



DSG(2026)A01

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

To: DSG members and observers
Date/Time: Wednesday 18 March 2026 at 19:00
Venue: Pentland Hotel ballroom / MS Teams

AGENDA

1.	Welcome and opening remarks - Declarations of interest - DSG membership	Chairperson
2.	Apologies - Apologies tabled in advance - Notice of substitutes	Tina Wrighton
3.	Dounreay: High level updates: - NDA Corporate - NDA Dounreay - SEPA - ONR - CNC	Alan Mackay Dave Wilson Stewart Ballantine Govinder Sangha Chief Inspector Dave McIntosh
4.	MOD (Vulcan): High level updates: - MOD Vulcan - DNSR - SEPA - ONR	Cdr Ian Walker James Bryson Stewart Ballantine Alex Pitsillos
5.	Minutes of previous meeting DSG/PM(2025)M04 – 3 December 2025 Subgroup minutes: DSG/SESG(2025)M04: 21 January 2026 DSG/SRSG(2025)M04: 21 January 2026	Chairperson
6.	Status of actions	Tina Wrighton
7.	Correspondence	Chairperson
8.	Any other business	Chairperson
9.	Close	Chairperson

CORRESPONDENCE DISTRIBUTED SINCE LAST MEETING

CORRESPONDENCE

DSG_PM(20206)C014 DSG chair letter to West Cumbria SSG

PAPERS

DSG(2026)P046	Rolls Royce Update, January 2026
DSG(2026)P038	ONR Report for Dounreay, October – December 2025
DSG(2026)P041	Vulcan Update, January 2026
DSG(2026)P039	SEPA update, January 2026
DSG(2026)P038	ONR for Vulcan, October – December 2025
DSG(2026)P044	NRS Dounreay Site Restoration update, January 2026
DSG(2026)P040	Focus North Update, January 2026
DSG(2026)P042	NRS Dounreay Socio Economic report, January 2026
DSG(2026)P048	Scottish Government update, March 2026

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

DSG/SRSG(2026)M004

SITE RESTORATION SUBGROUP

Minutes of the DSG Site Restoration subgroup meeting held on Wednesday 21 January 2026 at 19:00 in the Dounreay Public Information Office, Thurso and via MS Teams.

Present:

Roger Saxon (RS)	DSG Site Restoration subgroup chair
David Broughton (DB)	DSG Site Restoration subgroup vice chair
Struan Mackie (SM)	DSG Chair
Gillian Coghill (GC)	Buldoo Residents Liaison Group chair
Alan Scott (AS)	DSG co-opted member of the public
David Craig (DC)	Caithness West Community Council
Tor Justad (TJ)	HANP
Cllr Andrew Jarvie (AJ)	Highland Council
Christian Nicholson (CN)	NHS
Niall Watson (NW)	NRS Dounreay Trade Unions
William McGillivray (WM)	Thurso Community Council
Lauren Mackay (LM)	WiN Highlands

In attendance:

Alex Pitsillos (AP)	ONR
Cdr Ian Walker (IW)	MOD Vulcan
Ferne Mill (FM)	NRS Dounreay
Tina Wrighton (TW)	NRS Dounreay
Govinder Sangha (GS)	ONR (Dounreay)
Stewart Ballantine (SB)	SEPA
Frederic Stalin (FS)	NRS Dounreay
CI Dave McIntosh (DM)	CNC
Steve Burness (SBu)	The proposed elders group

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

RS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Cllr Dr Stephen Clackson | Orkney Islands Council |
| • Ken Nicol | Co-opted member of the public |
| • John Deighan | Co-opted member of the public |
| • David Alexander | Socio-economic subgroup chair |

3. Elders group

Steve Burness joined the meeting to discuss the elders group proposal.

FS sees huge value in capturing the capability and knowledge of ex-employees.

However, the site can't be seen to have been advised by retired employees.

This is a formal channel for comments and knowledge management only.

There are limited spaces for engagement due to the potential of the site being seen as being influenced by external channels.

DB asked how issues are to be raised.

FS said it will be necessary to develop a system for external people to raise any issues and share their knowledge.

SBU explained it would be the site asking the group for their knowledge and in no way do the group propose to assume the responsibilities of the site or management. It is to gather prior knowledge from people who worked on these projects in the past.

FS explained the site can't be seen to be seeking advice from external channels.

A discussion followed surrounding how best to capture knowledge.

RS thanked SBU for his input.

4. **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

The minutes from the last meeting held in October were approved.

5. **ACTION STATUS**

DSG/BM(2025)M011/A001: SM to arrange for a Highland Council presentation on socio-economic funding at next socio-ec subgroup (January 2026)

This was closed as the presentation took place at the socio-economic subgroup.

DSG/BM(2025)M011/A002: Code of conduct and declaration of interests to be formally documented and endorsed in the DSG Terms of Reference

Following NDA SSG review recommendations – action agreed – SM has shared words for comment and ratification

This action is ongoing.

DSG/BM(2025)M011/A003: DSG and Sellafield SSGs to collaborate more closely

Agreed that this would be beneficial for both groups working with category 1 nuclear sites – joint meetings to be arranged

SM circulated a proposed letter to the business group.

No further update was provided.

DSG/SRSG(2025)M03/A03: Following the RTC on 7 October - SM to bring together representatives from HC, NRS, Police Scotland, Buldoo, Vulcan and DSG to discuss road improvement options

No update was provided.

6. **DOUNREAY UPDATE**

Dounreay:

FS apologised for the paper being late.

There have been 2 health and safety incidents, 1 on site and 1 visitor off site.

Human performance culture training is being rolled out.

There has been a big focus on return-to-work safety.

Delivery has made good progress which is shown across the targets.

The demolition of DN026 has been completed.

D1217 concrete blocks have all been removed which is a big milestone.

In Balance of Site the shaft and silo's old steelwork around the shaft has been removed so the new structure can be added.

15 out of 16 assets investment and asset intervention targets have been completed.

The weather damage impacted on site, but progress has been made to correct any damage.

The site is investing in long term assets in line with proposed lifetime plan durations.

Regulatory challenges continue to be worked on.

The site has 2 regulatory notices from SEPA, both are ongoing, 1 around the carbon bed filter where good progress is being made. The other around the non-active drain where lots of progress continues.

The site has notified SEPA around rising water levels in the shaft and silo and FCA.

NRS Dounreay is planning for the next period referring to the 5-year plan.

DB asked what the difference was in the story board which went to the NDA group compared to the submission in February.

FS explained the submission is formal and story board is less formal. Discussion followed surrounding this.

AS then asked when the group can see the lifetime plan. It was explained the business group have seen the proposed lifetime plan and a presentation was given to all members in the Pentland Hotel some time ago. A discussion followed around potential LTP presentations. A presentation has been given to members previously, there is potential for this to happen again when appropriate.

TJ asks why the emergency arrangements team support is needed in D1204; FS explains this is for knowledge sharing.

TJ asked about water levels in the silo and how large was the increase. FS said it is a significant increase.

GC asked about the liquid plastic on the roof. An answer was subsequently given through the secretariat:

Work is nearing completion on the Reactor Hall roof improvements. At a size of 2,700m², this equates to approximately 10 tennis courts. During the project over 35,000 screws/bolts, 900 sheets of insulation and 90 rolls of roofing membrane have been used. The new roof will have a further upgrade with the completion of a permanent handrail to replace the previous temporary handrail being installed. The pictures below show the progress made over the last year.

GC asked about D2160 broken equipment and why it needs repair. FS said the equipment was old.

GC asked about the scabbler and if it was working. FS said it was on a trial and was not suitable for the type of concrete it was being used on. This was the purpose of the trial.

GC asked why one of the Balance of Site targets can't be reached. FS said it does still have the ability to be reached but there is limited resource at the moment.

WM asked if simplified LTP dates can be given. This can be done as the programme evolves.

SEPA:

The report was taken as read.

Paul Dale has moved on in SEPA to the role of chief regulator.

A variation application NRS made to amend the EASR permit for the Dounreay licensed site was granted and issued.

The Dounreay site has faced a few inspections.

There was one noncompliance regarding radioactive discharge.

Regarding this discharge, GC asked a question about radioactive discharge levels and SB confirmed the radiation levels are very low.

ONR:

GS took the report as read.

One inspection was taken to confirm compliance on the manual handling issue; this has now been closed out.

ONR's focus is on the steps the site is taking to return to routine attention levels regarding conventional health and safety, asset management, and corporate governance.

The director of regulation has changed to Shane Turner.

TJ asked what corporate governance is? GS said this covers leadership and how Dounreay is ensuring the work they do will bring them back to routine attention levels.

CNC:

DM gave a verbal update.

CNC's main focus remains recruitment and progress is being made.

There are 30 candidates interested in a position at Dounreay.

Accommodation for officers remains a challenge.

The CNC now has a relocation package that can be offered to new starts.

The bad weather early in the New Year brought challenges with many officers volunteering to take on long shifts to ensure they met regulatory expectations for staffing.

A discussion followed around housing issues.

WM discussed what is needed to attract new officers to the area.

TJ and DM discussed recruitment, the gender balance of officers and officer retention.

RS discussed a recent headline regarding CNC supporting Police Scotland.

7. VULCAN UPDATE

MOD Vulcan:

The report was taken as read.

IW noted no new health and safety issues.

Progress is being made on environmental issues.

Drums are still being sent to Dounreay; 72 in the last reporting period.

Planning for upcoming security exercises is ongoing.

A regulatory inspection from ONR took place, it noted shortfalls from the site, but issues are being resolved.

The recent cold weather was challenging but the site remained safe.

TJ asked when an answer was expected from the submarine disposal team noted in the paper. IW explained conversations between each team are continually ongoing.

Rolls Royce:

No one was in attendance from Rolls Royce.

Any questions will be put through the secretariat.

SEPA:

SB noted SEPA has no issues with Vulcan.

No questions were raised.

ONR:

AP took the report as read.

She noted an inspection took place in November and that the inspection found a shortfall, a notice was given to the site.

No questions were raised.

DNSR:

No report was provided.

No one was in attendance from DNSR.

Any questions will be noted through the secretariat.

8. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

There was no correspondence since the last meeting.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

AS raised that costs should be listed on projects happening on site so the group can scrutinise these.

A discussion followed around costs and accountability.

DB asked for information on the contractors on site and who is doing what work to be included in the NRS Dounreay report. TW said this can be pulled together if agreed. AS to provide information to the business meeting.

A discussion followed regarding DSG interests and the information required in the site reports.

RS thanked everyone for their attendance.

RS formally closed the meeting.

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

No formal actions were arising from this meeting.

Roger Saxon

Site Restoration subgroup chair

21 January 2026

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP SOCIO ECONOMIC SUB GROUP

Minutes of the DSG Socio Economic Sub Group meeting held on Wednesday 21 January 2026 at 1330 hours in the Orlig meeting room, Dounreay Public Information office and Microsoft Teams.

Present:	David Alexander (DA)	Thurso and Wick Trades Council (chair)
	Donna Chambers (DC)	Deputy Chief Executive, Caithness Chamber of Commerce
	Cllr Struan Mackie (SM)	Highland Council (DSG chair)
	David Broughton (DB)	DSG Co-opted member of the public
	Gillian Coghill (GC)	Buldoo Residents Group
	Peter Faccenda (PF)	Programme Manager, Focus North
	Alan Scott (AS)	DSG Co-opted member of the public
	Cllr Janet McEwan (JM)	Highland Council
	Ryan Mclean (RM)	Scrabster Harbour Trust

In addition:

Magnus Davidson (MD)	Socio Economics Manager, NRS Dounreay
Jeremy Gilmour (JG)	Head of Community & Economic Development, NDA
Hannah Sutherland (HS)	NRS Dounreay Senior Socio Economics Administrator
Tina Wrighton (TW)	NRS Dounreay Stakeholder & External Relations Manager
Dion Tan (DT)	NRS Dounreay
Finlay MacDonald (FM)	Highland Council

MINUTES

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from:

David Calder (DC)	Head of Sustainability & Socio Economics, NRS Dounreay
John Deighan (JD)	DSG Co-opted member of the public
Ken Nicol (KN)	DSG Co-opted member of the public
Sandy Mackie (SM)	DSG Co-opted member of the public
Roger Saxon (RS)	DSG Site Restoration subgroup deputy chair
Trudy Morris (TM)	Chief Executive, North Highland Chamber of Commerce
Cllr Raymond Bremner (RB)	Highland Council

2. WELCOME and Highland Council presentation

David Alexander welcomed everyone to the meeting and noted the presence of new attendees, introductions were made.

