

## Foreword



David Peattie
NDA Chief Executive

#### THE MISSION

Our mission is to clean up the UK's early nuclear sites safely, securely and cost effectively with care for people and the environment.

#### THE MISSION PROGRESS REPORT

Following the publication of our updated Strategy (4th edition) in 2021, the Mission Progress Report has been revised to incorporate strategic changes.

The document continues to demonstrate our approach to reporting progress against the mission, focusing on the four driving themes outlined in our strategy that are common across all sites and that help us to measure our achievements.

We, like other organisations, have had to deal with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020/21. The NDA group has responded with professionalism and empathy to our workforce. The pandemic has impacted many of our operations, with slowdowns and pauses experienced during the year. All of the NDA group companies have worked well together throughout this difficult period to support the delivery of the mission.

Progress continues to be made as we safely manage our nuclear inventory and reduce the risks associated with it. Over the duration of our mission (120+ years) more strategic outcomes will be achieved with the closure of the reprocessing facilities and the building of new modern treatment and storage facilities to manage nuclear material and waste, ultimately working towards the final disposal of nuclear inventory and the release of land for other economic uses.

We are committed to improving the way we embed sustainability into our operations to support the UK's net-zero greenhouse gas emissions target, set out by the Government in 2019. Fighting climate change is a national priority and we've made carbon net-zero a priority across the NDA group.

#### **David Peattie**

NDA Chief Executive

#### **HOW TO READ THIS REPORT**

This report is structured to illustrate the progress against the strategic objectives outlined in our strategy.

As a consequence of publishing our new version of the NDA Strategy in March 2021, we have revised some detail for a number of outcomes to ensure they continue to align with our fresh approach.

In the first 2 pages you'll see a very high-level summary of what the mission is and how far we have progressed since 2005.

Each of the four themes has an overview page to explain our objectives and the steps we need to take. Each step (or 'strategic outcome') shows the estimated inventory that has to be managed and what capability there is to deliver it.

We continue to build a more accurate picture of work that's still to be completed across our sites. As the data range matures over the next 120+ years, along with the reduction of uncertainty of the inventory, progression in the lifecycle and strategy development, it may well be subject to change. The figures contained within this report are correct up to 31 March 2021 from NDA group data sources and delivery programmes.

On 23 June 2021 the NDA, UK Government and EDF Energy entered into new decommissioning arrangements for seven Advanced Gas-cooled Reactor (AGR) stations. Government has directed the NDA to take on the future ownership of the stations after defueling for decommissioning. The work will be undertaken by the NDA subsidiary Magnox Ltd. We will incorporate each of these stations into the report at the appropriate time.

Excluded from this report are critical enablers, liquid and gaseous discharges, non-NDA liabilities and non-radioactive waste elements of our strategy.

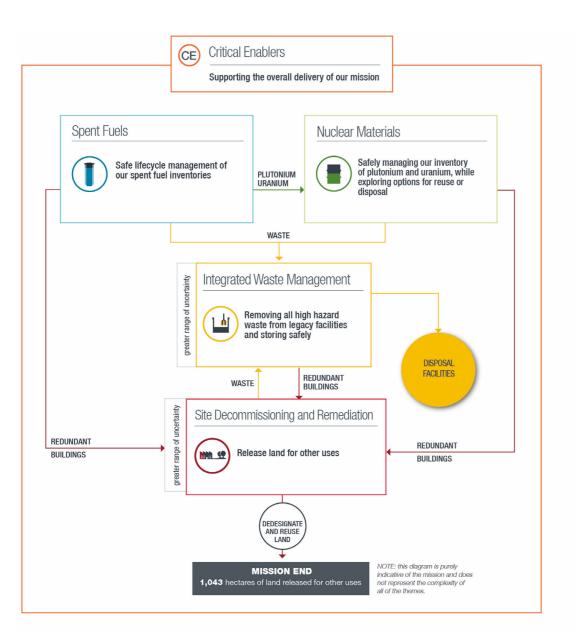
# Our strategic approach and themes

We use 5 strategic themes to describe all the activities needed to deliver the NDA's mission.

The first 4, Spent Fuels, Nuclear Materials, Integrated Waste Management and Site Decommissioning and Remediation relate directly to our clean-up and decommissioning and are known as *driving themes*. All data in this report comes from those 4 themes.

The fifth theme describes the important activities needed to support the delivery of our mission and is known as *critical enablers*. The diagram below demonstrates how they interplay.

These areas are all closely linked. However, the most urgent task is dealing with sites' highest hazard materials: spent fuel, nuclear materials and highly radioactive wastes. Once the inventory has been made safe, the redundant nuclear facilities can be dismantled and demolished.



## Our 4 driving themes

#### **Spent Fuels**



Our strategy defines our approach to managing the diverse range of spent fuels for which we are responsible, which are divided into Magnox, oxide and exotic. Once spent fuel is removed from a reactor, it is stored in a pond or dry store until it can be dispatched to Sellafield.

Reprocessing extracts materials (plutonium and uranium) that could potentially be re-used and also generates highly radioactive wastes, or 'fission products'.

The NDA's strategy is to bring the reprocessing programme to an end. The THORP reprocessing plant has already closed and the Magnox reprocessing plant will follow. All remaining spent fuel will be safely stored until a permanent solution for disposal is available.

Our spent fuel work is separated into 15 strategic outcomes that we must deliver, see p4. For more detail on our spent fuels strategy see NDA Strategy 2021, p46-57.

#### **Nuclear Materials**



Our strategy defines our approach to dealing with the inventory of uranics and plutonium currently stored on some of our sites. These nuclear materials are by-products from different phases of the fuel cycle, either manufacturing or reprocessing. All nuclear materials must be managed safely and securely, by either converting them into new fuel or immobilising and storing them until a permanent UK disposal facility is available.

All of our plutonium is stored at Sellafield. Our uranium is located at a number of our sites and we are continuing to consolidate it at sites, which we consider are best suited to its management.

Our nuclear materials work is separated into 10 strategic outcomes that we must deliver, outlined on page 4. For more detail on our nuclear materials strategy see NDA Strategy 2021, p58-67.

#### **Integrated Waste Management**



Our strategy considers how we manage all forms of waste arising from operating and decommissioning our sites, including waste retrieved from legacy facilities. Managing the large quantities of radioactive waste from electricity generation, research, the early defence programme and decommissioning is one of the NDA's biggest challenges. Some of this radioactive waste is in a raw (untreated) form, some has been treated and is being interim stored and, in

the case of low level waste, some has already been permanently disposed of.

Retrieving, treating and interim storing the radioactive waste from Sellafield's four legacy ponds and silo facilities is the NDA's highest priority.

