

ON THE LEVEL

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NEWS AND VIEWS FROM THE LLW REPOSITORY

Apple award underlines our 'Green' credentials

LLWR's Engineering Design and Construction Framework (EDCF) with strategic partner GRAHAM Construction surpassed all expectations by picking up a Champion award at the Green Apple Awards in London.

This was one of the highest levels of recognition in the awards, which recognise, reward and promote environmental best practice around the world.

The successful submission, in the Building and Construction Section, was based on environmental measures incorporated into LLWR's now-completed security fence project. These included:

- Reducing carbon footprint through use of rail for bulk material deliveries
- Wildlife-friendly design features including badger crossings and reflective deer strips
- Security fence aligned to avoid sensitive habitats
- Workforce environmental education programme

Cath Giel, LLWR's Head of Public Affairs, said: "To go beyond the gold, silver and bronze categories and receive the Green



Feeling Champion: above, our Green Apple award and below, Elaine Woodburn, left, of GRAHAM Construction, joined by LLWR pair Jane Hornsby, centre, and Lisa O'Neil after the ceremony in London

Champion Award was a great honour.

"A huge amount of thought and effort went into protecting and preserving the environment, including our resident creatures, before, during and after construction of the security fence, so it's fantastic that this endeavour has been recognised in such a prestigious forum as the Green Apple Awards."

The LLWR/GRAHAM Construction Framework is also one of three finalists short-listed from 21 original submissions in the Industry to Industry category of the Institute of Collaborative

Working Awards, which were being awarded as *On The Level* was going to press. Representatives of both organisations were travelling to the London ceremony at the House of Lords.

This category recognises successful collaboration between two or more commercial organisations that have delivered tangible benefits to partners, customers or stakeholders.

Elaine Woodburn, of GRAHAM Construction and the EDC Framework, said: "The submission was based on the benefits derived from EDCF collaborative working practices. It features things like the importance of being co-located, shared objectives, development of a Joint Relationship Management Plan and an open and honest approach to relationship management.

"These were combined with the willingness to address cultural organisational differences through the replacement of nominated personnel from both organisations until the right fit was found to ensure successful project delivery in a collaborative environment.

"We are shortlisted along with some very large, international organisations, which highlights that so many see these Awards as important in recognising collaboration."

The latest honour follows the Framework's success in the Considerate Constructors Scheme at a ceremony in Manchester earlier this year where it won a Gold Award and was runner-up in the Most Considerate Site category. These awards recognise high standards in the construction sector.

We've got a Plan!

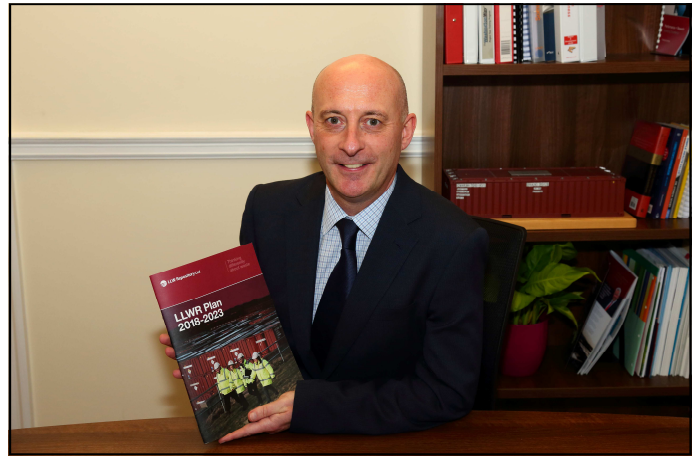
What will the final engineered cap over Vault 8 and adjacent trenches look like?

How much do we plan to save across the estate over the next five years? When will the decommissioning of historical facilities be completed?

The answers to these questions and many more can be found in the new LLWR Plan 2018-2023.

In concise, reader-friendly terms the Plan captures key elements of our extensive Life Time Plan 2018 (LTP18) and highlights major activities, costs and schedules for delivery.

The 43-page Plan enables stakeholders to hold us accountable for elements promised in LTP18, a suite of documents detailing the scope of work LLWR will be carrying out on behalf of the NDA over the next five years and beyond.



Pictured: Managing Director Paul Pointon with the new LLWR Plan

It is now available on our website at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/llwr-plan-2018-to-2023>

Record numbers of transports as Repository disposals at historic low

Fewer containers than ever are being disposed of at the LLW Repository Site – and the successful waste management policy driving this dramatic fall is also resulting in record numbers of transports around the UK and overseas.