DA invited Finlay MacDonald to give an update on Thurso Investment – Points of Delivery.

FM provided a presentation update on the HIP and opened the floor to any questions.

DA noted concerns around many towns and cities include run-down buildings such as shops and historic buildings and asked would the POD take people away from the main centre. FM answered that at the consultation stage people will have the opportunity to share their views, which will take place in June, on how best this can be mitigated

Gillian Coghill expressed her concerns around investment in towns and that the biggest problem will be accommodation and noted the issue of empty shops. GC questioned if the council and partners take forward the shops that are empty and make them into accommodations/offices. Peter Faccenda indicated Focus North partners are currently in the process of looking at accommodation and are looking at the different opportunities that includes empty buildings around the town.

A discussion then followed around accommodation challenges within Caithness and north Sutherland.

3. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

David Alexander noted that the minutes of the last meeting approved at public meeting in December 2025. Taken as read.

4. ACTIONS

DSG/BM(2025)M011/A002: Code of conduct and declaration of interests to be formally documented and endorsed in the DSG Terms of Reference

Following NDA SSG review recommendations – action agreed – SM has shared words with business group for comment and eventual ratification by DSG members

DSG/BM(2025)M011/A003: DSG and Sellafeld SSGs to collaborate more closely
Agreed that this would be beneficial for both groups working with category 1 nuclear sites – joint meetings to be arranged – SM has shared a draft letter for comment

DSG/SESG(2025)M02/A01: Magnus to draft Terms of Reference for the Dounreay Communities Fund and share with DSG

Drafted and under review – circulated and comments made – will be circulated with subgroup papers for ratification. Amendments/DA comments to be made following subgroup

DSG/SRSG(2025)M03/A03: Following the RTC on 7 October - SM to bring together representatives from HC, NRS, Police Scotland, Buldoo, Vulcan and DSG to discuss road improvement options.

Email circulated by Struan following meeting – SM will follow-up HC representatives – Struan has chased HC reps several times – now with CEO of HC – SM to get a date in diaries w/c 26 January – no update provided at January subgroups

5. DOUNREAY COMMUNITY FUND REQUESTS

Magnus Davidson took members through the funding applications. It was also noted that, going forward, MD will guide members through Communities Fund applications having scored them to ensure that they meet the correct criteria.

A discussion then followed regarding each application for the DCF.

DOUNREAY SOCIO ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

DA invited MD to provide key highlights from the paper.

Highland Investment Plan: he referenced questions arising from the FM presentation and highlighted that Dounreay is working with partners on housing as part of wider modelling done on workforce requirements over the next 20 years. This includes assessing permanent and non-permanent roles across Caithness and North Sutherland, for Dounreay and other developments, which will increase demand for accommodation. Work is ongoing with the UHI and the council to consider the needs of graduates, students, and temporary workers. Options are being explored to refurbish derelict buildings and town-centre units into appropriate accommodation. Engagement with Skills Development Scotland has also highlighted housing needs.

Economic Impact: The NDA commissions an economic impact assessment every three years and has appointed PwC to undertake a major study. The report is expected by the end of the financial year. Early indications suggest Dounreay continues to have a significant and growing economic impact.

Grant funding: 75% is formally committed against 25/26 budget, with 100% plus additional drawdown from the NDA expected by end of the financial year. In the quarter, 2 projects were awarded and are referenced in the papers.

MD took the members through Q3 procurement figures. The application process for the new graduate cohort has now closed and the assessment centre is coming back to Caithness in February. The programme continues to attract high quality candidates from within and out with Caithness and north Sutherland.

Dounreay have 3 finalists in the National skills academy awards including the FutureSkills Programme run by the Caithness Business Fund.

There was little to report in STEM activity verbally as most activities ramp up in next quarter. Tina noted the mock interviews that were done with contribution from Dounreay staff.

MD opened the floor to any questions.

DA asked about the North coast visitor centre securing £75k for this year? MD said the funding ran out in October 2024 and the new funding deal with Highlife Highland is for 3 years and with the £75k committed to the new opening hours, additional funding was provided last year to keep the facility open to the wider public during the winter.

A discussion followed around housing concerns.

Alan Scott highlighted that local companies can't compete with Dounreay's terms and conditions. A discussion followed about the concerns. An action followed from this discussion for a meeting to take place with Alan and his representatives from the local business base **DSG/SESG(2026)M004/A01**. MD asked for an action to be recorded that a meeting to be set up to discuss these concerns with AS and wider business representatives.

Jeremy Gilmour gave the following update from NDA:

Economic Impact and Funding: Economic impact data is currently being reviewed to ensure it is appropriate for its intended use. Joint funding for projects with Dounreay, including graduate and apprentice recruitment, has been secured before the end of the financial year. The budget for the current year is fully committed

6. FOCUS NORTH UPDATE

DA invited Peter Faccenda to provide key highlights from the paper.

The Innovation Business Plan remains in development. A programme of engagement with young people is ongoing to raise awareness of future opportunities, including a Minecraft competition scheduled for completion by mid-February. Flights have restarted between Wick and Aberdeen, through Air Charter Scotland, with a contract in place until the end of March and funding hoping to be secured to extend services until August. Peatland restoration activity continues to progress, with potential investment anticipated within the next few months as the programme expands. The Just Transition Commission is expected to return on 19 February to launch the Caithness report. The position of Independent Chair remains vacant.

7. CORRESPONDENCE SINCE LAST MEETING

N/A

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Struan Mackie noted that in the recent SSG review, there was a request to ensure when an individual represents an SSG at an external event, that they have the endorsement of the SSG members. He therefore requested endorsement from the group to attend an external event. The group agreed.

Tina Wrighton informed the members of the supply chain event tomorrow 22 Jan 2026 at 1pm held online.

Donna Chambers encouraged members to look at the new Live North website and social media accounts. [Live North - Helping you move and find Jobs in Highlands](#)

9. CLOSE

There being no further business David Alexander thanked everyone for their input and formally closed the meeting.

DAVID ALEXANDER
DSG Socio Economic Subgroup Chair

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

DSG/SESG(2026)M004/A01 : Magnus Davidson to arrange for a meeting to take place with Alan and his representatives from the local business base.

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Minutes of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group Public Meeting, held at 19:00 on Wednesday 3 December 2025 via MS Teams.

Present:	Struan Mackie (SM)	DSG Chair
	David Alexander (DA)	DSG Vice-chair
	Gillian Coghill (GC)	Buldoo Residents Group
	Peter Faccenda (PF)	Focus North (DSG Socio economic subgroup vice chair)
	Eann Sinclair (ES)	Highlands and Islands Enterprise
	Christian Nicholson (CN)	NHS
	Niall Watson (NW)	Dounreay Trade Unions
	David Craig (DC)	Caithness West Community Council
	Trudy Morris (TM)	Chamber of Commerce
	Cllr Janet McEwan (JM)	The Highland Council
	Tor Justad (TJ)	HANP
	William McGillivray (WM)	Thurso Community Council
	Alan Scott (AS)	Co-opted member of the public
	Ken Nicol (KN)	Co-opted member of the public
	Ron Gunn (RG)	CHAT
	Cllr Michael Baird (MB)	The Highland Council
	Cllr Raymond Bremner (RB)	The Highland Council
Attending:	Dave Wilson (DW)	NRS Dounreay Managing Director
	Mac MacGill (MM)	NRS Dounreay EHSSQ Director
	David Calder (DCa)	NRS Head of Socio-economic and sustainability
	Gail Ross (GR)	NRS Dounreay Head of Communications and Stakeholder Relations
	Heather Hannam (HH)	NRS Dounreay Head of People
	Frederic Stalin (FS)	NRS Dounreay Portfolio and Support Director
	Alan Mackay (AM)	NDA Site Facing Team
	Cdr Ian Walker (IW)	MOD Vulcan
	Linda Buchan (LB)	SEPA
	James Bryson (JB)	DNSR
	Alex Pitsillos (AP)	ONR
	Govinder Sangha (GS)	ONR
	Tina Wrighton (TW)	NRS Dounreay Stakeholder and external relations manager
	Emma MacDonald (EM)	NRS Dounreay Communications Administrator

MINUTES

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

SM welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The winter meetings are held via MS Teams due to regular adverse weather, members to decide at AGM if they should stay like this.

SM stated that it was David Wallace's last meeting before leaving the NDA. Thanks were given to David for his support over the last few years. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend.

SM declared his role as councillor for the Highland Council.

SM answered a question from the public about DSG membership and stated that any community group or organisation can put themselves forward to become part of the DSG.

2. APOLOGIES

The following apologies were received:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Roger Saxon | Site Restoration Subgroup chair |
| • David Broughton | Site Restoration Subgroup vice chair |
| • David Wallace | NDA |
| • John Deighan | Co-opted member of the public |
| • CI Dave McIntosh | CNC |
| • Stewart Ballantine | SEPA |

3. DOUNREAY UPDATE

NDA Corporate: Alan Mackay reported:

Report was taken as read with a few points added.

Cross party group meeting on 10 December. This is going to be a hybrid meeting.

SCCORS update: They are planning to move group to 3 meetings per year instead of 2, with the next one in February 2026. Details from the previous meeting will be in the minutes.

DA stated that it is worth noting for all members that all of the NDA stakeholder leads are leaving before the end of the financial year. DA feels like the DSG are in a position where they don't know what is happening and believes this should have been stated in the report.

AM stated that he isn't in a position to address the comment, but once the overall position to support the DSG is understood they will be updated in an appropriate manner. AM will feedback the comment.

SM gave clarity that they left under the voluntary exit scheme (MAVE).

NRS Dounreay: Dave Wilson reported:

The report was taken as read with a few updates.

So far Dounreay have delivered 11 out of 16 targets.

A redundant building near PFR has been demolished one month early and was one of the site's group key targets.

All group key targets due to be delivered before the end of the year have been completed.

Nearly 1,000 tons of material has been removed from a building on the site.

Storm Amy left the site with minimal damage. The lecture theatre roof suffered some damage.

The site is well advanced in planning for the next period which covers the next four years' worth of funding.

The site has another SEPA regulatory notice. This involves the unauthorised discharge of effluent through an unauthorised route. The site understands the actions needed to close it out in a timely manner.

The site had an ONR COMAH enforcement notice. In September, a closure position statement was sent to ONR which is being reviewed and will hopefully be closed out in the near future.

The information for the significant handling improvement notice was submitted in a timely manner and has since been closed out by ONR.

Police Scotland attended site to deliver four sessions of safe driver training. This was aimed at apprentices and college attendees. 45 people attended the sessions. Potential to roll it out to the wider site.

The site hosted its annual emergency demonstration exercise of the security arrangements on 24 September. The site gave an adequate demonstration. DW would like to give his thanks to all who participated the event.

NRS is part of the Mutually Agreed Voluntary Exit scheme. It is still open to Dounreay employees with applications closing on 10 December. Currently working

through a review process to work out which applicants can be accepted through the scheme.

The NRS wide safety culture survey has just been launched. DW is encouraging a high level of participation.

Continuing to evolve the delivery structure. Ring fencing the Shaft and Silo programme so that it can be given a major project push along.

Mick Moore, Site Services Director, is retiring at the end of the year. DW gave thanks to Mick for everything he has done for the site and hopes he enjoys his retirement.

Dounreay continues to invest in apprentices. Recently Fallon Campbell won the apprentice of the year award at the Engineering and Construction Industry Training Board development awards. Kate Thompson won Modern Apprentice of the Year at the Highlands and Islands apprenticeship awards. Kate Murray also attended the Highlands and Islands apprenticeship awards and was highly commended. Neave Anderson won the Sidney Black Memorial Engineering Award at the UHI awards. DW is very pleased for all the younger members of the workforce that do really well.

Additionally, the PFR engineers were highly commended at the IChemE Global awards. The Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team got to the finals of the ECITB awards for all the work they have done. Dean Smith, one of the site's recent graduates got to the finals of the IChemE North of Scotland Young Engineer awards.