Our integrated waste management work is separated into 14 strategic outcomes that we must deliver, outlined on page 4. For more detail on our IWM strategy see NDA Strategy 2021, p68-85.

#### **Site Decommissioning and Remediation**



Our strategy defines our approach to decommissioning redundant facilities and managing land quality in order that each site can be released for its next planned use.

After the buildings on our sites have been decommissioned, decontaminated and dismantled the land will be cleaned up to allow it to be released for other uses. At that point, its ownership would transfer to the new user of the land.

The NDA is currently assessing alternatives for the final stages of decommissioning that could lead to earlier release of land, continued employment and opportunities to reuse the land.

Our site decommissioning and remediation work is separated into 8 strategic outcomes that we must deliver, outlined on page 4. For more detail on our SDR strategy see NDA Strategy 2021, p26-45.

3

		PROGRESS OF STRATE	EGIC OL	JTCOMES - UP TO MARCH 2021		
Spent Fuels		Nuclear Materials		Integrated Waste Managemen	t	Site Decommissioning and Remediation
SPENT MAGNOX FUEL	2021	PLUTONIUM	2021	LOW LEVEL WASTE	2021	OPERATIONAL AND PLANNED 2021
1 All sites defueled	100%	16 All plutonium produced	97%	26 All LLW produced	7%	All planned new buildings operational TBD
All legacy Magnox fuel retrieved	25%	All plutonium consolidated	100%	All LLW treated - to enable diversion or reuse	8%	All buildings primary function completed 35%
All Magnox fuel reprocessing completed	94%	A: All plutonium repacked in long-term storage B: All cans not suitable for extended storage repackaged	0% 0%	All waste suitable for disposal in NDA facilities	14%	DECOMMISSIONING AND DEMOLITION
All remaining Magnox fuel in interim storage	25%	19 All plutonium in interim storage	0%	All waste suitable for permitted landfill disposed	4%	42 All buildings 18% decommissioned
All remaining Magnox     fuel disposed	0%	20 All plutonium reused or disposed	0%	INTERMEDIATE LEVEL WASTE		All buildings demolished or reused 16%
SPENT OXIDE FUEL		URANIUM		30 All ILW produced	33%	SITES
6 All EDFE oxide fuel received	54%	21 All uranium produced	93%	31 All legacy waste retrieved	8%	44 All land delicensed or relicensed 9%
7 All legacy oxide fuel retrieved	100%	22 All uranium consolidated	80%	32 All ILW treated	9%	All land in End State - all planned physical work complete 41%
8 All oxide fuel reprocessing completed	100%	23 All uranium treated	4%	33 All ILW in interim storage	15%	All land demonstrated as suitable 9% for reuse
All remaining oxide fuel in interim storage	49%	24 All uranium in interim storage	56%	34 All ILW disposed	0%	All land de-designated 9% or reused
All remaining oxide fuel disposed	0%	25 All uranium reused or disposed	1%	HIGH LEVEL WASTE		hectares of designated land on nuclear licensed sites remain to be
SPENT EXOTIC FUEL				35 All HLW produced	68%	nuclear licensed sites remain to be cleaned up
All exotic fuel defueled	67%			36 All HLW treated	73%	
All exotic fuel consolidated	55%			All HLW waste in interim storage	83%	
All exotic fuel reprocessing completed	90%			38 All overseas HLW exported	11%	
All remaining exotic fuel in interim storage	83%			39 All HLW disposed	0%	
All remaining exotic fuel disposed	0%					



Spent Magnox Fuel
Opening stock 2,810 te

Defueling 4,100 te
Legacy 500 te
Total 7,410 te

Spent Oxide Fuel
Opening stock 3,1

100%

49%

0%

2019

2035

2125

**COMPLETED** 

Receiving

Total

3,150 te 5,290 te 8,440 te

Total

Spent Exotic Fuel
Opening stock 199 te
Defueling 33 te

232 te

#### **OBJECTIVE**

To ensure safe, secure and cost-effective lifecycle management of our spent fuels - Strategy 2021, p46

#### WHAT ARE SPENT FUELS?

Fuel from a nuclear reactor is 'spent' once it has been used to generate electricity.

#### **HOW ARE THE FUELS MANAGED?**

Spent fuels are consolidated at Sellafield for management. Some spent fuels are reprocessed into uranium and plutonium, potentially for re-use, leaving some residual waste. Once reprocessing ends (estimated 2022), remaining spent fuel will be stored for future disposal.

#### WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE 2005?

The Magnox reactors are now all defuelled and most fuel has been reprocessed. THORP completed reprocessing operations of oxide fuels in 2019.

#### WHAT HAS TO HAPPEN NEXT?

No more oxide fuels will be reprocessed. Sellafield continues to receive oxide fuel under commercial contracts with EDF Energy. The Magnox reprocessing plant, which is Sellafield's last reprocessing facility, is expected to finish operations in about a year's time. All remaining spent fuel will be placed in interim storage pending a decision whether to classify it as waste for disposal.



### STRATEGIC OUTCOMES - steps to achieving our mission

	Progress up to 2021	End date	Completed	Missio End
SPENT MAGNOX FUEL				
All sites defueled	100%	2020	COMPLETED	
All legacy Magnox fuel retrieved	25%	2025		REUSED/DISPOSAL
All Magnox fuel reprocessing completed	94%	2022		SIQ/Q:
All remaining Magnox fuel in interim storage	25%	2025		REUSE
All remaining Magnox fuel disposed	0%	2125		ш.
SPENT OXIDE FUEL				
All EDFE oxide fuel received	54%	2035		
All legacy fuel retrieved	100%	2016	COMPLETED	POSAL
				<u>d</u>

#### SPENT EXOTIC FUEL

All oxide fuel reprocessing completed

All remaining oxide fuel disposed

All remaining oxide fuel in interim storage

OF ENT EXOTIOTOLE			
11 All exotic fuel defueled	67%	2024	
12 All exotic fuel consolidated*	55%	2028	
13 All exotic fuel reprocessing completed	90%	2022	
All remaining exotic fuel in interim storage	83%	2028	
15 All remaining exotic fuel disposed	0%	2125	
			*irradiated fuel only



To ensure safe, secure and cost-effective lifecycle management of our spent fuels. Strategy 2021, p46

#### Spent Magnox Fuel

Opening stock 2,810 te 4,100 te Defueling 500 te Legacy Total 7.410 te

### SPENT MAGNOX FUEL - To ensure safe, secure and cost-effective lifecycle management of spent Magnox fuels. Strategy 2021, p52.

Opening stock 2005

In 2021, work continues to retrieve high hazard fuel from Sellafield, complete reprocessing and safely store the spent fuel on an interim basis.

