

**Vision ideas**

Your views are important to us  
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**Safety first**

GDF provides a multiple-barrier approach to safety  
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**Out and about**

We speak to hundreds at engagement events  
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**Mid Copeland  
GDF Community  
Partnership**

MID COPELAND



# News

Issue 7: Winter 2025

Supporting community engagement about a Geological Disposal Facility



## Little Otters are thriving!

Funding boost for toddler group – see Page 7



# Community Partnership seeks views of young people in GDF conversation

**MID COPELAND** Community Partnership wants to set up a youth group as part of its work with Nuclear Waste Services' Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) programme.

If you're between the ages of 16 and 25, live in Gosforth electoral ward and are interested in the future of the area and what a GDF could mean locally, then this opportunity is for you.

Come to a free event on February 18 at Muncaster Castle, where you can enjoy a unique team-building experience followed by lunch and discussion about GDF and the Partnership.

The Partnership has been engaging with people over the past few years to see whether a GDF could be right for the local area.



This is a chance for young people to have their say

It would now like to set up a youth group, developing its youth work so far, to feed further views and feedback to the ongoing conversation.

This will also allow young people to gain extra skills, including teamworking, and

enhance their knowledge. Priority will be given to those who are living in Gosforth electoral ward – which is the GDF Search Area – and includes the Seascale, Gosforth, Beckermest, Calderbridge, Haile, Thornhill,

Nethertown, Braystones and Wasdale areas. The event is being supported by Inspira, which provides career guidance, skills development and employment support to young people and adults in Cumbria, and is also a member of the Partnership. Andy Pratt, Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership Chair, said: "We want to build on the strong work we have already established in the area working with young people through our development of shaping a community vision. "Creating a youth group to meet with the Partnership will take the youth voice to the next level in discussing

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Funding for Community Investment projects is close to hitting the £1million mark Pages 7-8



# Young Farmers' future vision

**THANKS** to everyone who has contributed to the work so far on developing a Community Vision in Mid Copeland as part of the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) programme – your ideas and feedback have been invaluable.

We've produced a leaflet we're using at our engagements and events which provides a summary of the work to date on the vision, which will continue to evolve over time and with plenty of opportunities to feed in.

Significant additional investment will be made available in a community that hosts a GDF. This investment will be shaped by a local community vision and could include, for example, local education and skills capacity, transport infrastructure or recreational facilities.

Drigg Young Farmers have been discussing their aspirations and views for their local area as part of some joint sessions with Mid Copeland and South Copeland Community Partnerships.

These engagements continue to provide valuable insights for the Partnership, which inform our approach to community development and partnership working.

Splitting into groups, members talked about culture and heritage, technology and innovation in agriculture, mental health and life balance, plus transport links.

They then went on to have some fun making mocktails – using British produce!

Here's a snapshot of the points which arose out of discussions and things they felt would help them and the local area.

## CULTURE AND HERITAGE

The group would like to see:

- Promotion of farming culture
- Promotion of the 'Farm Sunday' programme
- Keeping young people involved at shows, such as Young Handlers



Drigg Young Farmers

- Keeping traditions, e.g. dry stone walling, hedge laying
- Country shows
- Open farm access
- Training courses for younger folk in forestry, dry stone walling
- Traditions passed on to younger generations
- Education of farm to fork initiative.

## TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE

- Need for more affordable and cheaper machinery with technology
- Training/education closer to home
- Better GPS training and availability
- More accurate yield monitoring for more accurate fertiliser application
- Better phone signal/internet in rural areas to access new technology
- More local job opportunities connected with agriculture
- Drones for checking livestock
- Lowering carbon emissions through use of cameras to check lambing/calving stock.

## MENTAL HEALTH AND LIFE BALANCE

They feel:

- No work-life balance
- Overworked, underpaid
- Under-valued
- No time to spend with friends
- Going to the auction is a day off
- The weather influences a bad crop for winter feeding and ruins animals' health
- Not enough acknowledgment about farming from members of the community
- Feeling of isolation due to lack of local transport.

## TRANSPORT LINKS

Would like to see:

- Clearer, better maintained and more foot and cycle paths
- Fewer potholes
- Wider roads
- Less wait for tractor and car tests
- More reliable trains and better joined-up timetable
- Village transport links
- Infrastructure improved
- Transport for post-16 years education to help open up career choices.



Young people are an important part of the GDF conversation

In summary, the Young Farmers group and local agricultural shows were seen as a good help locally for keeping in touch with each other and they would also welcome more social opportunities. In addition, they would like to see:

- A well-maintained rail service
- More cycle and footpaths
- A595 dual carriageway
- Clearer signed footpaths
- Hedges cut back so more room on the roads/cycleways
- A system to link to larger towns
- Mini microbus to help get around the narrow roads.

