

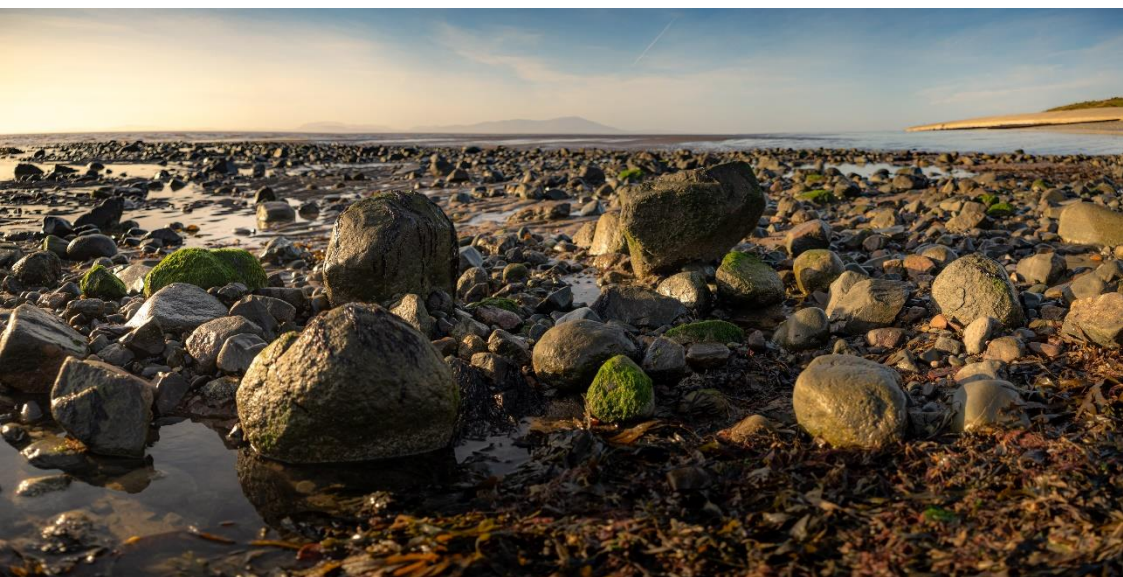


**Allerdale**  
**GDF Community Partnership**

Let's talk about geological disposal

## Volunteer Guidance

January 2023



Thank you for your interest in Allerdale GDF Community Partnership.

The Community Partnership formed in January 2022. As a group we are passionate about the local area and are determined to build a strong partnership that is reflective of our community.

This booklet outlines how you could contribute to the ongoing discussion about if a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) is right for Allerdale.

There are 4 ways in which you could volunteer to be involved:

1. Community Partnership Member
2. Community Investment Panel Member
3. Sub Group Member
4. Interest Group Member

The Allerdale GDF Community Partnership Members are:



Chair: Mary Bradley

Organisations:

Allerdale Borough Council  
Nuclear Waste Services  
Cumbria Association of Local Councils  
Inspira  
Cumbria Youth Alliance

Represented by:

Marion Fitzgerald  
Gordon Grant  
David Wilson  
Deborah Naylor  
Becky Wolstenholme

Independent local members:

Adrian Davis-Johnston  
John Coughlan  
Phil Davies

## Geological Disposal

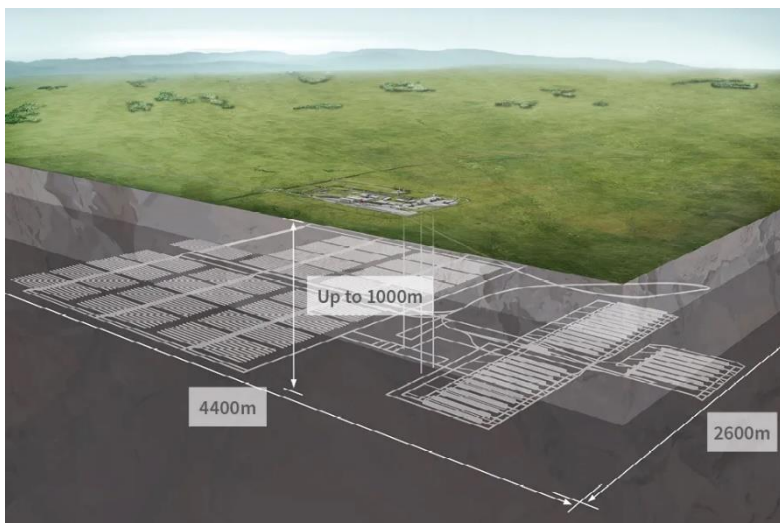
A Geological Disposal Facility, or GDF, is an underground facility designed to safely and securely dispose of our radioactive waste – specifically 'higher-activity' waste (the most radioactive kind).