70th anniversary celebrations are still ongoing until the end of the year. DW thanked everyone who helped to get things arranged and participated in any of the events.

SM congratulated all the staff who won and made it to later parts of the awards.

DC thanked the site for their efforts in reporting the recent particle find. It was reported to the DSG the day it was found so he was able to put it forward to the wider community very early.

GC is pleased to see little damage after Storm Amy. She heard that the site had a very successful exercise and the staff and members excelled. GC sends her thanks to Mick Moore and wishes him well.

Questions were welcomed

TJ asked if Dounreay regards 63% of statutory surveys achieved and 10% of non-statutory surveys achieved an acceptable level and who decides how much monitoring takes place?

DW – The surveys are agreed with SEPA, many factors can affect the number of surveys.

LB – The beach monitoring programme is specified within the site's permit. Sometimes there isn't enough sand or gravel to monitor so the site must notify SEPA about this with photographic evidence. A large proportion of the surveys which are unable to be conducted are due to unavailable material.

SEPA: Linda Buchan reported:

The report was taken as read with some minor updates.

SEPA is currently restructuring. Dr Paul Dale, Radioactive Substances Unit Manager, has been appointed to the role of Chief Regulator and he took on this role on 1 December. As Chief Regulator, Dr Dale will be working closely with SEPA's regulatory teams including radioactive substances.

As previously reported, NRS had notified SEPA of the potential discharge of very low levels of radioactivity from a sump to the environment via the non-active drain system. Dounreay subsequently advised the discharge from the sump had been routed to the Low Active Drain.

SEPA's investigation of the circumstances concluded that NRS had contravened conditions of its EASR radioactive substances authorisation. In October, SEPA issued a Regulatory Notice to NRS that specifies the steps it is required to take. The steps relate to the management arrangements in place for the disposal of aqueous liquid waste. NRS is currently undertaking work to address the requirements of the notice.

Questions were welcomed

TJ asked if the chief regulator is a new post and if so, what will the role involve. LB noted that it is a new role and since he has just been appointed the company is still figuring out what areas the role will cover.

ONR: Govinder Sangha reported:

The report was taken as read with one update:

GS echoes DW comment around the improvement notice. There was an inspection in October to confirm compliance with the improvement notice for manual handling.

ONRs main focus is placing enhanced attention on the areas that have been identified as conventional health and safety, asset care and corporate governance arrangements.

Director of regulation was Paul Dicks and is now Shane Turner. Shane is a long-term employee and has valuable experience from reactors.

DA asked for a full definition on the last paragraph in the report under section 2.2.

GS stated that it had been agreed for a specialist inspector to come up and gain an insight to the improvements that have been carried out. ONR is content that there is nothing significant, however, there are shortfalls which need to be prioritised.

DA asked what the shortfalls are.

GS stated that they are centred around the substations, the maintenance of them and how they have been affected adversely by weather. Improvements have been made, and the level of concern has been reduced.

DW stated that the new board chair has already been to Dounreay and it is great to see him up so early in his tenure.

CNC: No attendance

Any questions/comments to secretariat.

GC gave her extended thanks to CI Paul Gilmartin for making progress with the Buldoo residents and that he has now handed back to DI Dave McIntosh.

4. MOD VULCAN

MOD Vulcan: Cdr Ian Walker reported:

The report was taken as read with a few updates.

Since the last report Vulcan has had no lost time or minor injuries. There has been one environmental event reported during routine maintenance, it was detergent being used to wash some filters and a small amount of this has inadvertently run into the clean drain. No further action is being taken.

Previously reported that the sewage flow meter was recording incorrectly. Meter has been recalibrated as a temporary solution. An email notification has also been installed so a notification will go to site when the overflow is triggered.

Site operations continue to schedule.

There was one DNSR reportable event since last meeting. This was due to a training shortfall which was identified during an external check.

Site conducted the annual spill exercise during the period and plans for following years training schedule are now being considered.

The old telephone system had ceased, and a new virtual operator is being used in its place.

DNSR conducted two inspections on site which were assessed satisfactory.

ONR conducted a CDM inspection which identified some issues with the arrangements and discussions are ongoing with ONR on how to resolve these issues.

Questions were welcomed

TJ asked about Vulcan transferring drums containing solid Low-Level Waste (LLW) to Dounreay with 71 drums being transferred during the last reporting period. Will this waste be going to the Dounreay LLW vaults?

A formal response from Laura Kerr: Yes, all Vulcan drums are processed through our WRACS facility and disposed of in the LLW Disposal Facility.

DNSR: James Bryson reported:

Report was taken as read with one point being made.

The previous DNSR head David Langbridge passed away unexpectedly which is a very sad loss for all.

JB welcomed any questions

TJ asked if there are going to be changes in the DNSR position as a regulator.

JB said this information can be found on the .GOV website.

SEPA: Linda Buchan reported:

No updates and no questions were asked.

ONR: AP reported:

The report was taken as read with one update.

There was an inspection on construction (design management) regulations which identified shortfalls and is currently going through their governance process.

IW clarified that there are not any new buildings going up, it is cladding replacement and roof replacements etc. It is just maintenance of existing buildings.

5. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

SM noted the minutes of the last public meeting (**DSG/PM(2025)M002**) held on 17 September 2025 had been circulated to members in advance. He invited members to raise any issues from the minutes. No issues were raised. The minutes were proposed by DA seconded by DC.

The minutes of the DSG socio economic subgroup (**DSG/SESG(2025)M003**) held on 8 October were endorsed by the group proposed by DA and seconded by GC.

The minutes of the DSG site restoration subgroup (**DSG/SRSG(2025)M003**) held on 8 October were endorsed by the group, proposed by SM and seconded by GC.

6. STATUS OF ACTIONS

The status of actions was taken as read.

TW covered the first three new actions:

DSG/BM(2025)M011/A001: SM to arrange for a Highland Council presentation on socio-economic funding at next socio-ec subgroup (January 2026) – in hand

DSG/BM(2025)M011/A002: Code of conduct and declaration of interests to be formally documented and endorsed in the DSG Terms of Reference – raised at last business meeting and has come out of the NDA SSG review.

DSG/BM(2025)M011/A003: DSG and Sellafeld SSGs to collaborate more closely – discussed at last business meeting and would be beneficial for both groups.

Others are ongoing and will be ratified at next subgroup.

SM gave an update on the road traffic management group. There will be an in-depth presentation given to the members of the socio economic subgroup. It is in hand and hopes to see progress in the coming weeks.

A discussion then followed around the roads group and driving to and from site.

DC asked for clarification on action DSG/SRSG(2025)M03/A02. TW stated that the action will be taken forward but doesn't need to remain an open action.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

TJ stated that it was very interesting to read the Focus North and CNSF report and socio ec report.

GC noted that the Peatland restoration meeting was exceedingly interesting. Mentioned Focus North very positively. PF added that they have an intern that RSPB took on to look at Petland Restoration as a restoration officer. They had 140 applicants, 18 of which were locals. It is a real interest to people in the area.

WM added that they had a presentation about the proposed workers village at one of their Community Council meetings and another on the Highland Council point of delivery and investment plan. Both were very interesting and there is definitely going to be challenging times ahead. A discussion then followed.

SM updated the observers and regulators about this being his last meeting as chair. He gave his thanks to all who have contributed to the DSG.

TM asked RB for any updates on the Wick flights. RB stated that it is currently in a legal standstill period. It is moving as quick as possible. Hopeful that the period will come to an end soon and hoping it will be good news. A conversation then followed.

8. CLOSE

SM thanked everyone for their input and formally closed the meeting.

Struan Mackie
DSG chair

3 December 2025

ACTIONS ARISING FROM THIS MEETING

There were no formal actions arising from this meeting.



DSGSESG(2026)P042

DOUNREAY SOCIO ECONOMIC UPDATE

current as of 14 January 2026

Highland Investment Plan

NRS Dounreay continues to engage with the Highland Council and Hub North on the Highland Investment Plan (HIP). Work continues on office accommodation, living accommodation (housing), and innovation. During this quarter members of the DSG SESSG, Focus North, and representation from UHI North West and Hebrides visited north Wales, including M-Sparc and Cumbria, including The Bus Station to better understand lessons and opportunities for Caithness and north Sutherland, in particular Thurso.

Economic Impact Study

Dounreay is currently engaged through an NDA Group wide contract to develop the latest Economic Impact Study. The previous report was completed in 2022 and is updated on a three-year basis. A draft report has now been received for comment and will be published before the end of FY 25/26.

Grant Funding

Dounreay continues to provide pre-application support for socio economic funding. Circa 75% of the FY 2025/2026 budget has already been committed on multi-year projects and we expect to fully utilise the socio economic budget this financial year – as per previous years.

The continued status of socio economic grant funding activities is recorded in Appendix 1, with new projects funded in the previous quarter outlined below:

- FR 000002993 Wick Harbour Authority – Masterplan 2025, £23,888, total project cost £47,775
- FR 000002958 Flow Country Conference - £4,597, total project cost £9,193

Procurement

The following financial figures are for Q3 2025/2026, with the number of companies cumulative for Q1, Q2, and Q3. It should be noted that they do not sum to any total.

Q3 FY25/26

- Total Spend £30.6M including mandatory spend

- £22.4M of which is non-mandatory and non-utility
- £4.1M is with 38 companies that are Caithness owned
- £6.3M is with 16 companies with Caithness resource*
- £10.3M is spent with Caithness owned or resourced suppliers
- £9.1M is with 255 SME suppliers (including Caithness SME)

YTD FY25/26

- Total Spend £80.9M including mandatory spend
- £56.8M of which is non-mandatory and non-utility
- £10.5M is with 44 companies that are Caithness owned
- £18.8M is with 19 companies with Caithness resource*
- £29.3M is spent with Caithness owned or resourced suppliers
- £22.5 M is with 379 SME suppliers (including Caithness SME)

*Includes some mandatory spend

FY = Financial Year

YTD = Year to Date

The socio economics team, working with the commercial team, continue to improve how Dounreay sets, assesses, and monitors social value across in scope procurements. Dounreay continues to manage social value commitments from procurement.

Staffing

Recruitment continues to be carefully managed. Dounreay shares full details of all internal and external recruitment with the DSG Business Group to ensure transparency. Updates were provided in October of this quarter highlighting recruitment of a new Commercial Business Partner.

Application and recruitment of the next cohort of graduates was advertised during this quarter with interviews due to take place in February. Indications suggest increasing interest and quality of applicants over the last two years.

David James, a Dounreay graduate, was recently profiled for the Live North Project. [Life as a Dounreay Graduate: Building a Career in Caithness & Thurso - Live North](#)

Awards

Three Dounreay nominations have been selected as finalists at the National Skills Academy for Nuclear (NSAN) Awards in March. The finalists are, David James in the Graduate category, Fallon Campbell in the Apprentice category and the FutureSkills

initiative developed in conjunction with the North Highland Chamber of Commerce in the People Power category.

STEM

Dounreay is undertaking work to complete a new STEM strategy by the end of the financial year.

A verbal update will be provided of relevant STEM activity in the last quarter.