## Developing a Community Vision for Mid Copeland



Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership

### Continued from Page 1

and debating what they think a GDF could mean for them and their area, while feeding that into our programme of activities going forward."

Transport to this initial event at Muncaster Castle will be provided for those who require this.

If you would like to take part, please scan the QR code on the left and



complete the form by January 31.

A GDF is an underground facility designed to safely and securely dispose of the most hazardous radioactive waste.

Deep geology beyond the coast is being considered for siting the underground elements of a GDF in Mid Copeland. This means a surface facility on, or near, the coast would provide access to a disposal area deep in rock beyond the coast.

The GDF programme requires both a suitable site and a willing community and is still in the early stages.

Construction will start on a GDF only when a suitable site is identified, a Potential Host Community has confirmed its willingness to host the facility through a Test of Public Support, and all the necessary consents and permits have been obtained. These steps could take around 15 years.



# A word from our Chair

**WELCOME** to our latest newsletter as the Community Partnership marks the end of its fourth year. Earlier in the year, I was elected to continue to be the Chair for another three years, as we progress in the GDF programme.

Your views really matter in this process, so keep us informed of any queries, questions and feedback. We will continue to update you about our work and, of course, that of GDF developer Nuclear Waste Services (NWS).

As this newsletter was being put together, we were delighted to be nearing the annual award of £1million in Community Investment Funding to benefit people in Mid Copeland. I'm confident that, as you read this, we will have hit the £1million mark.

That's £4million awarded in four years – and so much has been achieved with that funding.

We've seen community buildings and play areas transformed, new facilities and groups launched, health and wellbeing initiatives, plus lifesaving teams fully equipped to help local people – and that's just to name a few! There's been more than 100 awards.

We held a 'Meet the Funders' event in Beckermeth to mark the start of funding for year five. It was a chance for people to come along and talk about potential community projects and see how other organisations have successfully applied for and been awarded grants. We also had representatives from other local funders there, which was a real benefit for people.

If your organisation has ideas and aspirations for enhancing the local area, please take a look at our website and get in touch. You'll find plenty of information there to help and details of how to get in touch with the team for an informal chat. You can read later in this newsletter about the projects which have been funded to date this year.

Our work developing a Community Vision has been an interesting journey so far. We've been exploring what



Andy Pratt, Chair, Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership

local people would like to see further down the line if this area was to progress in the GDF process.

We've been thinking big – about what opportunities the significant additional government funding could provide – while also thinking small – what are the things people love and want to enhance, or want to preserve and leave as they are?

We've had lots of feedback from youth groups, public events and in ongoing community conversations. The Partnership produced a leaflet as a first summary of the start of this work, which you can find on our website. It highlights the need for better transport links and infrastructure, easier to reach health and wellbeing services, and more local education and employment.

This vision work will evolve over time to reflect people's aspirations and priorities, as they may change. The work so far and findings also align with many of Cumberland Council's strategic priorities in the future.

In addition to our ongoing engagement throughout the year, we also have an annual residents' survey, carried out independently, which provides insight into feedback from the community about GDF, the nuclear industry and the Community Partnership. Take a look on this page for more information.

More news about the Partnership is on our website: [www.midcopeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk](http://www.midcopeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk)

As the festive period approaches, I wish you all best wishes.

**Andy Pratt**  
Chair, Mid Copeland  
GDF Community Partnership

## Mid Copeland Community Partnership resident research 2025

**THANK YOU** to residents in the Mid Copeland area who took part in our annual survey.

Between July and August 2025, a sample of 338 residents (age 16+) living in the Mid Copeland Search Area (electoral ward of Gosforth) were asked about their awareness of the Community Partnership, geological disposal and Nuclear Waste Services.

Telephone interviewing was conducted by independent research consultant Yonder, while the face-to-face interviewing (which delivered the majority of interviews) was conducted by Red Research, an independent research agency based in Cumbria.

### Summary

More than half of the participants (54%) would support the potential construction of a GDF in the Mid Copeland Search Area, while 13% would be opposed. This compares with 53% and 12% respectively in last year's survey. 33% were neutral or undecided (35% last year).

The net support for the construction of a GDF in the Mid Copeland Search Area stood at +41 from this survey, the same figure as the previous two years. Net support is the percentage of residents surveyed that supported the proposal, minus the number that opposed it (excluding those undecided).

A total of 71% of respondents stated they could recall seeing, reading or hearing something about nuclear waste or a GDF over the past year (compared with 61% in 2024). Of those, 33% attributed this to a leaflet, newsletter, or something posted through the door (compared with 31% last year).

