

Here to listen

We want to hear your opinions and answer your questions
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£1 million awarded so far within the Search Area
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Mid Copeland
GDF Community Partnership

Issue 1: March 2023

MID COPELAND
GDF

News

SUPPORTING CONVERSATIONS ABOUT A GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY IN OUR AREA



'We want to hear from you'

Community consent is at the heart of the GDF process

WELCOME to a new, printed edition of the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership newsletter, which is going to homes in the area and will be delivered quarterly.

During its first year, the Community Partnership held 50 events and attended many others, which resulted in conversations with more than 1,000 people about what a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) is and what it could mean for Mid Copeland.

INFORMATION

Feedback has included residents saying that they would prefer to receive information directly to households in the Community Partnership area – currently made up of the Copeland

Council electoral wards of Gosforth & Seascale and Beckermeth.

A GDF is an underground facility designed to dispose of higher activity radioactive waste safely and securely.

Community Partnerships are made up of local people, the GDF developer and local authorities to consider the possibility of hosting a GDF.

The Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership is holding interactive events this month, so people can find out more about the technical and safety aspects of a GDF.

This will include how waste is being packaged to be passively safe, what GDF transport could entail and how a GDF would be safely constructed,

operated and closed. On display will be a model of what a GDF could look like above ground, plus an interactive display board showing what it could look like underground.

Safety and technical experts will attend to answer questions.

THE EVENTS TAKE PLACE ON:

- Friday 10 March at Thornhill Social Club, 12-7pm
- Saturday 11 March at Gosforth Public Hall, 10am-3pm
- Friday 17 March at Windscale Club, Seascale, 12.30-7pm
- Saturday 18 March at Drigg & Carleton Village Hall, 10am-3pm.

Andy Pratt, Chair of Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership, said:

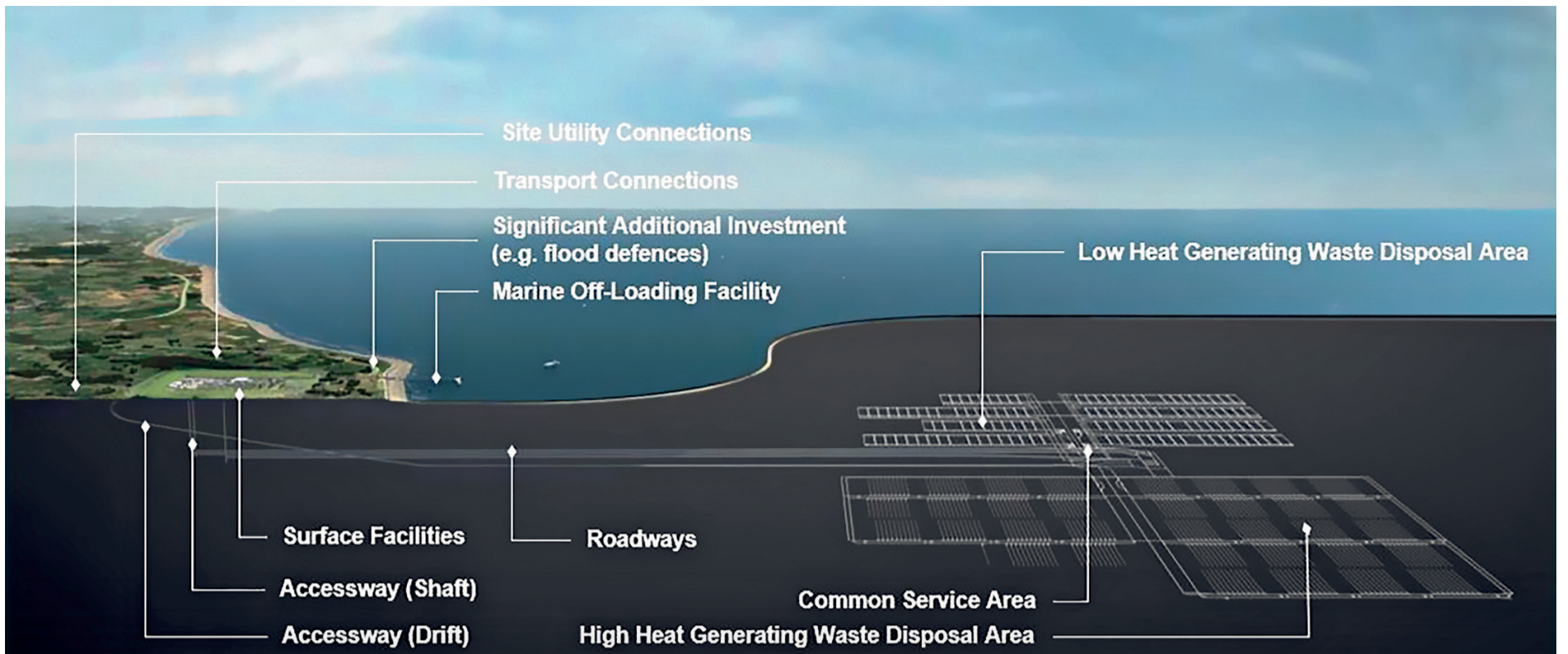
“Please come along to the events and have a conversation. Let us know what you think and ask your questions – we want to hear from you.

