Visual impact had been assessed and included in the EIA.

CX Power was working closely with the Borderlands Fund and Dumfries & Galloway Fund. £22.3 million would be used towards making the site speed ready. CX Power was also working with the UK and Scottish Government's Connection Accelerator Service to accelerate the speed of power.

Over the next six months, principal outline planning would be submitted to the Scottish and UK Government. Detailed design would begin for building one, the energy centre. The main contractor would be appointed to engage with the design and provide perspective on the jobs and courses required to upskill local people.

Questions and Discussion

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Cllr Stephen Thompson asked if the noise level referred to an increase in noise or actual noise. Max Anderson stated that 10 decibels referred to the maximum increase in noise permitted. Over 20 receptors had been placed in Creca to monitor background noise for two months. The noise levels were extremely low. The type of noise would be the continuous noise of a fan. The EIA detailed the different types of noise and would be on public record from 19 September 2026.

Cllr Stephen Thompson suggested offering a recording of the noise produced in communications to the public. Graeme Anderson said that he would seek advice from the noise consultants.

Cllr Stephen Thompson asked if modelling had been undertaken for projections on the impact to climate change. Graeme Anderson replied that testing would commence against different temperature ranges.

Cllr Sean Marshall asked who would own the data centre from a landlord and operational standpoint. Graeme Anderson said that the landlord would be CX Power and the operator would be the operator of the data, such as Microsoft and Google. CX Power had a fully funded model.

Cllr Sean Marshall asked what proportion of the site would be dedicated to the data centre. Graeme Anderson responded that CX Power were entering a long-term partnership with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority of Properties Limited over the next 40 years. As Chapelcross was decommissioned and delicensed, more land would become available. Phase one was the only piece of land available currently, which was 133 acres. Once further land was released, further developments would be built. The first phase would take approximately 30 months to build.

Cllr George Jamieson asked how the trajectory of supply and demand would be managed for apprenticeships. Graeme Anderson replied that discussions had commenced with Dumfries and Galloway College and Cumbria College on courses available, such as courses for electricians and mechanical fitters. IT workers would be needed, but IT training courses were not widely available in the area. The training centre would offer education opportunities to help prevent locals from moving out of the area.

Cllr George Jamieson suggested that CX Power should work with Skills Development Scotland (SDS). Donna Mounce reported that the SDS had been approached and a date for a meeting was to be agreed.

Cllr Sean Marshall commented that there should be an element of reporting to the economy and environmental committee. Donna Mounce said that she would have a discussion with Helen Emberson on reporting mechanisms and visibility of information flow.

Claire Aitken asked how assurances could be given that the local community would benefit from the building of the campus. There had been a particularly negative response from the community on the building of Hinkley C. Graeme responded that learnings were being taken from Hinkley C. Open days would be planned with SOSE to encourage local businesses to be a part of the supply chain. In past data centre projects, free heating had been provided to buildings within the community and heating bills had been reduced by providing free hot water. There could be a possibility to convert buildings into social housing upon completion.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Claire Aitken stated that Ian Park had made a formal application to join the SSG. She had circulated the draft constitution. The SSG could add additional members to the group based on a majority vote by existing voting members.

Cllr Sean Marshall suggested holding off on this action until the next SSG meeting. He was keen to involve more young people from the Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council when voting on the new constitution. The election of the Chair and Vice Chair was not until May 2027, which would allow time to consider both old and new constitutions and take on board any suggestions, including from the NDA.

Action: Claire Aitken to circulate the 2018 constitution to SSG members.

Action: Discussion on Ian Park's application and on the new constitution to be included as an agenda item for the November SSG meeting.

William McNairn raised that Annan had celebrated 80 years of Riding of the Marches and that Chapelcross Solar was going to build a fence that would block off part of the route taken by the horses. The work was associated with the battery storage unit in part of Chapelcross's land.

Claire Aitken reported that a date for a site stakeholder visit had not yet been agreed. Cllr Sean Marshall suggested waiting to organise a date until May 2027, as it was likely that there would be new councillors and newly elected SSG members.

9. PUBLIC FORUM

Ian Park said that he was disappointed by the accident. A previous proposal had been made to install hydraulic shifts; forks could be moved in the vehicle so that nobody's hands could become trapped.

Ian Park asked if there was a possibility that some packages would not be grouted. Richard Murray replied that all packages would be grouted.

Ian Park asked if the ONR was liaising with the site safety representatives committee. Tanya MacLeod confirmed that the ONR were in regular conversation with the committee.

Chris Austin thanked the SSG for making the forum available to the public. He was glad to see positive investment into the area.

Next Meeting date: 4 November 2026



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 2026

Authored by: Nominated Site Inspector

Approved by: Head of Safety Regulation – Decommissioning, Fuel and Waste

Issue: 1

Published: October 2026

Foreword

This report is issued as part of our 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 Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on our website: www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/llcssg-reports.

Our site inspectors usually attend 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 us via email at contact@onr.gov.uk.

