

Safety first

Why disposal deep underground is a safer solution for the long-term

Fact v myth

What is nuclear energy and waste, and why do we need a long-term solution?

FAQs

Answering your questions and concerns about a GDF proposal



Theddlethorpe
GDF Community Partnership

July 2022

**THEDDLETHORPE
& MABLETHORPE**

GDF

Voice

SUPPORTING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OVER THE PROPOSED GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL FACILITY



Let's talk about geological disposal

Community consent is at the very heart of the process

THE local community is being encouraged to come to meet and talk to the newly formed Theddlethorpe Community Partnership to help determine whether a Geological Disposal Facility, known as a GDF, is right for the Theddlethorpe and Mablethorpe area.

This larger forum has taken over from the Working Group and will be considering in more detail the possibilities of a local GDF site. It will be working to develop a vision for the future of the community and provide answers to people's questions.

At the heart of the process is community consent. A GDF

cannot be built unless the community is willing – and if there is a suitable site. Initial investigations and surveys will focus on an area deep below the seabed, up to 22 kilometres (12 nautical miles) from land.

WE'RE LISTENING

Last month, to mark the launch of the Theddlethorpe Community Partnership (CP), a special branded event bus toured the area, stopping in local villages so residents could meet geological experts and ask questions.

Jon Collins, the Chair of the Theddlethorpe CP, said: "We're

listening to what people have to say about GDF and, when we can, we're providing information about a wide range of topics, which I hope will address people's concerns and help people develop their own informed view of the proposal.

"This is the beginning of a dialogue that will probably take many years.

"We need to learn any early lessons from our initial meetings so that we can

Initial investigations and surveys will focus on an area deep below the seabed up to 22km away from land

continue to engage with people effectively."

Kate Atha, Community Engagement Manager for Theddlethorpe, wants to talk to as many people

in local communities as possible. She said: "Some people come prepared with questions already in mind, while others are just curious about the project and want to find out more. This is just the start of the conversation."

Years down the line, when

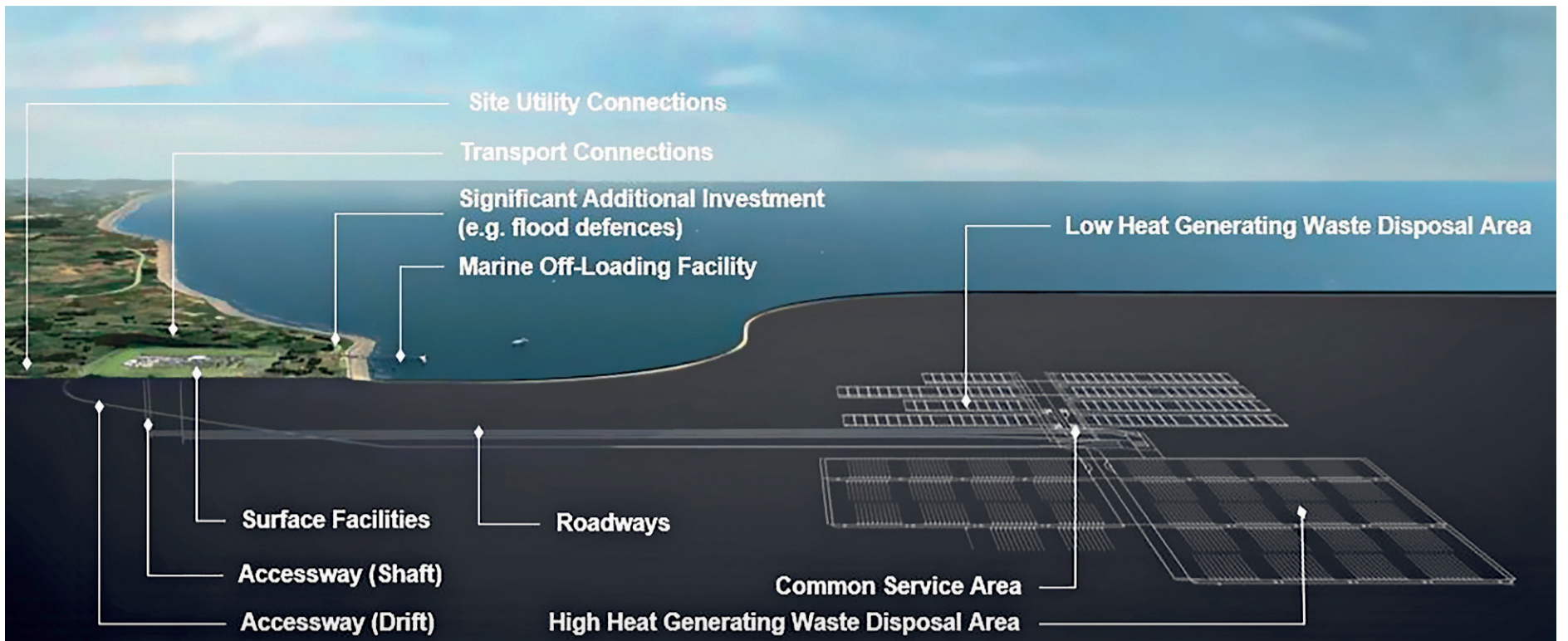
everyone has had plenty of time to get informed and make up their minds, there will be a 'test of public support'.