STRATEGIC DECISIONS

Outputs

Plutonium Uranium

Waste

Redundant

Buildings

2,810te

Inventory

Capability

Strategic Outcome

#### **Defueling**

4,100 .100 still to total defuel

#### 100% COMPLETE

All 26 reactors on 11 sites have been defueled

All sites defueled by 2020

All of the Magnox power stations are now defueled. This strategic outcome is now complete.

#### Legacy fuel retrieval

500 370 130 still to total retrieve

#### 2021 25% COMPLETE

First Generation Magnox Storage Pond (FGMSP) and Pile Fuel Storage Pond (PFSP) - Sellafield

All legacy Magnox fuel retrieved by 2025

Spent fuel arriving at Sellafield was originally stored in the First Generation Magnox Storage Pond (FGMSP) before transfer for reprocessing.

FGMSP is one of the estate's most hazardous facilities. Some fuel was also contained in the Pile Fuel Storage Pond (PFSP).

#### Reprocessing

6,520 6,910 still to reprocessed reprocess 2021 94% COMPLETE

Magnox reprocessing plants - Sellafield

#### All Magnox fuel reprocessing completed in 2022

The NDA was aiming to complete reprocessing prior to the end of 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic this is no longer possible. The final date for completion is still to be confirmed, but is likely to be 2022.

#### Interim storage

500 130 370 current still to estimated inventory store total

#### 2021 **25% COMPLETE**

Fuel Handling Plant (FHP) - Sellafield Interim Storage Facility - Sellafield

#### All remaining Magnox fuel in interim storage by 2025

There are some degraded fuels either still in, or which have been recovered from the legacy ponds, FGMSP and PFSP. As much of this material is heavily degraded it is not suitable for reprocessing in our existing facilities. To reduce the risk of managing these fuels some of it has been transferred to the more modern pond, Fuel Handling Plant (FHP), where it will be stored until it can be transferred into dry storage. We expect to update this estimated total following the completion of reprocessing.

#### Reuse/Disposal

0 500 500 volume still to be estimated disposed disposed total

#### 2021 0% COMPLETE

NO FACILITY CURRENTLY EXISTS Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) and Conditioning Plant

#### All remaining Magnox fuel disposed of by 2125

Remaining fuel will need to be conditioned prior to transferring to a final disposal solution. Strategic options are currently being developed for the final management of this fuel.



Defueling activity at one of the Magnox stations



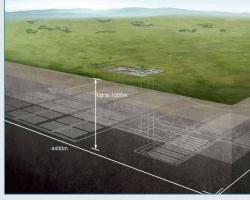
Pile Fuel Storage Pond Sellafield



Magnox Reprocessing Plant -Sellafield



Fuel Handling Plant -Sellafield



Artist's impression of a Geological Disposal Facility



To ensure safe, secure and cost-effective lifecycle management of spent fuels. Strategy 2021, p46

In 2021, we continue to receive fuel from EDF Energy sites. Reprocessing is now complete and we safely store the remaining spent fuel on an interim basis.

#### Spent Oxide Fuel

Opening stock 3,150 te Receiving 5,290 te Total 8,440 te

#### SPENT OXIDE FUEL - To ensure safe, secure and cost-effective lifecycle management of spent oxide fuels. Strategy 2021, p50.

Opening stock 2005

3,150te

Inventory

Capability

Strategic Outcome

2,450 5,290

still to be total received

2021 54% COMPLETE

Receipts

THORP Receipt and Storage Pond - Sellafield

6 All EDF oxide fuel received by 2035

The NDA is committed, through commercial contracts, to receiving and managing spent fuel (including 3,150te opening stock) from EDFE's 7 AGR power stations in England and Scotland. The last of these power stations is due to close in around 2035, however EDFE has declared its intention to run them for as long as possible, providing it is safe and economic to continue. This provides a major source of income for the NDA.

Legacy fuel retrieval

3 0 still to total retrieve

100% COMPLETE

Pile Fuel Storage Pond (PFSP) -Sellafield

7 All legacy fuel retrieved in 2016

Early spent oxide fuel was consigned to the PFSP and has all been removed for storage in more modern facilities.

Reprocessing

3,610 3.610 reprocessed still to total reprocess

100% COMPLETE

THORP Reprocessing Plant Sellafield

All oxide fuel reprocessing completed in 2019

The NDA, after studying options over a number of years, concluded in 2012 that THORP should close following completion of the current contracts. To ensure this remains the most viable and cost-effective option, the NDA has identified how to provide sufficient capacity at THORP to store all remaining fuel that is not reprocessed. This total included the opening stock of 3,150te.

Interim storage

4,830 still to estimated inventory store total

49% COMPLETE

THORP Receipt and Storage Pond - Sellafield

All remaining oxide fuel in interim storage by 2035

Our strategy is to consolidate all spent AGR fuel from the EDF AGR stations in a single pond in the THORP facility at the Sellafield site, and interim store all oxide fuels pending a future decision on whether to classify the fuel as waste for disposal in a GDF.

Reuse/Disposal

STRATEGIC DECISIONS

4,830 4,830 volume still to be estimated disposed disposed

Outputs

Plutonium Uranium

Waste

Redundant

Buildings

2021 0% COMPLETE

0

NO FACILITY CURRENTLY EXISTS Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) and Conditioning Plant

All remaining oxide fuel disposed of by 2125

Remaining fuel will need to be conditioned prior to transferring to a final disposal solution. Strategic options are currently being developed for the final management of this fuel.



Hinkley Point A and the EDF owned (B) station



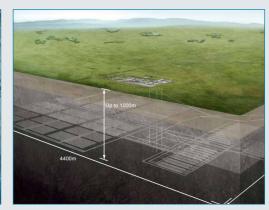
Shearing operations - Sellafield



THORP - Sellafield



THORP Receipt and Storage Pond -Sellafield



Artist's impression of a Geological Disposal Facility



**Defueling** 

To ensure safe, secure and cost-effective lifecycle management of spent fuels. Strategy 2021, p46

**Spent Exotic Fuel** 

Opening stock 199 te
Defueling 33 te
Total 232 te

#### SPENT EXOTIC FUEL - To ensure safe, secure and cost-effective lifecycle management of spent exotic fuels. Strategy 2021, p54.

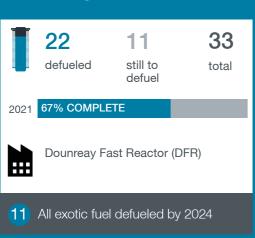
Opening stock 2005

199te

Inventory

Capability

Strategic Outcome In 2021, work continues to defuel the Dounreay Fast Reactor, consolidate exotic fuel at Sellafield and complete reprocessing.



