

View from the top...

Way back in March 2008, the NDA awarded a consortium of three companies - AECOM, Studsvik, and Areva - a 15 year contract to operate the Repository. Actually, it was a 5-year contract with the ability to earn a second 5-year term, and if performance was really good after 10 years, maybe even the third and final term.



"More of the same, please..."

That is essentially what the NDA have asked for after ten years of managing the Site; and it is only too easy to take this for granted. As far as I am aware, we are the only contract within the NDA estate that will live out its full term, and much of this is attributed to our ability to deliver and our consistent performance.

So what do we do now? This is a question that my team are currently asking themselves. In many ways, we have done everything that the NDA have asked for. We have built a new vault, we have developed a scientific case demonstrating long term safety of the site (we call this our Environmental Safety Case), we have obtained Planning Permission from the County Council, and received a Permit for disposal from the Environment Agency. All of these things provide the very foundation of running a repository, and none of them existed in 2008.

But we have done so much more. We have developed a strong and very capable workforce, we have established ourselves in the local community, and we have worked with every Low Level Waste consignor in the UK to ensure that only the waste that belongs at the Site comes to the Site. So the question persists: What do we do now? I have come to the conclusion that we need to focus on the very things that have made us successful to date.

Our focus on safe delivery, on working together as a team, on protecting the environment, and on being a good neighbour; these are the attributes that have brought us this far, and that have enabled us to earn another 5 years with the NDA. Whilst it is in vogue for managers to constantly change things around by adopting the latest management principles, there is something uniquely comforting and 'right' about our original strategy. So that's what we will do: we will stick to our basic principles.

It's kind of like Mum's home cooking. While there are lots of fancy recipes and restaurants out there, there is nothing quite like cooking up her original recipes for Sunday lunch. I'll take that over the modern stuff any day!

"More of the same, please..."

Dennis Thompson,
Managing Director

NWS/007/2018

Renewed sponsorship for Calderwood

Rachel Holliday, founder of Calderwood House, in Egremont, has expressed her thanks after LLWR agreed to renew its sponsorship of a suite in the homeless shelter.

Calderwood, a self-sustainable independent project, has won widespread plaudits for its role in alleviating homelessness, and LLWR was delighted to extend its sponsorship for a second year.



Rachel, pictured outside the LLWR Suite, said: "The ongoing support from LLWR means the world, not just to Calderwood House but to every person who walks through the door in need of a roof for the night.

"Without this generous donation, people in west Cumbria who find themselves homeless would be in a worse position. I thank LLWR from the bottom of my heart for another year of funding."

Calderwood House opened its doors to the homeless in October 2015, prioritising ex-military personnel. Drugs and alcohol are prohibited and a staff team provide around the clock support.

The former police station has a ground floor hub area used for training and education.

Cath Giel, LLWR's Head of Public Affairs, said: "It did not take too long to come to a decision after we were requested to support Calderwood House for a second year. Rachel and her team are performing remarkable work in our community."

Our Framework hits the Gold standard

Delighted members of the LLWR and GRAHAM Framework team collect their CCS awards in Manchester



LLWR's Engineering, Design and Construction Framework (EDCF) with GRAHAM Construction has received a Gold award from the Considerate Constructors Scheme, which recognises the highest level of consideration in respect of the community, environment and workforce.

The Repository facility was one of just 23 sites nationally to be named runner-up in the Most Considerate Site category, behind six overall winners.

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 July, 6pm to 8pm.

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.

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ON THE LEVEL

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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LLW REPOSITORY

Our figures prove diverting ... now let's see how we can further support the NDA estate

LLWR has seen its best ever waste diversion figures with the volume of low level waste diverted from the Repository in 2017/18 equivalent to around 1,850 half-height ISO containers.

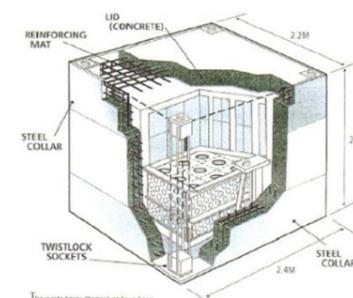
The figure marks the culmination of LLWR's work in leading the implementation of changes in LLW management practices and culture across the UK. A range of treatment, recycling and alternative disposal routes have been developed to dramatically increase diversion and negate the need for a second Repository at a cost to the taxpayer estimated at over £2bn.

