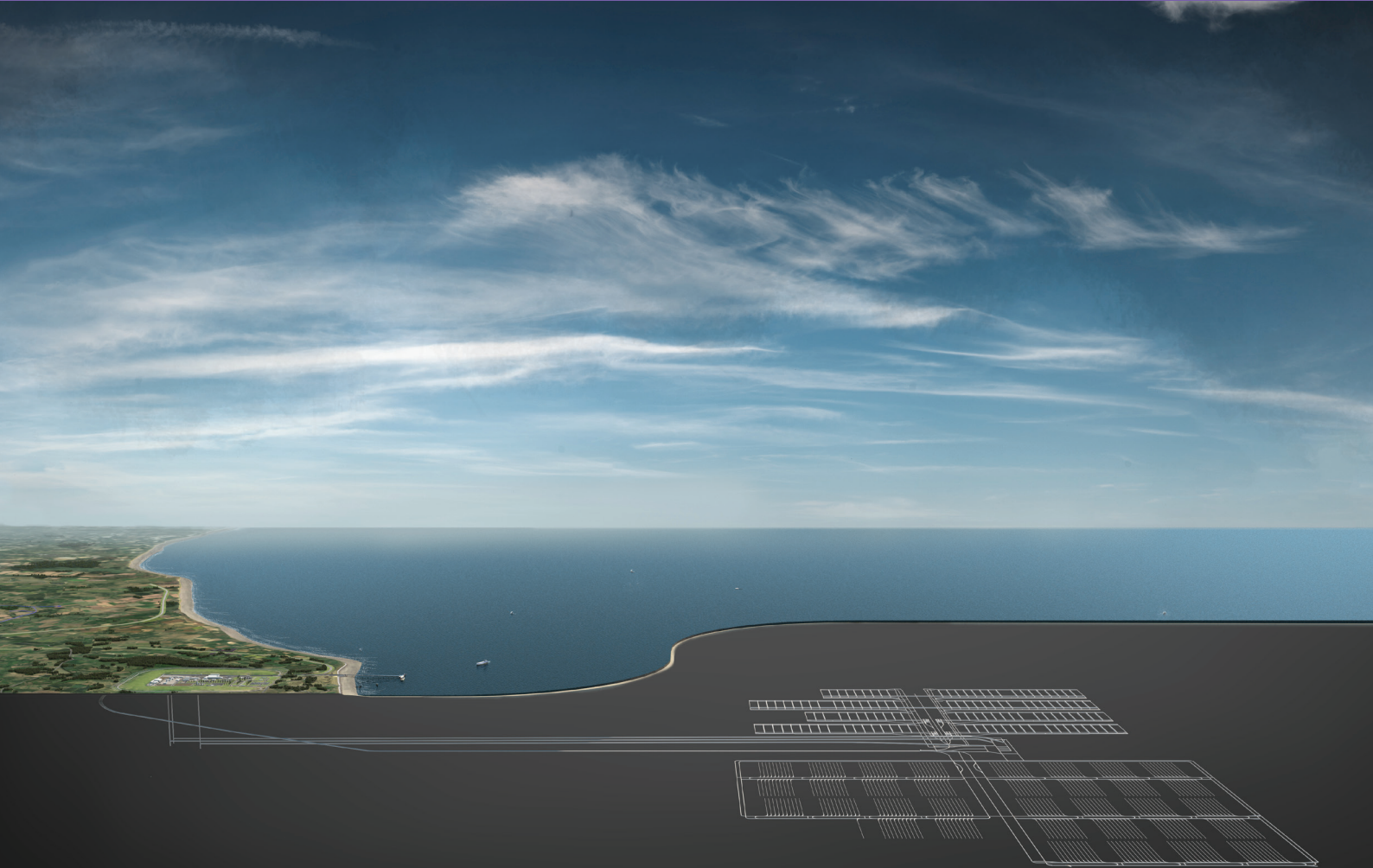




South Copeland GDF Community Partnership Newsletter



Welcome to the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership newsletter.

