



On the Level

News and views from the LLW Repository site

Gold standard prevails at NWS



We have been awarded an 18th consecutive Gold Award and the RoSPA Order of Distinction – the largest occupational health and safety awards programme in the UK.

RoSPA is the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents – the award confirms that we have been recognising our commitment to health and safety excellence.

This one really does feel special, it's the first time the awards recognise us as Nuclear Waste Services (we previously entered as LLW Repository Ltd).

Mike Pigott, Director of Sites & Operations praised the teams for 'showing continued commitment to safety, security and the environment during times of change, and maintaining stakeholder confidence so we can deliver the wider NWS mission'.

Capping work continues at the Repository site



As you may be aware, our key priority at the Repository site is the final capping of the north end of the historic trench disposal area, together with Vault 8.

We've previously managed this activity under the 'umbrella' term of the Repository Development Programme (RDP), but our delivery model has evolved, and this work is now part of our wider site operations portfolio.

What does it mean for me?

From now on, you'll see this work referred to as Capping Operations. There's no change to the work being carried out – we communicated this at our recent Repository drop-in events in Drigg Village Hall and we'll keep you updated through our newsletters. It's a large, complex programme of work. To minimise any associated noise, dust, traffic, ecological and visual impacts, we've

installed noise barriers and visual screening bunds, we carry out regular noise monitoring of activities and we've made a commitment to bring most of the aggregate and materials to the site via rail.

What's happening now?

We are engaging with the supply chain to select the contractor for the next phase of the Southern Trench Cap Interim Membrane (STIM) project, which is planned to be phased over the next five years and expected to commence late in 2024. The project involves the installation of an additional membrane under the interim trench cap.

This membrane will continue to protect the waste on the southern

trenches and will remain in place for up to 100 years. It will be gradually covered by the final cap as it moves south over future vaults and adjacent trenches.

The early enabling works include installing drainage in a herringbone formation across the trenches to drain soft spots (see picture) to allow the installation of the interim membrane. This phase of the project is nearing the completion.

We've also been removing stumps and roots from the area next to the trenches, using excavators, tractors, and trailers. This work is required to allow us to build temporary water lagoons to assist with drainage during installation of the interim membrane. We had to complete this work before hibernation begins for our diverse wildlife population, which is a key consideration when planning activities. Thank you for your understanding during this time.

Mike Pigott, Director of Sites and Operations said "It's great to see our Southern Trench Cap Interim Membrane (STIM) project come to market as a result of a collaborative effort across our Commercial, Projects and Technical teams, to name a few, and we look forward to engaging with the supply-chain. This important work is a key enabler for the final capping of our disposal vaults and trenches, and is critical to our mission."

Muncaster Microbus needs volunteer drivers

The Muncaster Microbus provides a community transport service to the mid Copeland area. They need volunteer drivers to help keep the service going.

They run regular 'town trips' to Whitehaven on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and less frequent trips to Workington, Cockermouth, Barrow, Carlisle, Kendal, Keswick and Penrith on Wednesdays and Saturdays. The bus is also available for private hire with or without a driver.

Drivers need a D1 category on their driving licence (all drivers who passed their test before January 1997 should have this). Drivers without a D1 would need to take a PSV licence.

Volunteer drivers can drive at times and frequency to suit themselves and the drivers usually get together each month to populate the rota. Drivers are usually asked to try to drive at least every couple of months, but an occasional driver is far better than no driver!

For further information or to volunteer, please email David Marsden: drmarsden@outlook.com



Investing in our local community

We've been able to fund a lot of your local events and projects recently – here's how some of the money we give to the local community is being put to good use:



Gosforth Amateur Dramatic Society

The summer youth theatre workshop is always popular and 2023 was no exception.

The workshop runs for a week in the school holidays and up to 24 participants aged from 8 to 18 learn about all aspects of putting on a show, finishing with a fantastic performance for friends and family.

Not only does the workshop keep young people occupied for a week during the summer holidays, but also enriches their education and boosts their self-confidence and self-esteem. We were pleased to contribute towards hire of the hall and royalties this year.



