

DOUNREAY HERITAGE PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT – 2015/16

DOUNREAY HERITAGE STRATEGY

The Dounreay Heritage Strategy was published in 2010 and is managed by the DSRL Heritage Officer with advice from a panel of external experts including Historic Environment Scotland, National Museums Scotland, Caithness Horizons & Highlife Highland.

KEY ACTIVITIES FOR 2015/16

DONATION OF OBJECTS

*The Dounreay Materials Test Reactor
(DMTR) ~~is~~ included in*



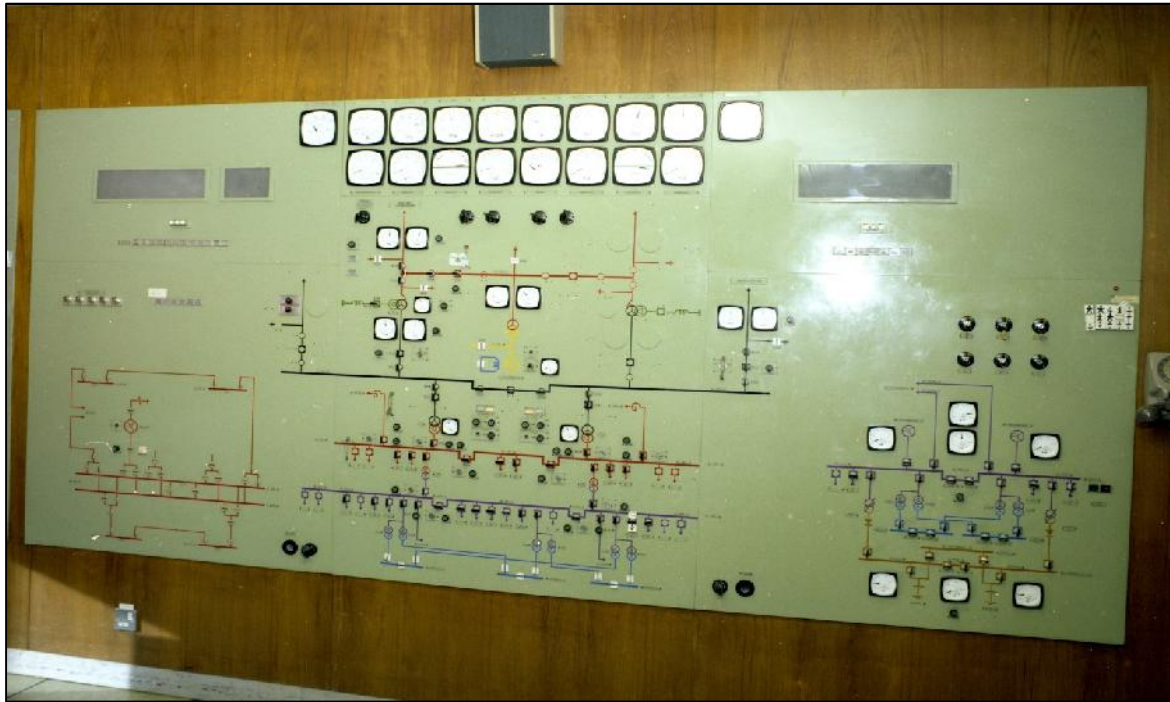
DMTR Control Room in Caithness Horizons with museum staff and DSRL installation team.



DFR Control Room just prior to being removed and placed in ISO

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Photographs, film clips and various PFR objects were donated to the National Museum of Scotland for their forthcoming newly designed Energise gallery, which is due to open on 8 July 2016. The gallery will feature Dounreay.



The PFR Control Room's electricity panel prior to dismantling. The centre section will go on display in the National Museum of Scotland.

The Prototype Fast Reactor (PFR) stone

The PFR granite stone sculpture that is located in the PFR foyer is being donated to the NDA Nuclear Archive in Wick and plans for its removal have started. It weighs approximately 1.5 tonnes.



PFR stone sculpture in PFR foyer.

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COLLECTION OF OBJECTS

Sixteen heritage objects were collected;

1. Aluminium model of the UKAEA coat of arms.
2. Trophy from British Construction Industry for Shaft Isolation Project
3. Trophy from British Safety Council for 2011 International Safety Awards
4. Caithness stone momento given to shaft isolation project team members
5. Pen momento celebrating 60 years of craft apprenticeships
6. Staff identity card for collecting pay
7. Access card for entry to PFR's Main Distribution Frame (MDF) room
8. Plaque from PFR transformer
9. Pair of respirator spectacles from 1961
10. Sodium fire-fighting suit
11. Selection of UKAEA pens
12. Dounreay gift bag
13. UKAEA coaster
14. Keyring
15. Fridge magnet
16. 2015 safety calendar



Aluminium model of UKAEA Coat of Arms.

A glass display cabinet with integral lighting was purchased and heritage objects which have not yet been donated are now on display in the Communications room located in Dounreay's Welcome Break restaurant.

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RECORDING HISTORY

Historic Environment Scotland and the University of the Highlands and Islands were successful in a joint funding application for a collaborative doctoral partnership. The three year PhD study is entitled “*The Dounreay Nuclear Establishment and its impact on the Northern Highlands of Scotland*”. The successful candidate started the study on 1st October 2015 and has been researching in the Dounreay archives.

A process to capture the memories of those leaving the site is in place and six forms were completed and returned.

SHARING AND LEARNING FROM OTHERS

DSRL gave a presentation entitled; “Dounreay, Past & Present” to The Royal Scottish Society of Arts, in Edinburgh.

A conference paper entitled “The Dounreay Heritage Partnership Project – An innovative approach to developing successful museum partnership working activities” was presented jointly by DSRL and Caithness Horizons, at the 2015 International Congress of The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH) in Lille, France. Around 500 delegates from 50 countries attended the 5 day event.

DSRL and Caithness Horizons representatives visited France’s Chinon nuclear site for a guided tour of the “Musée de l’Atome”. The main feature of this atomic museum is the site’s A1 reactor known as “La Boule” (the ball), which is similar to the DFR sphere. Contacts were made for possible international collaboration between Caithness Horizons and the Chinon museum.

An article on Dounreay’s heritage project was published in the 2015 winter edition newsletter of the UK’s Association for Industrial Archaeology.



James Gunn (left) & Joanne Howdle (centre) outside Chinon’s Musée de

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OTHER ACTIVITIES

Dounreay Castle is a scheduled ancient monument and its north wall collapsed during a storm in February 2015. A specialist contractor inspected the castle and produced a report detailing costed options for repairs. The best way forward is under review and there will be discussion with Historic Environment Scotland.



Dounreay Castle after the North wall collapse.

James Gunn
Heritage Officer
Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd

31 March 2016