WINFRITH SITE STAKEHOLDER GROUP (SSG)

Tuesday 12 May 2026

Winfrith Village Hall / Meeting reference SG37

Attendees:

Barry Quinn	SSG Chair & East Stoke Parish Council
Nic Johnson	SSG Vice Chair & Winfrith Parish Council
Catriona Miller	West Lulworth Parish Council
Chris de Hauteville Bell	East Lulworth Parish Council
Mathew Barnes	East Lulworth Parish Council
Mark Graham	Tradebe
Heather Carpenter	Member of the public
Paul Carpenter	Member of the public
Jade Ingram	Member of the public
John Khan	Member of the public
Patricia Yonwin	Resident
Rebecca Cleverley	Environment Agency
James Heavingham	Environment Agency
Gary Reid	NRS – Site Director
Rob Coan	NRS – Site Manager
Bethany Sear	NRS – Harwell & Winfrith Site Communications
Debbie Paterson	NRS – Minute taker
Carl Ponder	NRS – SGHWR Senior Project Manager
Lee Freeman	NRS – SGHWR Authority to Operate (ATO)
Elly Joyce	NRS – Site End State Manager, Harwell & Winfrith
Matt Meldrum	NRS – Principal Waste Consultant

Apologies for absence – Graham Simpson (Office for Nuclear Regulation), Steve Smith (Wool Parish Council) and Helen Hecus (Dorset Council).

1. Welcome and Introduction – Barry Quinn

Barry Quinn welcomed attendees, including new members Matthew Barnes (East Lulworth Parish Council) and Catriona Miller (West Lulworth Parish Council), both of whom have an interest due to the sea pipeline passing through their respective parishes.

- Apologies were expressed that today's event was only recently publicised on local Facebook community pages and neighbouring parishes. Arrangements for future meetings would be included in the meeting pack, which is distributed one month prior to the meeting date.

- The SSG Chair/Vice Chair continue to receive quarterly site updates from Gary Reid, NRS Regional Site Director and Bethany Sear, NRS Harwell and Winfrith Site communications both in person and via Teams.

Minutes of last meeting
The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record.

2. Winfrith Site Report – Gary Reid

Gary Reid introduced himself to the meeting. Updates were given on the following:

Site Operations - Current Activities
- SGHWR reactor decommissioning
- DRAGON reactor decommissioning
- Waste – processing / consignment / legacy waste reduction
- Plant and Structures – ALES Operations and Decommissioning
- DASA – Autonomous Security System trials. Phase 2 successfully completed. Discussions to finalise Phase 3 ongoing
- Thorium Project – Encapsulation trials
- Asset Care – ALES Sea Pipeline Telemetry system upgrade, SGHWR South Annex windows and cladding replacement and A544 external fire door replacement

Health, Safety, Security, Environment & Quality Safety
- Two category 4 permit breaches owing to a spreadsheet error in out waste management process. While the event had no impact to the environment, it was recognised that there are some improvements to be made to our internal management system. Actions were in place
- Gaseous and liquid effluent discharges from Site remain well within permitted limits
- No significant issues to report with Safety and Security
- NRS initiative around Human Performance training throughout 2026

Regulatory Topics
- ONR intervention covering guarding – rated GREEN

DRAGON
- Dragon reactor core decommissioning
- Continued removal of plant and equipment to facilitate access to the core of the Dragon reactor using a robotic arm and laser cutter with more than 30te of material removed

Plant & Structures (P&S)
- Active Drains: A51/52 - Alpha-contaminated pipe foam filled, now awaiting removal summer 2026. A55 Redundant discharge line to ALES – pipe has been sampled and is now with the laboratory for analysis. Removal of Sump Tanks (in 2027) will follow disposal of redundant discharge line pipework
- ALES Initial Decommissioning: Multiple Planning Applications underway for execution of further decommissioning tasks including Active Break Tank pipework disposal and commissioning replacement Welfare Facilities
- Blacknoll Reservoir – Final preparation of Planning Application underway addressing environmental matters such as Biodiversity Net Gain and Reptile and

Great Crested Newt Licenses. Schedule for demolition will be subject to funding priorities but unlikely to be before Winter 2027
- Sea Pipeline Decommissioning – Project currently paused due to funding strategy

End State status update
- Planning application complete and submitted to Dorset Council. Live on the Dorset Council planning portal for comment
- Environmental Permit applications submitted in December 2024 and consulted by EA last summer. EA technical assessment of the case had commenced. Additional information being provided by NRS to address questions. So far, most comments relate to points of clarity and providing additional information