This will take the form of something such as a poll or referendum that lets every voter in the electoral wards around the proposed site have their say about a GDF.

Without their support, the project will not go ahead.

If you would like to talk to the CP or have any comments, concerns or questions, please get in touch. See the back page for details.

GIVING YOU A VOICE: FIND OUT HOW TO JOIN THE CONVERSATION ON PAGE 8



We're... 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.

A Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) 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 then permanently sealed. It will not need any maintenance, and the radioactivity will decay away naturally.

EARLY FOCUS: UNDER THE SEABED, AWAY FROM LAND
Discussions about the Theddlethorpe area have focused on a GDF deep in the 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.

The depths of rock above ensures protection for many thousands of years. And while a GDF could be built hundreds

of metres below the seabed, waste would not be disposed of on the seabed itself.

There are different challenges and considerations for the seabed than with a land-based GDF, such as avoiding disruption to marine environments during preliminary investigations and construction.

The developers would also need to liaise with stakeholders in the fishing and maritime sectors.

THE GEOLOGY IN THE THEDDLETHORPE AREA

The rock around Theddlethorpe, including the area deep under the seabed, is made up of a well-known and predictable sequence of sedimentary rocks at the right depth for a GDF.

Jonathan Turner, Chief Geologist at Nuclear Waste Services (NWS), the developer of any potential GDF, said: "For this area we could have a relatively uncomplicated 'layer cake' sequence of sedimentary rocks, with a number of clay-rich layers that have been identified by the BGS (British Geological Survey) as potential host rocks.

"Everything we know about this type of geology suggests that it extends uniformly for many kilometres.

"But it's important to say that we don't know anything like as much as we will need to know about the deep geology of Lincolnshire in order to understand whether it could be suitable for deep geological disposal."

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

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.

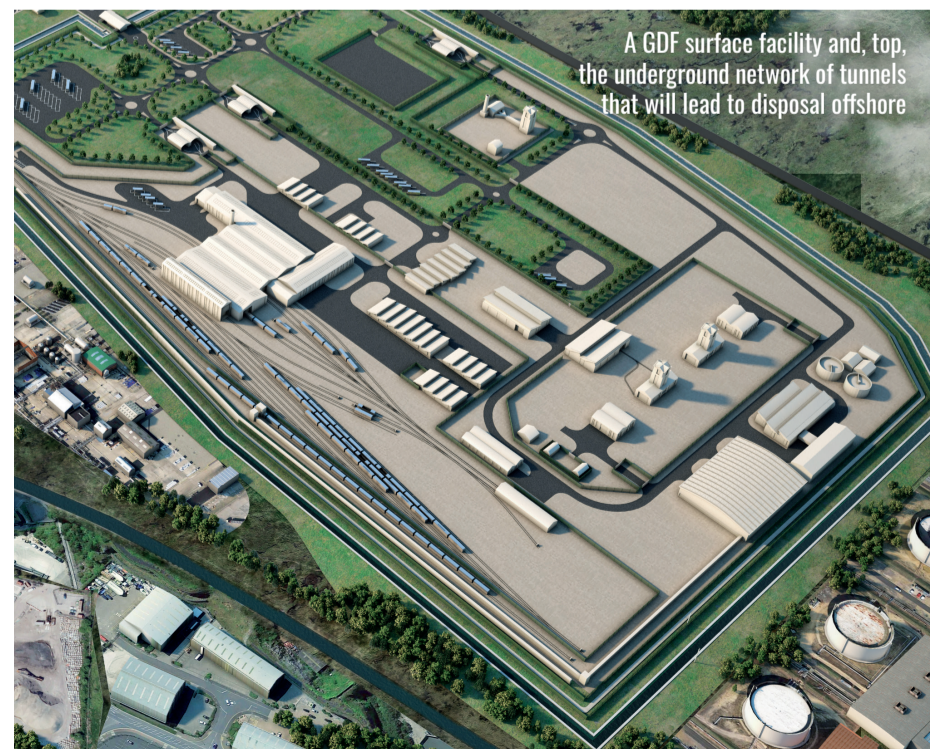
Independent regulators, including the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR)

Waste will be safely disposed of up to 1,000m underground

and the Environment Agency, will review the designs and safety cases for a GDF, the proposed site, and the science, to make sure people and the environment are protected – during operation and for the long-term after closure.

A GDF will be built only if the 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.