Dounreay Heritage

Provided in Appendix 2

Visits to Dounreay

- Dounreay Reminiscence Group Visit – 5th November

Magnus Davidson,
NRS Dounreay Socio Economics Manager

13/01/2026

Appendix 1

Rolling status of socio economic grant funding activities

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
CNSRP (Focus North) support hub	30/03/2024		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £487,000 Yr 4 (25/26): £103k* carry over £48,263 paid to date
Caithness Transport Forum	31/03/2027		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £30K Yr 2 (25/26): £10K £10K paid to date.
Focus North Programme Manager	31/03/2027		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: Up to £124,830k Yr 2 (25/26): Up to £40k £26,168 paid to date
STEM activities	N/A		Funding commitment: ongoing Total annual award £25k £12,222 paid to date

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
Dounreay Community Fund	N/A		Funding commitment: ongoing Total annual award £35k £35k paid for 2025/26
Ormlie Community Association	30/09/2026		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £60k Yr 3: £20k £0 paid to date
Dunbeath and District Centre	31/12/2026		Funding commitment: 3 year Total award: £ 149,630 Yr 3: £24,938 £0 paid to date
Science Skills Academy Newton Room Thurso	01/06/2028		Funding commitment: 3 year Total award: £128,000 Yr 1: £40,000 £0 paid to date
North Coast Visitor Centre (Highlife Highland)	31/10/2027		Funding commitment: 3 year Total award £265,000 Yr 1: £75,000 £75k paid to date
Community Plan and Delivery (Thurso Community Development Trust)	30/09/2027		Funding commitment: 3 yr Total award: £200,000 Yr 1: £66,666 £49,999 paid to date
Masterplan Delivery Officer (UpNorth! CDT)	01/03/2027		Funding commitment: 2 yr Total award: £36,551 Yr 2: £18,177 £0
Destination Strategy and Venture North (CCoC)	31/03/2028		Funding commitment: 3 yr Total award: £342,000 Yr 1: £147,667 £89,167 paid to date
Caithness Sports Council Reboot (CSC)	31/03/2026		Funding commitment: 1 year Total award: £10,000 £10k paid to date
Farm Cluster and Baselineing Pilot (NHI)	31/03/2026		Funding commitment: 1 year Total award: £72,186 £72,186 paid to date
Community Infrastructure Support Programme (NHI)	31/03/2026		Funding commitment: 1 year Total award: £100,000 £100k paid to date
Apprenticeship Programme (CBF)	31/03/2027		Funding commitment: 2 years Total award: £150,000 Yr 1: £150,000 £150k paid to date

Funded Project	Completion date	Progress	Comments
Future Skills Graduate Scheme	31/03/2027		Funding commitment: 2 years Total award: £100,000 Yr 1: £100,000 £100k paid to date
Association of the Northern Trails, Trail Development Manager	01/07/2027		Funding commitment: 1 year Total award: £35,000 Yr 1: £35,000 £17.5k paid to date
Sidh Chailleann Art – Caithness Art and Stone Festival	30/06/2026		Funding commitment: 1 year Total award: £11,970 Yr 1: £11,970 £11,970 paid to date
Thurso Youth Club, Summer Trips	30/09/2025		Funding commitment: <1 year Total award: £5,951 £5,951 paid to date
Caithness CAB, Community Outreach	01/10/2028		Funding commitment: 3 years Total award: £176,644 Yr 1: £58,147 £29,073.50 paid to date
Wick Harbour Authority 2025 Masterplan	21/03/2026		Funding commitment: Total award: £23,888 £0 paid to date
Flow Country Conference	13/11/2025		Funding commitment: <1 year Total award £4,597 £0 paid to date

Appendix 2

Dounreay Heritage Initiative

Progress report – October to December 2025

Collection of objects

A total of 506 objects have been collected since 2008. No objects were collected in the period.

Recording of memories

A process to capture the memories of those leaving the site is in place. A form with seven questions is sent to leavers, and it is voluntary to complete it. No forms were returned in the period.

Research projects

The project will publish an international book about nuclear cultural heritage in early 2026 and one of the case studies will be about the Dounreay and Sellafield heritage initiatives.

Dounreay history

Dounreay's 70th anniversary is celebrated throughout 2025 and to mark this milestone a book has been written by James Gunn and Thurso journalist Iain Grant. The title is, "The Atomics: the story of Dounreay's people" – see image below.

The book has been selling very well with some very positive feedback. Some former employees have written e-mails and letters saying how much they enjoyed it. It is available to buy at various local shops, including the NRS Dounreay public information office and on-line from the Porto Press website. This company has recently bought over Dunbeath based Whittles Publishing, who published the book. The price is £17.99 for the paperback. All profits go to the Dounreay Employees Charity Fund.

Dounreay Reminiscence Group

The popular Dounreay Reminiscence Group (DRG) resumed on 2nd October with a meeting at Nucleus in Wick. A presentation was given by James Gunn about the new Dounreay book. A visit to Dounreay was organised for 5th November 2025 and all 28 participants said they thoroughly enjoyed the trip down memory lane. Many sent e-mails to thank everyone involved and to say how wonderful the visit was. A photo of the visit is shown below.

The December meeting at Nucleus was a presentation by two local graduates about their experiences of the Dounreay graduate development scheme.

There will be monthly sessions on the last Thursday of the month until March 2026, at Nucleus. The January meeting will be a presentation by a former employee and DRG member, on the early operating years of PFR. This is a great example of two-way knowledge exchange between generations.

The Nucleus Caithness Archivist gave a presentation about the DRG to the Scottish Council on Archives in Edinburgh. The DRG is a case study for the Council's "Made in Scotland" project. The DRG is viewed as a showcase example of how an archive can engage with the public for mutual benefit.

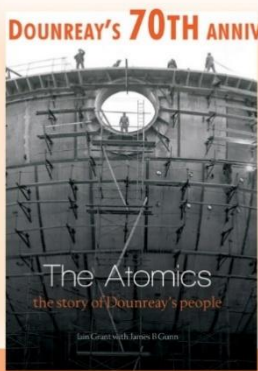
Miscellaneous

James Gunn recorded his talk about Dounreay's history, and it will be available to view by all staff via the site's intranet, early in 2026.

James Gunn

NRS Dounreay Information & Knowledge Manager

19 December 2025



DOUNREAY'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY!

NEW BOOK!

- Highlights the significance of Dounreay to the nation in being the UK's centre for research and development into nuclear fast reactors
- Details how it affected a small and remote rural community, particularly the market town of Thurso, Caithness
- Concentrates on the social history and features numerous recollections of workers and people from the local community

The book is written from nearly 100 years of direct knowledge and experience of the two authors. Gunn, a Caithness farmer's son, has worked at Dounreay and the neighbouring Ministry of Defence's Naval Reactor Test Establishment for 47 years. Grant, a Caithness journalist, has reported extensively on Dounreay, its workforce and its impact on the local economy and environment, also for 47 years.

Discover Dounreay's fascinating 70-year journey and learn how the incoming workers from the South became labelled as "the Atomics".

ISBN 978-184995-404-2 232 pages 125 illustrations £17.99 (softback)

AVAILABLE TO BUY online from Whittles Publishing, Dunbeath, Caithness, KW6 6EG
+44(0)1593 731333; info@whittlespublishing.com; www.whittlespublishing.com
And also from NRS Dounreay public information office, 7 Olrig Street, Thurso, Caithness, KW12 7BJ from August 2025





Dounreay Heritage Officer James Gunn (extreme left) and members of the Dounreay Reminiscence Group on their visit to Dounreay on 5 November 2025.

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT UPDATE TO DOUNREAY SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP – 18th MARCH 2026

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCES AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING POLICY TEAM

Designation Direction for Decommissioning Hunterston B

The amended Designation Direction required to transfer the Hunterston B site from EDF to NRS for decommissioning, as required by the Energy Act 2004, has now been approved. The amended Direction was signed by Scottish and UK Ministers and laid at both the UK and Scottish Parliaments on 24th February 2026, in preparation for the transfer of Hunterston B on 1st April. The amended Direction can be viewed online at;

[Directions for Hunterston B - GOV.UK](#)

NDA Strategy V

The work that Scottish Government were carrying out with the NDA on the development of their 2026 Strategy document, ensuring that Scottish Policy and practices are properly reflected, has now concluded. The Strategy was approved by UK and Scottish Ministers and laid at both Parliaments on 23 February 2026, in accordance with the terms of the Energy Act 2004. The Strategy has been published online and can be found at the link below;

[The NDA group Strategy Effective from March 2026 - GOV.UK](#)

Upcoming Scottish Elections

The Scottish Parliamentary elections are due to take place on the 7th of May 2026. Special arrangements apply to the handling of government business in the six weeks prior to the election, from 26 March 2026, known as the pre-election period. During the pre- election period, the Scottish Government retains its responsibility to govern, and Ministers remain Ministers and in charge of their portfolios. Essential business will continue. However, decisions on matters of policy on which the next administration might wish to take a different view from the current administration will be postponed until after the election, provided that such postponement would not be detrimental to Scotland's interest or wasteful of public resources. Election guidance for Scottish Government, its Agencies and National Devolved Public Bodies has now been published and is available at the link below;

[Scottish Parliament Election: 7 May 2026, guidance for the Scottish Government, its agencies and National Devolved Public Bodies - gov.scot](#)

Diane Hamilton
Scottish Government



Performance Report to DSG Site Restoration Sub Group
For the period 1st October 2025 – 31st December 2025

NRS Dounreay Delivery Business Key Points

Over the reporting period, the site has continued to focus on increasing the pace of delivery, addressing regulatory challenges and progressing with its asset interventions requirements.

On delivery, Dounreay progress towards its decommissioning milestones this year is highlighted by the excellence performance achieved across all targets (within one achieved at stretch during the period). In anticipation of the year end break, a further focus has been on preparing the return-to-work approach for 2026. This site safety focus will be further enhanced by the roll out of Human Performance training in the new year.

Our regulatory return-to-routine plan continues to address the two enforcement letters and one improvement notice that remain open. The COMAH enforcement letter has been reduced from level 3 to level 4 this quarter. Significant progress has been made towards exiting Enhanced Regulatory Attention.

On asset condition, significant progress is being made in completing as many as the 16 planned interventions listed against the site relevant operating target (weather permitting). Additionally, a high volume of remedial work has also been successfully undertaken following storm impact early in the reporting period.

This period has also been dominated by the preparation for the business planning of the next financial year, which is being conducted based on a 5-year rolling funding cycle (in line with the spending review 25 approach). This planning is also done based on risk-based capital allocation across NRS and as a result provide the site with a better opportunity to address both its high hazard decommissioning priorities and the requirement in asset condition improvement.

Operational, Enabling and Programme Delivery Target Status

During the reporting period, the following Group Key Target (GKT) was completed at 'Stretch';

GKT09.3 Reactors: Alkali Metal Storage Improvement - Demolition of Existing DN026 Building

All other delivery targets are forecasting as 'On Target', except for GKT 09.6, 'FCA: D1206 Breaking Active Filter Containment (AFC)' and GKT 09.9, 'BoS Development of site infrastructure strategy' which are forecasting 'At Risk'. Return to green plans are in place against both targets and there is a reasonable level of confidence that they will be both recovered to at least "on target".

Good progress is being made against all operating targets, with most of those tracking at "stretch" (the remainder being at "on target", no target at risk).

Programme Delivery Update

Reactors Programme

Asset intervention works are progressing, although the schedules have been extended for the PFR Application of Liquid Plastic to Reactor Hall roof due to the impact of weather and specification changes, and for the PFR SGB Glazed Curtain Wall upgrade, where the scope has been increased.

Within breeder fuel removal, commissioning activities supporting operations continues. DFR breeder drilling operations (to release trapped fuel) and EC&I commissioning activities were accelerated whilst fuel element transfer from the reactor to D2160 process cell suite was paused, whilst D2160 manipulator and de-cladder equipment are repaired. Year-to-date 15 breeder fuel elements have been transferred to D2160, so the stretch target of 42 elements is still achievable if recovery to reinstate D2160 runs to plan and transport and DCP facilities are available when required.

Fuel Cycle Area Programme

D1206 - GKT - Physically another positive period with significant progress witnessed through the completion of the interface piece installation and the positioning of the base plates of the containment. Development of a consistent working pattern through to completion of the commissioning phase by 31st March although remains challenging, the team retains a positive outlook on achieving this date.

D1217 - Last 6 blocks moved from D1217, essentially completing cell decommissioning
D2001 CBF - Contract documentation nearing completion with tender period forecast to commence by the end of the calendar year. Risk modelling to produce P50 output scheduled for December.

D1204 - GKT - Development of chosen option ongoing with facility team working on response methodology and equipment required. Emergency arrangements team providing support.

The NDA/NRS scabbler innovation project being run by the D1217 project team. All equipment onsite and installed, commissioning complete.

Balance of Site Programme

Shaft and Silo

During this period, the Programme Business Case (PBC) was presented to and endorsed by both Balance of Site Programme Board and NRS Dounreay Portfolio Board. The PBC storyboard was presented to the NDA Group Investment Committee. The PBC was endorsed at the NRS Investment Review Panel and by the NDA's Senior Strategic Committee. The PBC will now be submitted to NDA Group Investment Committee in February 2026.

