

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