For more information, please visit www.theddlethorpe.workinginpartnership.org.uk/frequently-asked-questions



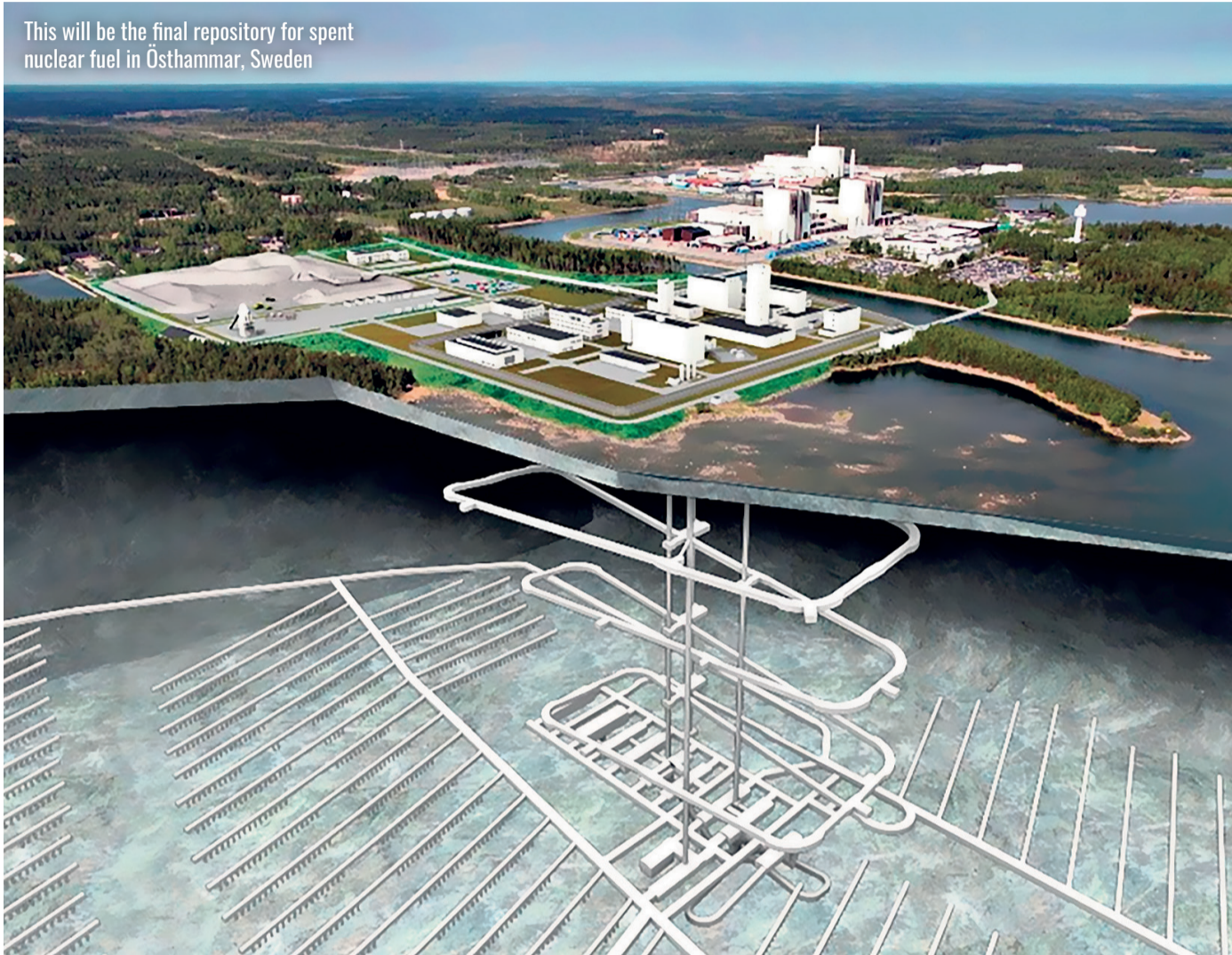


SWEDEN AMONG COUNTRIES MOVING AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR GDF

Global approach

Swedish site will bring £1.5bn investment and 1,500 jobs

This will be the final repository for spent nuclear fuel in Östhammar, Sweden



MANY countries worldwide are pressing ahead with plans to develop a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

They include France, Switzerland, Sweden, Finland, Japan and Canada.

No country has built a final repository for nuclear waste yet but Finland, Sweden and France are leading the pack. In Sweden, there has been overwhelming community support for a GDF as a way of disposing of spent nuclear fuel.

In 2020, more than eight in 10 people – 82 per cent of community respondents – told an annual poll in Östhammar Municipality that they were in favour of plans to build a repository in the village of Forsmark.

PLANS APPROVED

Two years previously, 77 per cent of respondents told the poll they supported plans to build a GDF, while 79 per cent of those asked in Oskarshamn Municipality said they were in favour of proposals to build an encapsulation plant for spent nuclear fuel.

Plans for the facility were approved by Sweden's Government in January 2022 and it will be developed in Östhammar by the Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company (SKB).

When the green light was given, SKB CEO Johan Dasht said: "It is a historic decision that enables SKB to dispose of the nuclear waste our generation has produced. This decision is met with open arms. We are now looking forward to implementing Sweden's largest environmental protection project."

SKB has estimated that the GDF will create about 1,500 jobs and bring investment of SEK 19 billion – around £1.5 billion. The planned GDF will

involve disposing of an estimated 12,000 tonnes of spent nuclear fuel in rock that is 1.9 billion years old.

Above ground will be a small number of buildings from where a five-kilometre ramp – about three miles long – will descend about 500 metres.