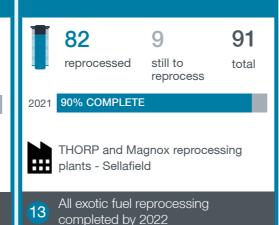
A number of very early experimental reactors tested novel kinds of fuel, producing spent fuel with distinctive characteristics. There is a much smaller quantity of these diverse, non-standard types compared to oxide and Magnox and they are collectively known as Spent Exotic Fuels. Only one reactor still contains exotic fuel - the Dounreay Fast Reactor (DFR). Previously, some of the fuel that was removed from DFR prior to 2005 was included in the report. Of the 44te only 33te remained in the reactor in 2005.

Consolidation (irradiated)



Spent Exotic fuel (irradiated) is being consolidated at Sellafield. A variety of spent exotic fuel was already at Sellafield in 2005 from earlier consolidation activities and historic overseas reprocessing contracts.

Reprocessing



The majority of Spent Exotic fuel has already been reprocessed at Sellafield's THORP and Magnox reprocessing plants. The strategy for DFR fuel, which is being consolidated to Sellafield, is to reprocess as much as is practicable before the Magnox reprocessing plant ceases operations. The final date for completion is still to be confirmed, but is likely to be in 2022.

Interim storage



THORP Receipt and Storage Pond - Sellafield

All remaining exotic fuel in interim storage by 2028

A variety of exotic fuels will remain in interim storage at Sellafield when reprocessing operations cease. They will remain in storage whilst options for management of this fuel are developed. Reuse/Disposal



STRATEGIC DECISIONS

21 0 70 OOWII EETE

NO FACILITY CURRENTLY EXISTS
Geological Disposal Facility (GDF)
and Conditioning Plant

All remaining exotic fuel disposed of by 2125

Remaining fuel will need to be conditioned prior to transferring to a final disposal solution. Strategic options are currently being developed for the final management of this fuel.



**Dounreay Fast Reactor** 



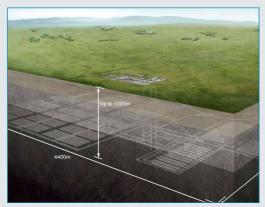
Transporting exotic fuel to Sellafield



Magnox Reprocessing Plant - Sellafield



THORP Receipt and Storage Pond - Sellafield



Artist's impression of a Geological Disposal Facility

Outputs

Plutonium Uranium

Waste

Redundant

Buildings

**Uranics** 



**Plutonium** 

Opening stock
Produced
Total

104 te 38 te 142 te Opening stock 54,000 te Produced 7,000 te Total 61,000 te

#### **OBJECTIVE**

To ensure safe, secure and cost-effective lifecycle management of our nuclear materials - Strategy 2021, p58

#### WHAT ARE NUCLEAR MATERIALS?

The NDA owns an inventory of plutonium and uranium. Known collectively as 'nuclear materials', all are by-products from different phases of the fuel cycle, including the reprocessing of spent fuel.

#### **HOW ARE THE MATERIALS MANAGED?**

All nuclear materials are stored safely and securely under stringent management arrangements, in accordance with the requirements of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), as well as UK law, which are overseen by the independent Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) which is responsible for regulating safety and security across the UK.

#### WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE 2005?

The NDA is working with UK government and suppliers on options to put plutonium beyond reach. The NDA has largely completed uranium production and consolidation.

#### WHAT HAS TO HAPPEN NEXT?

All nuclear materials will be either converted into new fuel for nuclear reactors or immobilised and stored until a permanent UK disposal facility is developed. Consolidation of plutonium is now complete. Consolidation of uranium remains ongoing. Some uranium must be treated and repackaged for interim storage, while Sellafield's plutonium inventory will be repackaged. Plutonium will be repackaged in a form suitable for long term storage. The government will reach a decision on possible re-use or disposal of plutonium following completion of the technical studies.



### STRATEGIC OUTCOMES - steps to achieving our mission

	Progress up to 2021	End date	Completed	Missior End
PLUTONIUM				
16 All Plutonium produced	97%	2022		7
17 All Plutonium consolidated	100%	2019	COMPLETED	SPOS/
<ul><li>A: All plutonium repacked in long term storage</li><li>B: All cans not suitable for extended storage</li></ul>	0%	2060		REUSED/DISPOSAL
repackaged	0%	2060		REC
19 All Plutonium in interim storage	0%	2060		
20 All Plutonium reused or disposed	0%	2120		

#### **URANIUM**

21	All Uranium produced	93%	2022	بِ
22	All Uranium consolidated	80%	2025	POSA
23	All Uranium treated	4%	2055	SIQ/C
24	All Uranium in interim storage	56%	2055	REUSED/DISPOSAL
25	All Uranium reused or disposed	1%	2120	<u> </u>



# **Nuclear Materials**

To ensure safe, secure and cost-effective lifecycle management of our nuclear materials. Strategy 2021, p58

#### Plutonium

Opening stock 104 te Produced 38 te Total 142 te

PLUTONIUM - To ensure the safe and secure management of separated plutonium held by the NDA and to work with the UK government to develop a long-term solution. Strategy 2021, p60

Opening stock 2005

In 2021, work continues to provide the capability and capacity to treat and store plutonium at Sellafield.

STRATEGIC DECISIONS | Ou

Outputs

Waste

Redundant

Buildings

104te

Inventory

Capability

Strategic Outcome

Quantities produced

37 1 38
quantity still to be produced produced

2021 97% COMPLETE

Magnox and THORP reprocessing
- Sellafield

16 All plutonium produced by 2022

When the NDA was established, 104 tonnes of plutonium had already been produced from reprocessing. Plutonium production will complete when Magnox reprocessing finishes which is likely to be in 2022.

Consolidation

consolidated still to consolidate total

100% COMPLETE

Consolidated stocks at Sellafield

17 All plutonium consolidated by 2019

The NDA took the decision to consolidate all plutonium in new storage at Sellafield and this consolidation is now complete. The plutonium inventory will however need repacking into long-term storage containers.

Repacking

0 141 141 total

2021 0% COMPLETE

NO FACILITY CURRENTLY EXISTS
SPRS Re-treatment plant (SRP)
currently in design phase - Sellafield

A: All plutonium repacked in long-term storage by 2060

18 B: All cans not suitable for extended storage repackaged by 2060

Our aim is to gradually transfer all plutonium into the most modern facilities over the next few decades (SO19). To ensure that the plutonium packages can be safely stored in SPRS, they will be repackaged and, where appropriate, some plutonium will be treated to stabilise it for long-term storage. A major new facility to repackage materials is required to support this strategy. This facility will repackage and, where appropriate, retreat all of the plutonium packages and is currently being constructed. Some older packages are to be repacked in existing plants to ensure their safe management in the short to medium term.

