

## View from the top...

The success of any organisation is built on its workforce ... and at LLWR we have one of the best.

News that the NDA is minded to award a third 5-year contract to our Parent Body Organisation (PBO) is testament to the enduring skill and commitment of our people. We could not have done it without them.



LLWR has more than doubled in size over the past decade of achievement, and as it has grown and flourished, the high quality of our workforce has been maintained.

In part, of course, this is due to the influence of our PBO, UK Nuclear Waste Management Ltd, which, through the placement of key individuals, has brought expertise and experience to the organisation.

It's also down to the type of person we look to employ. We look for those who display a strong work ethic and have pride in their work, in addition to showing the necessary academic qualities for their role. And it's also about the culture we aim to foster. We pride ourselves on our team-orientated focus.

We have invested heavily in an apprenticeship programme over recent years and the approach is paying dividends with some fantastic trainees signing up.

As highlighted in this newsletter, we marked National Apprentice Week by getting our young people out into the community, delivering parish magazines and beach cleaning. They were happy to get involved.

We would never allow ourselves, however, to slip into complacency, and an NDA estate-wide Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I) workforce survey has highlighted that progress is still required in several areas.

ED&I is not about making everyone equal but to ensure all have equality of opportunity and are free from discrimination, whether it be on the grounds of gender, race, disability, sexual orientation, religion, belief or age.

We have established an Action Plan to address areas for improvement and a series of campaigns are planned for role out over the coming months.

Another NDA-wide ED&I survey next year will measure progress, so there is no time to rest on our laurels.

That said, a happy workforce is a productive one, and with our people continuing to excel, we feel we are on the right track.

**Paul Pointon,**  
Deputy Managing Director



On its way out: the bulldozers move in to the old drum store in October 2016

## Drum store concrete heading to United States to assist project

Clean concrete from our former drum store on Site is to be flown to the United States to help further the understanding of nuclear decommissioning.

When the Environmental Monitoring Team was asked to support an NDA-funded research project requiring concrete, samples from last year's demolition were seen as ideal.

The concrete is to be used in experiments at Savannah River Research Site, in South Carolina, as NDA site-representative material.

Part of a University of Manchester PhD project, it will ultimately be utilised to build a picture of radionuclide mobility under environmental conditions over timescales relevant to site clean-up and decommissioning.

The University had asked for background

## Invitation to our Working Group meeting

Please be aware that the latest quarterly meeting of our West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group LLWR Working Group meeting will be held in Drigg Village Hall, on Wednesday, 18th April, 2pm-4pm.

All are welcome to join the mix of elected representatives, regulators and senior LLWR staff to discuss topics of mutual interest or concern about the Repository Site.

information on the former drum store and this was supplied by long-serving employee Mike Palmer, who started work on Site as a summer student in 1977, the year the store, constructed primarily of pre-cast concrete, was built.

Given that nearly half of LLWR staff weren't born in 1977 it's important to recognise that maintaining institutional memory is an important part of running the Site.

Site Characterisation Manager John Shevelan, said: "With PCM, Consignment and RPA support two bulk bags of concrete samples were safely dispatched to Manchester and will be going to the USA shortly."

Concrete from the old drum store is being stored on Site to use as infill material for the Repository Development Programme.

Low Level Waste Repository  
Site Offices:  
LLW Repository Ltd,  
Old Shore Road,  
Holmrook  
Cumbria  
CA19 1XP

Pelham House Offices:  
LLW Repository Ltd  
Pelham House  
Pelham Drive  
Calderbridge  
Cumbria  
CA20 1DB  
Tel: +44 (0)19467 70200

# ON THE LEVEL

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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LLW REPOSITORY



**Life through a lens at LLWR:** This was among the many vivid images captured by professional photographer Thomas Skovsende during his commissioned visit to site. For more of his photos that capture the essence of LLWR, please turn overleaf.

## Contract extension pending

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has indicated that it intends to award a third and final five-year extension to the Management and Operations contract for LLW Repository Ltd.

This means that LLWR will continue to be managed by the current Parent Body Organisation (PBO), UK Nuclear Waste Management Ltd (UKNWM).

Dennis Thompson, Managing Director of LLWR, said: "Naturally I'm delighted that discussions have reached a positive conclusion that ensures continuity and stability over the next five years.

"LLWR has come a long way in the past decade but we are not at the end of our journey. We must build on our successes as there is still much for us to accomplish.

"We will continue to assist the UK with its management of low level waste, we will complete the Plutonium Contaminated Materials (PCM) and Security Enhancements programmes on the Repository Site, along with many infrastructure improvements.

"We will also look to make large strides in the higher stacking, and capping of Vault 8, and we will continue to accept and grout LLW containers. This work is the core of our

business. Our success to date in achieving our mission has been based on the hard work and dedication of our talented workforce and I have no doubt this will continue over the coming years."

