



# Research Support Office Annual Conference 'Siting a GDF'

**Dr. Robert Winsley,  
Senior Scientific Advisor, RWM**



**Radioactive Waste  
Management**

Working together to protect the future

A group of people in a meeting, with a woman standing and presenting to a seated group.

# Introduction

# Current UK policies

Local community consent is at the heart of this process and is written into Government policy. We need i) a suitable site, ii) a willing community and iii) appropriately packaged waste

- ✓ UK Government policy published 19 December 2018
- ✓ Welsh Government policy published 16 January 2019

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

## IMPLEMENTING GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL – WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES

An updated framework for the long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste

December 2018

### Introduction

1. Radioactive disposal is a shared matter – the Welsh Government is responsible for the safety of the waste, the UK Government is responsible for the long-term management of the waste, and the UK Government is responsible for the long-term management of the waste.

### Policy Background

1. In 2015 the Welsh Government issued a policy document 'Higher Activity Radioactive Waste Management: A Framework for the Long-Term Management of Higher Activity Radioactive Waste'.

2. Waste to be managed

3. Waste to be managed

2.20. Higher activity radioactive waste must be stored in advance of disposal. Early construction of this waste can be appropriate for a significant part of the waste. This is designed to make waste as readily available as possible, to be as efficient and as safe as possible, and to be as safe as possible.

2.21. A key role for HRA is to provide advice to waste producers on the compatibility of their waste with geological disposal. This is to be done in the context of the UK's long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste. This is to be done in the context of the UK's long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste.

Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## Geological Disposal of Higher Activity Radioactive Waste: Working with Communities

2019

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# Significant economic and community benefits from hosting a GDF

## Jobs and skills

Average of 550 FTE's in construction, operations, safety, logistics for over 100 years.

Peaking at +1,000 for initial 10 year construction phase.

Plus all the related jobs in the supply chain.

## Infrastructure investment

Investment will flow into a community that hosts a GDF.



## Community support

Local projects will benefit from Community Investment Funding. Public facilities and infrastructure will be improved over the long term.

# Community investment



Initially up to

**£1 million**

a year per community  
involved in the process



This will rise up to

**£2.5 million**

a year per community where  
detailed site characterisation  
has taken place



Significant Additional  
Investment  
for a host community

A group of diverse people in a meeting. A woman in a dark dress is standing and presenting to a group of people seated around a table. The scene is overlaid with a semi-transparent purple filter.

# The working with communities policy

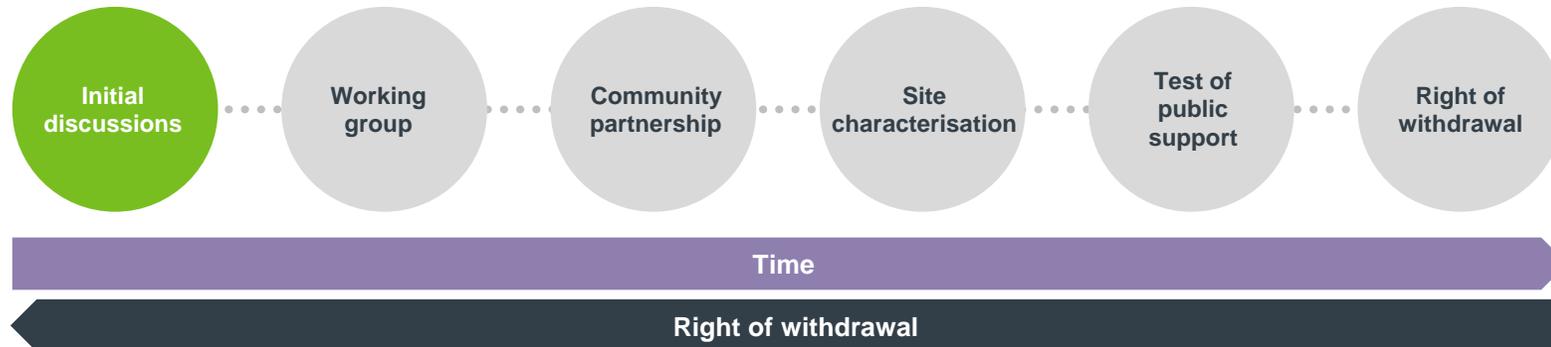
# Siting process



# Initial discussions

Any person or group of people who wish to propose an area for consideration can approach RWM for initial discussions and to find out more about geological disposal.

After agreement that the proposal merits further consideration, discussions are opened up more widely in the community.