Interim storage

0 141 141
current still to estimated total

2021 0% COMPLETE

Product and Residue Stores
- Sellafield

All plutonium in interim storage by 2060

Following repacking, all containers will be stored in the Sellafield Product and Residue Stores pending a decision on future management. New store capacity will be required to achieve the outcome.

Reuse/Disposal

1 141 142

volume disposed still to be reused or disposed total

2021 0% COMPLETE

NO FACILITY CURRENTLY EXISTS
Geological Disposal Facility (GDF)

All plutonium reused or disposed of by 2120

The plutonium dispositioned reflects plutonium that was made into MOX fuel in the Sellafield MOX Plant, before the plant closed in 2011, and returned to overseas customers for use in their Light Water Reactors.



Magnox Reprocessing Plant



One of the NTS fleet of nuclear transport ships



THORP Product Store - Sellafield



Plutonium containers



Artist's impression of a Geological Disposal Facility



To ensure safe, secure and cost-effective lifecycle management of our nuclear materials. Strategy 2021, p58

#### Uranium

Opening stock 54,000 te Produced 7,000 te Total 61,000 te

JRANIUM - To continue safe and secure storage of our uranium inventory, to support its reuse where cost-effective and to ensure its final disposition. Strategy 2021, p63

Opening stock 2005

54,000te

Inventory

Capability

Strategic Outcome In 2021, work continues to complete reprocessing and consolidate uranics at Capenhurst.

7,000

total

2021 93% COMPLETE

<1.000

still to be

produced

Quantities produced

produced

Magnox reprocessing - Sellafield

21 All uranium produced by 2022

A small quantity of uranium remains to be produced from Magnox fuel reprocessing at Sellafield.

#### Consolidation

12.000 3,000 15,000

consolidated total consolidate

2021 80% COMPLETE

Consolidated stocks at Capenhurst

22 All uranium consolidated by 2025

The NDA has consolidated the majority of uranium stock at Capenhurst. Work is underway to consolidate the remaining quantity of uranium from Magnox fuel reprocessing from Sellafield, as well as a relatively small quantity of uranium from Dounreay, Magnox sites and Springfields to Capenhurst.

#### **Treatment**

1.000 treated

27,000 still to total treat

2021 4% COMPLETE

NO FACILITY CURRENTLY EXISTS

Legacy Cylinder Facility currently in initiation phase - Capenhurst

23 All uranium treated by 2055

Uranium hexaflouride (HEX) is a chemically hazardous by-product of the uranium enrichment. The NDA is seeking to put in place the capability to re-package 26,000tU of HEX at Capenhurst. After repackaging the HEX will be treated to remove the chemical hazard, so that it can be interim stored pending re-use/disposal.

#### Interim storage

34,000 26,000

inventory in still to estimated store total storage

60,000

56% COMPLETE

Uranium store - Capenhurst THORP Product Store - Sellafield

All uranium in long-term storage by 2055

Uranium (NDA-owned and NDA customer material) will be interim stored at Capenhurst and Sellafield until it can be re-used or a decision is taken to dispose of it.

#### Reuse/Disposal

<1,000 60,000 61,000

STRATEGIC DECISIONS

Outputs

Waste

Redundant

Buildings

re-used/ still to be estimated disposed total re-used/ disposed

2021 1% COMPLETE

NO FACILITY CURRENTLY EXISTS Geological Disposal Facility (GDF)

All uranium reused or disposed of by 2120

Remaining uranium may need to be conditioned prior to transferring to a final disposal solution. Strategic options are currently being developed for the final management of this nuclear material.

Please note: Previously NDA reported against uranium that was owned by the NDA, produced from enrichment or reprocessing. The NDA also manages uranium on behalf of customers, and this has now been included with the exception of customer owned reprocessed uranium at Sellafield.



Magnox Reprocessing Plant



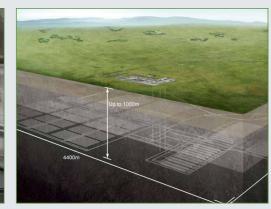
Capenhurst



Current uranium storage at Capenhurst



Part of the uranium inventory at Capenhurst



Artist's impression of a Geological Disposal Facility



**Low Level Waste** 

Raw waste 4,092,000m³ Packaged waste 342,000m³ Intermediate Level Waste

Raw waste 192,000m³ Packaged waste 471,000m³

**High Level Waste** 

Raw waste 4,000m³
Packaged waste 1,650m³

#### **OBJECTIVE**

To ensure that wastes are managed in a manner that protects people and the environment, now and in the future, and in ways that comply with government policies and provide value for money - Strategy 2021, p68

#### WHAT IS INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT?

Large quantities of diverse radioactive waste have been produced since the 1950s, and will continue to arise for decades to come. Managing these radioactive wastes, along with conventional waste, is one of the NDA's biggest challenges.

#### **HOW ARE THE WASTES MANAGED?**

Wastes are characterised, treated appropriately as informed by radioactivity levels and handling requirements, before being packaged for long-term storage and/or transport and disposal. LLW is disposed of and higher activity waste is stored pending development of a final disposal route.

#### WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE 2005?

Since 2005 considerable progress has been made with the safe management of HLW and we are now getting towards the end of our vitrification programme of treating bulk liquid HLW. In addition, retrievals of ILW from legacy facilities has commenced, as we now prepare ourselves for continuous operations in this highest priority area. The NDA has taken the decision to consolidate some ILW at regional stores, avoiding the need to construct a store at each site. We are repackaging material where necessary and investigating more sustainable treatments for all waste categories. We've followed the waste hierarchy principle and put in place a range of waste management services that has preserved capacity at the Low Level Waste Repository (LLWR). We are now moving to a risk-informed strategy where radioactive wastes are managed according to the nature of the waste (radiological, physical and chemical) rather than simply the radioactive waste category they fall into.

#### WHAT HAS TO HAPPEN NEXT?

Reprocessing spent fuel, which produces highly radioactive liquid waste, was due to end in 2020 and this has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, although it's not currently anticipated that this will have a significant impact on the completion of HLW productions. We are constructing new waste treatment plants as required and again these have been impacted by the pandemic. Permanent disposal facilities must be constructed for all higher activity waste. The NDA's risk-informed radioactive waste strategy also presents the opportunity to explore near-surface disposal for some of the ILW inventory.