When asked about potential advantages of a local GDF, 52% of respondents said increased job opportunities, while 23% said improved safety of existing nuclear waste and 23% said to take responsibility of a national problem. The most common perceived disadvantages related to disruption – 40% said potential disruption and dirt produced by construction; 24% said increased traffic or congestion.

**A complete version of this article is on our website: [www.midcopeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk/news-and-updates](http://www.midcopeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk/news-and-updates)**



Mid Copeland Community Partnership awarded more than £500,000 in GDF Community Investment Funding towards a new youth and community centre for Shackles Off in Seascale. The Shackles Off team recently showed progress at the site to the Partnership, NWS, MP Josh MacAlister, plus other funders and supporters

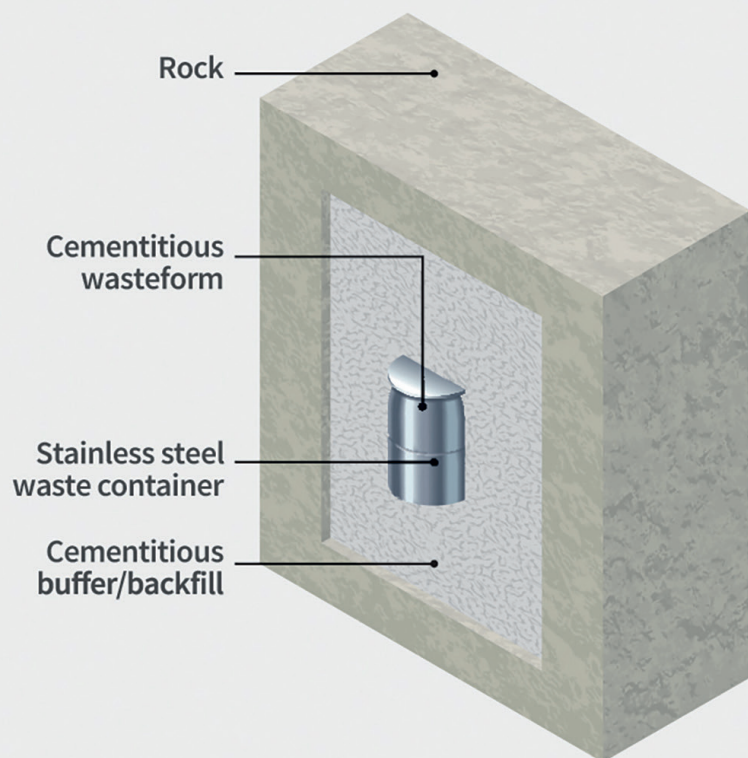
## Partnership meetings in public 2026

Meetings next year will take place on the following dates:

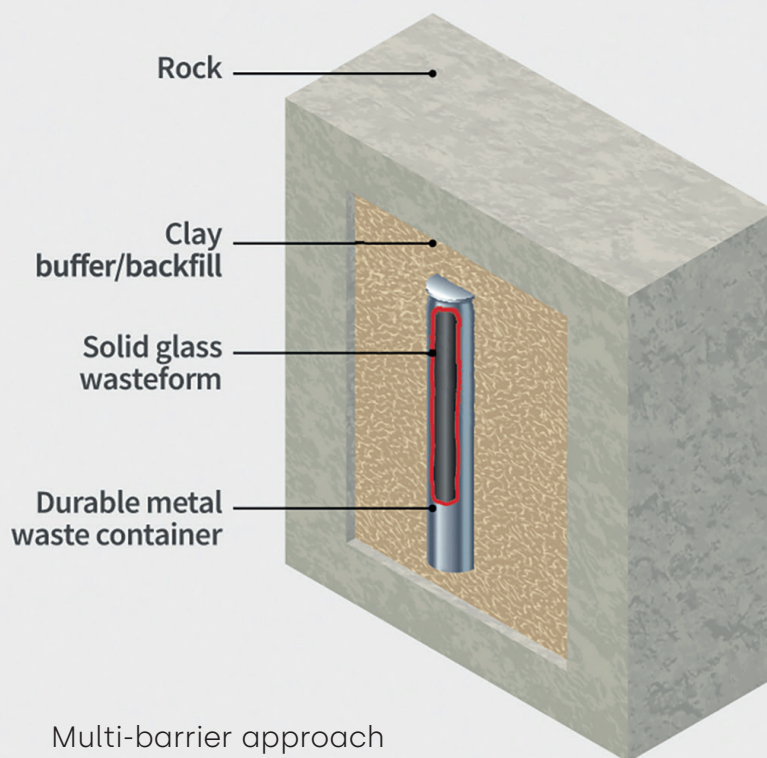
- **Monday, March 2**  
Beckermeth Reading Rooms, 1-3pm.
- **Monday, June 8**  
Calderbridge and Ponsonby Village Hall, 1-3pm.
- **Monday, September 7**  
Beckermeth Reading Rooms, 1-3pm.
- **Monday, December 7**  
To be confirmed.