“We’re in the early stages of the GDF programme. If a suitable site is found in Copeland – a process which could take 10 to 15 years – a decision to develop could not be taken until the community in the electoral wards directly affected has had a say and taken a positive Test of Public Support.”

The residents in the area around any proposed development will make the decision on whether to go ahead.

Learn more at midcopeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk

GET IN TOUCH! EMAIL YOUR COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS TO GDFINFO-MIDCOPELAND@NDA.GOV.UK



Going underground

What is a GDF and why is geological disposal the preferred solution?

SCIENTISTS and other authorities all over the world have agreed geological disposal is the best long-term option to deal with higher activity radioactive waste – the most radioactive kind.

This waste will be disposed of in a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), which is infrastructure created to receive and safely and securely dispose of this type of waste, and it is designed to last and protect people and the environment for hundreds of thousands of years.

It involves building a series of specially designed and engineered vaults and tunnels deep underground. The facility could potentially be three times deeper than the height of the Shard in London, which is Britain’s tallest building.

Solid radioactive waste is packaged in secure engineered containers, typically made of metal or concrete, and then placed in a stable rock formation hundreds of metres below the surface, with the containers surrounded by clay or cement. This is called the multi-barrier approach.

Once the waste is placed deep underground, the facility is permanently sealed, closed and the radioactivity will reduce naturally over time.

EARLY FOCUS: BEYOND THE COAST

A GDF is made of two parts – a surface site and an underground facility.

For the underground part of a GDF, the focus at the moment is the Copeland inshore area, between the coast and the limit of UK Territorial Waters, which extends 12 nautical miles (22km) out to sea.

A surface facility on or near the coast would provide access to a disposal area deep in rock beyond the coast.

From a geological perspective, there is little difference between a GDF

constructed within rocks under land or within rocks under the seabed.

A marine geophysical survey, commissioned by the GDF developer Nuclear Waste Services (NWS), has been carried out in Mid and South Copeland.

A vessel spent three weeks off the coast so scientists could collect data by sending sound waves through the rock and measuring the time it took to reflect off different deep layers before returning to the surface.

This will allow experts to build a 3D picture of the underlying rocks, to assess the deep geology and its potential suitability to host the underground elements of a GDF.

The seabed remained undisturbed throughout the survey.

Data acquired in the seismic survey is being processed and will then be interpreted. It is likely the results will be available for NWS to assess towards the end of 2023.

There are different challenges and considerations when looking at a GDF off the coast, such as avoiding disruption to marine environments during preliminary investigations and construction.

The developer would liaise with stakeholders in the fishing and maritime sectors.

GEOLOGY IN THE MID COPELAND AREA

A National Geological Screening exercise has been carried out by the GDF developer, based on British Geological Survey data.

Initial work indicates geology in the Copeland area that could potentially host a GDF – the mudstone and salt layers in the Mercia Mudstone Group, several kilometres off the coast.

FACILITIES ABOVE GROUND

GDF surface facilities could require around one square kilometre of land, depending on how the site is laid out and if any of the facilities were off-site.

These surface facilities would be linked to the larger underground GDF amenities by sloping tunnels and/or vertical shafts.

The primary purpose of the surface facilities would be to receive solid waste packages from a rail and road network and transfer them to the underground facilities, and to support ongoing construction of new underground vaults.

A RETURN TO NATURE

Under current plans, at the end of the operation phase the surface facility would be removed, with the area being

restored to natural habitat. Independent regulators, including the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and the Environment Agency, will review the designs and safety cases for a GDF, the proposed site, and the science, to make sure that both people and the environment are protected – during operation and, for the long term, after the closure of the site.

A GDF will be built only if both regulators are completely satisfied.

Choosing a suitable site for hosting a GDF requires the explicit consent of the local community. They must be willing to host the facility.

At the end of operation the area will be restored to natural habitat

For more information, please visit midcopeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk

Solid waste is packaged in secure containers and placed in stable rock



We're here to listen

Community encouraged to ask questions and discuss concerns



Happy to help: The Community Engagement Team's Sue Shepherd, Claire Dobson and Gillian Johnston

MEMBERS of the Mid Copeland GDF Community Engagement Team are all from Copeland.

People in the community are encouraged to ask questions and raise any concerns, says Gillian Johnston, the Community Engagement Manager for Mid Copeland on behalf of Nuclear Waste Services, the developer investigating a potential GDF.

Here, she answers some of your most-asked questions, explains how you can get in touch and shares more about her team and the GDF process...

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE GDF COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP?

A Community Partnership is a group of people which includes community members, the GDF developer and the local authority.

Its role includes taking forward discussions around geological disposal and what it could mean locally by finding out facts and ensuring the community has the relevant information they need when considering the possibility of hosting a GDF.

The Community Partnership holds events, organises talks and discussions, answers questions and discusses any concerns or opportunities. The Community Engagement Team includes Sue Shepherd and Claire Dobson.

THE GDF DEVELOPER SAYS THE COMMUNITY WILL DECIDE WHETHER A GDF IS DEVELOPED IN THIS AREA. IS THIS TRUE?

The GDF programme requires both

a suitable site and a willing community.

If a suitable site is found in Mid Copeland, a process which could take 10 to 15 years, a decision to develop a GDF could not be taken until the people in the electoral wards directly affected have had a say and taken a positive Test of Public Support.

If a community is not willing, then the siting process will come to an end.