In this edition, we bring you news of what we've been working on since last time, the South Copeland Search Area boundary changing due to Local Government Reorganisation, and the GDF developer starting its initial investigations to begin to understand the suitability of locating a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) in South Copeland.

The information provided from these site evaluation studies will hopefully help to answer many of the questions raised by members of the public and aid understanding as to whether South Copeland could be a suitable location to host a GDF. This is really important as, ultimately, it



will be the residents of the Potential Host Community who make the decision as to whether or not they want a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF).

The process of finding a suitable site could take 10-15 years. Before regulatory approvals for the GDF are sought, a Test of Public Support would give the Potential Host Community a direct say over whether or not the project goes ahead.

South Copeland is not the only community considering whether it is the right location for a GDF and if a GDF is right for it – Mid Copeland and Allerdale in Cumbria and Theddlethorpe in Lincolnshire are also taking part in the siting process.

As a Partnership, we want to hear and share different views, and in this issue, The Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM), who provide independent scrutiny and transparent advice to the UK government on the long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste, offer their view on geological disposal. In addition, we'll take a look at what is happening in Canada and reflect on our



discussion with Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee (ICNLC), one of the communities considering hosting a GDF there.

We also provide the answers to some of your questions – “What is a Test of Public Support?” and “What is a Potential Host Community?”.

Finally, we introduce you to two new Community Partnership members, Kate Willshaw and John Sutton, who give a voice to the environment on the Partnership. We are continuing to look for new members in the sectors of Agriculture, Business, Tourism, Seldom Heard and Youth, so if you would like to join us and help ensure that the community has all of the relevant information that they need about geological disposal and the process, please get in touch.

I hope you find this issue interesting, and if you have any questions or would like to share your views please do contact us.

Ged McGrath

Chair, South Copeland GDF
Community Partnership





What have the Partnership been up to recently?

Since our last newsletter, we have held 4 meetings in public. These meetings are one of the ways we are aiming to meet with the local community and listen to your views, and are part of a wider plan of engaging with the community in the months ahead. An average of 10 people have attended each public meeting and the 15-minute open forum means that attendees can have their questions answered in a public setting. The questions submitted have been wide-ranging and have included:

When will the results of the Seismic Survey be available?

Why are draft Minutes not published on the website?

Why can't we have a Stakeholder Forum that can address some of the questions we would like answered?

These are examples of the range of questions that we have answered and looked to address at/following the public meetings.

The Partnership welcomed two new members in February who you can read about on page 8. We also welcomed Chris Gigg from Drigg and Carleton Parish Council in April following Local Government Reorganisation; look out for an interview with Chris in a future newsletter.

Crucially, the Partnership held three workshops earlier this year:

1. Reviewing progress during the first year of Community Partnership operations, and outlining a work plan for Year 2
2. A 'Thinking Ahead' workshop looking at potential stages of the siting process and what these could mean for the community
3. A final workshop to review and bring everything together, including an Outline Delivery Plan for public viewing

Key features of the Outline Delivery Plan, which highlights our key goals for the year ahead, include:

- Hosting a pilot Community Forum
- Investigating the feasibility of a local hub for the Community Partnership
- Conducting a follow-up Public Opinion Survey

The full Outline Delivery Plan for 2023/24 is on page 4.



