



The NDA group Strategy

Effective from March 2026

Integrated Impact Assessment Report
Post Adoption Statement



Glossary

AGR	Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor
C&M	Care & Maintenance
EA	Environment Agency
EU	European Union
GDF	Geological Disposal Facility
HLW	High-Level Waste
IIA	Integrated Impact Assessment
ILW	Intermediate-Level Waste
LLW	Low-Level Waste
LLWR	Low Level Waste Repository
NDA	Nuclear Decommissioning Authority
NHS	National Health Service
NRS	Nuclear Restoration Services
NRW	Natural Resource Wales
NSD	Near-Surface Disposal
NT	TÜV SÜD - Nuclear Technologies Division
NWS	Nuclear Waste Services
RPD	Rolling Programme of Decommissioning
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SEA	Strategic Environmental Assessment
SEPA	Scottish Environmental Protection Agency
SLC	Site Licenced Company
UK	United Kingdom

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

This Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) Post-Adoption Statement is written to accompany the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority group (NDA) Strategy (2026), which has been revised and adopted after considering feedback from public consultation.

The NDA has completed its fourth five-year review and update of its NDA group Strategy in alignment with the Energy Act (2004). The first NDA group Strategy was published in 2006, with review cycles in 2011, 2016 and 2021. The fourth review cycle began in 2024, with the draft NDA group Strategy being published for public consultation in July 2025. This is discussed further in Section 3.3.

The NDA group Strategy reviews the NDA's strategic position, establishing and maintaining its strategic direction on activities across the sites which comprise its estate. The strategies that have been selected are carried out and implemented by Site Licence Companies (SLCs), which manage the sites on the NDA's behalf and under its strategic guidance.

The NDA is required to ensure that the development of its NDA group Strategy is in accordance with the requirements of the European Union's (EU) Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive [1] and transposing United Kingdom (UK) SEA Regulations [2]. As part of the process of updating the IIA, the NDA are required to review the environmental baseline information and legislative/policy context required by the SEA Directive, and the transposing UK Regulations. A Health Impact Assessment and Socio-economic Impact Assessment have been included and reported on as part of the IIA, to compliment the Environmental Assessment that fulfils the requirements of the SEA Regulations.

1.2 Purpose of the Post-Adoption Statement

The purpose of the Post-Adoption Statement is to report how environmental, health and socio-economic considerations, consultations and IIA findings have been taken into consideration in the NDA group Strategy (2026).

Regulation 16 of the SEA Regulations requires a Post-Adoption Statement to be produced and published alongside the NDA group Strategy, ensuring that it contains the following information:

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the NDA group Strategy.
- How the findings of the IIA have been considered in the NDA group Strategy.
- How opinions expressed in the NDA group Strategy and IIA consultations have been taken into account.

- The reasons for choosing the NDA group Strategy as adopted, in place of other reasonable alternatives dealt with during the Strategy development.
- Measures that will be taken to monitor significant environmental effects of the NDA group Strategy implementation.

This Post-Adoption Statement has been prepared after consultation has taken place, IIA findings have been considered, and the IIA and NDA group Strategy are in final issue forms.

2 Environmental, health and socio-economic considerations

2.1 IIA findings

The IIA for NDA group Strategy (2021) was reviewed and updated to form the IIA for NDA group Strategy (2026). The legislative context and baseline information required to support NDA group Strategy (2026) have been collated in Volume 3 of the IIA. The four strategic themes were broken down into topics, and the credible options within these were updated. The key environmental topics assessed against in the IIA for NDA group Strategy (2021), and derived from the SEA regulations, were further split to allow a more detailed consideration (see Section 3 of Volume 1). Following feedback from the IIA for NDA group Strategy (2021), health and well-being determinants were identified and where appropriate, were combined to form five new topics to assess against.

Recommendations were provided to mitigate adverse effects of the NDA group Strategy and create or enhance positive effects (see Section 7 of Volume 1).

The assessment findings are summarised in Section 6 of Volume 1 of the IIA for NDA group Strategy (2026) and discussed in detail in Volume 2.

2.2 Sustainability

It has been recognised that sustainability, once a critical enabler and seen as an individual topic in the IIA of NDA group Strategy (2021), is now key to the NDA mission.