It involves building a series of specially designed and engineered vaults and tunnels deep underground. It could potentially be three times deeper than the height of the Shard in London, Britain's tallest building.

Once the waste is placed inside a GDF, the facility will eventually be permanently sealed. The way the facility is designed and engineered means it can be sealed to protect people and the environment for hundreds of thousands of years, without needing any maintenance, while the radioactivity fades away naturally.

Scientists and other authorities all over the world agree that a GDF is the safest way to deal with 'higher-activity' radioactive waste (the most radioactive kind) for the long term. This international consensus comes after decades of scientific research.

The Office for Nuclear Regulation and the Environment Agency will review the designs for a GDF, the proposed site, and the science that informs them, to make sure it protects people and the environment. A GDF will only be built if it can be shown to be safe for both people and the environment. As soon as construction starts on a GDF, the site will have to meet strict safety standards.



## Allerdale GDF Community Partnership

The Allerdale Community Partnership formed on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022. It is one of four Community Partnerships in England. The Community Partnership sits at the heart of a consent based siting process which is exploring if Allerdale could be a suitable host for a GDF.

The Community Partnership will continue conversations with the community, work to develop a vision for the future of the community and provide answers to people's questions.

When everyone's had plenty of time to get informed and make up their minds, there will be a Test of Public Support. This will take the form of something like a poll or referendum that lets people in the electoral wards around the proposed site have their say about a GDF. Without their support, the project will not go ahead.

## Community Investment Funding

Grant funding of up to £1 million annually has been made available by central government for the Allerdale GDF Community Partnership as it participates in the siting process for a Geological Disposal Facility.

The grants can be used to fund projects, schemes or initiatives that:

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

Funding will rise to up to £2.5 million per year if the GDF programme if Allerdale progresses to technical investigations requiring deep boreholes.

Community Investment Funding recognises the long-term nature of the Geological Disposal Facility project, and that the benefits associated with jobs, infrastructure and major investment may not materialise until the project has been in operation for several years. The Allerdale community will initially have access of up to £1 million per year.

# Allerdale Search Area

## Allerdale search area



Illustrative map of the search area identified by the Allerdale GDF Working Group

- Search area
- Inshore area
- Inshore area boundary
- District council boundary

An initial 'Search Area' was identified. It incorporates the electoral wards of Aspatria; Broughton St Bridget's; Dalton; Ellen & Gilcrux; Flimby; Harrington & Salterbeck; Maryport North; Maryport South; Moorclose & Moss Bay; Seaton & Northside; St John's; St Michael's and Stainburn & Clifton.

The Lake District National Park and Solway Coast AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) are excluded.

## Allerdale search area

The Community Partnership has started to narrow down the 'Search Area'.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023, it will incorporate the electoral wards of Dearham & Broughton; Harrington; Maryport North; Maryport South; Moss Bay & Moorclose; Seaton; St Johns & Great Clifton and St Michaels



Illustrative map of the search area being considered to host a GDF identified by the Allerdale GDF Working Group

- Search area
- Inshore area
- Inshore area boundary

\*All around the country, the Inshore Area extends to a maximum of 22.2km off the coast. In the case of Allerdale it may be less than 10km in places, due to the limit of English waters narrowing between England and Scotland to the north.