South Copeland Community Partnership Outline Delivery Plan 2023/24

Activity/ Workstream	Delivery Plan			
	Q1 (Apr – Jun)	Q2 (Jul – Sep)	Q3 (Oct – Dec)	Q4 (Jan – Mar)
(1) Communications and Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrate new communities into South Copeland CP Examine the feasibility of a local community engagement hub in South Cumberland Conduct Public Opinion Survey Refresh website and redesign newsletter Commission report on the impact of a GDF for South Cumberland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility report on a community hub delivered Implement a Pilot Community Forum Develop arrangements for Annual Community Partnership Report Launch refreshed newsletter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish Public Opinion Survey results Identify lessons learnt from Pilot Community Forum prior to rollout 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish the Community Impacts Report Community Engagement Plan for 2024/5 agreed Publish Annual Community Partnership Report
(2) Community Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission review of existing local/regional plans in support of community/economic development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with key stakeholders to agree approach to a community vision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the community to initiate the process to develop a vision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> End of year review with a look ahead to 2024
(3) Community Partnership Operations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Community Partnership Agreement and Terms of Reference to ensure suitability for 2023 Agree Terms of Reference for subgroups Develop and publish Community Partnership Delivery Plan for 2023/4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Community Partnership Delivery Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assure the community that key concerns are fully integrated into the developing process for potential Community Withdrawal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Community Partnership Agreement and Terms of Reference to ensure suitability for 2024 Prepare Community Partnership Delivery Plan for 2024/5
(4) Community Investment Funding (CIF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Community Investment Panel membership to support implementation of Cumberland Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present mid-year performance review 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Community Investment Funding priorities for 2024 Review Community Investment Panel membership in readiness for 2024 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present end of year performance review
Interface with NWS Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWS to present key updates to Community Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Marine Geophysical Survey Site evaluation roadmap Development Consent Order Property Value Protection scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWS to present key updates to Community Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development Consent Order 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWS to present key updates to Community Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority Site Evaluation study outputs (earliest) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWS to present key updates to Community Partnership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretation of Marine Geophysical Survey data (earliest)

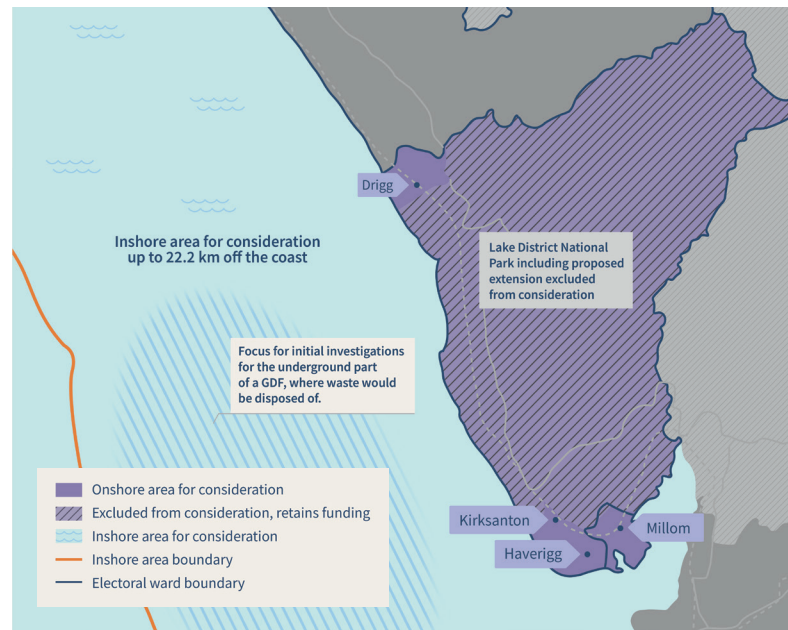


South Copeland Search Area boundary changes due to Local Government Reorganisation

As of April 1 2023, the Search Area for South Copeland was required to change its boundary due to Local Government Reorganisation.

The Government’s GDF siting policy, *Implementing Geological Disposal – Working With Communities*, requires a Search Area to be defined using district or unitary council electoral ward boundaries, depending on the administrative arrangements in place for a particular area, and that any changes made to these boundaries over time should be reflected in the Search Area.

The electoral ward boundaries of Copeland Borough Council ceased to exist after April 1st and the relevant ward boundaries applicable to Search Areas in this part of Cumberland



became those of the new Cumberland Council. For the time being, Cumberland Council is using the boundaries of the old County Council electoral divisions.