### Intermediate Level Waste



### High Level Waste



Multi-barrier approach isolates and contains waste

# Long-term safety of most hazardous waste



**BY** Professor Lucy Bailey, Chief of Disposal Safety at Nuclear Waste Services

#### WHY A GDF IS THE SAFEST SOLUTION

The purpose of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) is to make the most hazardous radioactive waste permanently safe, sooner, removing the burden on future generations. Without it, for thousands of years, our descendants would have to carry the risk and pay for the costly enduring surface storage.

GDFs use engineered barriers to work alongside the natural barrier of deep, stable rock hundreds of metres below the surface. This multi-barrier approach isolates and contains waste to prevent radiation from ever reaching the surface

environment at levels that could do harm.

A GDF will be a passively safe facility, meaning that it will remain safe, for hundreds of thousands of years, without needing any human interaction, without the need for any inspections, any maintenance, or any repairs.

#### MULTIPLE BARRIER APPROACH

The geological barrier will provide the isolation, meaning it will keep the radioactivity away from people and the environment for very long timescales. Geological timeframes span millions of years and, in the right geology, deep underground, we can be confident of a home for our waste that will be stable for the long time needed.

The waste itself is processed, conditioned and packaged in solid form and put in suitable containers. These containers are placed underground in the tunnels and vaults within the GDF. The containers are surrounded with a buffer or backfill material (such as clay or cement) to protect the containers.

The tunnels, vaults and all GDF accessways are then backfilled and sealed to secure the GDF. We refer to these as our "engineered barriers" and they will be specifically designed for both the wastes and geological environment.

This provides us with a multiple barrier system to isolate and contain the waste. We are not relying on any single barrier and even if something unexpected affects one barrier,

the others will still contain the radioactivity long enough for it to decay to levels that won't cause harm.

#### IMPLICATIONS FOR THE VERY LONG-TERM FUTURE

To understand what could potentially affect safety and when, we can look at the future evolution of a GDF as a series of different phases with different conditions.

In the years immediately after the GDF is closed and sealed, the high heat-generating waste in the vaults will be at its hottest. There will be some short-lived changes in this period as the facility and its environment settle. We need to take this into account with the design of our containers and the GDF.

After the short-lived changes of those early years, we expect about a thousand years of stable conditions. In the very distant future, over hundreds of thousands of years, glaciation or tectonic activity could significantly change the landscape. Our multi-barrier approach takes all of these scenarios and changes into account, ensuring long-term safety.

#### USING DATA AND CASE STUDIES TO EVIDENCE SAFETY

Our work to support the development of a safety case for the GDF involves assessing all available data and commissioning the investigations needed to gain understanding of all processes relevant to the safety of a GDF. A synthesis of all this information will be required to secure the necessary regulatory permissions to build a GDF and will be key in the development of a GDF design and safety case.

We also have to identify future scenarios that could impact the safety and security of a GDF. We look to cover everything from worst credible case scenarios to what-if scenarios.

#### LONG-TERM SCENARIO PLANNING

In any worst credible case scenario, we take an event or uncertainty and ask, what is the worst possible moment that this could occur, or the worst way in which something could happen? For example, what if people inadvertently drilled into the GDF as soon as the site was no longer being managed, when the level of radioactivity inside was still



high? Preventing this scenario is one reason we're planning to build the GDF so deep underground. A what-if scenario is something we really don't expect to happen but that we consider anyway, as a way to challenge the robustness of our design. For example, we don't think any of our waste canisters would ever totally fail – but our Safety Case shows that if one did and radioactive material escaped from its container, the other engineered barriers and the surrounding geology would still prevent that material from endangering anyone on the surface, maintaining the right level of safety.

In 1999, the Nuclear Energy Agency created an international database of all the Features, Events and Processes (FEPs) that had been identified and considered by radioactive waste disposal scientists across the world. Since then, the database has been updated many times, but no significant new FEPs have been identified – so we're confident we're considering all the right things.