## Recruitment

Our aim is to continue to build a strong partnership that is reflective of the local community. We will communicate the roles in a variety of ways to ensure we are being open, transparent and inclusive. This includes:

- Word of mouth
- Identifying organisations/people with a specific knowledge base to support a workstream
- Via our web site, social media and communications
- People who proactively express an interest through attending events or contacting us directly

## Volunteer Roles

### 1. Community Partnership Member

Our Community Partnership Members are recruited through a process of application, interview and appointment. Each Member leads a workstream which is within their area of expertise. They plan to ensure that as a group they are providing the community with appropriate information and space to have their questions answered. The workstreams and their leads are as follows:

Governance	Mary Bradley
Community Engagement	Davis Wilson
Site Evaluation	Mary Bradley
Visioning	Phil Davies
Workforce	John Coughlan
Youth	Deborah Naylor
Communications	Adrian Davis-Johnston
Community Investment Funding	Marion Fitzgerald

Members meet once per month as a partnership and as required as part of their workstream.

## 2. Community Investment Panel Member

Panel Members are recruited through the same process as Community Partnership Members.

Panel members meet once per month.

## 3. Subgroup Member

There will be occasions where the workstream leads will recruit volunteers to support the delivery of their workstream. These opportunities will depend on the work that is being done at the time. Specific details will be shared when the opportunities arise.

## 4. Interest Group Member

The groups aim to ensure that people who want to know more about the work of the Community Partnership have an opportunity to do so by:

- Raising questions and issues
- Topical discussions around issues that affect the Search Area (may include business, tourism, education etc)
- Being a critical friend



## Volunteers

By being involved in any role, you will be expected to:

- Bring knowledge, skills and experience and share these as appropriate
- Have a desire to understand more about the GDF process and the risks and opportunities to enable an informed dialogue with the local community
- Attend meetings and events either online or in person
- Read and contribute to documents
- Contribute to discussion, idea exchange and vision building
- Ensure there is a link between the work of the work streams and other groups that volunteers may be attending as part of their daily role
- Be open regarding personal needs to engage effectively
- Be open about availability and time commitment
- Declare any interests which might affect the ability to engage openly
- Be clear regarding personal and professional liabilities

In return, you can expect the Community Partnership and Nuclear Waste Services to:

- Listen to your contributions with respect
- Provide an environment for you to actively participate
- Provide information in an appropriate format
- Give at least 2 weeks prior notice of meetings
- Provide all supporting documents and information within 1 week of meetings taking place
- Actively implement equality and diversity policies
- Listen to what you need to contribute effectively and to make reasonable adjustments where needed
- A transparent complaints procedure to ensure that interaction is open and honest
- Adjust roles if personal circumstances change
- Actively implement a health and safety policy and approaches recognising the sensitivity of the subject matter

## Induction and personal development

Many people that volunteer with the Community Partnership do not have a technical background and are not expected to be a technical expert. To support volunteers in their roles, we are committed to a bespoke induction programme that responds to the needs of the individuals.

Following on from the induction further information and training is available. Each volunteer will have a key contact to discuss what you need for your role. They will also check in with you at regular intervals to see if you need any further training or information.

## Equality Statement

We value the unique differences that each of our members brings to the Community Partnership and are committed to creating an environment where everyone feels respected, included and able to perform at their best. We are committed to creating a partnership that is diverse and inclusive. We value the diversity of our members and actively seek to have a partnership that represents the rich diversity of Allerdale.

### Disability confident Proposal:

NWS is a member of the disability confident scheme; we guarantee to interview all candidates who have a disability who meet all of the essential criteria for the roles. In cases where we have a high volume of candidates who have a disability who meet all of the essential criteria, we will interview the best candidates from within that group.

## Privacy Policy

Keeping your data safe and secure is extremely important to us.

The Privacy Policy applies to individuals we engage with, including those who submit general enquiries about our work, attend meetings and public events organised by us and sign up to receive our news and communications. We only process personal information for the purpose of delivering our corporate objectives and responding to enquiries, sending out news and communications and managing our meetings and public events. The full policy can be accessed on our website - ([workinginpartnership.org.uk](http://workinginpartnership.org.uk))

## Volunteer expenses

We are able to reimburse individuals travel expenses for taking part in Community Partnership meetings, subgroup meetings and interest group meetings.

The procedure to do this is as follows:

1. Agree the expense with the Community Engagement Manager in advance of travel.
2. The expenses form will be shared with you.
3. Retain receipts from travel. If travelling by car, a fuel receipt will be needed
4. Complete and submit the expenses form to the Community Engagement Manager

For further information on how you could be involved, please contact us at [recruitment-allerdale@nda.gov.uk](mailto:recruitment-allerdale@nda.gov.uk)