The NDA group Strategy on sustainability is hardwired into the entire organisation with regards to its priorities, actions, and impacts. Sustainability is no longer an individual factor NDA consider in decision making but is rather an all-encompassing core driver of the activities of the organisation.

Sustainability was not singled out in the IIA; however, aspects of sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were used as broader support tools to undertake the environmental, socio-economic and health impact assessments.

Sustainability is discussed further in Section 3.1 of Volume 1 of the IIA for NDA group Strategy (2026).

2.3 How the IIA has been taken into account in the NDA group Strategy

The IIA was developed during 2024-2025, in tandem with the development of the draft NDA group Strategy (2026). A scoping report was prepared and submitted for statutory and non-statutory consultation (discussed in Section 3.2). NDA group Strategy changes were

discussed with strategic theme leads through stakeholder engagement. The leads confirmed the credible and preferred options within their respective strategic themes.

The IIA findings, including mitigations and potential enhancements, were reviewed by the strategic theme leads and will be used to inform future strategic decision-making in accordance with NDA's Strategy Management System and the NDA Value Framework [3], allowing the identification of option(s) that offer the greatest value, considering the importance of economic, social and environmental impacts. The methodology and findings from the IIA have helped establish possible significant effects of the strategies and will identify where future assessments could be focussed.

In alignment with the SEA Regulations, the IIA should identify likely significant effects of strategies, but not prevent or prejudice a future decision on which options would be conclusively implemented. This was especially focussed on strategic topics whereby the NDA group Strategy does not determine a preferred option. In the situation where no preferred option has been determined, it may be due to a credible option being preferable under certain circumstances, or a credible option lacking the information required for a preferable option to be determined.

The IIA was published for public consultation alongside the draft NDA group Strategy (2026) in July 2025. This gave the public an opportunity to comment on the draft NDA group Strategy (2026) and the IIA. This is discussed further in section 3.3.

The NDA group Strategy has now been finalised and adopted, based on the findings of the IIA and the consultation responses. This Post-Adoption Statement should be read alongside the finalised NDA group Strategy and IIA report.

3 Consultation on the NDA group Strategy and the IIA

The updates to the NDA group Strategy and IIA were developed through a consultative, iterative process, which involved high levels of stakeholder engagement and consultation. The NDA identified representatives and organisations with an interest in the nuclear industry, environment, health or socio-economic issues, and statutory environmental and regulatory bodies, such as the Environment Agency, Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Natural Resources Wales, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero, the Scottish Government, and the Welsh Government, Nuleaf and Office for Nuclear Regulation.

3.1 Stakeholder engagement

The relevant stakeholders and regulators as identified by the NDA were engaged with and consulted on the approach and methodology of the IIA. This included regulators, governmental bodies and parties with nuclear expertise including those listed above. Engagement occurred between 12th September and 15th October 2024. Each stakeholder was engaged with on a one-to-one basis via a virtual meeting to allow for focused consideration of every stakeholder's opinion.

A Scoping Report was prepared and took into account feedback from the stakeholder engagement. A summary of the changes proposed to be made to the 2021 IIA and discussed with the stakeholders are summarised below:

- Longer assessment pieces were moved to Volume 2, to allow for a concise Volume 1.
- Consideration of critical enablers throughout the assessment.
- Measurements of monitoring considered during the production of the monitoring plan.
- Sustainability hardwired throughout the IIA.
- Signposting and links between the documents.
- Diversity added as a topic in the socio-economic assessment.
- A cover page describing key updates from the 2021 IIA.
- Northern Ireland statutory consultees added.

3.2 Regulatory consultation

The Scoping Report was issued for statutory and non-statutory consultation including regulators and other key stakeholders in November 2024. The responses received from the consultation were taken into account in the IIA report, prior to public consultation in July 2025.

3.3 Public consultation

The draft NDA group Strategy (2026) and IIA were published for public consultation from 7th July to 29th September 2025. Almost 1,000 comments were received from nearly 100 Consultees. 10 of these comments from 6 consultees related to the IIA report.