HOW WILL A TEST OF PUBLIC SUPPORT WORK?

Before the GDF developer can seek approvals to begin construction, there must be a Test of Public Support to demonstrate whether residents in a potential host community are willing to host a GDF.

As a member of the Community Partnership, the local authority would take the decision on if, or when, to hold a Test of Public Support and it would be for the Community Partnership to decide how it wishes to approach this.

A Test of Public Support would be undertaken only after extensive community engagement, which means people will have had time to ask questions, raise concerns and learn about a GDF.

HOW CAN MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY CONTACT YOU?

The Community Partnership's Community Engagement Team holds events throughout the year and attends other local events.

We are here to provide answers to people's questions, talk through any

areas of concern and ensure people have the information they need about GDF.

People can contact us by email at gdfinfo-midcopeland@nda.gov.uk or call 0300 369 0000.

You can also find information on our website, midcopeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk

CAN LOCAL PEOPLE GET INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP?

Yes, there will be lots of opportunities to get involved. Come along to one of our events, organise a talk, invite us to an event or contact us directly for a discussion and to ask questions.

A recruitment process is ongoing, which has resulted in new members on the Community Partnership to lead the sectors of Youth, Business and Farming.

We are currently looking for a Tourism lead and there will be other opportunities as the Partnership evolves – all details are on the website.

Our meetings are also held in public in local community venues. People can attend those and ask questions relating to the agenda, or just listen to the meeting.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUNDING AND WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Community Investment Funding of up to £1 million has been made available for the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership per year as it participates in the siting process for a GDF.

The grant funding can be used for projects, schemes or initiatives benefiting the Search Area that provide economic opportunities, enhance the natural and built environment or improve community wellbeing.

So far, £1 million has been awarded to community projects in Mid Copeland in the first year and further grants have since been awarded now we are in year two.

We are open to applications from community groups, public sector organisations and businesses that want to do something to benefit the community.

£1 MILLION AWARDED – SEE PAGE 7

If you are not sure where to start, we're here to help. Contact us at communityinvestment-midcopeland@nda.org.uk

Members of the GDF Community Partnership

The members are: Andy Pratt, Chair; David Moore, Copeland Council representative; Gillian Johnston, GDF developer; Bob Jones, Ponsoby Parish Council; Julie Nugent, Beckermeth with Thornhill Parish Council; Mark Fussell, Gosforth Parish Council; Lizzie Mawson, Seascale Parish Council; Karen Warmoth, Drigg & Carleton Parish Council; Yvonne Clarkson, Business Lead; Deborah Naylor, Youth Lead and Mike Slater, Farming Lead.

In our first year:

50

EVENTS HAVE BEEN HELD, WITH MANY OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS ATTENDED

WE'VE HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH MORE THAN

1,000 people

5 newsletters

HAVE BEEN SENT TO MORE THAN 760 SUBSCRIBERS

3 leaflets

PROVIDED TO PEOPLE'S HOMES IN MID COPELAND

28 awards

MADE FROM THE COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUNDING – AMOUNTING TO £1 MILLION

Your thoughts

LOCAL people have been keen to have their say on a GDF and learn more about what is involved.

We've heard many opinions, both for and against the proposals, and we welcome all your feedback – positive and negative. Here are some of your most-asked questions so far...

"Will we get upgraded roads and rail?"

"Is it a done deal that a GDF will be built in Copeland?"

"How many jobs will be for local people?"