Advanced transition works: Shaft cover building. Cladding and structural steelwork removed, temporary shaft cover structure complete. D1225 lower fence dismantled, building radiological survey completed, newly exposed surfaces decontaminated and encapsulated.

Silo assessment: Priority actions being taken to address technical and safety queries. Follow up review held in period resulting in 3 solutions for further development. Construction study to remove loads from existing silo walls presented at an options meeting. Study report now being completed. Silo containment function being assessed as a complete system, i.e. reinforced concrete; aqualite membrane; non-structural blockwork; permeable backfill in order to fully assess the importance of the reinforced concrete walls, and inform a decision on future loading of the walls

All factory acceptance testing and integrated testing has been completed on drum handling plant and equipment.

DCP Store Extension 2

Some resourcing fluctuation which is being managed to minimise delays hence an amber classification for capability and capacity.

D2703 crane installation entering final phase with contractor on site to complete control systems and undertake site acceptance testing. Recovery system requires some remedial work with components in manufacture to enable this. Installation testing continues upon other aspects of the crane.

Ventilation system installation now completed with exception of a single isolation damper, currently projected for end January 2026. EC&I installation continues to progress with NRS resource, PPD2 * PD3 motor control centres now completed, shield door 6 drive system EC&I install continues with shield door 5 now started, some remedial civils works required on SD5.

Inactive commissioning documentation continues to progress, supporting initial testing sheets now being drafted. Additional resource in process from contractor base with a view to commencing mid to late January to augment mechanical and electrical installation teams.

Non-Active Drains

Completed initial supplier engagement including identification of plant/equipment to be revised or updated. Production of procurement specifications to enable scheduled procurement of remaining process plant progressed.

D1310 Labs Upgrades

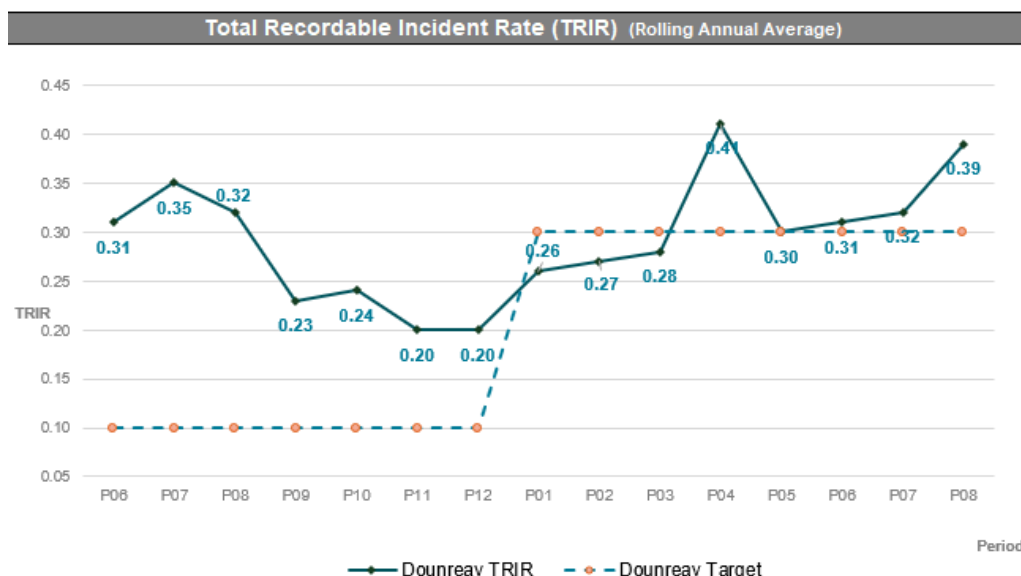
New modular wet plant room fit out commenced and foundation pads cast on site. Whole body monitor manufacture commenced. D1310 labs phase 2 design ITT returns expected 2 December.

D1313 Gamma Calibration X System

Gamma system lifting equipment and transfer flask lifting plate fabrication was completed and design substantiation completed but safety case requires rework following peer review which will push installation into Q4 of FY 25/26.

EHSSQ Performance

The NRS Dounreay total recordable incident rate (excluding CNC) has risen from 0.30 to 0.39 due to A site visitor (external contractor) tripping over their own feet when walking to an allocated inspection area and injuring their face; A Dounreay Fire Brigade trainee injuring their ankle whilst attending an offsite training course. We have had two RIDDOR (reporting of injuries, diseases and dangerous occurrences regulations) reportable injuries and two lost time accident due to the incidents noted above. The below table covers the period up to the end of December 2025.



ONR Regulatory Enforcement

NRS Dounreay Regulatory Return to Routine Plan remains on target with significant focus on COMAH/DSEAR regulatory issues.

Control of the Risk Presented by Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations Enforcement Letter – continue to progress remaining Level 4 actions and collate evidence of closed actions for ONR. Working with ONR, we have agreed that there is a need to revise delivery timescales for some of the remaining Level 4 actions.

COMAH Lower Tier – Level 3 Regulatory Issue Enforcement Letter – NRS-D position statement issued to ONR in September and revised in October with updates post ONR consultation. ONR have agreed to lower the Regulatory Issue from Level 3 to Level 4 as the intent of the enforcement letter has been met. NRS-D acknowledge that full compliance has not yet been achieved, as several Level 4 actions remain in progress.

Significant Handling Operations Improvement Notice (now closed)– ONR completion intervention held 7 October with final evidence provided 24 October. ONR was content with progress with minor comments made. Formal closure notification from ONR received 30 October. ONR will monitor the effectiveness of the new arrangements as part of normal regulatory business through existing engagements with NRS-D working to move the site out of enhanced regulatory attention. Significant Handling training remains ongoing across the site.

SEPA Regulatory Actions

The NRS Dounreay environmental total recordable incident rate has remained at 0.00 during the reporting period. All permits/authorisations remain in “good status” except for the site radioactive substance EASR permit which continues to be “at risk”. This is a consequence of recorded non-conformance with arrangements, notified to the regulators through appropriate channels.

NRS Dounreay has carried on self-monitoring and has notified SEPA of potential non-compliances in relation to the following events:

- A high-volume air sample outage at PFR was discovered during regular checks. This event was notified in December 2025
- An increase in water level in a pit in an FCA building was observed and notified in October 2025
- An increase in water levels was detected within the Silo by the monitoring system. Data review indicated ingress of water into the Silo. This event was notified in October 2025

FCA Carbon Bed Filter RN (RN/2025-001) – (on track): appropriate groundwater monitoring arrangements in place with the programme for the return to compliance already submitted to ONR and following implementation programme maturing ready for submission to ONR by 8 February 2026.

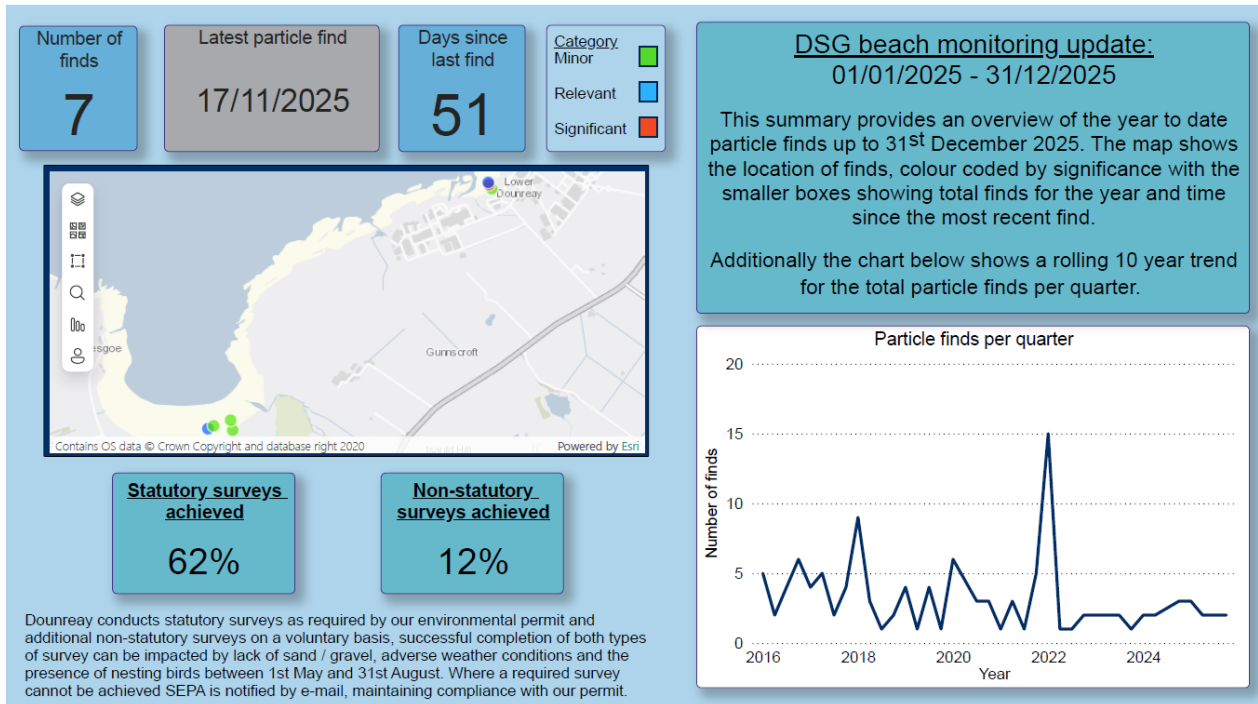
Non-Active Drain RN (RN/2025-003) – (on track): Document review of management arrangements for aqueous liquid waste disposal nearing completion, with facility physical and visual connection to non-active drains inspections programmed for January / February. Assurance activity is planned for March from which to submit review written outcomes to SEPA.

A recruitment campaign of environmental resources is ongoing. While environmental resource and SQEP vulnerability remains a concern, many functions have seen a reduction in vulnerability.

Onshore Monitoring of Radioactive Particles

All information and updates can be found on the Dounreay environmental monitoring website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/onshore-monitoring-of-radioactive-particles>



Other Success Stories

Charity Golf Event: Charity golf event has raised, £1,200 for the local Caithness Food Bank, a great day had by all participants with calls for a future event to be set up.

Health & Wellbeing Event: Events held throughout the day on 8 October in the canteen and adjacent meeting rooms showcasing network groups, local support and charity groups (circa twenty). Presentations and discussion groups providing opportunity for Dounreay staff and contractors to engage and learn more about personal health and wellbeing.



NRS Dounreay sponsored the Inaugural Highlands and Islands Apprentice Awards 2025: Kate Thomson, NRS Dounreay Commercial team apprentice won Modern Apprentice of the Year with Kate Murray being highly commended in the same category.

Apprentice of the Year Award: Fallon Campbell – craft electrician within the Balance of Site team won ECITB Apprentice of the Year.

UHI Awards: Neave Anderson won the Sidney Black Memorial Engineering Award, an annual prize celebrating outstanding female engineering students at the University of the Highlands and Islands.

NDA Leadership Academy: Alex Proverbio from the EHSSQ team has been selected to attend the next NDA leadership academy cohort.