A summary of the minor changes made to the IIA report following consultation is presented below:

- Clarification on consolidation of radioactive wastes.
- Renaming of a credible option under the Site End States topic in the Site Decommissioning and Remediation strategic theme.
- Clarification on Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) managing Low Level Waste (LLW) Vaults at Dounreay.
- Removal of text referencing a proposed national park in the Dumfries and Galloway area of Scotland, with the potential boundaries approximately 64km to the west of the Chapelcross site following an update post-issue of the draft IIA.
- Review and update of Dumfries & Galloway Council's Local Development Plan for Chapelcross, including additional text describing a Strategic Development Framework, published in November 2024.

4 Strategic options

4.1 Summary of NDA group Strategy (2026)

There are four strategic themes under which the NDA's core activities are grouped, these are Site Decommissioning and Remediation, Spent Fuels, Nuclear Materials and Integrated Waste Management. Within each theme activities are broken down into topic strategies.

4.1.1 Site Decommissioning and Remediation

This strategic theme is split into four categories: Safe Stewardship, Decommissioning, Site End States, and Estate Use.

4.1.1.1 Safe Stewardship

The NDA group Strategy objective for Safe Stewardship is to ensure the safe and sustainable management of the NDA estate. This will be progressed and developed through an estate management plan created through stakeholder engagement and reviewing existing information and arrangements across the estate, identifying and prioritising opportunities, and considering regional and national needs.

The two credible options for Safe Stewardship are:

- Utilise existing assets to manage and maintain the estate.
- Develop/construct new assets to manage and maintain the estate.

4.1.1.2 Decommissioning

The NDA group Strategy objective is to deliver site end states as soon as reasonably practicable with a progressive reduction of risk and hazards. To do this, decommissioning and waste management will be considered during maintenance and operations at existing facilities. A rolling programme of decommissioning (RPD) will be implemented, to form a sequence of decommissioning activities that considers risk, readiness and strategic value. Furthermore, the NDA will gradually adjust arrangements to be more proportionate to hazards and risks.

The credible options for Decommissioning are:

- Immediate dismantling – either accelerated, parallel or sequential.
- Deferred dismantling – minimal interventions during Care and Maintenance (C&M).
- Deferred dismantling – planned interventions during C&M.
- Combined strategy including interim state(s).

4.1.1.3 Site End States

The NDA group Strategy objective is to define credible objectives for the decommissioning and remediation of the estate. The NDA will review assumptions and identify opportunities for optimisation and alignment of strategic threads. The NDA will engage with regulators, local authorities and the Government to ensure sustainable site end states and engage with key stakeholders to agree on the information that will be recorded by the operating companies surrounding interim end states.

The credible options for Site End States are:

- Leave the hazard where it is and restrict or manage land use.
- Make land suitable for next planned use.
- Remove the hazard completely so that the risk does not need to be controlled.

4.1.1.4 Estate Use

The NDA group Strategy for Estate Use is to optimise the use and reuse of the estate. The NDA will prioritise land use for decommissioning, and where possible, make it available for others to use. The NDA will also advocate for brownfield land reuse rather than greenfield land development. The NDA will establish group-wide management arrangements and guidance on how to optimise the estate, informed by the estate management strategy.

The credible options for Estate Use are:

- Retain land as an NDA asset or liability.
- Divest the land (leasehold) for social, environmental or economic benefit.
- Divest the land (freehold) for social, environmental or economic benefit.

4.1.2 Spent Fuels

The credible options for spent fuels have changed since the 2021 NDA group Strategy [4], and are now split into the stages of their lifecycle. These are: Consolidation, Interim Storage, and Disposition. The NDA's spent fuel inventory is at varying stages along this lifecycle.

4.1.2.1 Consolidation

The NDA group Strategy for Consolidation is to consolidate all of the spent fuels they own or are contracted to manage at Sellafield. Taking the spent fuel from reactor sites and consolidating at Sellafield will substantially reduce radioactivity and hazards at reactor sites, to enable decommissioning and remediation. This will also allow the NDA to use Sellafield's extensive and specialised facilities, capabilities, and expertise. Additionally, on the Sellafield site, the NDA group Strategy is to progress consolidation of spent fuels in less, more modern facilities, which allows the gradual release of ageing facilities for decommissioning.

The credible options for Consolidation are:

- Only consolidate Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (AGR) spent fuel at Sellafield and store spent fuel from Dounreay at Dounreay until a disposition option becomes available.
- Stop all consolidation activities and leave spent fuels on reactor sites until a disposition option becomes available.