The South Copeland Search Area will cover the Cumberland electoral wards of Millom and Millom Without which incorporates the parishes of Drigg and Carleton, and Irton with Santon. These parishes previously formed part of the Mid Copeland Search Area as they were within the Copeland Council electoral ward of Gosforth and Seascale but now sit within the South Copeland Search Area.

Where boundaries have changed, local residents will now be engaged by the South Copeland Community Partnership. However, the Mid Copeland Community Partnership has offered a non-voting seat to Drigg and Carleton Parish Council to keep communication open and provide continuity. The Parish Council has been engaged in the process since the Partnership formed.

If you live in Drigg and Carleton or Irton and Santon and would like to continue to receive printed newsletters from Mid Copeland, please email gdfinfo-midcopeland@nda.gov.uk

Areas within the Lake District National Park and the Southern Boundary Extension will continue to be excluded when considering a potential location for a GDF.



Site evaluation studies in South Copeland – Interview with Siting Manager



The GDF developer has started its initial investigations to begin to understand the potential of locating a GDF in South Copeland. The desk-based studies will look at the feasibility of delivering a surface facility within

the Search Area that could be connected to the geology of interest off the coast.

The developer will lead the studies and draw upon a wider supply chain of specialist contractors to conduct non-intrusive studies in all the Community Partnership areas.

We asked Barnaby Hudson, Siting Manager at Nuclear Waste Services (NWS), some questions about the studies.

What are site evaluation studies?

A range of studies will be undertaken in each of the Community Partnership areas to look at where a surface site, underground accessways and associated development for a GDF might be located. The feasibility studies are expected to inform decisions about whether an area should proceed to further site characterisation. The studies are likely to be ‘desktop’ studies looking in more detail at existing data.

What are the initial studies you are carrying out in South Copeland?

The first studies will address priority topics, and further studies will be considered. The initial studies are in these areas:

- **Geology** – Collating existing information about geology in the South Copeland Search Area and the adjacent inshore area to provide an increased understanding of geology to help support further local studies. Seismic data collected last summer will be included when processed.
- **Accessways (tunnels)** – Accessways are the underground tunnels or shafts which link a surface site to a disposal location. This will include looking at engineering feasibility such as the number of accessways which could be required and appropriate mining methodology.
- **Initial Transport Study** – Gathering existing information about local transport to assess how a GDF may use the current transport infrastructure and consider what potential upgrades may be required.
- **Utilities (power)** – Identifying power infrastructure and capacity to understand local supply and assess how a GDF may influence future demand.
- **Implications of local geology** – Considering the implications of local geology which may influence the engineering requirements and design of a GDF to ensure safe and secure disposal of radioactive waste.



- **Higher activity waste disposal** – Considering the implications of local geology which may influence the disposal requirements and design of a GDF to ensure safe and secure disposal of radioactive waste.
- **Labour and skills** – Identifying local skills levels to assess how a GDF may influence future employment and training opportunities.
- **Future investigations** – Identifying the deep borehole drilling techniques and investigations which could be used in the local area.
- **Land** – Understanding potential local land requirements to support early engagement and raising awareness of future GDF investigations.
- **Proximity to nuclear licensed sites**
 - Understanding any operational requirements from an existing nuclear licensed site which may have an influence on the operations of a GDF.

How long will the studies take?

The studies will vary in duration and topic but are expected to be completed in all areas within 2-3 years of them starting. The results of some studies will come sooner than others.

Why haven't you started these studies earlier?

In the last 18 months, NWS has been preparing for Site Evaluation work by learning lessons from Site Evaluation activities in other countries and engaging and selecting an expert supply chain to support this work.

Who is doing the studies?

NWS will lead the studies and draw upon a wider supply chain of specialist contractors to conduct non-intrusive and desk-based studies in all of the Community Partnership areas.

Do the Community Partnerships decide what studies are done?