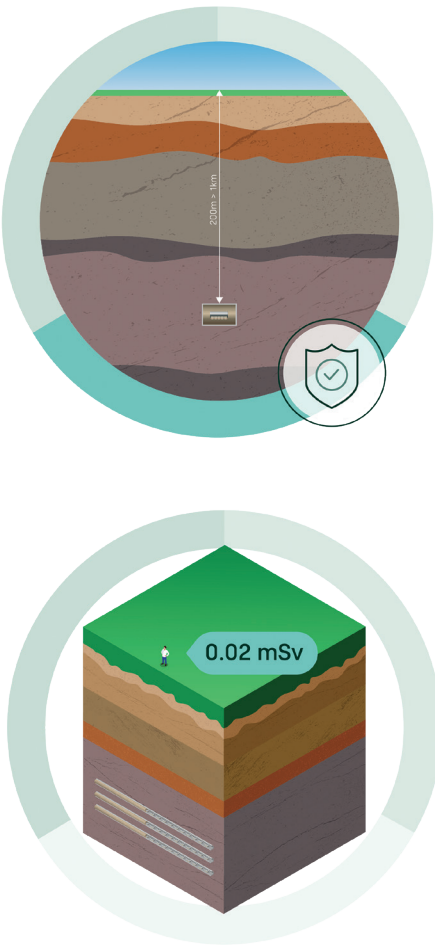
WHAT'S THE RIGHT LEVEL OF SAFETY?

For a GDF, our independent regulators define safety in terms of the dose of radioactivity someone would experience on the surface, measured in milliSieverts.

Each year, every one of us in the UK is exposed to a natural dose of about 2.7 milliSieverts, just from the natural background levels of radiation in our environment. The regulators will judge a GDF to be safe only if our Safety Case can show them that the additional dose on the surface would be 0.02 milliSieverts a year or less. That's less than one percent of the natural background radiation level.

If we can't show that a GDF will be this safe or safer, it won't happen. This means being confident in the safety ourselves, convincing our peer reviewers, including international peers, our community and other external stakeholders and, ultimately, satisfying the rigorous scrutiny of our regulators that a GDF is, and will always remain, safe.

**Professor Lucy Bailey is also a member of the Canadian Safety Assessment Review Group and chaired the Nuclear Energy Agency's Integration Group for the Safety Case from 2015 to 2022. She has participated in expert missions for the International Atomic Energy Authority and provided independent peer reviews of a number of other countries' GDF safety cases.**



What are the benefits of hosting a Geological Disposal Facility?

A GDF is one of the UK's largest infrastructure and environmental protection projects, so people naturally want to understand what would be the benefits locally? What could it mean for their children, their grandchildren and generations to come?

Here, **Richard Griffin, NWS' Interim Chief Policy Advisor**, explains the potential benefits for a community hosting a GDF:

"In a nutshell, a GDF will bring thousands of jobs, new skills and training, long-term investment and improved local infrastructure. There's also additional community funding and many other associated economic opportunities such as generating further indirect jobs and driving growth.



Job creation and skills

The long-term nature of this multi-billion-pound programme provides a unique opportunity to develop skills, expertise and sustainable jobs for a local community.

We estimate that more than 4,000 jobs will be created in the first 25 years of the project during the siting and construction phases. And work on a GDF will carry on for about 175 years, generating an expected average of 2,000 jobs in any given year.

Most of the jobs created during construction and operation could, and should, be locally based – that's really important for a community. The long timeframe means that education and training initiatives can be established to ensure local people have the best opportunities to develop relevant skills and qualifications.

This programme will provide a unique opportunity to recruit, upskill and reskill people in local communities, transforming the prospects of a region for generations. Once a site is selected, the sorts of roles which would be available include engineering, science and technical, trades, operations and business functions.

All of this is likely to have a knock-on effect of creating a healthy supply chain, attracting further investment in the local area and increasing business opportunities.

Community Investment Funding

While communities take part in the search for a willing community and suitable site as part of the GDF process, the government makes available up to £1million per year for that Community Partnership Search Area. This funds projects which provide economic opportunities, enhance the natural and built environment, or improve community wellbeing.

So far, £9.95million has been awarded in Cumbria, helping to drive positive change.

Much of this has been spent with new facilities or services provided, including health and wellbeing services, play parks, revamped community buildings, life-saving equipment and local activities.

Community Investment Funding rises to up to £2.5million annually per year for communities where deep borehole investigations take place to assess the geological suitability of a site.

Significant Additional Investment

The community selected to host a GDF would also benefit from further government funding called Significant Additional Investment, potentially worth many millions.

This would be in addition to any mitigations required under land use planning consent, and the investment and jobs that a major infrastructure project of this kind would bring to an area. Significant Additional Investment would replace the Community Investment Funding for a community.

The Significant Additional Investment will be shaped by a local community vision, which is a piece of work Mid Copeland Community Partnership has started as part of the GDF programme. They're gathering views and ideas to see what's important to local people and to future generations.

The process of developing a community vision helps identify and articulate what communities would like to see, potentially enhancing existing local and regional strategies and plans. It'll be refined over time to make sure it continuously reflects the local view."