Some 726 low level waste shipments facilitated by LLWR, were made in the opening six months of the financial year, April to September, compared to 630 in the

Repository for disposal is now diverted by road and rail using a range of treatment, recycling and alternative disposal routes.

“At one point I thought we would hit 1,400 shipments by the end of the year.

“It now looks like we could be heading towards 1,500, said Laura Bell, Logistics Manager. “Last year the figure was 1,295.”

In 2009, 95% of low level waste was

operational life of the Repository.

Increased decommissioning activities across Nuclear Licenced Sites, primarily involving transports of Very Low Level Waste (VLLW) to appropriately licensed commercial hazardous waste landfill sites, has helped ensure Laura and her seven-strong team are kept busy, arranging transports and processing consignment paperwork, though it's not a challenge they are shirking.

She added: “Our team members have shown real commitment to ensure the success of the service.

“They are all customer-focused.

“I've been involved with Transport at LLWR since its inception in 2012 and it has been my mission to increase the number of transports every year, to grow the business in a safe and cost-effective manner, and without customer complaints.”

A framework agreement consisting of five road hauliers and a contract with Direct Rail Services (DRS) enables LLWR to provide a range of transport services which includes the transportation of waste consignments to the Repository Site for disposal and to other facilities for treatment or disposal.

A new Road Transport framework, potentially with enhanced scope, to be in place from 1st April 2019, is currently being procured.



In the bag: Very Low Level Waste (VLLW) is disposed of at appropriately licensed commercial hazardous waste landfill site

corresponding period last year, which was a record high at the time.

Waste that previously went to the

disposed of at the Repository.

That figure now stands at around 4%, ensuring a 100-year extension to the

Pillows ready to tackle oil spills on Site

The risk of oil leaks into Drigg Stream has been mitigated thanks to a simple yet ingenious device that captures oil but allows water to move through it.

Polymer Pillows are A4-size bags filled with polymer powder that are suspended from rope and sit on top of water in drains, ready to deal with any potential oil spill.

“Any oil on the water surface is collected by the polymer and becomes chemically part of it rather than just being soaked up,” said Jane Hornsby, LLWR Environmental Advisor.

“Therefore the polymer holds the oil while



Combating pollution: pillow being applied to a drain on Site

water can pass round and through it. Each bag can hold one litre of oil.”

It is a priority for LLWR to ensure that no oil escapes down road gully grids or drains which outfall into the Stream. Spill kits are always at the ready.

Areas at the greatest risk from oil spillages on the road are car parks and around barriers where vehicles are stationary, so pillows have been placed in drains close to parking areas and the Site Reception area, where HGVs pull in for security checks.

Spill kits are still always used in the first instance following a spill and the pillows provide support in case of an escape of oil into the drainage system.



Lego League is out of this world!

Our five-year sponsorship of FIRST Lego League continues to pay a major community dividend with LLWR this time sending youngsters ‘into space’

The company is in its third year of support of three local schools taking part in the science and technology challenge for teams of young students.

Volunteers from LLWR have been popping along weekly to schools in Gosforth, Seascale and Millom to help youngsters explore a given topic and design, build and programme a Lego robot. The aim is to develop skills pupils will need for their future careers.

The theme this year is ‘Into Orbit’ and youngsters have tackled the challenge with enthusiasm. Marc Goodwin, Tom Fletcher and former LLWR apprentices Danielle Boyd and Jake Icteton, are assisting nine to 11-year-olds at Gosforth Primary. Pupils were asked to consider a problem that astronauts may face in space, and the Gosforth group came up with loneliness as a key issue. Their

ingenious solution was a canine companion – a robot pug - which they have designed. Tom explained that the role of LLWR volunteers was to support the youngsters’ efforts but never to lead them.

“It’s nice to engage with the community and refreshing being around different ways of thinking, and seeing how imaginative the children can be,” he added. Our three schools will be among those taking part in regional finals in the New Year, where each will give a presentation on their project to a panel of judges.

Jake, a Lego League newcomer this year, said: “The challenge set this year is difficult and I had to work out how to communicate effectively with the children. I’ve had to gauge their different strengths and weaknesses so I can work out the best way to help develop them.”

Top: Jake and Tom help a youngster and below, Marc looks on as Danielle engages with pupils.

Respect campaign backed by Lead Team

Our Respect At Work campaign has got off to a strong start with support from the LLWR Lead Team.

Each member of the management team signed Pledge cards, promising not to stand by when witnessing bullying and harassing behaviour, and cards were then distributed to the workforce to sign.

Dave Rossiter, LLWR’s ED&I Champion, *pictured below*, said: “Pledge Cards are another way of showing that bullying will not be tolerated in our workforce.