Sustainability
- 34 solar panels fitted to the rooftop of building A545. Projected 20% saving in electricity costs to the building
- Following completion of the DASA project, the solar hybrid generators currently in use by the project would be deployed to support other small projects around site
- Installation of six House Martin nesting cups

Magnox Socio-economic Roundup 2025-2026
- 7 Winfrith funded projects to date = £41,298.00
- Dorset Wildlife Trust Heathland Heritage Traineeships scheme - £26,910
- Winfrith Newburgh and East Knighton Parish Council towards replacing children's playground - £8,000
- Good neighbour projects - 5 projects totalling £6,388

For further information please go to:
NRS working with our communities - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Other
- Recruitment for 2026 continues with roles advertised both internally and externally as appropriate
  - 1 x Project Management (Level 6 / degree) apprentice
  - 3 x Health Physics Monitor apprentices. 1 due to complete this year
  - 2 x Health Physics Monitor apprentices planned for September 2026 intake
- Winfrith Wellbeing – Mindful colouring club and Staff Summer picnic planned

Questions?

Q1: As a homeowner living in close proximity to the sea pipeline, what is the long term plan for its management?

A1: The plan has always been to remove the pipeline; however, the anticipated removal date has been extended and is now forecast for early 2030s. The pipeline remains essential for managing the discharge of water onsite. In recent years, increased rainfall has necessitated extending the date of removal. Over time, the pipeline has been flushed with clean water, and no radioactivity is present.

Comment: At the previous meeting (18 November 2025), an invitation was given to those who may be interested in visiting site to view Dragon laser cutting operations. To convey an interest, please contact Bethany Sear. Bethany.Sear@nrservices.uk

3. Regulators

a) Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)
The ONR Report had been issued prior the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link Site Stakeholder Group

b) Environment Agency (EA) – Rebecca Cleverley & James Heavingham
The EA Report had been issued prior to the meeting and can be found by clicking on the link Site Stakeholder Group

- Weekly joint catch up meetings continue with Harwell & Winfrith.
- Monthly meetings with Graham Simpson (ONR).
- Business Planning activities; Main areas - Liquid discharges, asset care / management, waste inspection - waste project forecasting and resources.
- James Heavingham provided an overview of the two Permit Applications (Radiological and non-Radiological) and the assessment process.
- A decision on the Dragon radiological permit application was expected by December 2026 / January 2027 followed by a further period of consultation before a final decision is reached. Timescales for SGHWR were not known.
- The second permit application relates to the use of conventional rubble (non-radiological) to be used as infill material.

Questions?
Q2: How do you tell the difference between radioactive and non-radioactive?
A2: That's a very good question. Radioactivity is measured by characterisation (sample analysis). Radioactive levels are very low, equivalent to those found in a banana.

James Heavingham (Environment Agency) referred to the 'Radioactivity in Food and the Environment 2024' which is published on the GOV.UK website which provides lots of useful information and explanation around radiation. A copy of report can be found by clicking on the link below.
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/radioactivity-in-food-and-the-environment-rife-reports

4. Project Update – SGHWR – Carl Ponder & Lee Freeman

A video highlighting progress at SGHWR, along with a presentation was provided covering the following subjects:

- The current and future of engineering design for SGHWR
- Wire saw cutting trials
- Equipment manufactured onsite
- Intermediate Level Waste box processing
- Civil engineering alternations
- Steam drum section disposals

Questions?

Q3: Referring to the video and presentation, it looks as if NRS face a significant challenge.

A3: Lessons have been learnt following the administration of James Fisher Nuclear (JFN). Decommissioning a reactor is inherently complex and technically challenging and there is no blueprint for this process as it has not been undertaken before.

5. Any Other Business

Winfrith Constitution

An annual review was undertaken for each Site Stakeholder Group (SSG), and a pre-review document was submitted to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). The objective of the review was to ensure consistency across all SSG meetings. As a result, the Constitution was updated in alignment with other sites. No questions were raised, and the updated Constitution was approved without objection.

Closing Comments

Barry Quinn thanked attendees for their participation and hoped they found the meeting interesting. He commented that from the presentations and reports provided we could be reassured that the site continues to be operated in a safe and secure manner.

He referred to the recent Parish Council meeting and the Environment Agencies report which states “Liquid effluent discharged to sea at Arish Mell via the Active Liquid Effluent System (ALES) and Winfrith Sea Pipeline remain below 1% of permitted limits”.

Date of Next Meeting – 17 November 2026.