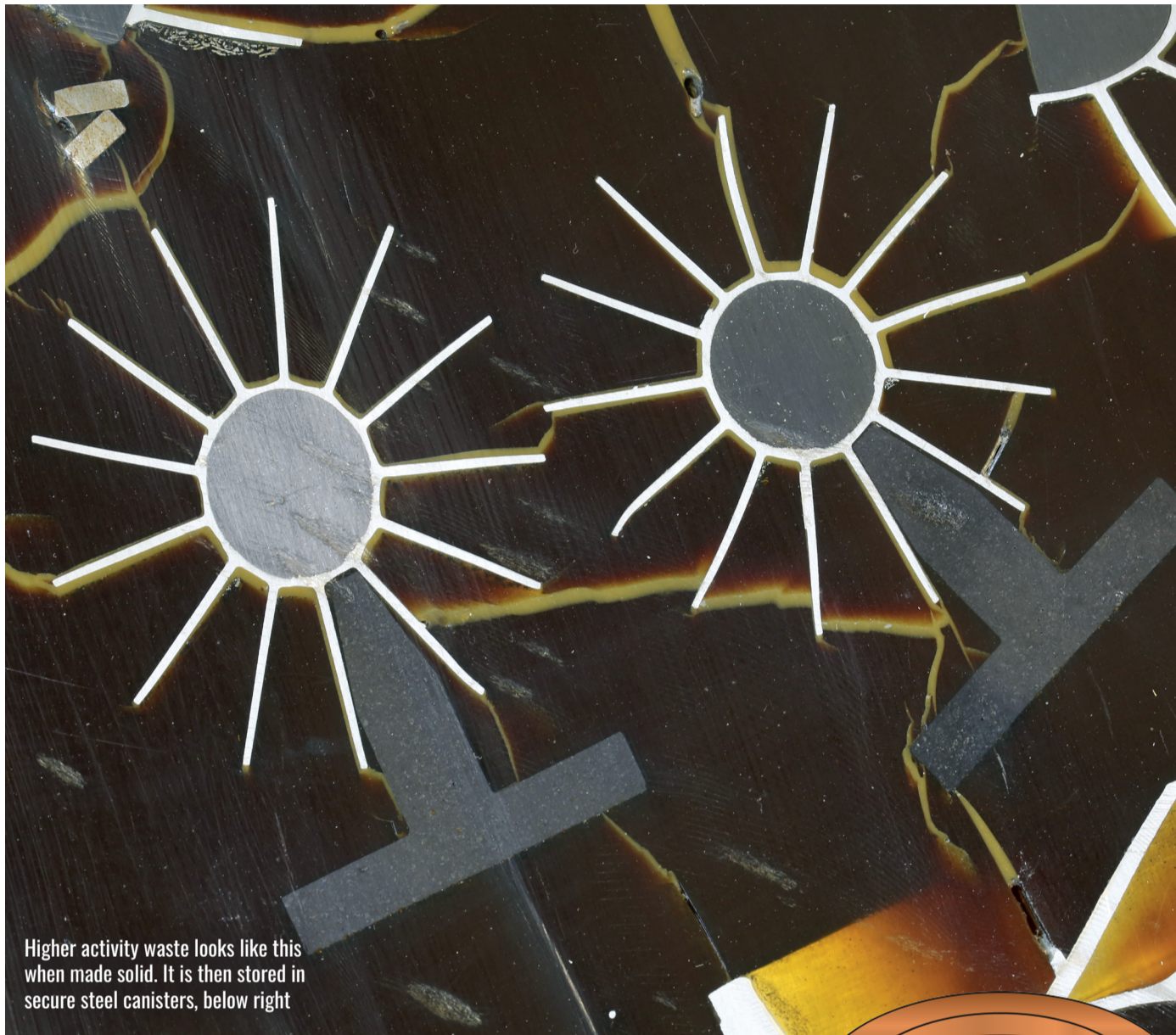
The Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership's meetings are held in public. People can submit questions in advance or ask in person. Meetings will be held on the following dates:

- Monday 27 March, 3pm – 5pm, Drigg & Carleton Village Hall
- Thursday 18 May, 6pm – 8pm
- Monday 26 June, 3pm – 5pm
- Monday 7 August, 3pm – 5pm
- Wednesday 20 September, 6pm – 8pm
- Monday 30 October, 3pm – 5pm
- Monday 11 December, 3pm – 5pm

Some venues have yet to be confirmed and details will be posted on our website, midcopeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk, as soon as possible.

Dealing with waste

A GDF will be hundreds of metres underground



Higher activity waste looks like this when made solid. It is then stored in secure steel canisters, below right

AROUND 15 per cent of the electricity supply to this country's homes and businesses comes from nuclear energy.

The technology has been part of our daily lives for more than 60 years and plays a critical role in a number of industries, including the NHS and defence sector.

Radiation is also all around us and comes from many sources – from rocks in the ground to medical equipment. Low amounts can be handled safely.

But waste from our use of nuclear energy has been accumulating over the decades, with more to come from the planned decommissioning of power plants and associated buildings.

Most of this – around 90 per cent by volume – is classified as low-level in terms of radioactivity and is already disposed of safely.

SECURE

Higher activity waste needs to be handled with particular care. Waste is currently packaged and held in secure, above-ground stores at more than 20 sites across the UK, including Sellafield.

While this is safe, it is not a long-term solution. The sites will require monitoring, maintenance and refurbishment for hundreds of thousands of years, and the buildings will have to be replaced every hundred years or so.

A Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) will be hundreds of metres underground, with multiple barriers of stable rock combined with expert



A Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) will be hundreds of metres underground, with multiple barriers of stable rock combined with expert engineering infrastructure.”

engineering infrastructure. The higher activity waste to be disposed of underground includes that which comes from the reprocessing of spent fuel used in nuclear reactors.

This is typically in liquid form but is made solid and stable using a process called vitrification.

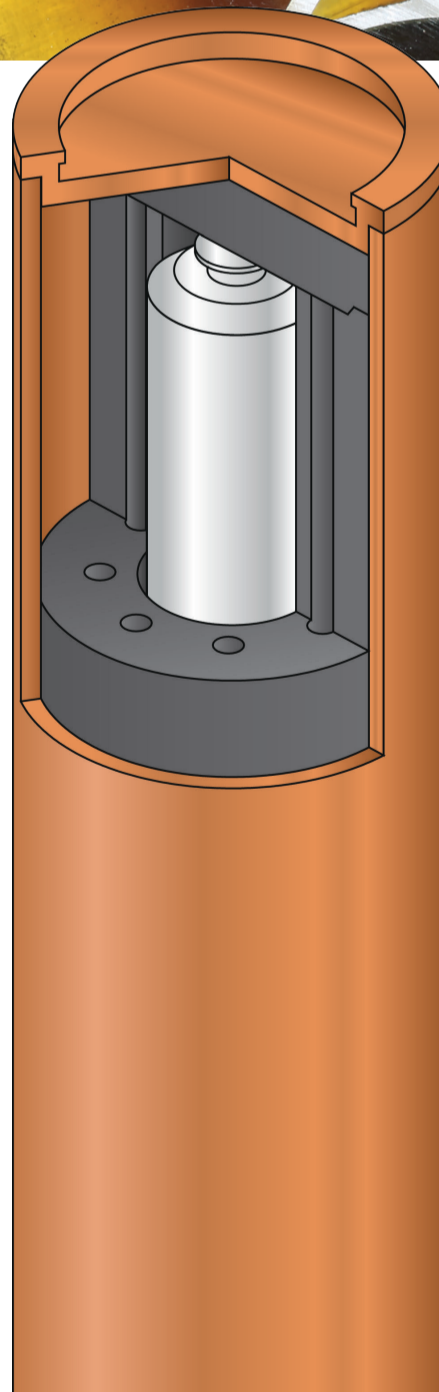
To make intermediate level waste safe to store, it is placed into stainless steel drums or boxes, usually after breaking it up to make it smaller and easier to package.