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1. Inspections

1.1. Date(s) of inspection

Our inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period period 1 April 2026 – 30 September 2026:

- 1 April 2026
- 25-26 August 2026

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 Chapelcross covered the following:

- Management of operations including control and supervision
- Plant construction and/or commissioning
- Conventional (non-nuclear) health and safety
- Security

On 25 August 2026, ONR inspected the arrangements for managing construction activities and contractors at Chapelcross. The inspection considered how Nuclear Restoration Services discharged its duties under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015, with particular emphasis on governance, oversight and assurance, the roles of the Client and Principal Designer, and the management and control of contractors.

The inspection sampled the construction office arrangements, pre-construction information, pre-start review processes, learning from recent events and the reactor re-glazing project. The construction office showed positive evidence of planning, communication and coordination. The site walkdown also identified improvements in pedestrian and vehicle segregation and positive evidence of contractor management and client oversight.

Based on the evidence sampled, ONR judged that there were no significant compliance shortfalls in the arrangements for compliance with the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 and assigned a green inspection rating.

Members of the public who would like further information on our inspection activities during the reporting period can view site inspection records on our website: www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/inspection-records.

Should you have any queries regarding our inspection activities, please email contact@onr.gov.uk.

2.2. Other work

Throughout this reporting period, the nominated site inspector held regular meetings with representatives of the Chapelcross leadership team to maintain situational awareness of matters related to nuclear safety and conventional health and safety.

The site inspector also met with the Chapelcross safety representatives. Following concerns raised by the safety representatives about welfare facilities, the site inspector and an ONR Nuclear Site Health and Safety inspector undertook a walkdown of selected welfare facilities on 26 August 2026, guided by the safety representatives.

The walkdown identified deficiencies across several facilities, including the absence of running water or hot or warm water, inadequate cleanliness and maintenance, and inadequate privacy in some toilet and changing areas. ONR provided regulatory advice that the deficiencies should be remedied within agreed reasonable timescales and raised a Level 4 Regulatory Issue to monitor progress. ONR will consider further enforcement action if adequate progress is not made.

Nuclear Restoration Services acknowledged the deficiencies and has begun remedial action, including ordering repair parts, developing proposals to renovate the CXPP welfare facilities and issuing an invitation to tender for wider welfare improvements. ONR will continue to monitor completion of the works and the arrangements for the inspection, maintenance and management of welfare facilities.

The site inspector attended the Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group meeting on 26 August 2026.

3. Non-routine matters

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. Our 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

We may issue formal documents to ensure compliance with regulatory requirements. Under nuclear site licence conditions, we issue regulatory documents, which either permit an activity or require some form of action to be taken. These are usually collectively termed licence instruments but can take other forms. In addition, inspectors may take a range of enforcement actions, to include issuing an enforcement notice.

- No licence instruments, enforcement notices or enforcement letters were issued during this period.

Reports detailing the above regulatory decisions can be found on our website:

www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/project-assessment-reports.

5. News from ONR

For the latest updates and information on our work, please subscribe to our regular email newsletter, ONR News, at www.onr.org.uk/news/newsletter.

6. Contacts

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References

There are no sources in the current document.

Chapelcross Programme Update Report to Site Stakeholder Group

Date	26/10/14	Stage	Outline Business Case
Progress this period			
<p>Summary</p> <p>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 £17.3m has been allocated 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.</p> <p>Strategic Development Partner – CX Tech</p> <p>CX Tech signed a Development Agreement with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority in April 2026.</p> <p>During the summer, CX Tech hosted 4 in person events for the local community to see their plans for the site and comment.</p> <p>Towards the end of September, an application for Planning Permission in Principle and an Environmental Impact Assessment was submitted to Dumfries and Galloway Council. The link to the documents is here: 26/1649/PIP ERECTION OF DATA CENTRE, TRAINING CENTRE, INDUSTRIAL BUILDINGS, SUBSTATION AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE Land North Of The Former Chapelcross Nuclear Power Station Near Annan DG12 6RF</p> <p>Once validated, Scottish Ministers were notified of the application. It is anticipated that further planning guidance from Scottish Government will be published in December of this year; the planning process remains live.</p> <p>CX Tech is committed to benefitting the local region through the development and with DGC and SOSE will plan and host a 'Meet the Buyer' event for local companies next year. Initial discussions on developing the local workforce are underway.</p> <p>Artificial Intelligence Growth Zone Application</p> <p>In May 2025, the Council submitted an application to UK Government for the site at MoD Easttriggs to become an Artificial Intelligence Growth Zone, which includes the Chapelcross and Crichton University campuses.</p> <p>Subsequently, the UK Government announced that MoD Easttriggs has been identified as a potential site for a manufacturing facility.</p> <p>With CX Tech now in contract with NDA and their intent to create a technology campus with AI Infrastructure at the Chapelcross site, the council worked with partners to pivot the AI Growth Zone application, relocating the data centre to the Chapelcross site and moving the manufacturing and R&D to the Easttriggs site.</p> <p>Engagement with both UK and Scottish Government is ongoing in this regard and this process remains live.</p> <p>Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal</p> <p>Work to identify scope is in progress.</p>			
Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period			



- Planning Permission in Principle and EIA assessment is underway.
- Engagement with UK Government for the revised Artificial Intelligence Growth Zone Application will continue
- Outline Business Case Preparation will progress

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE TO CHAPELCROSS SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP – 4th NOVEMBER 2026

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING POLICY TEAM

NDA Annual Cab Sec meeting

The annual meeting between the Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs, the NDA Chair and NDA CEO, as set out in the NDA Framework document, took place on 8th October. This was a positive meeting, covering the NDA's priorities, performance and its current and future activities. The transfer of Hunterston B to the NDA for decommissioning was highlighted as a major success. Also discussed was the ongoing SG Higher Activity Waste Policy review and NDA's input to this work.