David Rossiter, Head of Waste Management Services at LLWR, said: "Ninety three ISOs were delivered to Site last year – the lowest figure ever – and that was because the diversion performance was the best it has ever been.

"Around 1,100 waste consignments were processed last year – a 35% increase across the board from the previous year.

"It's estimated the volume we diverted, whether to landfill, incineration or for metal recycling, was the equivalent of around 15% of the entire capacity of Vault 9 - in one year. This is a big achievement and a culmination of our work with customers over the past five years. But we are not going to rest on our laurels. We have to sustain our performance."

LLWR is now close to achieving the highest possible diversion figures - around 95% last year - and the organisation is moving further into a phase where it undertakes projects to support decommissioning operations across the NDA estate that in all likelihood will lead to a limited reduction in diversion.



Under its Sellafield WAGR Box project waste items encapsulated in concrete boxes from decommissioning of the Windscale Advanced Gas Cooled Reactor will be disposed of at the Repository.

Thirty five such boxes were brought to the Site in the late 90s/early 2000s and have



Boxing clever: above, WAGR boxes in their store at Sellafield and below, their rugged composition explained

been disposed of in Vault 8. These wastes were generated when the reactor at Windscale was decommissioned and around 100 WAGR boxes were placed in a shielded store.

"Sellafield is now looking to see if all these boxes could be moved, freeing up space so the store could then be used to accelerate some of the high hazard decommissioning work that requires a high level of shielding," David added. "This is a huge advantage for the estate.

"After being assessed, 15 of these boxes were found to meet our Waste Acceptance Criteria and can be disposed of safely at the Repository. We are working with Sellafield on a second phase of 45 boxes which may meet our criteria, though further work is needed. This will be carried out later this year. The box itself is the disposal package so it's different from how we usually dispose of waste. But we've done an assessment and are happy from a technical compliance perspective that this is a very robust package."

The first 15 boxes must travel to Site by road, due to a number of low bridges over the local railway line, though LLWR is looking into a potential rail solution for the second phase. No timescale has yet been established for phase one, however it is set to go ahead later this year, and local representatives will be fully briefed on all planned developments.

NWS/007/2018

Short drive to work for our new Head of Site

Rob Yetts has been named new Head of Site at the LLW Repository.

Rob, who five years ago built his own house in Seascale, the village of his birth, started his career as a 16-year-old apprentice fitter with the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority on what is now the Sellafield site.

He spent seven years at the Repository in a senior managerial capacity delivering the PCM Decommissioning Programme before being asked to take his new role by MD Dennis Thompson.

He said: "Dennis's vision is for the Site to operate as an 'integrated whole' and to do this I want to review what we've got now and hopefully make it better - for everyone."

"There could potentially be some changes going forward, but the goal is to build on the good work of previous Heads of Site and get the Site functioning really well and being

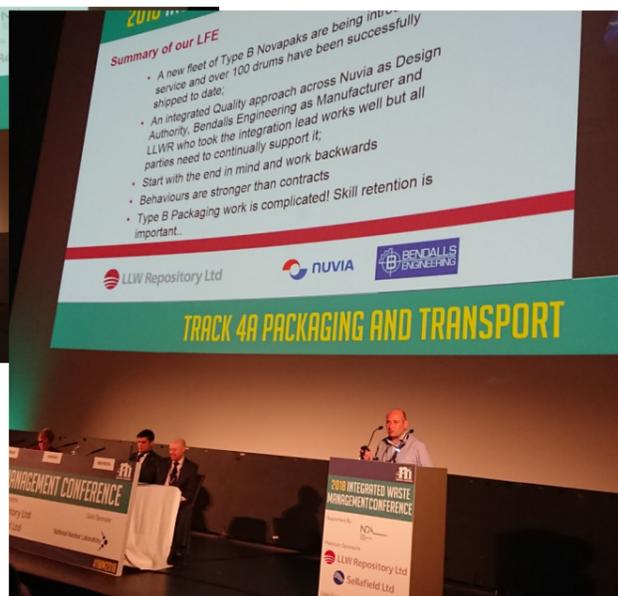


ready for whatever might come next.