Most of these are 500-litre drums, made of stainless steel. These containers are then filled with cement.

The GDF developer assessing potential sites estimates more than 770,000 cubic metres of higher activity waste and nuclear material could be sent to a GDF.

Around 15% of the UK's electricity supply comes from nuclear power

Learn more by watching the videos on the GDF developer's dedicated YouTube channel. Simply search the site for 'Nuclear Waste Services'.



Regulating a Geological Disposal Facility

A GDF will have to meet strict environmental protection and safety and security standards which will be regulated by the Environment Agency (EA) and Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) respectively.

The independent regulators will work together to regulate a GDF, scrutinising all aspects of the project, including design, construction, operation and closure.

The UK Government has decided geological disposal is the best approach for higher activity radioactive waste – but only with community consent.

An environmental permit and a site licence for a GDF will be granted only if proposals meet the high standards of the regulators.

The ONR and EA are both committed to making their work around GDF open and transparent.

INDEPENDENT

Dr Candida Lean, a Nuclear Waste Assessor at the Environment Agency and lead for both the Mid and South Copeland GDF Community Partnerships, said: "We're independent regulators and, although we're not involved in decisions about the location of a GDF, we're getting involved in community engagement now."

"We want to encourage and enable people's input in to this process in west Cumbria."

"Our formal regulation will start after a site, or sites, has been selected for site investigation."

"We've attended exhibitions organised by the Copeland GDF Working Group to talk to members of the community about how our work will help protect people and the environment."

"We are looking forward to further discussions at Community Partnership events during 2023."

Dr Peter Howden, ONR Principal Inspector, said: "We do not have a role in the site selection process for a GDF or a decision-making role in the process for identifying and selecting sites for investigation."

"However, during the site selection process, we will offer our support to local working groups and Community Partnerships and will talk to communities, local authorities and others to explain more about our regulatory role."

The regulators' latest joint annual scrutiny report, available online, provides more information.

If you have questions, email the Environment Agency at nuclear@environment-agency.gov.uk or the ONR at contact@onr.gov.uk

Learn more at [gov.uk/guidance/regulating-the-geological-disposal-of-radioactive-waste-environmental-protection#video](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/regulating-the-geological-disposal-of-radioactive-waste-environmental-protection#video) and read *Regulatory scrutiny and engagement for geological disposal: annual report 2021 to 2022* at bit.ly/GDFScrutiny





FINLAND FIRST COUNTRY TO START FINAL DISPOSAL OF SPENT FUEL



Setting an example for the whole world

NO COUNTRY has made more progress than Finland on the development of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) as a long-term, permanent solution for securely and safely disposing of higher activity radioactive waste.

Finnish nuclear waste management company Posiva Oy is the first in the world to be ready to start final disposal of spent nuclear fuel.

This will be carried out at Onkalo, on Olkiluoto Island, from 2025.

Juhani Vira, Corporate Adviser at Posiva, said: “We have been making systematic progress, step by step, for over three decades now.”

BENEFIT

A GDF requires community support and Finland has had very few issues with the acceptance of the project.

The developers have shared clear, consistent messages about the work they are doing, why a GDF is safe and why it will benefit the host community.

Mr Vira said there was a widely accepted acknowledgment that “you have to do something about it, don’t you?”.

Decades of research and carefully prepared plans have been refined by Posiva and are ready to be put into practice.

When the spent fuel is ready for final disposal in the GDF at Onkalo, only one-thousandth of its original radiation

Posiva Oy says that by the time of final disposal, the walls of the canisters that securely hold the packaged waste and the metres of rock underground are enough to stop any radiation being released.

will remain. Multi-level safety systems will be put into place to prevent emissions. Posiva Oy says that by the time of final disposal, the walls of the canisters that securely hold the packaged waste and the metres of rock underground are enough to stop any radiation being released.

About a third of the electricity consumed in Finland will eventually be produced at Olkiluoto.

Concentrating the energy production and the final disposal of spent nuclear fuel into a small area – a total of 170 hectares – minimises the environmental impact, Posiva says.

The Radiation and Nuclear Safety Authority of Finland has certified the work to prepare for the ground-breaking repository, in stable Finnish bedrock 430 metres below ground, in a project costing about €2.6 billion (£2.2 billion).

Learn more at posiva.fi/en/index.html



Pioneering: Posiva crews carry out excavation work at the Onkalo repository, above and top

FACT-FINDING VISIT TO FINNISH SITE

EXPERTS from GDF developer Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) have toured the Finnish site as part of a fact-finding mission.

Posiva's GDF in Finland is the world's first underground repository for disposing of spent nuclear waste.