From here, a system of tunnels will be built with room for more than 6,000 copper canisters of spent fuel.

The site will not be fully developed until the 2080s but SKB hopes operations can begin 10 years after construction starts.

The GDF is an extraordinary feat of engineering, with about 2.3 million

12,000 tonnes of spent fuel will be disposed of

cubic metres (81m cubic feet) of rock being removed over the decades. The copper storage canisters are about five metres (16ft) long, will weigh five tonnes when full and have an outer casing that is five centimetres (2in) thick. Created to withstand corrosion, their placement in the rock will be managed by specially built machines that are controlled remotely.

FINAL BARRIER

The canisters will be housed in bentonite clay, which acts as a buffer and protects the canister from corrosion and minor movements in the bedrock.

The clay will gradually absorb water and swell to fill the space around it and any cracks in the rock.

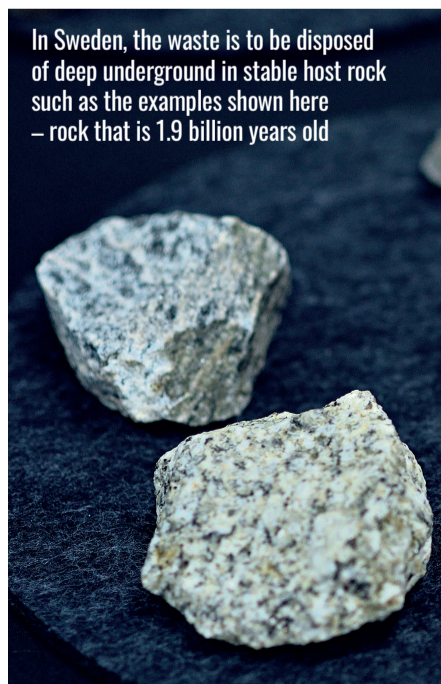
The bedrock is the final barrier. If any radioactive substance were to escape from a canister, it would be trapped here.

The rock and depth will help isolate the waste from the environment for at least 100,000 years – making the GDF a safe final repository.

SKB is drawing on more than 40 years of research and development, including extensive analysis of long-term safety and environmental impact.

The company says it chose Forsmark due to the area's dry rock with few deep fractures. About 800 scientific reports were produced during site investigations.

In Sweden, the waste is to be disposed of deep underground in stable host rock such as the examples shown here – rock that is 1.9 billion years old



Researchers carry out detailed site assessments



How and why is a site chosen?

DECIDING whether the Theddlethorpe area is suitable for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) will take several years.

So far, the developer, Nuclear Waste Services (NWS), has determined only that the area has 'potential'.

Siting Manager Kieran Somers, who is leading this extensive programme of work, said: "To be able to build a GDF, two main things are needed – a suitable site and a willing community.

"To understand if a site is suitable, we look at six key areas, called 'siting factors'. They are safety and security, community, transport, environment, engineering feasibility and value for money.

"We will carry out a range of detailed studies. If you look at 'environment' as an example, these will include looking at the impact of flood risk, any impact on habitats and species, and the effects of transport requirements.

FIRST STUDIES

"In terms of constructing a GDF, which could initially take 10 years, we'll consider what's referred to as 'nuisance' aspects, like noise and dust. All these studies will look at the impact during the construction, operation and eventually the closure of the GDF.

"Geology is very important – if we don't have appropriate geology, we don't have a suitable site."

Now that a Community Partnership (CP) has been formed, what is the next step?

Kieran said: "The first studies will probably be in the autumn and we expect to prioritise those looking at flood risk, transport and the impact on natural habitats and species. Natterjack toads (below) – a protected species – live near the former gas terminal site. It's important to know if a GDF would have any impact on their habitat and what protection is needed.

"Understanding the geology deep underground will be crucial. The next step, which could be in summer 2023, is to carry out geophysical surveys. Often referred to as seismic surveying, this will help us understand the make-up of the rock layers."