“By signing these cards we are promising to call out bullying or harassing behaviour wherever we see it. Creating a respectful workplace culture is the job of us all.”

Three employees also received tokens of appreciation from the company after being nominated by workmates under the new Random Act of Kindness initiative.

The idea is to highlight thoughtful acts that might otherwise go unnoticed or unrecognised, and to promote such behaviours to colleagues.

LLWR played a full part in Anti-Bullying Week in November, providing guidance for managers to prompt discussion in team meetings. NDA Group-wide #chooserespect posters and LLWR’s bespoke poster were displayed widely and a digital campaign highlighted the organisation’s zero tolerance of bullying.



View from the top...

During the first gathering of our workforce following my recent appointment as Managing Director of LLW Repository Ltd, I displayed a host of photos to give a flavour of the organisation over the past year.



Among them was an image of me shaking hands with my predecessor Dennis Thompson, around the time of the move into my new post. My smile was a mile wide, and it was heartfelt.

I could not have felt more proud and privileged at being given the task of steering this organisation over the next four-and-a-half years.

We've come so far as a company and as an industry over the past decade, but there is so much more to achieve over LLWR's third and final five-year term.

Firstly, let's take a quick look back over what has been achieved over our opening 10 years. During our first contract term we solved capacity issues with the construction of Vault 9 and established alternative solutions for managing low level radioactive waste, in addition to submitting our Environmental Safety Case in 2011, to support our Environmental Permit.

During our second five-year term we focused on embedding the cultural changes we launched in 2008. We extended the life of the Repository well in to the 22nd century, eliminating the requirement for a second Low Level Waste Repository at a cost in excess of £2bn. At the same time we delivered over £250m of savings for the nuclear estate.

I could add many more of this organisation's high points in a decade of achievement but I fear there would be little space left for other news on these pages.

I'm honoured to lead a fantastic, dedicated workforce. But that's not to say we can't improve in many areas of our business. There is a need to evolve.

A Respect At Work campaign is underway to ensure all our people are appreciated and treated fairly. But respect stretches well beyond the 'factory gate', extending to our community, customers, contractors, consignors, regulators and many more.

We are going to be part of this landscape for a long time to come, and during my tenure I'm looking to maintain and develop our strong community bonds, in addition to strengthening our supply chain relationships.

There will be no slackening of our pace in 2019, quite the opposite. We will see the first physical works under the Repository Development Programme (RDP), the biggest programme we've yet undertaken that will take us many decades to complete. We must also think about preparing the organisation for post-2023.

As you can see there are plenty of challenges ahead, but I'm still smiling. With this workforce and the strong support of our community, the future for this organisation is bright.

Finally, can I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Paul Pointon,
Managing Director

Helping recruit next generation of talent

Two of LLWR's apprentices joined senior colleagues at a Gen2 Open Evening to help promote the organisation to potential recruits.



Step this way: Chloe, centre, and Jade, right, at the Gen2 event, discuss what LLWR can offer

Chloe Blinco and Jade Murphy (both Business Administration

apprentices) were joined at the event by Owen Adair, who after completing a four year apprenticeship with the company now has a role as an Electrical Technician on the Repository Site.

LLWR utilised an Employer Stand at the event, hosted by the training provider, and Abbie Wright, Apprentice Scheme Co-ordinator, thought it well worth the time and effort, with a steady stream of young people visiting the stand to learn more about the organisation.

"We have two more vacancies for apprentices next year and we wanted to be recognised as a potential employer for those submitting applications for next year's recruitment," Abbie said.

"We've showcased some of the great work we do with apprentices. Our retention rate is excellent and many of our apprentices have gone on to do really well with LLWR, by gaining positions within the company and completing further education."

Party time for Drigg youngsters

Balloons, sweeties and a special visit from Santa ... the Drigg and Carleton children's Christmas Party again went down a storm in the Village Hall.

LLWR traditionally supports the party, which this year saw Father Christmas hand out gifts to 26 local youngsters aged up to 11.

Georgina Wilson, Head of Project Controls at LLWR, a Drigg resident and one of the event's organisers, said: "The children went home with a present, selection box, balloons and lots of sweets having had lots of fun. We are extremely grateful for the support we receive from local businesses and



organisations to enable us to continue to host the party, including LLWR, who have been a consistent and generous supporter. Likewise, the Drigg Charity through the Drigg and Carleton Community Fund and NSG, a key contractor at LLWR, who have donated selection boxes for each child for the past few years."

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, 16th January, 2019, 2pm to 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.

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