4.1.2.2 Interim Storage

The NDA group Strategy for Interim Storage is to store spent fuel inventories, and maintain their condition in line with regulatory requirements, until the packaging and treatment options, and disposal in a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF), are available. Consideration will be given to how spent fuels are expected to evolve during storage, and to manage them in such a way that it does not impact future options.

The credible options for Interim Storage are:

- Treat and package all spent fuels now ready for disposal in a GDF, including drying spent oxide fuels and storing in disposal containers.
- Minimise new storage solutions and use existing packages and facilities for all fuels.

4.1.2.3 Disposition

The NDA group Strategy objective for Disposition is to provide safe and secure lifecycle management through storage and then disposal in a GDF. Packing and treatment will only take place when disposal requirements are understood, and the NDA are working with stakeholders to determine how and when spent fuels should be deemed waste. The NDA are working with Nuclear Waste Services (NWS) and Sellafield to identify how to prepare and package spent fuels so that they are suitable for disposal in a GDF.

The credible options for Disposition are:

- Declare all fuels as waste today.
- Store fuels indefinitely.

4.1.3 Nuclear Materials

The NDA owns large quantities of civil uranium and plutonium from nuclear fuel enrichment, fabrication and reprocessing. These nuclear materials have a wide range of properties. Managing nuclear materials is essential to enable decommissioning of NDA sites.

4.1.3.1 Plutonium

Following the 2025 Government decision, the NDA group Strategy objective for plutonium is to ensure the safe and secure management of separated plutonium held by the NDA and to implement the Government policy to immobilise the material. This comprises of ensuring long-term safe and secure storage at Sellafield and working with the UK Government and delivery partners to implement the policy to immobilise the material and put it beyond reach.

The credible options for managing the NDA inventory of plutonium are:

- Build facilities to condition and treat plutonium prior to storage and disposal to a GDF.
- Continuation of the current baseline of continued safe and secure storage of plutonium, renovating and replacing stores as required.

4.1.3.2 Uranium

The NDA group Strategy objective for Uranium is to continue safe and secure storage of the uranium inventory, to support its reuse where cost effective and to ensure its final disposition. The NDA will follow the UK Government's [5] new policy for managing radioactive substances when developing its uranium strategy, including recognition of uranium as a potential asset.

The credible options for managing the NDA inventory of uranium are:

- Continued safe and secure storage pending sale for reuse, where economically and/or technically practicable.
- Continued safe and secure storage pending disposal.
- Continued safe and secure storage pending conditioning to an appropriate form for disposal.

4.1.4 Integrated Waste Management

The management of solid radioactive waste is a lifecycle from planning and preparation through retrieval, treatment and packaging, storage, and finally disposal. The NDA is employing a systems approach to waste management, looking at the overall capability of the NDA's waste management system rather than for individual projects and sites. The system is not linear, and the strategy demonstrates a circular view of waste.

4.1.4.1 Treatment, Packaging and Storage

The NDA will use a toolkit of waste-treatment options and a risk-informed approach to waste treatment, and support NDA sites in considering the role of treatment within an overall waste management system aligned to the NDA mission. The NDA group Strategy for packaging is for operating companies to transfer waste into an agreed suite of containers throughout the waste management lifecycle and use closer collaboration to optimise

management, commercial and manufacturing approaches. For storage, the NDA will establish the benefits and boundaries of storing waste for a specific purpose rather than prompt treatment and packaging, and provide industry guidance for the interim storage of High-Level Waste (HLW) and Intermediate-Level Waste (ILW) packages.

The credible options for the treatment, packaging and storage of waste are:

- Treatment, packaging and storage at local (on or near site) facilities.
- Treatment, packaging and storage at regional facilities.
- Treatment, packaging and storage at national facilities.

4.1.4.2 Disposal

The NDA's preferred approach remains aligned to that in NDA group Strategy (2021), enabling waste producers to identify and select the most appropriate waste route to follow a risk-informed approach to disposal. To do this, the NDA will work with their operating companies to identify new solutions for their wastes that minimise the need for disposal.

The credible options for Disposal of waste are:

- On-site or in situ disposal at additional sites.
- Disposal to Near Surface Disposal (NSD) at Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR) subject to permitting and planning.
- Disposal to GDF subject to ongoing consultation and investigation.