Millom STEM club

Encouraging young people to take up Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects is particularly important for the future of our industry, so providing funding to equip a dedicated Design and Technology (D&T) workshop was an easy decision.

Each year, pupils in years 5 and 6 from seven local primary schools are given the knowledge and skills to carry out a project brief through STEM Club. Once the new workshop is complete, the prototyping and building of their final models will be done there, taking pupils away from the classroom and into a real-world environment.



Gosforth AFC

This local, community-run football club is an important local hub and allows both juniors and adults to express themselves through sport.

The current home kit is in poor condition and cannot be used for another season, so we've helped the team to purchase new kit.

Importantly, we've also funded vital first aid items to look after the players' physical wellbeing.



If you'd like to apply for funding or find out more, the details are on our gov.uk site.

Making a difference in Sustainability Week



We held a Sustainability Week in September across Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) to embed how we protect and enhance the environment, as well as create sustainable local and regional economies.

Our sites played a big part:

- Colleagues visited the Repository site for a biodiversity walk, looking at our various wildlife and ecology
- At Pelham House, staff were able to test drive electric vehicles with Lloyd Motor Group

The week was a big success, with our workforce inspired to take small actions which all add up to big impacts.

Across NWS, every sustainable change we make takes us closer to our goal of net zero, and change is possible when we all work together.

Taking PRIDE in our work

If you visited Whitehaven's first Pride event – Pride by the Harbourside – you may have seen us there.

Our team were busy highlighting NWS' commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) and the benefits of having an inclusive workforce.

Thanks to Drigg and Carleton Parish Council for loaning us the marquee for the day.





And finally...

They say summer is silly season – when everything goes quiet and we all get a bit of a breather.

Well, that doesn't seem to have been the case at the Repository site, where we're all as busy as ever.

With our Capping Operations now in full swing (you can read more about this on page 2) you may have noticed that there's more activity on and around the Site. But please be assured that we are doing all we can to minimise disruption for everyone in the local area. Our social license to operate remains at the heart of what we do.

As a local resident myself, it's wonderful to see so many worthwhile local projects benefiting from our socio-economic funding. This is where we can give back to the community, and it's a lovely part of our jobs.

We fund projects which are going to bring lasting benefits to the communities they operate in and have good environmental values.

There have also been some changes to the West Cumbria Sites Stakeholder Group with the formation of the Nuclear Waste Services Working Group. This gives us the opportunity to provide updates on our Geological Disposal work to this important forum that scrutinises our activities.

Finally a note on safety; our RoSPA Gold Award (front page) isn't just a trophy, it's proof that we're carrying out our operations with safety in mind. Safety is always our priority, not only for our workforce and contractors, but also for our local community. We want to give you confidence that we carry out all our operations with the health and safety of everyone at the centre of what we do.

Keep talking to us, we always welcome your feedback, and it helps us when we're planning ahead. You can get in touch at llwr.public.affairs@llwrsite.com.

Martin Walkingshaw, Chief Operating Officer

Residents return for our second site tour

After the success of our previous site tour for local residents (Local community site tour is a success, On The Level – Issue 37), we offered a further tour in August.

This latest tour focussed on areas of the site which are part of our current work schedule, largely centred around our Capping Operations and STIM project (you can read more about this on page 2).

As well as showing guests exactly what was happening at the Repository site, we were able to highlight some of the mitigations we've put in place to help minimise disruption for our local community.

Sam Ward from our Stakeholder team said:

"It was good to see our second tour so well attended. We had feedback on the day that people were quite surprised by the scale of the work that has been done already with limited disturbance to them.

"We were pleased to show how seriously we take our responsibilities as a good neighbour."



Residents tour 22 August 2023

Nuclear Waste Services

LLW Repository site, Old Shore Road,
Holmrook, Cumbria CA19 1XP

Pelham House, Pelham Drive,
Calderbridge, Cumbria CA20 1DB