For full article, see the news section of our website: [www.midcopeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk](http://www.midcopeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk)



# NWS surveys wintering birds

**NUCLEAR** Waste Services (NWS) began aerial surveys in October 2023 to understand the presence and number of birds and marine animals off the coast.

These surveys have provided valuable information that supports understanding of the local environment and help to inform the permissions required for future investigations into the area's suitability for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

The final aerial survey took place in September 2025, after which NWS moved to ground-based wintering bird surveys to complement this data and gain a deeper understanding of bird movements along the coast between Sellafield and Haverigg.

These surveys will help identify potential environmental effects

and inform any mitigations to manage them. The findings will form a key part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), which is required to accompany applications for Developmental Consent Order (DCO) and Environmental Permit permissions.

These permissions are needed for the next stage of the siting process known as Site Characterisation, which will involve detailed investigations including deep boreholes to build a clearer understanding of the local geology – an essential step in determining if a GDF could be constructed.

## WHAT NWS HAS SEEN SO FAR

Covering almost 1,900 sq km, the aerial surveys have shown that coastal birds such as Dunlin, Oystercatcher and Wigeon are most numerous in the

winter months, while marine birds like Guillemot, Razorbill and Kittiwake peak in the summer. Harbour porpoise were also recorded in the survey area.

Charlotte Higgins, Senior Lead Environmental & Sustainability Assessment at NWS, said: "The aerial surveys have given us a valuable baseline of information about the species using this stretch of coast. By moving to shore-based observations, we can build on that knowledge and examine bird behaviour and responses in more detail."

The wintering bird surveys involve observers recording bird numbers and behaviour within the intertidal zone – the area between high and low tide – from fixed points along approximately 30km of the West Cumbria coastline.

**Read the full story on our website.**



Red-Throated Diver

## COASTAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- Most common: Dunlin, Oystercatcher and Wigeon.
- In smaller numbers: Shelduck, Redshank, Curlew and Knot.
- These species are most present during the winter months.

## MARINE HIGHLIGHTS:

- Most common: Auks such as Guillemot and Razorbill, along with Herring Gull and Kittiwake.
- Others spotted: Gannet and Red-Throated Diver, though in lower numbers.
- August showed the highest densities, especially in the west and central survey areas.

# What is Site Characterisation?

**SITE** Characterisation includes further investigative work, including drilling deep boreholes to understand more about the geology deep below the surface where a GDF could be built.

Surface-based assessments, such as seismic surveys, also allow NWS to build a more detailed picture of the area's geological characteristics. They will give the GDF developer the information needed to understand what to investigate next.

The information from Site Characterisation is essential to secure the necessary regulatory permissions to build a GDF and will be key in the development of a GDF design and safety case. NWS has created a short video to explain Site Characterisation. Watch it here: [youtu.be/32REV5lzzwY](https://youtu.be/32REV5lzzwY)

## WHY SITE CHARACTERISATION IS CRITICAL TO THE SITING PROCESS

Site Characterisation plays a key role in the journey to a GDF. It is the process by which NWS develops a detailed understanding of the geology and the associated environment relative to smaller Areas of Focus, which were identified earlier this year, to determine whether it is suitable to safely host a GDF.

NWS must make two key siting decisions as part of the GDF programme that require Secretary of State for Energy

Security and Net Zero approval. The first of these is a decision to identify a community or communities to progress to deep borehole investigations and the second will be to enable final site selection for the GDF.

Taking this first decision on identifying a community or communities to progress to deep borehole investigations represents a significant step for the overall GDF programme.

## WHAT PERMISSIONS ARE NEEDED FOR SITE CHARACTERISATION?

The drilling of deep boreholes requires a Development Consent Order, as well as Environmental Permits.

A Development Consent Order is the planning consent required to progress developments categorised as Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects, defined in the Planning Act 2008.

Environmental permits establish conditions which projects must meet in order to protect people and the environment. Permits are granted and regulated by the Environment Agency in England.

## HOW LONG DOES SITE CHARACTERISATION TAKE?

The Site Characterisation stage is a long period of time, it could take around 10 years, and it may result in NWS finding reasons why an area is not suitable and withdrawing from that community.

After the Site Characterisation work is completed, NWS will move to the next major phase of selecting a site and seeking approvals for the GDF itself. Before NWS can seek the regulatory approvals required for the GDF (including a new Development Consent Order and Environmental Permit, as well as a nuclear site licence), there must first have been a positive Test of Public Support in the Potential Host Community.







# Little Otters funding brings lots of fun for local families

**A NEW** toddler group, set up in Seascale using funding from the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) programme, is thriving.

