



HARWELL CHILTON CAMPUS LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS MEETING

Minutes of the 106th meeting held at The Satellite Applications Catapult Centre, Harwell on Thursday 04th November 2025

Date	04 November 2025
Chair	Chris Broad, Chilton Parish Council
Deputy Chair	John Sharp, East Hendred Parish Council
Secretary	Bethany Sear, NRS, Communications lead
Minutes	Julie Drewett, NRS

Attendees

Chris Broad - Chilton Parish Council	Gary Reid – NRS
Bethany Sear - NRS	John Sharp - East Hendred Parish Council
Laura Street - NRS	Stuart Clark – NRS
James Craig - NRS	Duncan Anderson – NRS
Clive Hooker - West Berkshire Council	Bill Hanks
Julie Drewett - NRS	Mike Fox-Davies – Harwell Parish Council
Sally Thompson - EA	John Wilkins – Member of Public
Nick King - South and Vale	Amy Griffin – Diamond Light Source
Chris Williamson - MRC Harwell	Paul Bryant – Shaw-Cum-Donnington PC
Helen Bradley	Mark Coleman – Vale of White Horse DC

1. Chairmans Remarks

- Chris Broad chaired and opened the 106th SSG, advised meeting being recorded.
- Constitution of SSG being reviewed.
- NDA strategy 5 to be published next March.
- Progress on GDF felt slow, there are emerging changes resulting in reduction in amount of Waste going to LLWR.
- Possibility of new location for GDF northwest coast of UK. Currently no plan B. Encouraged to view online report on GOV website regarding dosages and funding of GDF.
- Wider attendance of SSG is desired to improve communication.



- NuLeaf is a local government organisation interacting with NDA and RWM, they are attending more events nationally.
- Ground Estates has bought land from local farmer, 400 houses proposed to for this land.
- David Peattie CEO of NDA will step down in March 2027.

Q1. Rolls Royce spoke about small reactors.

A1. SMR Strategy and location in the future is likely to be Rolls Royce, this is not confirmed, no announcement has been made.

2. Minutes of the 105th Meeting

- Minutes from the previous meeting were accepted at true and accurate.

3. Matters arising

None

4. NRS Harwell Licenced Site Matters

(a) Site Director's Report – Gary Reid

Gary Reid introduced Laura Street – NRS Harwell Site Manager, Stuart Clark – NRS Harwell Property Manager and Duncan Anderson – NRS Harwell Delicensing Delivery Lead, who has replaced Jon Blackmore after his recent retirement.

Gary gave a presentation on NRS recent achievements and future plans for 2026.

- Dounreay joined NRS approx. 18 months ago for more efficiency.
- NRS sites divided into A Sites and B Sites. Due to reorganisation, the EDF Sites will be in B Sites band once decommissioned.
- Andy Munro is running dual sites.
- NRS Hunterston B has progressed the most. It has already defueled, CNC is no longer present.

Achievements 2025/26

- All targets were comfortably achieved last year.
- Nuclear materials projects are nearly at an end. Lots of waste being shipped to Sellafield. Waste capsulation plan ahead of target.
- B462 Retrievals, processing including WEP. Have been overachieving for a number of years.
- LL/VLLW Legacy Waste consignments.
- Preparation of LETP Delicensing case.



- B401.8 demolition close out reports.
- TRIR remains at 0; no LTA in 644 days.
- Discharges of radioactivity remain well below permitted levels with no observable trends.
- EA High Activity Waste Inspection (Q1) - no non-compliances.
- EA Environmental Monitoring Programme Inspection (Q2) - no non-compliances.

Plans for 2026

- NMT project (Nuclear Materials Transfer) continue Shipping.
- RHILW (Remote Handled Intermediate Level waste) retrievals and Drum Grouting Operations Continue.
- B418 Decommissioning Work Starts to Support Land Release.
- Delicensing Work continues at West Meashill, LETP and Atlas North.
- B220 Characterisation Work is paused while Business Planning is completed
- **Land Release** - NRS is working with NDA, UKAEA, Central Government, and Campus Joint Venture private sector partner to develop a proposal to accelerate and optimise land release plans to support further development of the campus
- HIBBs will be receiving 200 boxes next year
- Several Nuclear Health Physics Monitor apprentices have been recruited.