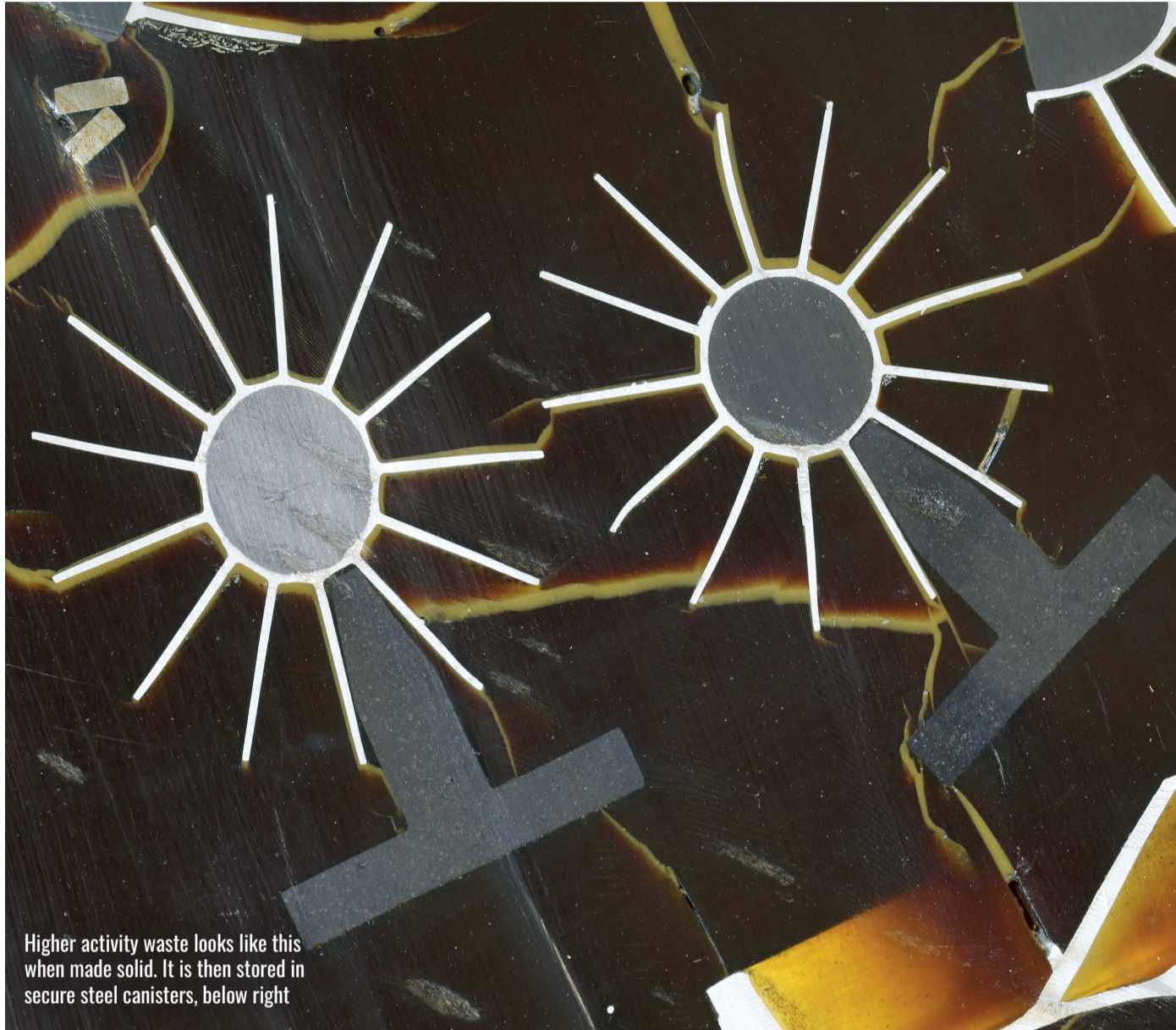
Kieran added: "As information becomes available we'll be sharing this with the CP, which will keep local people informed."



Cigar Lake: nature's GDF – Page 4. For more information on the GDF proposal, visit www.theddlethorpe.workinginpartnership.org.uk

Fact from fiction

What is nuclear energy and why must we deal with the waste?



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

WHEN you hear the term 'radioactive waste', what images come to mind?

This waste actually comes in many different shapes and sizes. Despite what certain TV programmes would have you believe, one thing it definitely does not look like is barrels of green slime.

Liquids can spill and leak, so to protect people and the environment, radioactive waste is never disposed of in liquid form.

People tend to think of stereotypes such as glowing neon ooze kept in yellow oil drums. Many fear that nuclear waste can be turned into bombs, or will leak radiation into our towns.

None of this is true.

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

Questions have been raised about whether we need nuclear energy. Around a fifth of the overall electricity supply to this country's homes and businesses already comes from nuclear energy.

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

But waste from this use has accumulated over the decades – with more to come from the planned decommissioning of power plants.

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

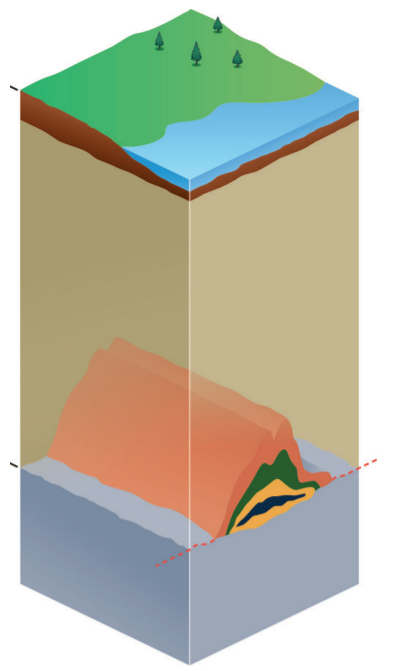
A Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) will be hundreds of metres underground, with multiple barriers of stable rock combined with expert engineering infrastructure keeping people and the environment safe.

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, we place it into stainless steel drums or boxes, usually after breaking it up

Around 21% of the UK's electricity supply comes from nuclear power



Uranium ore (black) is housed in layers of rock, including sandstone (beige)

Cigar Lake: a natural success story

IN THE uranium-rich Athabasca Basin of northern Saskatchewan, Canada, is an example of nature's Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) – the 1.3 billion-year-old Cigar Lake deposit.