No, NWS as developer will lead the studies which need to consider a range of factors. The Community Partnerships have been briefed on the programme of studies and will be kept up to date about technical work carried out by NWS.

Which studies do you expect to complete first?

It's too early to say, but we will be keeping Community Partnerships updated on progress.

Were last year's geophysical surveys off Copeland part of this work?

The marine geophysical survey off the coast of South and Mid Copeland was an important early step in beginning to understand the deep geology beyond the coast. When available, the information from that work will help us to further consider the suitability of the geology beneath the seabed to host the underground elements of a GDF.

When are the results of the Copeland geophysical surveys expected?

Data acquired from the seismic survey is currently being processed. The work is expected to take nine months. The data will then be interpreted by geoscientists with this work expected to take an additional four months, meaning results will not be available for NWS to assess until the latter part of 2023.



Meet our new Community Partnership members giving a voice to the environment

The Community Partnership is made up of the local authority, the GDF developer and members who are reflective of the community in the Search Area. Our role is to facilitate discussion with the community and identify relevant information that people in the Search Area want or need about the siting process. Recently, two new members joined – Kate Willshaw, representing Friends of the Lake District, and John Sutton, representing Sustainable Duddon.



John Sutton, Sustainable Duddon

“I was born in Cumberland, grew up in Westmorland then Cumbria, then spent time away living and working in London and Yorkshire. When I retired from a career in the Civil Service I returned home and with South Copeland becoming part of a new Cumberland, I am coming full circle. I got involved in Sustainable Duddon as it is an organisation whose aim is to promote sustainable living and development locally. The discussions around a Geological Disposal Facility are of significance to all of us in South Copeland, so I applied to join the Community Partnership to represent Sustainable Duddon. I am keen to help ensure that as many local people as possible are a part of this important and complex conversation, and to help promote sustainable outcomes.”

Kate Willshaw, Friends of the Lake District

“I work for the Cumbrian charity Friends of the Lake District (FLD) protecting the environment of Cumbria and the Lake District. I joined The South Copeland Community Partnership to help make sure that the environment is taken into account during the Community Partnership process. I hope to be able to offer a voice for the landscape and wildlife of South Copeland and to work with the people in the South Copeland community who value them too. I currently live in rural south Cumbria with my husband and two border collies.”



We are continuing to look for new members in the sectors of Agriculture, Business, Tourism, Seldom heard and Youth. **If you are interested in joining us, please get in touch.** Recruitment is currently open-ended and membership will continue to evolve as the Community Partnership progresses.



CoRWM's view on geological disposal

Article provided by **The Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM)**

The Committee on Radioactive Waste Management (CoRWM) provides independent scrutiny and transparent advice to the UK governments on the long-term management of higher activity radioactive wastes.

In 2006, CoRWM published an appraisal of the technical options for managing the UK's higher activity radioactive waste, taking into account ethical considerations, an examination of overseas experience and a wide-ranging programme of engagement with both the public, interested parties and stakeholders.

It was concluded that, within the present state of knowledge, the burial underground (200-1000 metres) of radioactive waste in a purpose built facility with no intention to retrieve the waste once the facility is closed, was the best available approach. In 2018, CoRWM confirmed this position in its Position Paper: *Why Geological Disposal?*

There is also international consensus that this approach is the safest permanent solution to manage higher activity radioactive waste. It is already the chosen approach in countries including Canada, Finland, France, Sweden and Switzerland. Some of these countries are well on the way to developing their own GDFs.

A GDF involves isolating radioactive waste deep inside a suitable rock volume to ensure that no harmful quantities of radioactivity ever reach the surface environment. This is

achieved through the use of multiple barriers that work together to provide protection over hundreds of thousands of years.

Alternatives to geological disposal have been carefully considered and CoRWM continue to keep options under review. For example, we recently published a Position Paper on deep borehole disposal. At present, other alternatives are all either not technically achievable (for example: converting the waste to non-radioactive material), not environmentally safe (for example: disposal at sea or in ice sheets), or too dangerous to implement (for example: firing the waste into space on rockets).