## STRATEGIC OUTCOMES - steps to achieving our mission

	Progress up to 2021	End date	Completed	Mission End
LOW LEVEL WASTE				
26 All LLW produced	7%	2127		
27 All LLW treated - to enable diversion or reuse	8%	2127		LANDFI
28 All waste suitable for disposal in NDA facilities	14%	2127		LLWR + LANDFILL
29 All waste suitable for permitted landfill disposed	4%	2127		_
INTERMEDIATE LEVEL WASTE				
30 All ILW produced	33%	2120		urface or is not
31 All legacy waste retrieved	8%	2048		DISPOSAL Scotland is to have near surface the final decision on which is not
32 All ILW treated	9%	2120		SAL is to hav
33 All ILW in interim storage	15%	2120		DISPOSAL Scotland is to the final decisis
34 All ILW disposed	0%	2125*		the policy for S
HIGH LEVEL WASTE				the
35 All HLW produced	68%	2030		
All I II \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \ \	700/	0000		

35 All HLW produced	68%	2030	
36 All HLW treated	73%	2030	
37 All HLW in interim storage	83%	2030	DISPOSAL
38 All overseas HLW exported	11%	2025	DISF
39 All HLW disposed	0%	2104	





# Integrated Waste Management

To ensure that wastes are managed in a manner that protects people and the environment, now and in the future, and in ways that comply with government policies and provide value for money. Strategy 2021, p68

#### **Low Level Waste**

Raw waste 4,092,000m<sup>3</sup> Packaged waste 342,000m<sup>3</sup>

LOW LEVEL WASTE To manage radioactive waste and dispose of it where possible, or place it in safe, secure and suitable storage, ensuring that we implement the policies of UK government and the devolved administrations - Strategy 2021, p72

In 2021, work continues to divert LLW away from the Low Level Waste Repository prolonging the life of the facility.

Outputs

Redundant

Buildings

#### **Quantities produced**

(raw waste vol.m3)



3,804,000 4,092,000 estimated estimated to

produced

quantities

% COMPLETE

Capability

Inventory

Strategic

Outcome

LLW produced from NDA operations and decommissioning

be produced

All LLW produced by 2127

LLW and VLLW (a sub category of LLW) are produced from the maintenance, operation and decommissioning of facilities across the NDA group; and are reported as aggregated totals here for the first time. These wastes are the largest volume radioactive waste arisings in the NDA group, but account for only 0.0001% of the overall radioactivity.

#### Diversion

(raw waste vol.m3)

718,000 659.000 estimated estimated still to divert

2021 8% COMPLETE

Diversion capabilities include - metal treatment and incineration



All LLW treated - to enable diversion or reuse

National and NDA Strategy promotes the application of the Waste Hierarchy to LLW management to ensure that the group makes the best use of available disposal capacity. Waste diversion performance has remained high in 2020/21, 3,000m<sup>3</sup> of waste being diverted with cross group diversion rates >95% indicating that application of the Waste Hierarchy is business-as-usual across the NDA group.

#### **Disposal (NDA Facilities)**

(packaged waste vol.m³)

342,000



LLW estimated estimated still to dispose

2021 14% COMPLETE



x2 sites Low Level Waste Repository and Dounreay



All waste suitable for disposal in NDA facilities

Solid LLW is disposed of at 2 facilities - the Low Level Waste Repository (the UK's primary LLW disposal facility) and the Dounreay on-site disposal facility (which only manages waste arisings from Dounreay). LLW disposal rates in the NDA group slowed in 2020/21 owing to operational pauses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic; although the LLWR remained operational to support non-NDA group disposals.

#### Disposal (Landfill)

(imported vol.m<sup>3</sup>)



123,000 2,958,000 3,081,000 VLLW

VLLW estimated estimated



disposed



A number of on site and off site licensed disposal

still to dispose



All waste suitable for permitted landfill disposed by 2127

VLLW is the lowest hazard LLW, mainly consisting of soils, spoil and rubble. Known as Very Low Level Waste (VLLW), it's principally disposed of at appropriately permitted landfill sites and some on-site facilities in the NDA group. Good progress on managing VLLW arisings has been maintained during 2020/21, with successful management of  $\sim 5,000$ m<sup>3</sup>.



LLW Repository



Metal melting - one of the ways of treating LLW LLWR at Dounreay





Appropriate landfill sites can be used for VLLW



# Integrated Waste Management

To ensure that wastes are managed in a manner that protects people and the environment, now and in the future, and in ways that comply with government policies and provide value for money. Strategy 2021, p68

#### **Intermediate Level Waste**

Raw waste 192.000m<sup>3</sup> Packaged waste 471,000m<sup>3</sup>

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL WASTE - To manage radioactive waste and dispose of it where possible, or place it in safe, secure and suitable storage, ensuring that we implement the policies of UK government and the devolved administrations - Strategy 2021, p72

Opening stock 2005

10,800m<sup>3</sup> raw waste in store 2005

Inventory

Capability

Strategic Outcome In 2021, ILW continues to be produced with a focus on retrieving waste from legacy ponds and silos.

Quantities produced

(raw waste vol.m3)

55,000 112,000 167,000 still to be estimated

produced

produced 2021 33% COMPLETE

Waste from operations and decommissioning

All ILW produced by 2120

ILW - waste exceeding the upper boundary for LLW that is not significantly heat generating - takes a variety of forms including: redundant nuclear reactor components, reactor core graphite, sludges from radioactive liquid effluent treatment, redundant plant equipment and some building fabric. As the NDA group projects and programmes mature, the volume of ILW will fluctuate as we reduce uncertainty in the inventory.

Legacy ponds & silos

(raw waste vol.m3)

21,300 still to retrieved estimated since 2005 retrieve total

2021 8% COMPLETE

New technology and capability projects to retrieve legacy waste

All legacy waste retrieved by 2048

The Sellafield legacy ponds and silos represent some of the most complex and difficult global decommissioning challenges; and are a key priority for the NDA group. Significant quantities of bulk fuel and solid ILW have been retrieved from the legacy ponds (Pile Fuel Storage Pond and First Generation Magnox Storage Pond); the quantity of ILW retrieved has increased to 8% - an increase of 200m<sup>3</sup> during the year.

Progress has been made on preparations for retrieval from the legacy silo facilities with installation of the 400te first silo emptying plant in Magnox Swarf Storage Silo and creation of new access to the Pile Fuel Cladding Silo.

**Treatment** 

(raw waste vol.m3)

18,000 174,000 192,000 estimated

2021 9% COMPLETE

New capability required

All ILW treated by 2120

Different forms of ILW are treated in different ways so they can be safely packaged and stored until a disposal facility is available.