Containing high-grade uranium ore, it is about 450 metres (a third of a mile) below the surface and surrounded by thick clay, with no traces of radioactive elements found above ground.

At Cigar Lake – the world's largest undeveloped uranium deposit – uranium ore is securely housed in layers, including a clay-rich zone, sandstone host rock, a quartz-rich cap and a metamorphic bedrock base.

LONG-TERM SAFETY

More than 42,000 tonnes (93 million pounds) of U308 uranium have been produced at Cigar Lake since it was commissioned in 1984.

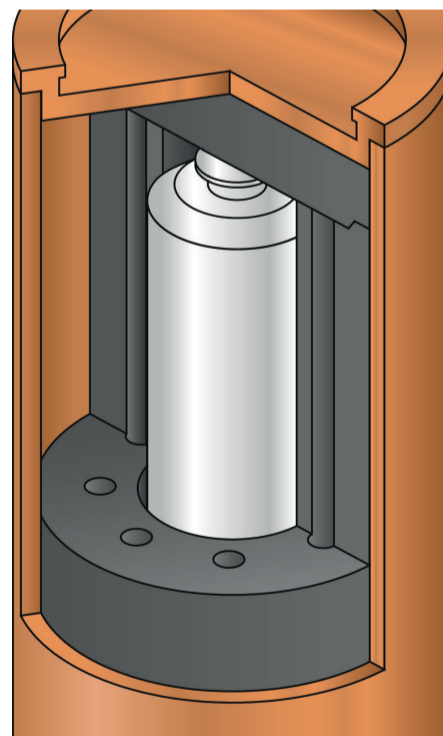
The deposit's natural, safe storage provides confidence in the long-term safety of deep geological disposal, says Nuclear Waste Services (NWS), which is assessing potential GDF sites across the UK.

NWS's geological investigations will include rock type, structure, the potential impact of climate change, groundwater and previous activities in the areas, such as mining.

The host rocks in which a GDF will be built need to have little or no groundwater movement through them and allow for the construction of tunnels.

NWS's scientists and engineers have more than 30 years' experience in research and development to support geological disposal, and they are assisted by community engagement teams.

NWS's work is regulated by the Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency in England, and scrutinised by the independent Committee on Radioactive Waste Management.



to make it smaller and easier to package. Most of these are 500-litre drums, like a cross between an oil drum and a milk churn, but made of stainless steel. These containers are then filled with cement.

The amount of waste to be packaged for a GDF depends on how the UK uses radioactive materials in future.

Nuclear Waste Services, which is assessing potential GDF sites, estimates around 650,000 cubic metres of higher activity waste and nuclear material will be sent to a GDF.

Learn more by watching the videos on Nuclear Waste Services' YouTube channel. Search for 'Nuclear Waste Services'.

Learn more at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/radioactive-waste-management



The map shows countries that are implementing or developing GDF sites

1. Argentina	5. France	9. Netherlands	13. Lithuania	17. Bulgaria	21. India
2. USA	6. Switzerland	10. Germany	14. Czech Republic	18. Hungary	22. China
3. Canada	7. UK	11. Sweden	15. Slovakia	19. Slovenia	23. South Korea
4. Spain	8. Belgium	12. Finland	16. Romania	20. Russia	24. Japan

Global consensus on best way forward

EXPERTS and scientists from around the world agree the safest long-term solution for radioactive waste is geological disposal. A number of countries, including Sweden, Finland, France, Canada and Switzerland, have already implemented or are developing plans for this process, which involves isolating such waste many hundreds of metres underground. In Canada, developers Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) began the process of selecting a site for their project back in 2010. A total of 22 municipalities and Indigenous communities initially expressed interest in learning more and exploring the potential to host a site. Today, NWMO is engaging

with two potential siting areas. The project will proceed only by working with the interested communities. Technical teams from NWMO have just successfully completed a full-scale demonstration of the engineered barriers that will safely contain and isolate Canada’s used nuclear fuel. **HISTORIC DECISION** Meanwhile, the Swedish Government has approved the building of a GDF in Forsmark, Östhammar Municipality. This historic decision means Sweden is proceeding with plans for a GDF being developed by the Swedish Nuclear Fuel and Waste Management Company (SKB).

In Switzerland, Nagra (the National Cooperative for the Disposal of Radioactive Waste) will be ready to announce its siting proposal by the autumn. The lead in the site selection process lies with the Federal Government, but the Federal Council and Swiss Parliament will have the final say – or, if the decision is put to a national referendum, Swiss voters will. In Finland, Posiva Oy is the first nuclear waste management organisation in the world to start final disposal of spent nuclear fuel by 2025, using the Onkalo® facility. **WHY WE NEED TO THINK LONG-TERM** Neil Hyatt, former Professor of Nuclear Materials Chemistry at

the University of Sheffield, and since December 2021 the Chief Scientific Advisor to Nuclear Waste Services (NWS), said: “Technically, it is feasible to repackage the waste every few decades and build new stores. However, this is effectively kicking the can down a never-ending road. “It would be leaving the cost, risk and responsibility of managing and safely disposing waste to future generations who did not benefit from the energy generation.” A GDF will be nearly 1,000 metres below the ground – more than half a mile. Expert engineering and many barriers of stable rock will safely contain the waste for many thousands of years.