Questions

Q1. From Chair – When is the CNC leaving site. What will happen to the building they currently occupy?

A1. The Security Threat from the nuclear material left on site will be so low that the CNC are no longer required. They will be leaving March 2027. The CNC Culham are relocating to B150 on Harwell Campus, so will still be visible on Campus. NRS Waste Team occupy the same building and will continue to do so. The CNC may also use for training in the future. Thames Valley Police will conduct local policing.

Q2. How will this be communicated to outer world?

A2. NRS Harwell and extended Campus hold a fond history with the CNC, so any communication will be carefully investigated before being released.

Q3. There will be radioactivity on site, but no armed police?



- A3.** The type of material remaining on site does not have sufficient security implications to require the CNC presence. Civil security protection will remain on site.
- Q4.** From Deputy Chair – Will boxes be suitable for GDF, NWS have deemed these suitable for a fifty plus year period?
- A4.** Yes, the boxes are specifically built in advance for this purpose. They are constructed to high specification to have a very long-life span.
- Q5.** The cooling columns at Sellafield were leaking, has this been sorted now?
- A5.** The leak is ongoing until demolished. It is closely monitored. Regulators have assessed as low risk.
- Q6.** How many CNC are there to be re-employed? Are there 6 New Apprentices?
- A6.** I cannot answer the CNC question as this is classified information. Yes, the apprentices are going through their security vetting at present.
- Q7.** When is LETP being released?
- A7.** 2026-2027
- Q8.** Mary Lyons Centre has approx. 30,000 mice. Have felt protected whilst the CNC here. Stakeholders will feel nervous if they are not here.
- A8.** It is important that their exit is communicated in a delicate way. We have had a long and very strong relationship with the CNC. NRS and surrounding stakeholders have greatly appreciated their presence and will be sorry to see them leave.
- Q9.** When will the fences come down?
- A9.** This is still a licenced site and must be kept secure. G4S will protect and fences will stay in place.

5. Reports

a) Nuclear Decommissioning Authority – Alastair Findlay

NDA submitted report ahead of meeting – Alastair Findlay unable to attend.

- NDA group funding for 2025/26 just over £4bn including increased Government funding.
- NDA Strategy 5 consultation concluded, once comments have been analysed final document will be published March 2026.
- Sellafield is now removing waste from all four legacy ponds and silos: a major milestone in hazard reduction.
- Nuclear Waste Services is progressing with final capping at the LLW Repository.
- Visible skyline changes across the estate, including the demolition of Sizewell A's turbine hall.



- Ongoing work to identify a suitable site and community for a Geological Disposal Facility.
- Innovation in action: sail trials for NTS ships and autonomous security systems at Winfrith.
- Preparations continue for the transfer of the AGR fleet and potential decommissioning of the Vulcan site.

b) Office for Nuclear Regulation – Graham Simpson

Graham Simpson submitted ONR site report for NRS Harwell period January to June 2025 ahead of meeting. Graham was unable to attend.

c) Environment Agency – Sally Thompson

The EA submitted their Environmental Report covering period April 2025 to November 2025.

- Sally Thompson has replaced Rebecca Cleverley as Lead Regulator for Harwell site and presented today.
- The EA regulate radioactivity to the outer environment, using permits and trigger levels. They ensure NRS are compliant with permits.
- EA note that the site discharges are comfortably within permit levels, with doses considerably less than 1%.
- NRS Harwell have had three inspections this year. Last one regarding land quality. Permit application for release from permit for West Meashill expected to be received in December.
- GRR - Guidance on Requirements for Release from Radioactive Substances Regulation. At site level AE have confidence in record keeping, based on years of documentation stored. NRS central do not operate the same way. Have noted non-compliances relating to management system arrangements for permit surrender which are currently being finalised and written up
- EA were fully involved yesterday when device found at LETP SUDS project. Dealt with safely and efficiently.
- EA have weekly catch ups with Harwell site and quarterly discharge reports. Sally finds engagements through the environment management team and delicensing lead/teams at Harwell proactive.