# Working Group – scoping the question

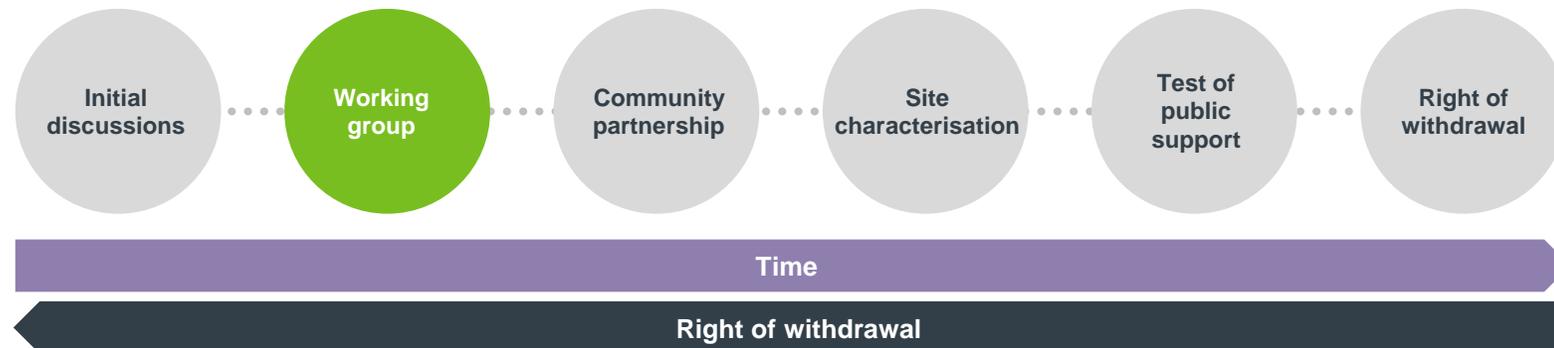
The Working Group will consist of at least the Interested Party, RWM, an independent chair and facilitator.

Local authorities can be members but don't need to be.

Starts to **engage the public locally**.

Proposes a **“Search Area”**.

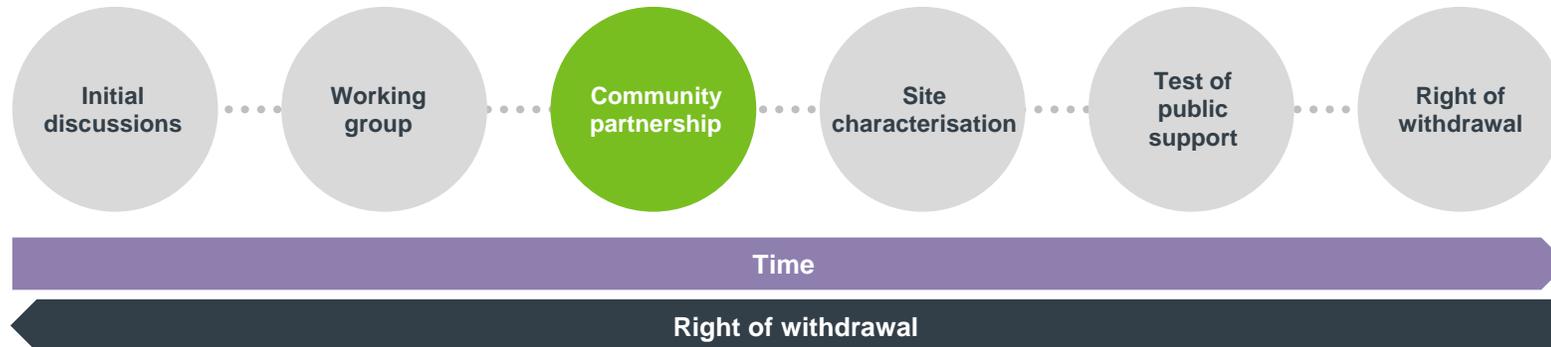
**Identifies initial membership** for “Community Partnership”.



# Community Partnership

After the initial “task and finish” of the Working Group, a Community Partnership is a **more enduring body**, formed of community members and organisations, RWM and at least one relevant principal local authority.

