

## Dounreay funds PhD for legacy particles research

DSRL is funding research through the University of the Highlands and Islands for a critical PhD project to model the behaviour of legacy radioactive particles in the marine environment at Dounreay.

An important part of the work to close down Dounreay is to address the legacy of the radioactive particles that wash up on the beaches next to the site.



Nuclear fuel was reprocessed at the site for almost 40 years. The used fuel rods were dismantled in water-filled ponds in a process that generated metallic fragments, some of which entered the site's drainage system and were discharged to the sea in the 1960s and 1970s.

Dr Iain Darby (DSRL) has been working with Dr Jason McIlvenny of North Highland College UHI's Environmental Research Institute, part of the University of the Highlands and Islands, to offer a full PhD bursary.

Over the years DSRL have been involved in a great deal of research into the way that the particles behave, and this allows predictions to be made about the numbers of particles in the marine environment, and where these are expected to be found.

The project will involve working with state of the art equipment to understand historical movements of legacy particles and understand the environmental conditions which potentially lead to the mobilisation of particles in the marine environment.

The successful applicant will be based at the Environmental Research Institute (ERI), North Highland College, in Thurso.