6. NRS Corporate Update – James Craig

James Craig NRS Public Affairs South attended meeting.

- Mutually agreed voluntary exit scheme (MAVE) has been rolled out to all NRS employees.
- Business Planning will be shared in the future.



- There is a knowledge gap with the local community. Independent polling is being conducted across the ages to address this. Results will be sent out once completed. Please liaise with James or Bethany Sear with any queries.

7. **NRS Site Update – Duncan Anderson**

Duncan Anderson Delicensing Delivery Lead for NRS Harwell delivered a presentation showing history and remediation progress of Liquid Effluent Treatment Plant (LETP)

- NRS Objectives for LETP and Sewage Farm are to re remove regulatory controls demonstrating that our land is clean at Harwell. Aim to submit Permit surrender application 2026.
- A Sustainable Urban Drainage System (SUDS) lagoon has commenced construction on the original sewage farm location. Lagoon will allow contamination to be contained and not leave site.
- Will use material from SUDS lagoon to refill dug out areas. This is endorsed by EA so material does not become waste.
- WSP working with NRS to close Ground Water Plant.

Q1. Where will lagoon be located?

A1. Duncan pointed out on aerial view slide where the sewage farm was located.

Q2. When will the cycle path be re-instated?

A2. Will have a realistic idea by end of the year. Bridleway will be open once Lagoon completed.

Q3. Cyclists find the electricity substation by cycle path inconvenient.

A3. It is a Council pathway and a SSE substation. UKAEA will be contact for this.

Q4. When land handed back can it be for any use by UKAEA?

A4. Yes, management of lagoon will go to landowners, it is high on their priority list.

Q5. Are there still legacy pipes located there? Was waste piped in or tanked in?

A5. All pipes have been removed. Historically, waste was piped and tankered. They had incinerators and you will have seen the small tankers in the photos shown in presentation. The liquids were treated to a level suitable for discharge to the River Thames.

Q6. Is there any overflow into brook?

A6. We have an EA permitted surface water discharge point at the Lydebank Brook. We are investigating the feasibility of an alternative system which could allow us to separate our discharges from those of the Campus which also discharge at the Lydebank brook.



Recently Campus had a spill, we all worked very well together as an emergency response to avoid anything being discharged into the brook.

8. Campus Matters

Chair – There is no one from Campus in attendance. Are there any questions to pass on to them?

The Crown Estate has bought land, bringing forward planning permission for 400 houses. Planning permission will not appear for another 18 months. The area is physically smaller than campus but denser. Area comes under Vale not South Oxfordshire. Campus is disappointed at this prospect.

Q1. Is this a re-draft of local plan?

A1. Vale and South Oxfordshire asked to withdraw. Waiting for inspections to review. This is 4 or 5 years in planning.

The Vale has a local plan which was well received. However, developers can challenge. Do not have to accept planning request.

Presentation by Amy Griffin – Diamond Light Source

Amy Griffin is the Engagement Team Manager for Diamond Light Source; she provided a brief insight into what the UK's national synchrotron is and what it does.

- Large campus employer, with many international research and academic visitors.
- The synchrotron has been operational since 2007.
- Will play an important role in research that aims to transform the lifecycle of graphite in nuclear energy.
- OpenBind an AI-driven drug discovery centre to be based here, making the UK a world leader in drug innovation and advancement.
- Ballots will open soon for the public and schools to visit the site. Contact www.diamond.ac.uk/Public
- Diamond 2 will be replaced by even better equipped machine Dec 2027.

Q1. Regarding information shown on slide, is 77.9 h a short time between failures?

A2. This is just beam shut outs, which are a few seconds at a time.

9. Any Other Business

- Harwell SSG Constitution

Chair – This has yet to be circulated. NDA have made a few suggestions.

Bethany Sear will circulate and ask for comments when available.



10. Next Meeting

23 April 2026 10:00-13:30

Jupiter Room, The Satellite Applications Catapult, Electron Building,
Fermi Avenue, Harwell Campus, Didcot, Oxfordshire OX11 0QR