Your voice matters. Please join the conversation about geological disposal



Working with you on proposals

JON Collins (above) has been Chair of the Theddlethorpe Working Group from the start of the process to identify a potential site for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

Here, he explains what happens following the formation of the Community Partnership (CP).

Jon said: "The aim of the CP is to ensure local people and stakeholders can work together to promote debate and discussion about the proposals, to scrutinise the feasibility work being undertaken and consider applications for Community Investment Funding.

"The CP will be listening carefully to all opinions and tapping into local knowledge and expertise.

"There will be up to 15 members on the CP, with 12 drawn from local councils, community and voluntary groups and local businesses, all of whom must live or work within the search area.

"We welcome applications from across the community and we've had several groups and individuals already apply to become members.

"I'm pleased to say that we now have our first new member – Tammy Smalley, Head of Conservation at the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, has joined us as our first 'community' member.

"The CP must be reflective of the community and needs to be made up of people from various organisations and groups, who can bring a wealth of different experiences and skills to the table.

"Members don't need to sign a non-disclosure agreement and it doesn't matter if you're for, against or undecided, it's important that your views are heard.

"It is for local people to decide, through a test of public support, whether or not it happens.

"Residents living in the area can be involved and have their say by applying to join the CP, which will be creating three sector forums for councillors, the community, voluntary sector and local businesses.

"You can also get involved through our events, displays, meetings and via the CP website.

"Remember, we're here to serve you and work with you on any proposals."

Jon Collins has been chairing the Theddlethorpe GDF Working Group since last October. Previously he was a local councillor in Nottingham for 32 years and leader of the City Council there for 16 years.

Here to listen...

"We want GDF discussions to be an open dialogue"

Interview with **KATE ATHA**
Community Engagement Manager

"OPEN dialogue with the community about the proposed Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) is being sought and encouraged."

Kate Atha, the Community Engagement Manager for Theddlethorpe and Mablethorpe on behalf of Nuclear Waste Services (NWS), the developer which is investigating potential GDF sites across the UK, is urging residents to reach out and ask questions.

She said: "A key part of my role – and the role of the Community Partnership (CP), of which I am a member – is to continue the conversation, understand concerns and questions and get people the information they need.

"We want to help people access

information in a way that suits them, whether through one of our events, print materials, the website... we'll be looking to do various activities so people can access that information.

"We really want an open dialogue. Come forward and have a conversation. The community will decide whether this GDF is something they want.

"It's really important that people understand that we're at the start of a process. A lot of feasibility work still needs to be done and part of that is the community consent process."

So far, Kate and her team have held 35 events across the local area, including a school visit, and have spoken to more



than 950 people. Most recently, a CP minibus toured the area and there are plans for more events, so that residents "have an opportunity to hear about GDF directly from experts and can have their questions and concerns heard and answered".

Kate added: "Work with us. Tell us what your concerns are – we want to hear from you. Keep up to date with the work of the CP on our website and follow us on social media to learn about upcoming engagement activities."

Learn more at www.theddlethorpe.workinginpartnership.org.uk or email GDFinfo-Theddlethorpe@nda.gov.uk

THE NUMBERS SO FAR...

950 people spoken to | **307** newsletter requests | **35** local events | **32** one-to-one surgeries | **1** school visit

AROUND THE UK...

Theddlethorpe is fourth area to form Community Partnership

THE Theddlethorpe Community Partnership (CP) is the fourth in the UK.

The borough of Copeland, in West Cumbria, formed a Working Group in November 2020, with the neighbouring borough of Allerdale following in January of last year.

Both moved to the CP stage about 12 months later.

West Cumbria is home to

the Sellafield site, where most of the UK's higher level radioactive waste is stored.

The nuclear industry employs more than 10,000 people in the area and plays a vital role in the regional economy.

In Copeland, two CPs were formed – in mid and south Copeland, each comprising two electoral wards.

The membership initially

included local councils, local councillors and organisations representing business and youth development.

The recruitment of additional members is already under way.

The local councils agreed to join the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) siting process only once certain conditions were agreed, including the exclusion of the

Lake District National Park from the search area and that the inshore area, beyond the coast, would be considered for the deep part of the GDF.

The Cumbrian CPs are now distributing Community Investment Funding to local projects.

Geophysical surveys of the inshore area, off the coast, are due to take place during the summer months.

Your feedback so far...

Community conversation, consultation and consent are key parts of the process of identifying a suitable site for a GDF. Without community consent, the project will not go ahead. The Theddlethorpe Working Group has already hosted a number of engagement events, with more planned so that residents can ask questions, learn more and raise any concerns.

So far, here is what you have had to say about a potential GDF...

"How will the radioactive material be transported here?"

"Will the community really have the final say if we don't want this?"