CoRWM's second recommendation states that a robust programme of interim storage must play an integral part in the long-term management of the UK's higher activity waste. A continued commitment to the safe and secure management of wastes that is robust against the risk of delay or failure in the repository programme is recommended.

It is also recommended that in determining what reactor decommissioning wastes should be consigned for geological disposal, due regard should be paid to considering other available and publicly acceptable management options.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/committee-on-radioactive-waste-management>



You asked, we provide the answer

What is a Test of Public Support?

The Government's policy, *Implementing Geological Disposal – Working with Communities* - is clear that, before NWS seeks regulatory approval or development consent to begin construction of a GDF, there must be a Test of Public Support to determine whether the local community is willing to host a GDF. If the result of the Test of Public Support is positive, the developer may then make the statutory regulatory and development consent applications required to build a GDF at the selected site.

The decision around the siting of a GDF will be a lengthy process so the Community Partnership will need to consistently engage with the community and provide an environment where the community can ask questions and get answers, including what socio-technical and scientific uncertainties exist. The Relevant Principal Local Authorities on the Community Partnership will make the decision on when to undertake the Test of Public Support and it is anticipated that this will only be undertaken once there is enough information to present a clear proposal to the community to base a decision around.

If the Relevant Principal Local Authorities agree that it is an appropriate time to seek the community's view on whether or not it wishes to host a GDF, then the method for taking that Test of Public Support will be decided by the Community Partnership. The Community Partnership's view on what mechanisms could be used for this will be set out in the Community Partnership Agreement, which can be updated as views on this develop over time.

What is the Potential Host Community?

The Potential Host Community is the community within a geographical area that could potentially host a GDF. It will be identified over time from within a Search Area.

The boundaries of the Potential Host Community need to be defined to determine who will get a say in the Test of Public Support.





The Potential Host Community will be defined using district, or unitary council electoral ward boundaries, depending on the administrative arrangements in place in the area. The Potential Host Community would include all of the wards in which the following would be located:

- proposed surface and underground elements of a GDF;
- any associated development (as defined under the Planning Act 2008 in England) and any land required to mitigate impacts;
- transport links/routes from the GDF site to the nearest port, railhead or primary road network (i.e. out to where minor roads meet the nearest A roads);
- direct physical impacts associated with underground investigations, construction and operation of the GDF (identified through environmental impact assessment work carried out to support NWS' engagement with communities and its development consent applications).

The Potential Host Community will likely be made up of several wards. The geographical boundaries of the Potential Host Community will be agreed by the Community Partnership based on information gathered through the siting process and the criteria above. The boundary of the Potential Host Community will reflect any future changes to electoral ward boundaries that may occur.

The Government's view is that only residents in the area that will be directly impacted by the development should have a final say in whether they wish to host a GDF. It will be the people living in the Potential Host Community, through a Test of Public Support, that will decide whether they want to continue with the process for siting a GDF in the area.





International focus: Canada

A number of countries are moving forward with plans for Geological Disposal Facilities (GDFs) as a long-term way of managing radioactive waste, including Sweden, France, Finland, Germany, Switzerland and Canada, and we'll be looking at what's happening in each country.

In this issue, we'll provide some detail to you on what's happening in Canada and our discussions with a community there.

The Canadian plan for geological disposal has been named the 'Adaptive Phased Management (APM) initiative', being implemented by the Nuclear Waste Management Organization (NWMO) – subject to securing regulatory approval from the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CSNC).

The aim of the APM is the containment and isolation of Canada's used nuclear fuel within a GDF, which will be constructed several hundred metres below the ground in stable rock – and only in an area with a willing host.

In Canada, 22 communities initially registered interest in hosting a GDF. Communities were gradually ruled out through surveys, suitability studies, geology and opting out of the process.