Appendix A - Operational, Enabling & Programme Delivery Target Status



Group Key Targets												
ID	Key Target	Owner	Planned	Forecast								
				Current Year End Forecast	Current Year End Forecast	RAG Year End	Variance to on Target	Forecast Last Period	Forecast Last Period	RAG Previous Period	Trend	
Proposed Overall Measure of GKT3 Threshold 5 out of 9 elements achieved On Target 5 out of 9 elements achieved Stretch 6 out of 9 elements achieved												
GKT3	s01	BoS Shaft Headworks – Accepted core sample report	Naomi Mawby	30/06/25	Complete 26/06/2025	All sub elements achieved	Stretch - On Track	-4	Complete 26/06/2025	All sub elements achieved	Stretch - On Track	On Track
	s02	BoS Arrangements in place for inactive commissioning of DCP store extension 2	Naomi Mawby	28/02/26	On Target - On Track 28/02/2026			0	On Target - On Track 28/02/2026			
	b01	Reactors Alkali Metal Storage Improvement – Demolition of Existing DN026 Building	Craig Brown	14/11/25	Complete 14/11/2025			0	Complete 14/11/2025			
	b02	Reactors Irradiated Fuel Cave – Removal of Sodium from 12 Buckets Contained in Primary Storage Tanks	Craig Brown	30/09/25	Complete 15/08/2025			-46	Complete 15/08/2025			
	b03	HEPA Filter Bank and Extract Fans in position	Becky Ruddy	26/09/25	Complete 22/09/2025			-4	Complete 22/09/2025			
	b04	FCA D1206 Breaking active filter containment	Becky Ruddy	31/03/26	3 days behind - Recovery plan in place 03/04/26			3	13 days behind (7 standard working days) - Recovery plan in place 13/04/26			
	b05	FCA: Preparation and Approval of Feasibility Assessment and Emergency Recovery Plan for D1204 Pond Loss of Containment	Becky Ruddy	31/03/26	On Target - On Track 31/03/2026			0	On Target - On Track 31/03/2026			
	b06	FCA D1217 Removal of South Wall Cut Blocks	Becky Ruddy	17/07/25	Complete 15/07/2025			-2	Complete 15/07/2025			
	b07	BoS Development of site infrastructure strategy	Naomi Mawby	31/03/26	At Risk 31/03/2026			0	At Risk 31/03/2026			

Group Key Targets													
ID	Key Target		Owner	Planned		Forecast							
						Current Year End Forecast	Current Year End Forecast	RAG Year End	Variance to on Target	Forecast Last Period	Forecast Last Period	RAG Previous Period	Trend
GKT6	1	Metric 1: Consignment of CHILW Drums into unconditioned CHILW store	Mick Moore	2	3	Stretch - On Track	On Target - On Track		On Target - On Track		On Target - On Track		
						66% of target metric = 2 CHILW drum			66% of target metric = 2 CHILW drum				
	2	Metric 2: Consignment of RHILW Drums into unconditioned RHILW store	Mick Moore	6	14	Stretch - On Track			On Target - On Track				
						83% of target metric = 10 RHILW drums			83% of target metric = 10 RHILW drums				
	3	Metric 3: Consignment of Half Height ISO Containers to the Low-Level Waste Disposal Facility (LLWDF)	Mick Moore	7	19	Stretch - On Track			Stretch - On Track				
						47% of target metric = 12 HHISO containers			47% of target metric = 12 HHISO containers				
	4	Metric 4: Diversion of LLW (tonnes) off-site using Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) Frameworks	Mick Moore	73	108	On Target - On Track			On Target - On Track				
						63% of target metric = 108 tonnes of LLW.			63% of target metric = 108 tonnes of LLW.				
	5	Metric 5: Average controlled waste recycling rate (%) over the 12 months	Mick Moore	89%	89%	Stretch - On Track			On Target - On Track				
						Controlled waste recycling rate >80%			Controlled waste recycling rate >80%				
	6	Metric 6: Average Waste acceptance rate (%) for ILW, LLW and Controlled Wastes over the 12 months	Mick Moore	89%	89%	Stretch - On Track			Stretch - On Track				
						Average Waste acceptance rate >85%			Average Waste acceptance rate >85%				
	7	Reactors: DFR Removal of Breeder Fuel Elements	Craig Brown	27	42	Stretch - On Track			Stretch - On Track				
						42 elements removed			42 elements removed				

Dounreay Site Stakeholder Group

Site Restoration Sub-Group



SEPA organisational update:

As the group may be aware, SEPA is currently restructuring to become an organisation that offers more resilience, is future-ready, and is able to deliver with greater impact for Scotland's environment. Dr Paul Dale, former Radioactive Substances Unit Manager, has been appointed to the role of Chief Regulator and he took on this role on 1st December. As Chief Regulator, Dr Dale will be working closely with SEPA's regulatory teams including radioactive substances.

Interim management arrangements are currently in place for the Radioactive Substances Unit Manager role as follows;

16th December till 19th January - Mark Toner

20th January till 23rd February - Isabelle Watson

24th February till 31st March - Stewart Ballantine

Site Inspection Work & EASR Compliance

During the reporting period SEPA has engaged regularly with Dounreay at a programme level or directly with project teams on matters relating to ongoing projects including Waste Management, FCA decommissioning, Reactor decommissioning and Balance of Site projects including Shaft & Silo Waste Retrieval Project.

As previously reported, NRS had notified SEPA of the potential discharge of very low levels of radioactivity from a sump to the environment via the non-active drain system. The non-active drain system outfall is not an authorised disposal route for aqueous radioactive waste. Dounreay subsequently advised the discharge from the sump had been routed to the Low Active Drain shortly thereafter. SEPA's investigation of the circumstances concluded that NRS had contravened conditions of its EASR radioactive substances authorisation. In October, SEPA issued a Regulatory Notice to NRS that specifies the steps it is required to take. The steps relate to the management arrangements in place for the disposal of aqueous liquid waste. NRS is currently undertaking work to address the requirements of the notice.

SEPA undertook compliance inspections at the Dounreay site in late September and November. During the September visit SEPA looked at NRS Dounreay arrangements for compliance with Conditions 5.1 to 5.5. NRS Dounreay were unable to provide adequate evidence to demonstrate compliance with conditions 5.4 and 5.5. A follow up inspection was carried out in November following which NRS Dounreay were recorded as non-compliant with condition 5.1 which relates to ensuring non-radioactive

discharges do not have an adverse impact on, or cause pollution of, the water environment. NRS Dounreay was also recorded as non-compliant with condition 5.3 which requires that prior to any non-radioactive aqueous waste being added to the disposal system it is appropriately characterised.

SEPA's November visit also covered arrangements for compliance with A.2.1 to have and maintain a management system adequate to ensure compliance with the site authorisation. NRS Dounreay were found to be compliant with this requirement.

Variation Application

SEPA issued NRS Dounreay a variation to their EASR radioactive substances permit in January 2026 which included changes to the list of authorised gaseous outlets which are detailed in Table 2 of the extant permit. The changes made are as follows;

- Removal of authorised gaseous outlets which are no longer required to be permitted
- Amendment of some of the authorised gaseous outlet heights
- Amendment of some of the authorised gaseous outlet names
- Re-ordering of the authorised gaseous outlets by height
- Removal of the Cemented Material Test Raffinate waste route to Belgium, Australia or German, which is no longer required
- Amendment to wording of conditions associated with transfer of radioactive waste outside of the UK

Low Level Radioactive Waste Facility

SEPA continue to engage with the LLWF team on a regular basis and are content that the facility continues to operate in a compliant manner.

Non-Nuclear Site Regulation

Nothing to note.

Vulcan

Nothing to note.

Stewart Ballantine

Radioactive Substances Unit

For information on accessing this document in an alternative format or language, please contact SEPA by emailing equalities@sepa.org.uk

If you are a user of British Sign Language (BSL), the Contact Scotland BSL service gives you access to an online interpreter, enabling you to communicate with us using sign language.

contactscotland-bsl.org



Office for
Nuclear Regulation

ONR site report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd – Dounreay

ONR site report

Nuclear Restoration Services Ltd - Dounreay

Report for period: 1 October – 31 December 2025

Authored by: Safety Inspector

Approved by: Deputy Head of Safety Regulation'

Issue: 1

Published: December 2025

Record reference: 2025/43710

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 Dounreay Site Stakeholder Group and are also available on our website: www.onr.org.uk/publications/regulatory-reports/site-specific-reports/lcsg-reports.

Our site inspectors usually attend Dounreay 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 site inspectors made inspections on the following dates during the report period 1 October – 31 December 2025:

- An inspection took place on 7 October 2025 to confirm compliance with the ONR improvement notice ONR-IN-25-01 – Topple of small items monitor. The inspection focused on the progress made in improving arrangements for the management of significant handling risks.

2. Routine matters

2.1. Inspections

Inspections are undertaken as part of the process for monitoring compliance with:

- the Energy Act 2013;
- regulations made under the Energy Act 2013, for example the Nuclear Industries Security Regulations 2003 and the Nuclear Safeguards (EU Exit) Regulations 2019;
- the conditions attached by ONR to the nuclear site licence granted under the Nuclear Installations Act 1965 (NIA65) (as amended);
- 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 legal compliance. The licensee is required to make and implement adequate arrangements under the conditions attached to the licence to ensure legal compliance. Inspections seek to judge both the adequacy of these arrangements and their implementation.

In this period, interactions with Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS)-Dounreay covered the following:

- To review through structured regulatory interface meetings the progress being made to implement improvements designed to return the site to routine regulatory attention.

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.

In addition:

- During the reporting period we have remained informed of all major site activities that may affect nuclear safety, security and conventional health & safety and will continue to undertake proportionate assessment activities necessary to support the release of regulatory hold-points placed on a number of the projects on site, as appropriate.

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

2.2. Other work

Our inspectors continue to conduct formal reviews of the site's progress in delivering a number of agreed improvement activities. The three main topics areas are:

- safety leadership
- assets in a degraded condition
- health and safety compliance

During the reporting period our site inspector held meetings with safety representatives, to support their function of representing employees and receiving information on matters affecting their health, safety, and welfare at work.

3. Non-routine matters

Licensees are required to have arrangements to respond to non-routine matters and events. Our inspectors judge the adequacy of the licensee's response, including actions taken to implement any necessary improvements.

The following incidents were reported to ONR within this reporting period:

- An incident reported in September involved an NRS employee receiving a very low level of contamination on their clothing and body. We have reviewed NRS-Dounreay's follow up to this event and considered this incident was appropriately managed by the dutyholder. The individual was unharmed and the dose detected was within statutory limits.
- A contactor working on the site fell while working on the perimeter fence and suffered injury to his face as they lost their footing. The injuries sustained were minor but required a recovery period greater than 7 days. We have reviewed NRS-Dounreay's follow up to this event and considered this incident was appropriately managed by the dutyholder.
- An individual was struck by the car door they were exiting when it was blown shut by high winds. We have reviewed NRS-Dounreay's follow up to this event and considered this incident was appropriately managed by the dutyholder.
- An NRS-Dounreay employee suffered an injury to their ankle while undertaking training off-site. We have reviewed NRS-Dounreay's follow up to this event and considered this incident was appropriately managed by the dutyholder.

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.

- NRS Dounreay have not submitted, to ONR, any modifications to plant or processes in this period.

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

Office for Nuclear Regulation
Redgrave Court
Merton Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7HS
Website: www.onr.org.uk
Email : contact@onr.gov.uk

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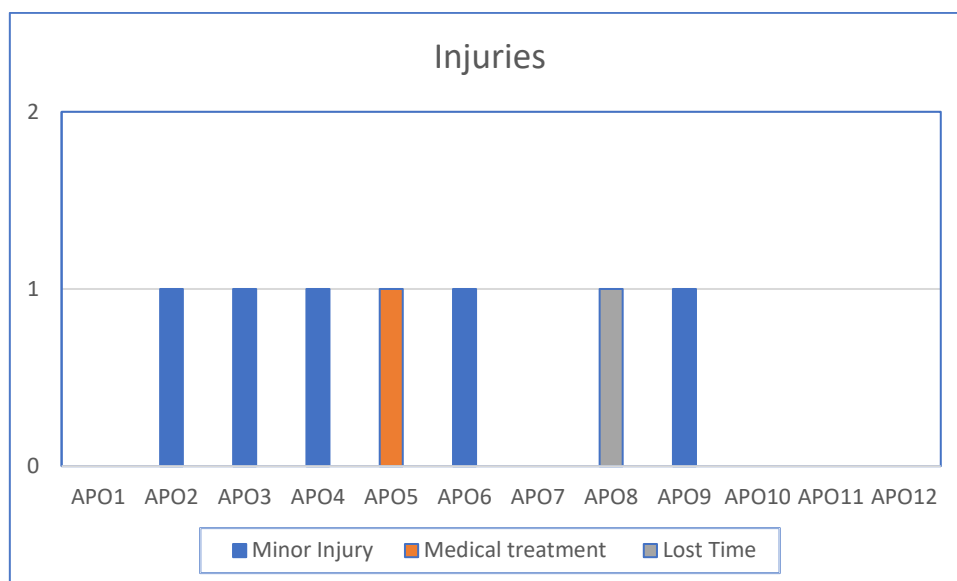
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References

There are no sources in the current document.

VULCAN NRTE Report to the DSG – January 2026



Health and Safety

Since last report to the DSG subgroup in October, Vulcan has had no lost time accidents or injuries.