ILW treatment is ongoing using the many available treatment plants available across the NDA group and work is ongoing to design, build and commission the approximately 40 new treatment facilities that are needed to complete this important stage of the ILW lifecycle.

Interim storage

(packaged waste vol.m3)

**55,000** 317,000 372,000

current estimated inventorv store total

2021 15% COMPLETE

New capability required

All ILW in interim storage by 2120

Retrieved, treated and packaged ILW undergoes safe storage until appropriate disposal facilities are available. 15% of the total packaged ILW to be produced over the lifetime of the NDA group is currently in safe storage. Further new stores - approximately 11 - will be required to enable safe storage of the remaining inventory at Sellafield and for NDA sites in Scotland.

STRATEGIC DECISIONS

Disposal

(packaged waste vol.m3)

Outputs

Redundant

Buildings

471.000 **471.000** 

disposed still to be estimated disposed total

2021 0% COMPLETE

NO FACILITY CURRENTLY EXISTS

Geological Disposal Facility (GDF)

All ILW disposed by 2125

Final disposal of ILW arisings from the NDA group is reliant on the availability of the right disposal facilities. The NDA group is working with UK Government, local communities, regulators and technical specialists to identify a site for and to construct a GDF for ILW arisings in England and Wales. The policy in Scotland is for near-site. near-surface management. Progress has been made with the first Community Working Groups for the GDF being established in the past year. The NDA is also working with English and Welsh Governments to decide whether some ILW may be suitable for near-surface disposal which subject to national policy and community acceptance - has the potential to be implemented earlier than the GDF.



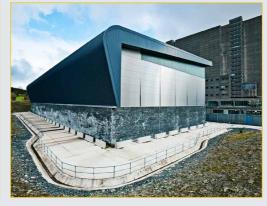
ILW Magnox fuel cladding swarf



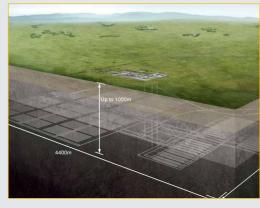
Retrieving waste from the legacy ponds



ILW Treatment and Storage at Sellafield



Trawsfynydd ILW Store



Artist's impression of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF)



Inventory

Capability

Strategic

Outcome

# Integrated Waste Management

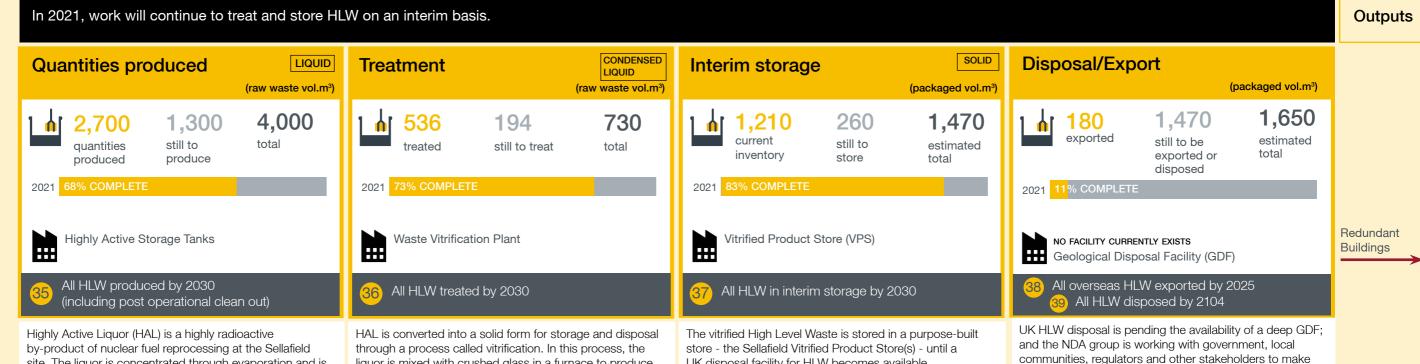
To ensure that wastes are managed in a manner that protects people and the environment, now and in the future, and in ways that comply with government policies and provide value for money. *Strategy 2021*, *p68* 

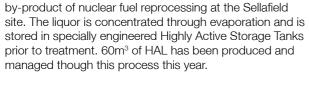
#### **High Level Waste**

Raw waste 4,000m<sup>3</sup>
Packaged waste 1,650m<sup>3</sup>

#### HIGH LEVEL WASTE

- To manage radioactive waste and dispose of it where possible, or place it in safe, secure and suitable storage, ensuring that we implement the policies of UK government and the devolved administrations. *Strategy 2021, p72* 





through a process called vitrification. In this process, the liquor is mixed with crushed glass in a furnace to produce a solid, stable glass which is poured into stainless steel cannisters. An additional 1.5% of the total waste arisings has been vitrified over the past year.

The vitrified High Level Waste is stored in a purpose-built store - the Sellafield Vitrified Product Store(s) - until a UK disposal facility for HLW becomes available. An additional 1% of the total arisings was transferred into storage in 2020/21.

UK HLW disposal is pending the availability of a deep GDF and the NDA group is working with government, local communities, regulators and other stakeholders to make progress on delivering this essential capability. Sellafield earns revenue from the processing of spent fuel for overseas customers and waste from this reprocessing is returned to the customer in line with contractual requirements. During 2020/21, 30m³ of HLW was successfully returned to customers.



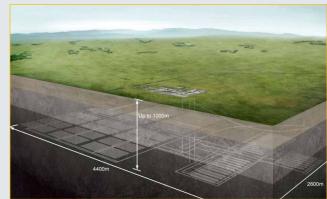
**HLW** containers



Waste Vitrification Plant



Vitrified Product Store - Sellafield



Artist's impression of a Geological Disposal Facility

Total



# Site Decommissioning and Remediation

Buildings (radioactive)

Current stock 1,227 New builds 116 Total 1,343 Land (hectares)

2333

9%

Opening stock 1,043
Land de-designated/reused 93
Still to be de-designated/reused 950

1,043

#### **OBJECTIVE**

To decommission and remediate our designated sites, and release them for other uses - Strategy 2021, p26

#### WHAT IS SITE DECOMMISSIONING AND REMEDIATION?

The NDA is cleaning up each site safely and cost-effectively for eventual release. This requires all facilities to be decommissioned, waste removed, structures demolished and the land remediated.

#### WHAT HAS TO BE DONE?

The NDA must define the pace of decommissioning and the final condition for each site, including any remaining structures, infrastructure such as roads or services and the land itself. This influences future plans and near-term work targets, and shapes current activities.

#### WHAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE 2005?

Many structures have already been dismantled and demolished, and land released. The NDA is assessing alternatives for the final stages of decommissioning, earlier release of land and the potential for future employment opportunities when sites are released.