"Very sceptical... I can't see the benefits"

"It's a good thing for the area because it needs investment"

"Why can't the waste stay where it is?"

"Would the GDF be built underneath people's homes?"

"The word 'nuclear' is frightening but I want to make an informed choice"

"Why are the rocks here the correct rocks?"



Investing in community

Up to £1m in funding for local projects is being offered this year

By **LAURA STONES**
Grants Manager, Nuclear Waste Services

WITH the formation of the GDF Community Partnership (CP), Community Investment Funding is now available to support local projects.

Up to £1 million is set aside for the coming year, so get in touch if you know of an initiative that may be eligible for support. Laura Stones, the CP's Grants Manager, explains more...

WHAT IS COMMUNITY INVESTMENT FUNDING (CIF)?

It is money made available for local projects that benefit those people living in what is known as the 'search area' – in this case, the electoral wards of Withern and Theddlethorpe, and Mablethorpe. That's a population of around 10,000 people.

HOW MUCH IS AVAILABLE?

Up to £1 million will be made available each year by the Government. Grants would range from up to £10,000 to more than £50,000 and applications would be welcomed from community groups, public sector organisations and businesses wanting to do something to benefit the Withern and Theddlethorpe, and Mablethorpe, communities.

It must be spent within the year and cannot be carried over, so I urge people to come forward with their ideas.

If the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) project moves forward and boreholes need to be drilled, annual funding increases to £2.5 million.

WHO CAN APPLY FOR THE FUNDING?

Organisations in the private, public and charity sector can apply.

For public sector organisations, the funding cannot be used for things which they should be doing already.

It cannot be used for any shortfalls in council funding, but if a school had an initiative that was over and above what they normally do, they might be eligible.

Local businesses could also apply if



Copeland's BMX track was given £65,000

they can demonstrate a benefit for the local community, such as job creation.

Funding is not available to support individuals.

HOW CAN PEOPLE FIND OUT MORE?

There is a section on community guidance at theddlethorpe.workinginpartnership.org.uk and links to 'pre-application support'.

We ask everyone to please contact us before they fill out a grant application form. We can offer advice through the application process, support people in how to apply and put forward what is required to meet the criteria. My main aim is to make this funding accessible for all those who wish to apply.

WHAT KINDS OF PROJECTS COULD RECEIVE THIS COMMUNITY FUNDING?

Initiatives that provide economic development opportunities, enhance the natural and built environment, or improve community wellbeing.

That could mean providing training courses or skills development, projects which create jobs or promote local enterprise, or projects that enhance the cultural or natural heritage of the area or are beneficial to health and wellbeing.

WHAT IF I HAVE A PROJECT IDEA?

Pick up the phone (details at end) and

let's have a chat. The pre-application discussion is useful in helping applicants understand if their project is likely to be eligible. After that you complete the application form and we can help.

Applications are considered by a Community Investment Panel (CIP), which will meet several times each year.

HOW LONG BEFORE FUNDING IS DISTRIBUTED?

We expect to have the first CIP this summer and hope to start distributing money by September. It will take about three months from application to award.

CAN A PROJECT BE FOR MORE THAN ONE YEAR?

Yes, you could have a project which requires support for two or three years.

ARE OTHER CPs DISTRIBUTING FUNDING?

Yes, around ten projects in Cumbria have already received funding, including a BMX Pump Track, the Beckermeth Reading and Recreation Rooms and Seascale Cricket Club, which have been given more than £65,000. There are plenty of applications in the pipeline.

For more details, call Laura on 0300 369 0000 or email GDFinfo-Theddlethorpe@nda.gov.uk



Power station fact-finding visit

JUST before the Community Partnership (CP) was formed, members of the Working Group paid a visit to one of the UK's non-operational nuclear power stations to see first-hand how the complex and challenging task of decommissioning one of these giant plants is progressing.

The twin Magnox reactors at the Dungeness A power station in Kent ceased generating electricity for the UK back in 2006 and, following several years of removing the highly radioactive fuel (to Sellafield in Cumbria), work is continuing to safely remove numerous buildings and hazardous materials from the site – mainly low and intermediate level waste.

Work to decommission the site will continue for several decades, providing work for several hundred people, and will involve removal of key components including pipework, the huge steel boilers and demolition of numerous buildings.

The visit included seeing a plant where radioactive materials previously used in cooling ponds and filtration systems are being packaged in steel containers, in readiness for disposal in a GDF.

The containers, some with walls 200mm thick, are being transported for interim storage at the Bradwell power station site in Essex.

Members of the CP are planning to visit other nuclear sites in the coming year to broaden understanding of how radioactive waste is being managed.

Magnox is the legal entity responsible for sites owned by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, including Berkeley, Dungeness A, Hinkley Point A, Hunterston A and Oldbury.

Each site has a stakeholder or liaison group which acts as a liaison between the local community and the site.

Magnox manages the sites through their life cycle, overseeing operation, defuelling and decommissioning. This includes sending used fuel safely to Sellafield for reprocessing.

More information about Magnox is available at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/magnox-ltd/about

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