Environment

At previous meetings it was briefed that the sewage flowmeter was recording incorrectly, the anomalies led to recording of readings that were too high although the volumes remained within the limits specified in our discharge license. The flowmeter has now been recalibrated to account for these effects, and the modification planned to move the flowmeter to give more accurate readings is scheduled to commence in the next period. We have now installed the email notification capability to the emergency overflow so that the site is notified if the overflow is triggered or in fault, in accordance with our SEPA license.

Work continues to resolve the other non-conformances discovered during the internal review of the conventional discharge permits. A report is in production which will advise on updates that should be requested for the Licenses, for example, the correction of grid references and changes to discharge limits

On 31 December 2025, the permitted thresholds for the presence of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) were changed. Work has been completed to accommodate this change, but during this process we identified other aspects of management of PCBs which may not fully align with the requirements. Thus, we are undertaking a review of these concerns to determine if any improvements need to be made.

Radioactive Waste Disposal

There have been no challenges to the Approval of Arrangements (AoA) limits during this period.

At the end of November 2025, the annual rolling discharge (expressed as a percentage against the maximum detailed in the SEPA letter of agreement) was:

	Type	Percentage
Gaseous	Noble Gases	0%
	Other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.	3.5%
Liquid	Cobalt 60	0.01%
	All other radionuclides not specifically listed, taken together.	0.008%
	Tritium	0.0001%
Solid	Number of Drums sent	268 Drums

Vulcan continues to transfer drums containing solid Low-Level Waste (LLW) to Dounreay 72 drums being transferred during the last reporting period.

Work continues to: (a) produce a new reporting tool, (b) review the gaseous discharge sampling methodology, and (c) review and correct historic discharge records. We have recently issued the fourth formal update to SEPA and have laid out a timeline for completion of the work by Summer 2026.

Site Programme

The Data collection for this phase has completed and we took this opportunity to upgrade our Pond Water Treatment System. We once again are in the process of design, manufacturing and commissioning for the next work package due to commence during the next period.

Events

Since the last Subgroup meeting, there has been one event reported to DNSR in accordance with their mandatory reporting criteria. This was due to a training shortfall identified for our dangerous goods safety advisors after an external training record check.

We also reported one event to SEPA, during routine maintenance it was noticed that the detergent that was being used had inadvertently run into the clean drains. This was reported to SEPA who are taking no action; however, we have completed a review and identified some improvements to our processes which we have started to implement.

Emergency Arrangements

We conducted our annual spill exercise during this period, and the Emergency Planning team have prepared this year's training schedule and also begun preparations for the planning of the Level 1 demonstration exercise, LONESTAR which is scheduled for June. The SECUREX is scheduled for November.

Regulatory Inspections / Audits

DNSR conducted an AC 5 and AC 6 inspection which was assessed as satisfactory with one OFI identified relating to an in-progress update to our record retention schedule.

The ONR conducted a CDM inspection, and identified shortfalls in our arrangements, and a level 3 regulatory issue will be raised to address this. We have already started the necessary work to resolve these issues and in the interim have placed limitations on the activities that will be undertaken that fall within the scope of the CDM regulations (noting they are extensive and cover a wide range of building activities). will look to update our arrangements and close this regulatory issue prior to conducting further building projects.

Vulcan Decommissioning Programme

The Site continues with the hazard reduction programme, identifying and removing redundant equipment from site. We held a visit by the Submarine disposal team to discuss the transfer of equipment to Rosyth for reuse on this project. We still await feedback from the Submarine disposal team after their visit and to arrange a test cut with the band saw.

We also transferred our holdings of oxygen generating candles off site to Devonport dockyard.

Other

The Site held a bake sale on Armistice Day with the proceeds, just under £1000, going to the SSAFA

I Walker
Commander Royal Navy
Naval Superintendent Vulcan

Rolls-Royce – Submarines
Vulcan Business Operations Update: January 2026

Rolls-Royce puts safety first and as such I'm pleased to confirm we have experienced no incidents of note since my last update to the group. Recent hazardous weather conditions have created challenges for the site team, but these have been well managed with only minimal impacts to site operations.

There have been no material changes to our business priorities since my last update to the group. As per my last input, our primary operational priority is the safe and timely delivery of our current programmes in support of the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Submarines Enterprise. Rolls-Royce also continues to provide support to MOD in reviewing the process, operating model and indicative schedule options for the potential transfer of the Vulcan site decommissioning accountabilities to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) once MOD foresees no further requirement for the site in support of UK Defence. The mix of skills and capabilities at Vulcan is unique within the Submarines Enterprise, so in this context Rolls-Royce also continues to review what role the Vulcan team, and the skills and capabilities vested within it, can play in Rolls-Royce's response to the significant level of change and growth within UK (Defence and Civil) nuclear, both at the Vulcan site whilst available to us, and in the longer term.

Our Rolls-Royce apprentice pipelines continues and remains fully populated and we are delighted that the recruitment process for the 2026 intake has recently started. More broadly, overall rates of both absence and attrition within the Rolls-Royce Vulcan team remain low.

Liam Hamilton
Director – Vulcan & IFM
Rolls-Royce Submarines Limited

ACTIONS ONGOING

Date of Meeting	Action	Information/progress	Status
21 January 26	DSG/SESG(2026)M004/A01: Magnus to arrange a meeting with Alan Scott and reps from local businesses	Alan highlighted that local companies can't compete with Dounreay's terms and conditions. A meeting to take place with Alan and his representatives from the local business base – discussions have taken place and a meeting will be arranged once challenges with travel are over	Ongoing
8 October 25	DSG/SRSG(2025)M03/A03: Following the RTC on 7 October - SM to bring together representatives from HC, NRS, Police Scotland, Buldoo, Vulcan and DSG to discuss road improvement options	Email circulated by Struan following meeting – SM will follow-up HC representatives – Struan has chased HC reps several times – now with CEO of HC – SM to get a date in diaries w/c 26 January – no update provided at January subgroups	Ongoing

ACTIONS COMPLETED

Date of Meeting	Action	Full close-out response	Status
25 November 25	DSG/BM(2025)M011/A002: Code of conduct and declaration of interests to be formally documented and endorsed in the DSG Terms of Reference	Following NDA SSG review recommendations – action agreed – SM has shared words with business group for comment and eventual ratification by DSG members – SM to provide final amendments	COMPLETE
16 July 25	DSG/SESG(2025)M02/A01: Magnus to draft Terms of Reference for the Dounreay Communities Fund and share with DSG	Drafted and under review – circulated and comments made – will be circulated with subgroup papers for ratification. Amendments/DA comments to be made following subgroup – followed up with MD on 17 Feb – issued to members 23 Feb	COMPLETE
25 November 25	DSG/BM(2025)M011/A001: SM to arrange for a Highland Council presentation on socio-economic funding at next socio-ec subgroup (January 2026)	New HC names to be provided - linked to Thurso Transformational Group activities – Finlay Macdonald attended socio- economic subgroup on 21 January 2026 and gave a presentation on HC and hub proposals	COMPLETE
25 November 25	DSG/BM(2025)M011/A003: DSG and Sellafield SSGs to collaborate more closely	Agreed that this would be beneficial for both groups working with category 1 nuclear sites – joint meetings to be arranged – SM has shared a draft letter for comment – awaiting confirmation to issue – letter sent on 19 February	COMPLETE
14 April 25	DSG/BM(2025)M04/A001: NDA to provide a full breakdown of the total NDA socio-economic funding by travel	Email issued from Jez – more information needed – Davie spoke to Magnus – further meetings have been held over past couple of months – meeting arranged with DSG business meeting/NRS socio-ec team on 9 September:	COMPLETE

	to work area for every site – and review of shared community space	• A benchmarking visit suggested with a similar organisation such as M-SParc in Wales – DSG to discuss and put forward names to DC – visit arranged w/c 17 November – Stuart Gibb to be invited to future BM to provide an update • Thurso Transformational Group also doing this work – need to join up – PF and SM sit on this group – to be reported back to future business meetings	
16 July 25	DSG/SESG(2025)M02/A01: David Alexander to review the ongoing administration and the criteria for the Dounreay Communities Fund with David Calder and Magnus Davidson	Meeting arranged with DSG business meeting/NRS socio-ec team on 9 September: • Balance has been reviewed and reconciled – need to recapitalise the fund through to end of FY (£35K) – review scope and approvals and monitor fund tightly to end of the year – to be taken to funding panel for agreement – being monitored and scope reviewed – monitoring of process to continue with members	COMPLETE
8 October 25	DSG/SRSG(2025)M03/A02: There is a group of ex-employees offering to share knowledge with the site (Elders group)	Steve Burness has been in touch with Frederic with an update of progress so far with Graeme Dunnett – Graeme has been liaising with Steve and they have met over recent months – FS to follow-up and provide regular feedback	COMPLETE
8 October 25	DSG/SESG(2025)M03/A02: Update the DCF online application form with guidance on match funding, etc - DC	To be done in conjunction with NRS sites as the process is shared – Jez Gilmour to assist – the form already has this capability so a decision was taken on the process going forward Match funding added to website – application form and match funding option to be highlighted and used going forward	COMPLETE
8 October 25	DSG/SESG(2025)M03/A01: Update the socio-economic website funding	Page updated and new links added	COMPLETE

	page to better explain the DCF criteria and match funding guidelines - DC		
8 October 25	DSG/SRSG(2025)M03/A01: What is the reason for no bids on the DCP store extension - TW	Response: We checked with the local supply chain for capability and interest in the work – there were no expressions of interest as they didn't have the resource, SC security clearance or didn't want the work	COMPLETE
23-Apr-25	DSG(2025)M01/A01: Clarification on jobs for the decommissioning operative contract - this was discussed and explained at length by Frederic Stalin at the subsequent SRSG meeting in the evening and the response will be shared with all members.	Minutes to be issued – with full details of responses given	COMPLETE
23-Apr-25	DSG(2025)M01/A02: TW to add action to discuss meeting with Lawrie Haynes and Rob Fletcher at next business meeting.	Davie to discuss at meeting with LH and RF	COMPLETE

Focus North Programme Update

Dounreay Stakeholder Group – 13th January 2026

Summary

The programme priority areas for 2026: -

- Working with partners on a programmatic approach to co-developing the Thurso Point of Delivery (PoD) to maximise local benefit, reduce overlap and maximise integration between projects.
- Developing the business plan for the innovation centre and seeking to integrate it with the Thurso developments.
- Housing and accommodation - developing pilots and full-scale implementation that fits with the PoD in Thurso, matches ambitions in Wick and support rural developments where appropriate.
- Supporting talent attraction
- Engagement with young people
- Support for business plan and implementation for the long term PSO.

Wick John O' Groats Airport

Short term PSO has now been agreed with a new provider (Air Charter Scotland). The follow on PSO business plan was submitted to Transport Scotland in October with ministerial approval awaited.

Resourcing and next steps

Highland Council quickly mobilised a successful tender process and have appointed an operator. This short-term contract covers the period until the next PSO process is completed assuming ministerial approval.

Industry Forum

The Industry Forum continues to work towards a skills/talent/people needs 'map' comprising a detailed analysis quantifying likely jobs/skills required across developments and indicative dates. First results from 1:1 discussions with developers will be shared at the meeting.

Resourcing of next steps

Dounreay as lead partner on this strand of activity are providing internal resource to support.

Point of Delivery and Innovation centre opportunities

Highland Council Point of Delivery (PoD) in Thurso. This educationally underpinned facility with school provision offers opportunity to co-develop other facilities and service provision. Concurrently: - NRS Dounreay is examining its facilities for off-site staff; UHI is reviewing its estate needs; The innovation centre business plan is being developed; HIE is reviewing business premises needs; and there is need for rapid action on housing and accommodation.

Resourcing and next steps

To progress these opportunities the Thurso Transformation Delivery Group (TTDG) has been formed and has been meeting regularly. This group is meeting regularly, and a comms group is now operating, Chaired by Hub North Scotland. First preliminary public consultations at the North Coast Visitor Centre in Thurso took place on 9th and 10th December with more than 150 attendees.

Neil James is acting as project manager and is now co-ordinating efforts to develop an outline business plan for the [working title:] North Highland Innovation Centre. An initial outline scoping workshop was held on the 11th of December where several actions specifically around 'customer engagement' were identified.