LLW Repository Ltd was formed in 2007 and the following year UKNWM – an international consortium of URS, Studsvik and Areva - won a 17-year contract to operate the Repository on behalf of the NDA.

The contract was segregated into three periods of five years and one of two years, with the onus on successful delivery of the objectives laid out in the contract.

# Apprentices continue to deliver

Apprentices from LLWR and partner GRAHAM Construction put our community first to mark National Apprentice Week.

The young people delivered the parish magazine to every home in Drigg and Carleton and organised a beach clean at Seascale.

Abbie Wright, LLWR's Apprentice Scheme co-ordinator, said: "We always get involved in National Apprentice Week but it's usually through training provider Gen 2. This year we decided to do our own thing."

"It's good to get the apprentices out of the workplace and give something back to the community."

"All the apprentices were enthusiastic when the activities were suggested and it was also a chance for us to do some team building."

Owen Adair, Billy Fielder, Jake Icton, Rachel Nicholson, Owen Carver and Scott Parkinson were all involved.

Six apprentices are due to complete their apprenticeships in 2018. Disciplines for the next cohort include Project Management, Project Controls, Operational/Departmental Manager and Business Administration.

Interviews for these will begin in April/May. Applications will be sourced via Gen 2.



"Our apprentices gain experience in the nuclear industry which supports them in future employment opportunities," Abbie added.



**LLWR's Twitter feed has passed the 1,000 followers mark. To keep up to date with all the happenings at the Repository go to @llwrsite**

# Framework is still making its mark

Our Engineering, Design and Construction Framework (EDCF) with GRAHAM Construction on the Repository Site is in line for a national award that rewards high standards in the construction industry.

Last year the Framework was lauded as a "credit to the company and the industry" at the Considerate Constructors Scheme (CCS) awards when collecting a bronze award at a ceremony in Manchester.

And a second invitation for this year's ceremony on 11<sup>th</sup> April means the Framework is again in line for honours.

The grade of the honour will be unveiled at the ceremony.

The EDCF scored an average 45.5 points out of 50 over two visits to Site by a CSS Monitor, assessing the Framework on five criteria: Care About Appearance, Respect the Community, Protect the

Environment, Secure Everyone's Safety and Value Their Workforce. Last year 43 points secured a bronze for the EDCF.

"The scores recognise we are one of the highest-performing Sites in the country and that we value our workforce and respect our community in the same way we work to protect the environment," said Elaine Woodburn, GRAHAM Stakeholder Relations Manager.

"The scores are a fair reflection of what we do and it's great that we are being recognised externally."

CCS is a national initiative established by the construction industry to improve its image by improving standards.

Sites registered with the scheme are assessed independently against a Code of Practice designed to encourage the highest standards of facilities and conduct.

# RDP rubble deliveries on track

LLWR has committed to bring its entire initial stockpile of aggregate for use in its Repository Development Programme (RDP) in to the Site by rail – keeping the equivalent of more than 765 HGV deliveries off West Cumbria's roads.

Each rail delivery will include almost 1,300 tonnes of aggregate and a dozen such deliveries are planned before the end of the financial year for use in RDP, the largest programme yet undertaken on the Site. Some 15,300 tonnes in total will be delivered.

Cath Giel, Head of Public Affairs at LLWR, said: "We place huge value on our relationship with the local community, and we are delighted when we can utilise rail rather than add greater pressure to the road network."

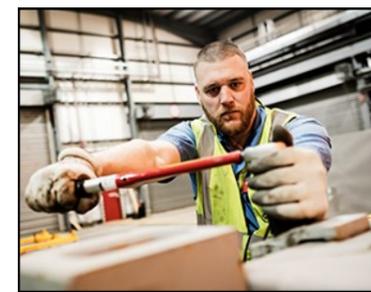
"We have been open and honest about our plans for RDP and we will take any opportunity we can during this long-running programme to minimise disruption to our community."

Aggregate will be stored on Site until



required for use in RDP, which incorporates the capping of current vaults and trenches, and the construction and capping of new vaults, when required.

Tranche 1 of 8 will last a decade and include the capping of Vault 8 and adjacent trenches.



**This is us ...**



London-based photographer Thomas Skovsende was delighted with the images he was able to capture during visits to the Repository Site and Pelham House.

"I got some fantastic shots," said Thomas inset. "It was great to see the scale of the operation on the Site and meet people who allowed me to photograph their characters."



"It's absolutely fascinating to be allowed access to places where few people are allowed and seeing what goes on behind the scenes, meeting people with great stories to tell."

"Everyone was willing to give you a moment and talk professionally about what they did. They were incredibly helpful."