Bruce Cairns, NWS's Chief Policy Advisor, was shown around the Onkalo facility. He said: “We have to take action to make sure this [waste] is managed responsibly. We have 70 years' worth of waste in the UK and it's not going anywhere unless we do something with it.”

Search Area boundary to change

THE Search Area for Mid Copeland will be changing its boundary due to Local Government Reorganisation, when the current electoral ward boundaries of Copeland Borough Council cease to exist from April 1, 2023.

Members of the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership have been discussing how the changes will influence the Partnership as the area takes part in the search for a suitable site for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

The *Implementing Geological Disposal – Working with Communities* government policy about long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste requires a Search Area to be defined using electoral ward boundaries, and that any changes to these boundaries should be reflected in the Search Area as it evolves over time.

The new wards will follow the same boundaries as the current county council divisions. This means the

Mid Copeland Search Area will cover the electoral division of Gosforth, which includes Seascale, Gosforth, Beckermets, Calderbridge, Haile, Thornhill, Nethertown and Braystones.

The parishes of Drigg & Carleton and Irton with Santon will sit outside the Mid Copeland Search Area in the Millom Without ward and will instead be in the South Copeland Search Area, which will be made up of the electoral divisions of Millom and Millom Without.

Areas within the Lake District National Park will continue to be excluded from consideration.

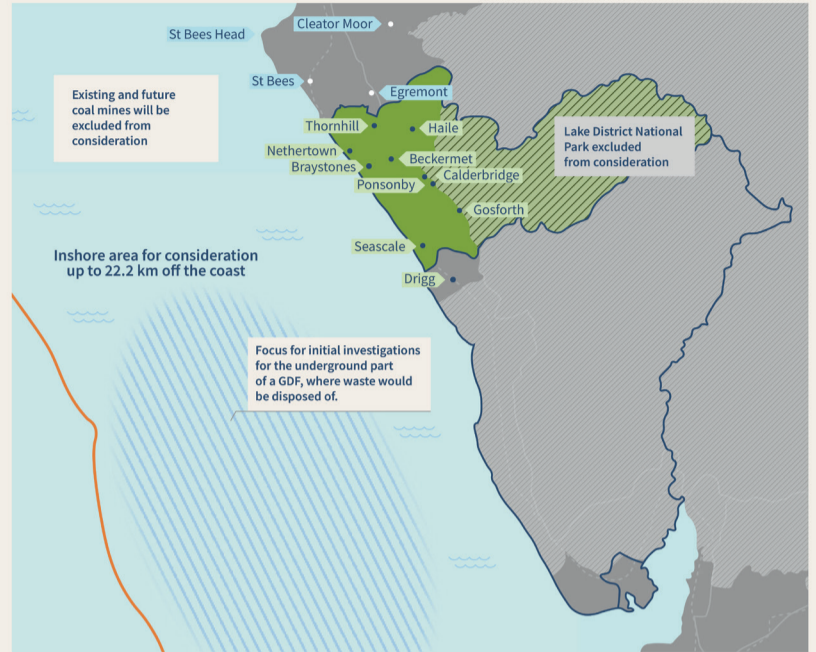
The Mid Copeland Community Partnership has offered a non-voting seat to Drigg & Carleton Parish Council to keep communication open and provide continuity. The Parish Council has been engaged in the process since the Partnership formed.

The full parish of Lowsides Quarter will be included in the Mid Copeland

Members of the Community Partnership have been discussing the impact of the change

Areas within the Lake District National Park will continue to be excluded from consideration

Mid Copeland Search Area Gosforth electoral ward



Illustrative map of Mid Copeland Search Area defined using new ward boundaries from April 2023

Onshore area for consideration
Excluded from consideration, retains funding
Inshore area for consideration
Inshore area boundary
Electoral ward boundary

Search Area. The Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership will review the arrangements after 12 months, on April 1, 2024.

Chair of the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership Andy Pratt said: “The Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership has been discussing the forthcoming boundary changes for some time and how that will affect the current search area in Mid Copeland.

“Cumberland will follow the same boundaries as the current county council

divisions and therefore the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership has made some changes to ensure we are compliant with policy, while also being mindful of our local community. “We will review this after 12 months.”

From April 1 2023, this quarterly newsletter will be delivered to people living in the Gosforth electoral ward.

HAVING YOUR SAY – PAGE 8

TRANSPORT Q&A



Following some questions from members of the public about GDF and transport, we asked GDF developer Nuclear Waste Services to provide a short Q&A

WHAT IS THE GDF DEVELOPER'S PLAN FOR TRANSPORTING NUCLEAR WASTE FROM SELLAFIELD TO THE SEARCH AREAS TAKING PART IN THE PROCESS?

In support of site evaluation, Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) will identify an appropriate transport strategy, working with Nuclear Transport Solutions (NTS) as the strategic advisor for the transportation of radioactive waste from Sellafield in a safe and secure manner.

NWS will seek to work with each

relevant Community Partnership to ensure they are appropriately informed with regards to the development of a transport strategy for their Search Area.

NWS studies over the next 12 months will consider feasibility aspects of the transport strategy.

Sellafield will be a key stakeholder wherever the GDF is sited as it hosts the majority of the radioactive waste to be disposed of in a GDF.

As such, NWS, NTS and Sellafield

would need to ensure stakeholders are appropriately engaged.