Two communities remain, Ignace and South Bruce, both in Ontario but about 1,000 miles (1,600km) apart, and preparations are being made for detailed site evaluations. There will also be a test of public support before a final decision is made and NWMO is aiming to select a preferred location in 2023.

Last year, the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership opened discussions with the representatives in Ignace to exchange knowledge and understanding.

The Mayor of Ignace in Canada, Penny Lucas, and the Chair of the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee (ICNLC), Brad Greaves, gave a presentation online to the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership on a selection of key topics and issues which had been requested in advance by members.

Ged McGrath, Chair of the South Copeland GDF Community Partnership, said at the time: "We were pleased to be able to speak to representatives of the Ignace Community Nuclear Liaison Committee in Canada, to understand more about their siting process, the ways in which the local community has engaged, and the benefits the process has brought and a GDF will bring to the area if it is selected.

“There is a lot that we can learn from Ignace and other communities who are considering the possibility of, or are developing a GDF, and I look forward to our Partnership continuing such conversations as we continue to engage with and understand the views of our community here in South Copeland.”

Finding a suitable location in Canada and securing regulatory approval alone will take many years, with construction of the GDF then expected to take around a decade.

Fuel transportation, handling and placement will take 40 years or more, then the GDF will be monitored for an extended period before decommissioning and closure.

The NWMO has said this national infrastructure project has an estimated cost of \$26 billion

(£16.6bn) and will create “many” jobs – as well as bring “significant economic benefits”.

The NWMO estimates that more than 1,000 jobs will be created in the first 15 years (the site selection phase), with 3,500 in the following decade (site preparation and construction). The next 40 years (operations) will bring around 3,100 jobs, with nearly 500 roles in the 70-year extended monitoring phase and more than 750 jobs for decommissioning and closure (30 years).

Required skill sets include everything from engineering to safety, construction and finance.

For more information go to:
www.nwmo.ca/en/Canadas-Plan/About-Adaptive-Phased-Management-APM

Where else is working on geological disposal?





£1.3M awarded in South Copeland by GDF programme

The Partnership has been able to assist with the award of £1.3 million in Community Investment Funding (CIF) to local projects since its launch.

The GDF may never be located in South Copeland, but we are encouraging local people to take advantage of the benefit of being a part of the long-term siting process.

Grants are available for projects that:

- provide economic opportunities
- enhance the natural and built environment,
or
- improve community wellbeing.

Who can apply?

Community groups, public sector organisations and businesses that want to do something to benefit the community.

How to apply

Visit the Community Investment Funding page of our website or get in touch.

Our Community Investment Funding Team can help with the application process.

We recommend you contact them for a chat about your project before applying: communityinvestment-southcopeland@nda.gov.uk



Our next meetings

16th May 2023	18.30- 20.30	Drigg & Carleton Village Hall
14th June 2023	18.30- 20.30	Kirksanton Village Hall, Kirksanton
12th July 2023	18.30- 20.30	Thwaites Village Hall, Thwaites
16th August 2023	18.30- 20.30	The Baptist Church Hall Millom
13th September 2023	18.30- 20.30	The Lighthouse Centre Haverigg

There will be a 15 minute slot where members of the public will be able to ask questions of Community Partnership members. If you would prefer to ask your question in advance, please get in touch, specifying that you would like your question to be answered in public, a minimum of 5 working days before the meeting.

We are interested in all views and questions, so please do get in touch with us in any way you feel comfortable. The Community Partnership is here to help.





Get in touch

Do you have a question? Would you like further information? Are you interested in applying for Community Investment Funding?

Get in touch with the NWS Contact Management Team.





Email: gdfinfo-southcopeland@nda.gov.uk

Community Investment Funding email:
communityinvestment-southcopeland@nda.gov.uk

Telephone: 0300 369 0000

Write: South Copeland GDF Community Partnership, GDF Enquiries, PO Box 734, Swansea, SA1 9RP

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