4.1.5 Critical Enablers

Critical Enablers undertake the important activities needed to support the delivery of the NDA mission. The Critical Enabler strategies do not themselves comprise options that can be assessed from an environment, health or socio-economic perspective, except for Transport.

4.1.5.1 Transport

The NDA objective is to ensure the effective, safe and secure transportation of materials to enable the successful delivery of the NDA mission. To do this, the NDA will invest in people and skills, engage effectively with regulators, share and adopt international good practice, and through membership and support of industry groups. The increased use of rail transportation is a desirable and preferred option to reduce the impacts associated with the distribution of materials, such as construction products and soil from NDA sites. The NDA supports the civil-defence collaboration, and NTS will share its expertise, experience and capability.

5 Monitoring of NDA group Strategy 5

5.1 Monitoring framework

The SEA Regulations 2004 [2] state that the responsible authority, in this case the NDA, are required to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of each plan or programme. It is necessary to identify unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage in order to undertake appropriate remedial action.

As stated in the NDA group Strategy (2021) Post-Adoption Statement [6], monitoring should address questions such as:

- Were the results of the assessment, including predicted effects, accurate?
- Is the NDA group Strategy contributing in practice to the achievement of objectives?
- Are there any adverse effects (i.e., is the NDA group Strategy acting against achievement of the objectives)? If so, are they within acceptable limits or is remedial action required?

In addition, monitoring action should be focused on:

- Significant adverse effects that may give rise to irreversible damage, with a view to identifying trends before such damage is caused; and
- Aspects where the assessment has identified the risk of significant adverse effects, but where there is uncertainty, and where monitoring would help to resolve that uncertainty and enable preventative or mitigation/remedial measures to be taken.

5.2 Continued monitoring

Monitoring of environmental impacts is undertaken by the NDA Group on a site-specific basis, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Monitoring data collected by the NDA

Theme/Topic	Reported
Spent Fuel	NDA Mission Reporting
Nuclear Materials	NDA Mission Reporting
Materials and waste	NDA Mission Reporting
Decommissioning & Demolition (including remediation)	NDA Mission Reporting
Land Use	NDA Mission Reporting
Carbon emissions	NDA Sustainability Review [7]
Diversity	NDA Group Inclusion Strategy [8]

Monitoring of a range of IIA related topics and themes is also undertaken by a variety of national bodies covering the UK, England and the devolved administrations of Scotland and Wales, as shown in Table 2.

Table 2 Monitoring data collected by external organisations

Theme/Topic	Monitoring body	Reported
Radiological emissions	Environment Agency (EA) et al	RIFE Report [9]
Non-radiological emissions	EA, Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)	EA Pollution Inventory [10], Scottish Pollution Release Inventory [11]
General Health	UK Government, Scottish Government	Office for National Statistics [12], Scotland's Census [13]
Water resources and quality	EA, SEPA, Natural Resource Wales (NRW)	EA Catchment Data Explorer [14], SEPA Water Classification Hub [15], Data Map Wales [16]
Heart and circulatory disease	British Heart Foundation	Heart and Circulatory Disease Statistics 2024 [17]
Cancer	National Health Service (NHS) England, Public Health Scotland, Public Health Wales,	Cancer Registration Statistics 2022 [18], Cancer Incidence Public Health Wales [19], Cancer Incidence in Scotland 2021 Report [20]
Radioactivity (Health)	EA et al	RIFE Report [9]
Life expectancy	UK Government, Scottish Government	Office for National Statistics [12], National Records of Scotland [21]
Mental Health	NHS England, Scottish Government, Welsh Government	NHS Mental Health Bulletin [22], Scottish Health Survey [23], National survey for Wales [24]
Population	UK Government, Scottish Government	Office for National Statistics [12], Scotland's Census [13]

A review of monitoring activities, and the monitoring framework, should be carried out during the next NDA group Strategy review cycle.

6 Concluding comments

This IIA Post-Adoption Statement for the NDA group Strategy (2026) is the completing stage in the IIA process and this document will be published alongside the NDA group Strategy (2026).

A small number of comments were received on the IIA during public consultation which have resulted in minor changes to the IIA.

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