Little Otters Baby and Toddler Group was awarded £4,189 by the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership through Nuclear Waste Services' GDF Community Investment Funding.

Up to £1million of funding is available annually per community, rising to up to £2.5million if deep borehole investigations take place in a community to assess the geological suitability of a site.

This grant enabled the group to be set up, including providing toys, crafting supplies, refreshments and kitchen equipment.

Heather Charalambous, Play Leader, said she was really proud of the new group, adding: "This group was really needed. It brings people together and gives the children a safe place to play and meet other children. It's a meeting place for parents and carers to get together and chat.

"Since we started the toddler group at the end of November 2024, it has been well attended. We get an average of 15 families coming each week and the children are really enjoying it. They love the amount of space we have and they

can run around freely in a safe environment. Many thanks to GDF for giving us the funding to allow Little Otters to be developed."

The group meets every Friday during term time at St Cuthbert's Church, Seascale, from 10 to 11.30am. Families from Whitehaven, Egremont, Beckermest, Cleator Moor and Corney Fell, as well as Gosforth and Seascale, attend.

Heather said: "Our session consists of several activities set out in different zones. We have larger climbing/jumping equipment at one side of the hall, then the ride-on toys in another section. We have a baby area, which is away from the ride-on toys for safety.

"We have another section where we have the toy kitchen, toy babies and dressing-up clothes. We also have small world toys like a dolls house, a toy car garage, train track, jigsaws and card/board games.

"We supply hot and cold drinks and biscuits for the parents. We serve these in travel mugs that we got from the GDF grant as it is safer than using cups. The children get a healthy snack."

Other activities include making crafts plus events such as trips, an Easter egg hunt and Christmas party. Heather is also looking to run a few sessions next year during the summer holidays.

## COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUNDING NEWS EXTRA...

- Construction of a new youth and community centre in Seascale is well under way. The Shackles Off Youth and Community Project is delighted to have been awarded more than £500,000 through Community Investment Funding over three years. See a photo on page 3 of the newsletter.
- Citizens Advice Copeland is running outreach sessions in Mid Copeland after being awarded £99,937. The project offers free, independent advice. For more information, contact Shelley Hewitson on 01946 693321 or see [citizensadvicecopeland.org.uk](https://citizensadvicecopeland.org.uk)

## Swing when you're winning

**SEASCALE** Golf Club is in full swing thanks to a £99,000 grant awarded by Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership through NWS Community Investment Funding.

The project has seen construction of six covered driving bays and a teaching room to improve practice facilities. This was important for the golf club in making the sport available to a wider community and focusing on teaching for juniors, ladies, new beginners, visitors and those of all abilities wishing to try, practice and play the game.

Adam Lamb, Seascale Golf Club Secretary, said: "Seascale Golf Club is proud to work with the GDF to bring our dream of many years to fruition. A facility like this will create an opportunity for the golfers of tomorrow to practice and grow their game without having the elements dampen their enthusiasm."



## Community Investment Funding – in year four, it's nearly £1million!

Funding totalling around £979,578 has been awarded by the Mid Copeland GDF Community Partnership through Nuclear Waste Services' GDF programme. Plus, a further funding panel was due to take place as this newsletter was being put together (news of those grants will be updated on the website):

**Seascale Golf Club:** £99,000 for construction of six covered driving bays and teaching room.

**Beckermest Reading Rooms CIC:** £120,499 for the venue's third phase of its refurbishment, to include redesigning and landscaping the front of the building, including creating a usable outdoor space, a second access and installing a disabled access lift.

**St Olaf's Wasdale Head Parish Church Management Committee:** £2,700 for tree surgery to improve the churchyard to enable work to begin on restoration of the church building.

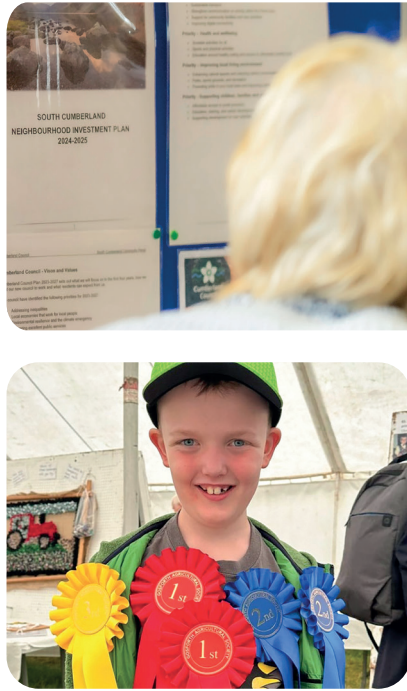
**PCC of St Cuthbert's, Seascale:** £4,189 towards start-up costs for a parent and toddler group in Seascale, to include toys, crafting supplies, refreshments and kitchen equipment.