"I'm passionate about getting work delivered. We are not here to sit on our hands and put our feet under the table."

"I've always had a very strong work ethic and have extremely high expectations from those around me."

"However, that's not to say we shouldn't enjoy our days here at work and have a bit of fun along the way but still go home safe having delivered our scope."



Conference programme is winner with industry

LLWR was delighted at the feedback from attendees at the inaugural Nuclear Institute Integrated Waste Management Conference at Rheged, near Penrith.

The Conference programme was the biggest ever of its kind in the UK with more than 40 different discussion topics on offer.

The full lifecycle of radioactive waste, waste routes and consignor activities were all covered in detail with a particular focus on waste management integration and optimisation.

LLWR joined Sellafield Ltd as Platinum sponsor of the event, which was also sponsored by National Nuclear Laboratory and supported by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

Geoff Druce, Head of Production Execution & Higher Activity Waste Programme at AWE, who presented at the Conference, said: "Speaking to such a well informed and receptive audience was a privilege and it was pleasing to be able to share our waste management achievements to date."

"It was also useful to share what we've identified in terms of real improvement opportunities and our thoughts on the associated benefits should these be realised."

"I had many productive conversations after the presentation, which I can feed into our improvement plans and I definitely felt that I'd achieved the aims that I'd set out before the event."

"The Conference was a tremendous networking forum and

facilitated many lively and stimulating side discussions."

Hannah Kozich, Head of Strategy at LLWR, said: "We had lots of really positive feedback about the agenda, the speakers and the range of topics covered at the Conference."

"Its sponsors and the Nuclear Institute are keen to make it a regular event."

Our new chosen charity

Give Us A Break 2010 has been chosen as our new Charity of the Year in a workforce vote.

The charity was formed to improve the quality of life for disabled children by providing a much needed short break centre in the community.

LLWR is changing its focus slightly this year as for the first time it will also offer help in kind to the charity.



Cath Giel, Head of Public Affairs at LLWR, said: "We will still be holding fundraising events but we are also keen to establish a relationship with the organisation and work on joint initiatives to help move them closer to achieving their objectives." The LLWR workforce responded like never before last year when a record £8,000 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Helping save the planet ... one plastic bottle at a time



Volunteers from LLWR and Framework partner GRAHAM Construction played their part in battling pollution on World Environment Day (WED) with a beach clean at Drigg.

WED, a platform for raising awareness on urgent issues, from marine pollution and global warming to sustainable consumption and wildlife crime, has grown into a worldwide event since its inception in 1974, now spanning over 100 countries.

LLWR has been running a poster campaign on its sites to highlight the blight of plastic pollution, which is the theme of WED this year.

"The most discarded single use plastic items at LLWR are plastic bottles," said Cath Giel, LLWR's Head of Public Affairs.

"We are asking our workforce to think about such items they use out of habit, and if they really need to use them on a regular basis."

"Are plastic straws and plastic cutlery really necessary, or could they be substituted for alternatives that are kinder to the Earth?"

"Takeaway coffee cups have a plastic liner that cannot be recycled cheaply or easily. Then we have the problem of plastic carrier bags that are discarded after one use when reusable bags are a viable alternative."



"LLWR is an organisation that has been highly successful in espousing the recycling message in its core business, low level waste. Surely we can all apply the same recycling principles to our own lives."

Elaine Woodburn, of GRAHAM Construction, organised the beach clean and explained: "We just wanted to get involved to do our own little bit for the planet."

Same again, please, as third contract term awarded

A third 5-year term has been signed that ensures international consortium UK Nuclear Waste Management will continue to operate the LLW Repository on behalf of the NDA.

The NDA awarded the term to LLWR's Parent Body Organisation on a 'business as usual' basis and followed successful implementation and delivery of key commitments in the first two terms from 2008.

LLWR was granted a revised environmental permit in 2015 to allow continued disposal of wastes at the Repository, and the

following year a major planning application was granted under which a final cap would be constructed over existing and new vaults and historic landfill style trenches.

Under this long term scheme, known as the Repository Development Programme (RDP), the construction of two new vaults and an extension to a third were also permitted.

In addition to RDP, the NDA decision will allow additional important programmes including Security Enhancements and Plutonium Contaminated Materials to continue to progress.