



Performance report to DSG Site Restoration Sub Group
For the period 1 January 2026 – 31 March 2026

NRS Dounreay delivery business key points

This reporting period marks the close of the financial year 2025/26. It has been marked by a strong improvement in mission delivery against our commitment, a constructive engagement with our regulators in resolving existing improvement and enforcement actions against the site and a sustained focus on Health, Safety, Safeguard and Environment performance with a special focus on conventional safety performance.

On delivery, Dounreay has completed every one of its committed milestones during the year, most of them at stretch. In this period in particular, key targets have been achieved in completing the DCP Store Extension 2 ready for inactive commissioning, preparing for the active filter change in D1206 and developing the 5 year assets stabilization plan.

Our regulatory return-to-routine plan continues to address the enforcement letters and one improvement notice that remains open, with those relevant to COMAH and DSEAR expected to be closed in the very near term. Progress continues to be made towards exiting enhanced regulatory attention.

On asset condition, most (15 out of 16) planned interventions listed against the site relevant operating target have been achieved and a high volume of remedial work has also been successfully undertaken following storms impact over the winter. This is in the context of the highest investment of the site in asset related work of the recent years.

Over the period, the site has also focused on preparing to start strongly for the next financial year, and to further increase the pace of its delivery. This is in line with the outcome of the 2026 NRS business planning (rolling 5 year window), which has allocated a growing share of resources to Dounreay (increase year on year for the next 5 years) in recognition of the prioritization of high hazard risk reduction and the need to implement an asset recovery in the context of an extended decommissioning timeline.

Operational, enabling and programme delivery target status

All operating and enabling targets have been completed at stretch for this year, except for breeder fuel which was competed on target. As indicated above, all delivery targets were competed for the year, most of them at stretch.

Programme Delivery Update

Reactors Programme

Progress on Reactors projects has been demonstrated by the closeout of the ONR improvement notice for alkali metal storage improvements, the related demolition of the DN026, and the removal of sodium buckets in PFR which is a prerequisite to the restart of the ILW (Intermediate Level Waste) route from the IFC (Irradiated Fuel Cave). 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, to allow D2160 manipulator and associated equipment to be repaired. Year-to-date 30 breeder fuel elements have been transferred to D2160, with on target being met on 12/02/2026. Recovery equipment repairs are progressing and fuel moves expected to re-start in April 2026.

Fuel Cycle Area Programme

D1206 - The GKT was achieved on the target date of 31/03/26 and the containment and breathing air commissioning is now complete. This now ensure the active filter change project is able to move to the next step (including manned entries).

D1203 storage bank 1 Phase 2 containment complete in preparation for decommissioning

D1210 Pre-demolition works continuing

D1204 – The GKT was achieved with the submission of the D1204 pond strategy & action plan for management of leaks. This paper includes the emergency response instructions and forward actions required to implement these instructions.

Balance of Site Programme

Shaft and Silo

During this period, the programme business case (PBC) was endorsed at the NDA Group Investment Committee in February 2026 and is continuing its socialising and review journey through NDA board and ministerial committees.

Silo assessment: priority actions being taken to address technical and safety queries with the silo structure degradation study now completed and follow on actions started (removal of loading on the structure).

Advanced transition works- successful demolition of all above ground civil structures around shaft top (including control room demolition). Site prepared and work progressed allowing the start of phase 2 construction.

D1211 Sludge sampling: All site-based work in readiness for sampling complete. Start of work delayed while investigating laboratory capabilities to carry out works.

DCP Store extension 2

GKT achieved in period with the site ready for handing over to inactive commissioning. The building was powered up for the first time in early April.

EHSSQ performance

Environmental, security and safeguards performance remain largely stable, with nuclear and radiological performance remaining controlled and compliant. Conventional safety, however, continues to be the principal driver of adverse performance indicators, particularly slip, trip and fall events, which continue to push the TRIR upward (0.52 in Feb/March following 0.46 in Jan). While targeted controls (Safety pause, slip/trip campaign, plant walkdowns) have been deployed, human performance variability and inconsistent task planning remain underlying contributors.

Regulatory enforcement

The site remains in enhanced regulatory attention for safety, aligned with NRS own assessment that performance improvements are visible but not yet mature or sustained.

Control of the risk presented by dangerous substances and explosive atmospheres regulations enforcement letter – an updated delivery programme has been sent to ONR and the final evidence pack is being developed. Awaiting final engagement with ONR for closure.

COMAH Lower tier – level 3 regulatory issue enforcement letter – the final environmental risk assessments are going through due process. Compliance documentation delivery on schedule and will be included in the ONR’s inspection in June 2026.

FCA Carbon Bed Filter RN (RN/2025-001): SEPA has confirmed NRS has met the requirements of Step 1-3 on the regulatory notice and returned to compliance with standard condition G1.2. Step 4 - Contract has been awarded and plan being developed.

Non-Active drain RN (RN/2025-003): the management system documentation has been reviewed, and all inspections are now complete with evidence and level 2 assurance check complete. The final report is undergoing internal governance and will be issued to SEPA on time.

In period, NRS-D has notified SEPA of two potential non-compliances:
A sample of effluent taken from Milliscreen 3 returned a suspended solids result of 428.5mg/l which exceeds that limit within the site waste management licence. Non-compliance against condition 8.1.2.
Non-compliance notified to SEPA during this period against the EASR18 permit on the expiry of a radioactive material co-ordinator (RMC) appointment. Non-compliance against A5.1

There were three security, and no safeguards, incident (INF1s) in period.
Security management system Fault (Jan 26) - security management system impacted for several days until the root cause of the fault identified.
Misplaced laptop at home (Jan 26) - site staff member could not locate laptop after festive standdown and immediately reported misplaced. The laptop was found at home during February.
PFR transformer maintenance event (Feb 26) - security management system impacted for several days due to an electrical isolation issue.

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>