**Gosforth Parish Council:** £986 for an extension to village shop fire recovery bus service.

**Seascale Parish Council:** £16,500 for free multi-sport activity camps for children in the Mid Copeland area, providing 30 days of activities for 20 children each day.

Continued on Page 8





# In the community

**SUMMER** shows, drop-ins and coffee mornings are just some of the events the Partnership's community engagement team and members attend.

Over the past year we have held or attended more than 90 events, speaking to more than 2,500 people about Nuclear Waste Services' GDF programme and the work of the Partnership.

This year we attended Gosforth Agricultural Show, Rotating Wheels and Wasdale Show, as well as coffee and chats, toddler groups, exercise classes and community groups.

The team provides information, can help to answer questions, arrange talks or presentations and listen to your views.

We also recently held a Meet the Funders event, in Beckermat, to talk about Community Investment Funding, alongside other funders including Cumberland Council, Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service (CVS); Action for Communities in Cumbria (ACT), Copeland Citizen's Advice and Nuclear Waste Services.

Gillian Johnston, Community Engagement Manager, said: "All of your feedback helps to shape our future engagement.

"We welcome views from everyone and will always try and answer any questions or concerns there and then, if not, we will always come back to you."

Please get in touch with the team: **GDFInfo-MidCopeland@nuclearwasteservices.uk**

## How to apply for Community Investment Funding

Funding is available to support projects in Mid Copeland that provide economic development opportunities, enhance the natural and built environment or improve community wellbeing.

For further details, visit our website at **midcopeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk**

Or get in touch by email at: **communityinvestment-midcopeland@nuclearwasteservices.uk**

## Community Investment Funding – in year four, it's nearly £1million!

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**Florence Arts:** £43,000 for creative wellbeing activities including weekly Make Space sessions and craft cafes. Includes activities to develop young people's talent with schools, families and outreach sessions at Beckermat Reading Rooms and Shackles Off.

**Beckermat Village Association:** £7,000 to purchase musical equipment, sound equipment, music stands, room hire, branded fleeces/t-shirts for Two Rivers Rock Choir.

**Growing Well:** £97,000 to support mental health programme access for 24 Mid Copeland people – plus 30 free crop share boxes weekly for people in need in Mid Copeland.

**Egremont Youth Partnership:** £44,665 to support a two-year continuation of a youth programme in Beckermat, extending to two sessions per week.

**Gosforth Agricultural Society:** £7,436 to support hire of handicraft and small business marquees, signage, rosettes, community planters.

**Copeland Citizens Advice:** £99,937 for a rural advice outreach project in Mid Copeland.

**Beckermat Reading Rooms:** £1,230 for promotion materials, notice board and production of community newsletter.

**SASRA:** £16,187 to replace aged gym equipment with modern machines for Seascale Community Fitness Facility.

**Little Lifers First Aid:** £2,535 to Flat Stan Paediatric First Aid delivering four life-saving skills first aid workshops to four primary schools – Beckermat, Seascale, Gosforth and Thornhill.

**Everywhere, Everything, Everyone CIC:** £30,000 for a project to stage a Light and Sound Festival in Seascale in December, to be created, organised and performed by local people.

**SASRA:** £2,000 for Sustaining GP Referral – training costs for two individuals to deliver a programme of fitness/rehabilitation through gym facilities for adults who need, for example, cardio rehabilitation, help with mobility issues.

**Lowside Quarter Parish Council:** £13,065 for seven life-saving community defibrillators for across the Nethertown, Braystones, Middletown and Coulderton areas.

**Drigg Young Farmers:** £8,500 for an exhibition trailer to promote the young farmers' movement at local events/for

use at competitions, providing a safe, sustainable shelter for outdoor use.

**Braystones Beach Committee:** £10,000 for a marine survey on measures to protect and maintain the access road at Braystones beach.

**Changing Lives Learning Trust (Thornhill School):** £48,948 to upgrade the early years playground, including nature and wellbeing zone; mud kitchens; reading corner and outdoor sensory equipment.

**Walk Wheel Cycle Trust:** £150,000 to fund a feasibility study to improve and extend the national cycle network in Mid Copeland.

**Wasdale Community Hall:** £10,000 for studies and surveys, including commissioning an architect to look at adapting/extending the building for community use.

**Gosforth Parish Council:** £27,681 to refurbish the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), which is in disrepair.

**Seascale Parish Council:** £116,519 for Coniston Play Area, phase one of a two-phase project to enhance the village playing field. Phase one is to regenerate the play area to make it accessible for all.