WOULD THE CUMBRIAN COAST LINE NEED A RAIL UPGRADE IF A GDF WAS BUILT IN COPELAND?

The Cumbrian Coast Line is a vital piece of infrastructure for the GDF project, as well as for the wider NDA estate.

Whether the GDF is sited in Copeland or elsewhere, the rail line will play a key role for the GDF, either in the export of radioactive waste from Sellafield and/or in supporting construction of the GDF and the import of radioactive wastes located elsewhere in the country.

NWS knows capacity is a potential issue on the Cumbrian Coast Line and is working with NTS as strategic advisors and Network Rail on a Government-sponsored Outline Business Case to look at rail improvements as an enabler for major projects in the area.

NWS will continue to work with Network Rail and NTS to support efforts to safeguard the future of the line.

If the GDF was constructed within Copeland, it is estimated that there would be up to approximately five to seven trains per day to support construction activities.

Once constructed, NWS currently estimates that the export of waste from Sellafield would amount to a maximum

of five trains of radioactive waste being consigned per week, which is a similar volume to nuclear rail services at present.

IF A GDF WAS BUILT OUTSIDE OF MID COPELAND, WHAT WOULD THE REQUIREMENTS BE?

If constructed elsewhere, NWS currently estimates that the export of waste from Sellafield would amount to a maximum of five trains of radioactive waste being consigned per week.

IF MORE NUCLEAR WASTE NEEDS TRANSPORTED BY RAIL FROM SELLAFIELD, WOULD THIS HAVE ANY EFFECT ON PASSENGER SERVICES?

Any potential rail movements required for a GDF – including radioactive waste, construction or personnel – would likely be allocated different timetable slots to the existing passenger services.

There is the potential for capacity to be improved and this is currently being considered by Network Rail on a Government-sponsored Outline Business Case.

It is highly unlikely existing passenger rail provisions would be adversely impacted by rail movements for a GDF.

If rail infrastructure improvements are required for a GDF, this may even benefit the existing passenger services.

Visit nucleartransportsolutions.com



£1m awarded

Awards: For Seascale Tennis Club, Wasdale Mountain Rescue, below, and the Gosforth Nursery and Out of School Club, bottom

MID COPELAND GDF Community Partnership awarded £1 million in Community Investment Funding to local projects in 2022 – its first year.

A total of 28 awards were issued to projects, including £49,114 for Gosforth Nursery and Out of School Club, £75,497 to Wasdale Mountain Rescue Team and £7,541 to Seascale Tennis Club.

Funding has now started to be awarded from the £1 million allocation for year two, as Mid Copeland continues to participate in the siting process for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

Community Partnership Chair Andy Pratt is urging groups and organisations to come forward, think ‘outside the box’ and bring ideas that will make a difference to the lives of local people.

He said: “We’re really interested to know what inspirational ideas people have which they would like to see funded in this area.

“What projects would they like to see come to reality which would be sustainable and offer long-term benefits?

“Come and talk to us, let us know and, don’t forget, if you’ve already applied and successfully been awarded funding, you can still apply again. The team is here to help and advise you.”

Community Investment Funding is open to applications from community groups, public sector

organisations and businesses that want to do something to benefit the community.

HOW THE FUNDING CAN BE USED

The grants can be used to fund projects, schemes or initiatives benefiting the Search Area that:

- **Provide economic opportunities.** For example, employment opportunities, job creation, skills development, education or training, promotion of local enterprise, long-term economic development or economic diversification.

- **Enhance the natural and built environment.**

This includes cultural and natural heritage, especially where economic benefits, for example, through tourism, can be demonstrated.

- **Improve community wellbeing.**

For example, improvements to community facilities, enhancement of the quality of life or health and wellbeing of the community.

Many of the projects that were allocated funding in the first year of the Community

Partnership have now used that money to make improvements and provide new community facilities.

For further information and details on how to apply, visit midcopeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk/community-investment-funding

A total of 28 awards were issued to projects in the Search Area



MID COPELAND PROJECTS AWARDED GDF FUNDING IN YEAR ONE:

- £47,801 for a revamp of the BMX Pump Track at Seascale

- £9,576 to the Beckermeth Reading and Recreation Rooms to develop refurbishment plans

- £8,122 for an electronic scoreboard for Seascale Cricket Club

- £84,838 to revamp Beckermeth Play Area with new equipment

- £20,845 for Thornhill Social Club to improve access and provide a refurbishment plan

- £49,114 for Gosforth Nursery and Out of School Club to provide an outdoor classroom, new equipment, resurfacing and fencing

- £42,397 to Friends of Gosforth School to replace the Adventure Trail, provide new outdoor seating and an outdoor reflection area

- £1,590 for Calderbridge and Ponsonby Village Hall to provide a structural survey and energy audit

- £5,900 to Gosforth Agricultural Show for hire of an arts and crafts marquee, plus purchase of tables and chairs which can be used by the community

- £8,000 to Gosforth Library Link for a new computer and some building refurbishment

- £5,370 for Seascale Community Library to fund an architect’s report into options to transform it into a community hub

- £75,497 for Wasdale Mountain Rescue Team, to provide a new vehicle and casualty care equipment