#### WHAT HAS TO HAPPEN NEXT?

In response to government's proposal to amend primary legislation and enable more streamlined regulation during the final stages of decommissioning, the NDA is working with regulators, SLCs and other stakeholders on the optimal end state for each site. The NDA is also working with local authorities on their development plans, to ensure proposed end states and development plans are aligned.



### STRATEGIC OUTCOMES - steps to achieving our mission

STRATEGIC OUTCOMES - steps to	achieving	our missi	ion	
	Progress up to 2021	End date	Completed	Mission End
OPERATIONAL AND PLANNED				
40 All planned new buildings operational	TBD	2090		INGS ETED
41 All buildings primary function completed	35%	2127		BUILDINGS
DECOMMISSIONING AND DEMOLITION	l			NED HED
42 All buildings decommissioned	18%	2131		MISSIO MOLIS REUSEI
43 All buildings demolished or reused	16%	2133		DECOM AND DE OR I
SITES				
44 All land delicensed or relicensed	9%	2135		
All land in End State - all planned physical work complete	41%	2134		3NATED OR REUSED
46 All land demonstrated as suitable for reuse	9%	2135		GNATE

All land de-designated or reused

## Site Decommissioning and Remediation

To decommission and remediate our designated sites, and release them for other uses. Strategy 2021, p26

#### ESTIMATED LIFETIME INVENTORY - 2005 TO MISSION END

Buildings (radioactive) Lifetime stock 1.227 New builds 116 Total 1,343

#### DECOMMISSIONING (radioactive buildings)

- To deliver site end states as soon as reasonably practicable with a progressive reduction of risk and hazard. Strategy 2021, p32

#### Lifetime stock

NDA sites are making good progress decommissioning buildings that are no longer required, and a number of new builds are still required to deliver the Mission.

**STRATEGIC DECISION** 

1.227 No.of radioactive buildings (not including new builds)

Inventory

Strategic Outcome

#### Operational and planned

116 planned new

763 currently operational 464

completed primary function since 2005

2021 35% COMPLETED PRIMARY FUNCTION

O All planned new buildings operational by 2090

41) All buildings primary function completed by 2127

A nuclear installation is generally comprised of a number of buildings. When they are near the end of their operational life, a phase of work begins to transition it from operations to decommissioning. This phase normally starts well before operations finish and removes most of the nuclear hazard. New installations are still to be built to support the decommissioning mission, for example to package and temporarily store waste and ultimately, these will be decommissioned once their operational life is complete.

#### Decommissioning

total

in post operational clean out

in decommissioning (decontamination and dismantling)

decommissionina deferred

114

completed decommissioning since 2005

244

2021 18% COMPLETED DECOMMISSIONING

42 All buildings decommissioned by 2131

In line with Government strategy, NDA strategy is for installations to be decommissioned immediately after cessation of operations. Sometimes however a decision might be taken to defer decommissioning of a particular installation in order, for example, to realise benefits such as radioactive decay or to manage a constraint (e.g. restricted access, a lack of waste management infrastructure or limited resources).

#### **Demolition or reuse**

total

available for demolition or re-purposing

219 demolished demolition or re-purposed since 2005

2021 16% DEMOLISHED OR REUSED

43 All buildings demolished or reused by 2133

The final part of decommissioning is demolition which is dominated by non-nuclear risks. The extent of final dismantling and demolition depends on the agreed end state. It typically generates large volumes of waste, a proportion of which may be contaminated with radioactivity.



**Demolition work at Dungeness** 



**Demolition work at Harwell** 



**Turbine hall demolitions** 



# Site Decommissioning and Remediation

#### ESTIMATED LIFETIME INVENTORY - 2005 TO MISSION END

Land (hectares)

Opening stock 1,043
Land de-designated/reused 93
Still to be de-designated/reused 950
Total 1,043

#### LAND QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND LAND USE (sites) - To optimise the reuse of NDA sites. Strategy 2021, p44

## Opening stock 2005

1,043\*
hectares
1,031
icensed & designated

Inventory

Dounreay LLW facility

## Strategic Outcome

\*The 1,043 hectares of land consists of 1,031 hectares of licensed and designated land and 12 hectares of land adjacent to the Dounreay nuclear licensed site that is used for the Dounreay LLW facility. Once all LLW has been removed from the Dounreay site the vaults will be sealed and the surface restored. The LLW facility site will then be monitored for 300 years, by which time 95% of the radioactivity will have decayed.

The NDA Mission is not complete until all Designated Directions associated with the land have been removed. Since 2005 we have completed 9% of the Mission.

#### Licensing status of land

4

total licensed land

93 1,031 total de/relicensed land

2021 9% LAND DELICENSED SINCE 2005

44 All land delicensed or relicensed by 2135

Each NDA site operates under a Nuclear Site Licence granted to the relevant Site Licence Company by the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR). The 'de-licensing' or 're-licensing' activity needs to take place before land can be 'de-designated' and put to another use.

#### Land quality management

506

(assessment)

525 land to be characterised

land to ed characterisation complete

total awaiting erisation remediat te

1,031

awaiting physical remediation work in progress

(delivery)

583

l all physical work s complete

332

land total demonstrated as suitable for reuse

1,031

101 Teuse

93

45 All land in End State - all planned physical work complete by 2134

49% LAND WHERE CHARACTERISATION IS COMPLETE SINCE 2005

41% LAND WHERE PHYSICAL WORK IS COMPLETE SINCE 2005
 9% LAND DEMONSTRATED AS SUITABLE FOR REUSE SINCE 2005

46 All land demonstrated as suitable for reuse

The NDA continues to support UK government's proposal to amend the legislative framework that applies to nuclear sites and enable more streamlined regulation during the final stages of decommissioning and clean-up. The proposed amendment would enable site operators to optimise end states on a site by site basis. With this in mind, the NDA is working with regulators, SLCs and other stakeholders on the optimal end state for each site. The NDA is also working with local authorities to ensure that site end states and statements on the next planned use of sites are consistent with local waste and development plans.

#### **MISSION END**

#### Dedesignated or reused land

(hectares)

4

total total land de-designated reused

total still to
be de-designated
or reuse

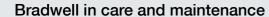
950

2021 **9%** COMPLI

47 All land dedesignated or reused by 2333

In 2005, the NDA was given responsibility for land, under a 'designating' order by the Secretary of State. 'De-designating' this order signifies that the NDA's mission is complete. We have utilised new software which can now more accurately measure the areas from our maps. Parts of Berkeley are now a college campus while land at Harwell and Winfrith has been developed as business parks. The last land to be de-designated was 3 hectares at Winfrith in Feb 2019.







Harwell



Winfrith