Hunterston Site Visit

The team undertook a visit to the Hunterston A&B sites on the 26th of August. The visit was organised by UKG as part of the independent NDA review and the team met with the lead reviewer to give our views on the NDA.

Scottish Nuclear Sites Stakeholder Group Meeting (SSSG)

The SSSG meeting took place on the 21st of October 2026. The meeting was held in Victoria Quay in Edinburgh, with a hybrid option and was well attended. We will be canvassing for a date for the next meeting in the new year. If you would like to attend the next SSSG and are not currently on the distribution list, please contact me via email and I will add you to the list.

Diane Hamilton
Scottish Government

Chapelcross Site Stakeholder Group

SEPA Update- Chapelcross

4th November 2026

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 telephone calls. Routine teleconferences with the Chapelcross site and the corporate NRS (Magnox Ltd) team on strategic issues have also continued as before.

SEPA undertook an inspection at the Chapelcross site on the 25th August. The inspection looked at the site's management arrangements for the maintenance of the liquid effluent discharge pipeline. The site discharges liquid effluent by campaign rather than continuously and the inspection focussed on the site's procedures and management control for ensuring the pipeline and associated equipment were functioning adequately, after period of quiescence, prior to discharge commencing. This included a visual inspection of the discharge point on the Solway Firth. The inspection found that the site had strong management arrangements and appropriately trained and experienced personnel in place.

SEPA continues in determining the site's application for a variation to their EASR permit. This application relates to an increase in the site limit for the discharge of gaseous radionuclides excluding tritium. SEPA will inform the SSG when the public consultation starts and this is expected to be imminent.

SEPA has received an application for variation the EASR permit. This is associated with the gaseous discharge limits from the Interim Storage Facility and is intended to support the management of temporary storage vessels that will be stored within the facility following their suitable packaging.

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 reports of environmental events at 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 30, covers the year 2024 and can be accessed electronically at [RIFE 30, Radioactivity in Food and the Environment, 2024 - GOV.UK](#)

Dr David Stone

22/10/2026

Chapelcross Energy Transition Zone (SOSE) Update Report to Site Stakeholder Group

Progress this period

Summary

Zone 3

Purchase of the former Zone 3 (17 acres) was successfully concluded in November 2023. Planning for roads, paths and drainage was granted in February 2025.

Hardies were appointed as contractors and completed the initial phase of roads and servicing works in April with the SUDS pond being completed in August. SPEN has installed the sub-stations and these are ready to be connected. Work continues with Scottish Water around drainage consents.

Green Cat Hydrogen is progressing a proposed development on 10 acres and has concluded its pre-planning consultation activity. They submitted a planning application for a green hydrogen generation facility in January 2026 and it was validated in February and is now available on the Council's planning portal. It is being considered by the Council's Planning Committee on 28 October with a recommendation for approval.

The remaining land is currently being marketed by DM Hall and can be found at

[For Sale - Serviced Industrial plots, Chapelcross, Annan - DM Hall Chartered Surveyors - Local property knowledge, expertly delivered](#)

There has been good interest in the remaining land but as yet no formal offers.

Development Partner- CX Power

SOSE worked with the CX Power team to complete an expression of interest to the UK government's Strategic Site Accelerator fund in February 2026. The UKG has put aside a £600+m fund to bring forward industrial sites to market faster with up to £60m available for each site. Engagement with both SG and UKG is ongoing. There is a site meeting being planned for mid-November to discuss the bid further.

Activities Planned for Next Reporting Period

- Continue to work with interested parties to develop out the remaining plots.
- Continue to support CX Powers with their Strategic Site Accelerator bid.

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Actions from Chapelcross SSG Meetings

ACTIONS FOLLOWING SSG MEETING 26.08.26

ACTION	DETAIL	STATUS	DATE
Secretariat to arrange site visit for Site Stakeholder Group members wishing to attend site.	<p>Following low uptake numbers, the planned visit for SSG members had to be postponed.</p> <p>It has been agreed that this will now be arranged following the local government elections in 2027 as it will be an opportunity for the Councillors to also visit the site</p>	Ongoing	TBC - 2027
Constitution to be circulated to SSG members	<p>Following discussion at the SSG meeting about membership, the updated SSG constitution to be circulated to all members.</p> <p>The updated constitution to be discussed at the November SSG meeting.</p>	Complete	24.08.26
Recruitment reporting	Director reports include a breakdown of recruitment statistics, identifying new/replacement posts and numbers of employees, agency workers and contractors	Ongoing	