- £3,483 to Gosforth Indoor Bowling for new bowling mats

- £2,300 for Westlakes U3A to update its IT equipment

- £9,500 to Gosforth Amateur Dramatic Society for a new PA system

- £7,541 for Seascale Tennis Club, to provide storage and equipment

- £9,983 to West Cumbria Rivers Trust for project development activities

- £2,013 for Drigg Local History Group for a laptop and software

- £159,330 for iCan Health and Fitness Community Interest Company to provide a three-year project to deliver Wheels of Wellness and Happy Healthy Neighbours

- £194,154 for the first phase of Beckermeth Reading Rooms’ refurbishment, including replacing the roof, insulation and heating system

- £54,980 to Cumbria Community Foundation’s Winter Warmth Fund for grant support to people aged 60 or older in Mid Copeland, to help pay

for fuel, warm clothes, blankets, transport to doctors’ appointments or additional food

- £9,934 for West Lakes U3A towards a two-year programme of activities including talks and trips

- £4,380 towards Calderbridge & Ponsonby Village Hall improvements

- £4,300 to West Lakeland Rotary Club for improved footpath accessibility near the River Irt, Holmrook, including replacing stiles with gates

- £91,147 to Shackles Off to enable initial development activities to provide a new build youth centre and meeting rooms

- £72,837 to Gosforth Parish Council to provide a community outdoor gym for children and adults

- A total of £15,065 to Drigg & Carleton Parish Council to fund two IT projects.

GDF insight from survey

Residents share their opinions about project



MANY thanks to the residents of Mid Copeland who took part in our survey about local awareness of the Community Partnership and geological disposal.

A sample of 150 people living in the Search Area electoral wards of Gosforth & Seascale and Beckermest were asked questions between August and October of last year.

More than half of respondents (62%) said they would support the construction of a GDF in the Mid Copeland Search Area, with a quarter (23%) opposed.

Some 79% of those surveyed were able to recall seeing, reading or hearing something about radioactive waste or geological disposal in the past year. Of those, two in three people (66%) had done something in response, such as spoken to family or friends.

A total of 64% of respondents were aware that a Community Partnership had formed in November 2021 and 80% said they were aware a Search Area had been identified within Mid Copeland for further investigation of its suitability for a GDF.

Of those surveyed, 67% of residents were aware of how the UK's radioactive waste is stored, while 18% said they did not know.

Overall, 60% identified the accurate description of a GDF, while 28% said they had heard of the term 'GDF' but did not know what this was.

Two-thirds (65%) of respondents supported the national policy to construct a GDF in a willing community, while 16% were opposed to this plan.

The support for a GDF within Mid Copeland was higher than average among those people who have a direct connection with the nuclear industry.

Respondents wanted more information relating to

80% were aware a Search Area had been identified within Mid Copeland

safety (40%) and the potential impact on jobs and the local economy (36%). A quarter of people surveyed (26%) wanted more information related to human health, while 24% said they would like general information about the approach and geological disposal.

Almost half of respondents (45%) wanted more information through the post, such as leaflets and newsletters, while 38% said they would like more information online and 35% wanted more information via Facebook. Some 28% said they wanted to attend in-person meetings and events.

Andy Pratt, Chair of the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership said: "This gives us an initial insight into how people are thinking, whether they have found the information provided so far useful, what further information they may require on which subjects going forward, and it allows us plan accordingly."

For more information and survey results, visit midcopeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk



Andy Pratt

Having your say

The Chair of Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership is Andy Pratt, of Holmrook.

He runs a milk delivery business and is the Councillor for the Gosforth & Seascale ward on Copeland Borough Council.

Andy, also a Drigg parish councillor, is passionate about the local area and feels it is important to take part in the process to see whether Mid Copeland is the right place to house a GDF.

FACTS

He said: "The Community Partnership aims to be reflective of the community and we welcome people with all views. All we ask is that people are supportive of taking part in the conversation.

"Membership so far includes parish councillors, people we've recruited to lead in areas of youth, business and farming, plus the GDF developer and local authority.

"The Community Partnership's role includes finding out facts and relevant information local people want and presenting it accurately and accessibly to allow people to be more informed.

"This is for local people to decide as the programme requires both a suitable site and willing community, so a decision to develop a GDF could not be taken until the people in the electoral wards directly affected have had a say and taken a positive Test of Public Support."

Learn more at midcopeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk or email gdfinfo-midcopeland@nda.gov.uk

CHAMPION FOR LOCAL YOUTH JOINS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

DEBORAH Naylor, Area Operations Manager for Inspira in West Cumbria, has joined the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership.

Inspira is a Cumbrian-based charity specialising in providing personal careers guidance and development opportunities for young people and adults throughout the county.

Deborah has more than 30 years' experience in this sector and is passionate about working with young people to ensure they are aware of the education, employment and training opportunities available to them, and that they receive the support needed to make informed decisions about their futures.

Deborah, who has lived in

Cumbria all her life, uses her spare time to serve as a governor at a local secondary school and is a Trustee of a youth project in Copeland.

She will be the Youth Lead and will be developing a youth engagement strategy for the Community Partnership.

DEBATE

She said: "I'm excited to have joined the Community Partnership to lead on engaging young people in the discussion around GDF.

"It's vital that children and young people are involved in the debate, as the decisions made will impact on the community, environment and economy for generations to come."



Deborah Naylor

Join the GDF conversation



@Copeland_WG

WIPCopeland

www.midcopeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk

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