Skills and Talent attraction

Meeting the current and future workforce needs for the region continues to be a key priority.

Retention - Raising awareness amongst locals and particularly young people of the significant opportunities both immediate and in the future: -

- **School engagement**
 - From the summer programme 'Live Highland, Live Happy' we've identified some key learnings and are planning some term time events to increase engagement. DYW NH continue to lead this, with Dee Bleakley confidence building workshops being a key element.
 - **The Minecraft Education programme ' Reinventing our Region'**, adapted from Minecraft's Reinventing Cities programme is now running in two Schools. Following the setback the resilience and enthusiasm shown by the pupils has been incredible and they anticipate completion by 13th Feb. A celebration event will still take place to follow and in recognition of their perseverance, we've agreed that each school will receive a PS5 console, although the pupils do not know this yet.
 - **Powering Futures** – This is a 30-week Higher equivalent programme for 5/6th Year students to raise awareness of renewable energy employment opportunities whilst upskilling students in employability skills and improving confidence. **Now being delivered in Wick High School – Thurso still in discussion; Resource constraints making this challenging for Farr High.** [Powering Futures](#)
 - **Parents and Teachers** - We continue to seek opportunities to engage with to provide updates and information.
- **Work experience** - This has been repeatedly identified is a vital way of highlighting opportunities to local young people and Highland Council are implementing a new system to expand these opportunities.
- **Youth perceptions survey** - NRS Dounreay and HIE are currently looking at an appropriate procurement approach to run an engagement with young people seeking their views of living and working in north Highland.

Attraction – outreach activities to raise the profile of regional opportunities and support working age migration to the area.

- **Live North** – the talent attraction initiative run by the North Highland Chamber of commerce has formally launched with ongoing support for the Talent Attraction manager post. [Live North - Helping you move and find Jobs in Highlands](#)

Immediate Skills development initiatives – aligning local capacity and capability to meet workforce demands.

- **Privately subsidised apprenticeships** – Other funding continues to be sought.
- **Net Zero Nation** – The first cohort now complete and case studies with Caithness Engineering Services and JGC published on social media.
Next cohort – led by NRS Dounreay has commenced – will continue to liaise.

Resourcing and next steps

Further developments will align with Talent attraction needs as identified.

Housing and accommodation

Talent attraction, accommodation and housing issues are identified as a growing barrier to attracting new talent to the area. A region wide housing needs demand survey is underway being undertaken by Arneil-Johnson on behalf of Highland Council with report anticipated later in the spring.

Resourcing and next steps

A Senior HIE Development Manager is co-ordinating an action plan to progress how Focus North partners can contribute to this issue in the locality. A workshop with key local stakeholders to understand challenges and identify solutions was held on 24th November. As a result, 3 immediate priorities are being pursued: Exploring off-site construction solutions; Identifying planning-related barriers that are preventing housing developments from progressing; Mapping underutilised and disused buildings across Caithness and Sutherland to assess opportunities for renovation and repurposing. Concurrently opportunities to pilot approaches to develop potential delivery models are being sought. The next meeting is scheduled for 23rd February.

Peatlands restoration

PF continues to provide general management support for Flow Country Partnership SCIO (FCP), although day-day support is diminishing as the Flow Country Partnership Manager settles into their role. Challenges continue to be short term cash flow, developing a project pipeline and attracting carbon purchasers and investors. Phase 2 of the Armadale restoration concluded in October. A pilot common grazings for a third restoration was submitted as a project for Peatland Action grant support in September - the result of this application will be known later in the financial year. Two events were held in November bringing together stakeholders interested in tourism and visitor attraction and how it might interact with the UNESCO world heritage site. Both were well attended, and a tourism strategy is being developed incorporating feedback.

Resourcing and next steps

Immediate follow-on financing through further grant agreements has been partly secured to cover costs of existing team to allow continued progression. Short term cashflow is being managed using short term commercial finance. Discussions continue with potential carbon purchasers and several large-scale investors.

Space Industry Update

HIE continue to look at options and engage with relevant parties on these.

Resourcing and next steps

In the short-term Focus North will continue a holding brief until the future direction is clear or specific opportunities arise that need support.

Just Transition Commission 2025

Following the Just Transition Commission¹ visit to Caithness on the 7th and 8th of May 2025, and the Just Transition summit on the 29th October in Edinburgh a follow up visit is now anticipated from the commission. This is potentially to be held on the 19th February with further details awaited.

Resourcing and next steps

Following on from the Summit – the First Minister announced that the commission will be renewed in the next parliament with a particular remit to scrutinise practical delivery. The commission has been approached to highlight the advantage of engaging with Caithness and Sutherland as a pilot area to measure impact of pilot activities. A response is awaited.

Communications

The Focus North website is being refreshed and will feature a dedicated page for TTDG updates, as well as links to relevant updates from partner organisations involved in the TTDG.

Team

Focus North Independent Chair – initial recruitment exercise did not produce a suitable candidate so further options are being considered.

Peter Faccenda
Focus North Programme Manager

Vicky Rosie
Admin and Comms Officer

¹ [Just Transition Commission](#)



**DSG Secretariat
Dounreay Public Information Office
Traill House
Thurso
Caithness
KW14 7BJ**

Tel: 01847 803163

DOUNREAY STAKEHOLDER GROUP

19 February 2026

Dear David

Strengthening Co-operation: DSG and WCSSG

On behalf of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group (DSG) I am writing to propose a closer and more structured relationship between our two stakeholder bodies, reflecting the many important links between our respective communities and the nuclear sites that we host.

Dounreay and Sellafield occupy a unique position within the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's civil nuclear estate. They are the only two category one nuclear sites in the UK, carrying the highest level of hazard and therefore the greatest responsibilities for safety, security and environmental protection. Both sites share a common mission: to safely manage some of the UK's most complex nuclear legacy facilities, deal with historic wastes, and deliver long-term decommissioning programmes that will span many decades.

Both Caithness and West Cumbria have been shaped by the nuclear developments that brought skilled employment, technical expertise and significant investment, but also left a legacy that must now be managed carefully and transparently. In both areas, our nuclear sites remain central to the local economy, public confidence and future prospects, making effective stakeholder engagement essential.

Because of these shared challenges, there is a strong case for deeper collaboration between the DSG and the WCSSG. Many of the issues we consider from long-term waste management, radioactive material transport, environmental monitoring, regulatory oversight, workforce transition and community resilience arise directly from the programmes set by the NDA and delivered on the ground at both sites. By sharing experience, lessons learned, and good practice, we can strengthen our ability to provide informed challenge and constructive support to the NDA, site operators, regulators and government.

We therefore propose that our two groups explore practical ways to work more closely together. This might include periodic joint meetings or workshops, exchanges between members or chairs, sharing of papers and briefings, and

collaboration on matters of national policy that affect Category One NDA sites. A more coordinated approach would not only benefit our respective groups but would also provide a stronger and more coherent stakeholder voice at the national level.

The DSG believes that closer cooperation between our two stakeholder groups would be a positive step for both our communities and for the safe and responsible delivery of the NDA's mission at the UK's most complex nuclear sites.

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this further with you and to explore how we might take this forward in a practical and proportionate way.

Yours sincerely

Signed electronically

Provost Struan Mackie
Chair of the Dounreay Stakeholder Group



NDA Update for the Dounreay Stakeholder Group

March 2026



Contents

1.0 NDA Stakeholder Update March 2026



NDA Stakeholder Update

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

Government Update

An Independent Review of the NDA has been announced by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). This review represents an opportunity to ensure the NDA continues to deliver safely, effectively, and transparently on our mission to clean up the UK's civil nuclear legacy.

The review will focus on the following key areas:

- strategic planning and management
- project and programme delivery
- financial management

The last formal review was in 2021. This review is expected to report by Autumn 2026 and will be led by Dr Tim Stone CBE, who previously acted as a senior expert adviser to five Secretaries of State and is widely recognised as a global nuclear expert.

The NDA is looking forward to working with Tim and his team, and will do so openly and constructively, reflecting our commitment to continuous improvement.

The NDA group has welcomed the Government's response to the Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce Force's report. The Taskforce identified the need to simplify and modernise regulatory processes to meet the UK's long-term strategic needs across civil and defence nuclear ambitions.

We see potential opportunities in delivering our mission in a more cost-effective and timely manner, dealing with risks and hazards in an appropriate and proportionate way while maintaining the highest standards of safety, security and environmental protection.

Engagement priorities

The NDA group put decommissioning at the forefront of the agenda at this year's Nuclear Week in Parliament. Representatives from across the NDA group engaged with MPs and industry figures at the annual event in January, organised by the Nuclear Industry Association, to highlight progress on key programmes.



Our stakeholder survey has now closed. It was launched on February 9th and ran for 4 weeks. It looked broadly at three key measures: openness and transparency, leadership and trust. We will share results with our stakeholders when they are available.

Supporting green energy development

The NDA group is working with CX Power as the strategic developer to support the delivery of the green energy hub masterplan at Chapelcross, a programme set to transform the region. The privately funded, multi-million-pound, net-zero focused development, will generate several hundred high value jobs and attract skills and investment, driving growth in the local economy.

The NDA is investing £1 million to develop the masterplan for a clean energy development on land adjacent to Sellafield, known as Pioneer Park, which will drive long-term economic growth and jobs. The funding will enable local development company BEC to produce a detailed masterplan considering Sellafield's existing requirements.

Supporting skills and economic growth

The NDA is rolling out a UK-wide training programme to support project professionals in the nuclear industry. The One NDA Project Academy initially launched at Sellafield in 2016. It will support employees at the NDA's 17 sites in England, Scotland and Wales.

The NDA has contributed £351,000 funding to support projects under the North Anglesey Sites and Premises programme; a £10.4 million investment package driving economic growth in Amlwch, close to the former Wylfa nuclear power station.

Publications, public service and policy updates

We have published our latest strategy, setting out the long-term roadmap for the safe and secure decommissioning of the UK's legacy nuclear sites. The strategy, which was subject to extensive public consultation, was published in February. [NDA publishes latest nuclear decommissioning strategy - GOV.UK](#)

The NDA socio-economic report 2024 to 2025 has been published, detailing how and where £14.13 million of direct socio-economic funding has been invested [NDA socio-economic report](#)

The publication of the Business Plan is expected around Easter 2026.



Innovation and delivery milestones

A landmark agreement between the NDA and biotech firm Bicycle Therapeutics will see tens of thousands of doses of cutting-edge cancer therapies produced from reprocessed uranium. This uranium was generated by historic processing of spent nuclear reactor fuel.

NRS has permanently switched off the powered ventilation at Wylfa, meaning both Magnox reactors are now “breathing naturally.” The systems had maintained dry airflow and humidity during defueling, enabling the safe removal of 87,890 fuel elements. Their retirement brings environmental benefits and around £130,000 a year in energy savings.

Hinkley Point B in Somerset has been declared fuel free, on time and on budget, marking the second advanced gas-cooled reactor (AGR) defueling milestone achieved by the NDA group and EDF. A total of seven stations will transfer from EDF to the NDA group for decommissioning.

The NDA group has delivered a UK-first nuclear milestone, marking a significant step toward permanently disposing of the nation’s plutonium legacy. A can of plutonium residue has been safely processed into a stable waste form for the very first time. This demonstrates the UK’s leadership in tackling this complex nuclear challenge.

Sellafield Ltd and the Robotics & AI Collaboration (RAICo) have completed the first trial of a specially designed, patent-pending contamination swabbing tool, mounted on a quadruped robot, in an area containing radioactive material. The trial demonstrates how robotics could support routine health physics activities efficiently while reducing the need for people to enter potentially hazardous environments.

Other group updates

Nuclear Transport Solutions (NTS) and Westinghouse have signed an agreement to co-develop Pegasus, NTS’s transport package for High Assay Low Enriched Uranium (HALEU). The deal was signed at the British Embassy in Washington, D.C. Pegasus will enable safe movement of fuel for advanced reactors, vital for clean power and technologies such as AI.

NWS hosted a Ukrainian delegation and international specialists to share expertise on radioactive waste management. The visit strengthened international relationships and supported ongoing work toward a potential Memorandum of Understanding.



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 NRS official at the SSG meeting.



Nuclear
Decommissioning
Authority