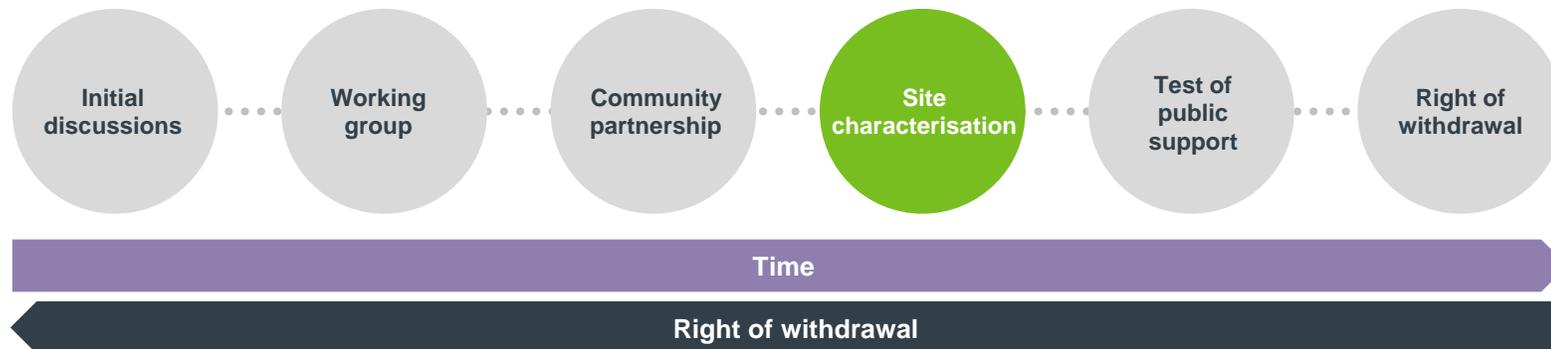
An important job for a Community Partnership is **to share information with the community** and find answers to any questions that they may have as well as **developing the community vision** for the future



# Site characterisation

Extensive site characterisation work will be required to demonstrate whether or not a specific site is suitable for a GDF, including geological investigations to develop greater understanding of the deep geological environment.

The “**Suitable Site**” part of the equation.

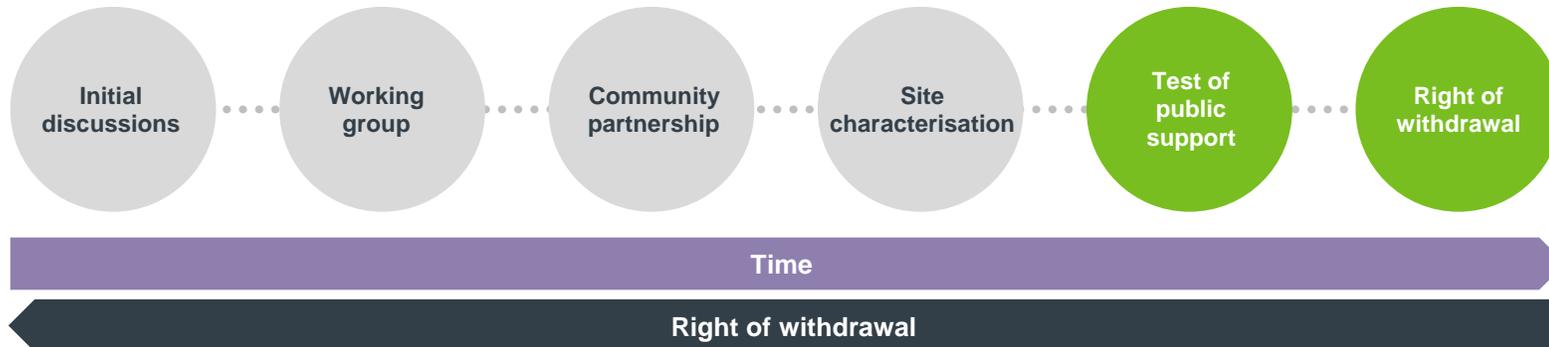


# Test of public support & right of withdrawal

Before a final site is selected, the potential host community must demonstrate it is willing to host a GDF through a Test of Public Support.

The “**Willing Community**” part of the equation.

At any point, up to a Test of Public Support, a community may withdraw from the siting process.





# Progress with siting

# A great start with launch of WGs

Very positive local headlines from

- Copeland (Nov 2020)
- Allerdale (Jan 2021)

*The new narrative is about jobs and economic opportunities*



Allerdale has become the second place in the country, after Copeland, to join the search to find an underground site to store high level nuclear waste. The government wants to build a Geological Disposal Facility



# Delight as nuclear facility talks begin

By Emma Walker  
[emma.walker@newsquest.co.uk](mailto:emma.walker@newsquest.co.uk)

REPRESENTATIVES across the county have shared their delight as the first step has officially been taken on a project that could create thousands of jobs. Yesterday, a working group was formed to begin local engagement on whether Copeland would be a suitable location for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) for UK higher activity radioactive waste. The group, which currently includes Copeland Borough Council,



future investment in the region.” Representatives from Trade Unions for Safe Nuclear Energy (TUSNE) and Britain’s Energy Coast Business Cluster (BECBC) have also expressed excitement over the first step being taken. TUSNE chair, Peter McIntosh, said: “The UK has the skills and experience to be the world leader in nuclear decommissioning and waste management. “We have waited a long time for a solution for how the UK manages its higher radioactive waste in the long term. “This is only the beginning of

# Copeland Working Group




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- What is a GDF?
- Making sure it is safe
- Which area is being considered?
- Who is part of the Working Group?
- Community and choice

## Who is part of the Working Group?

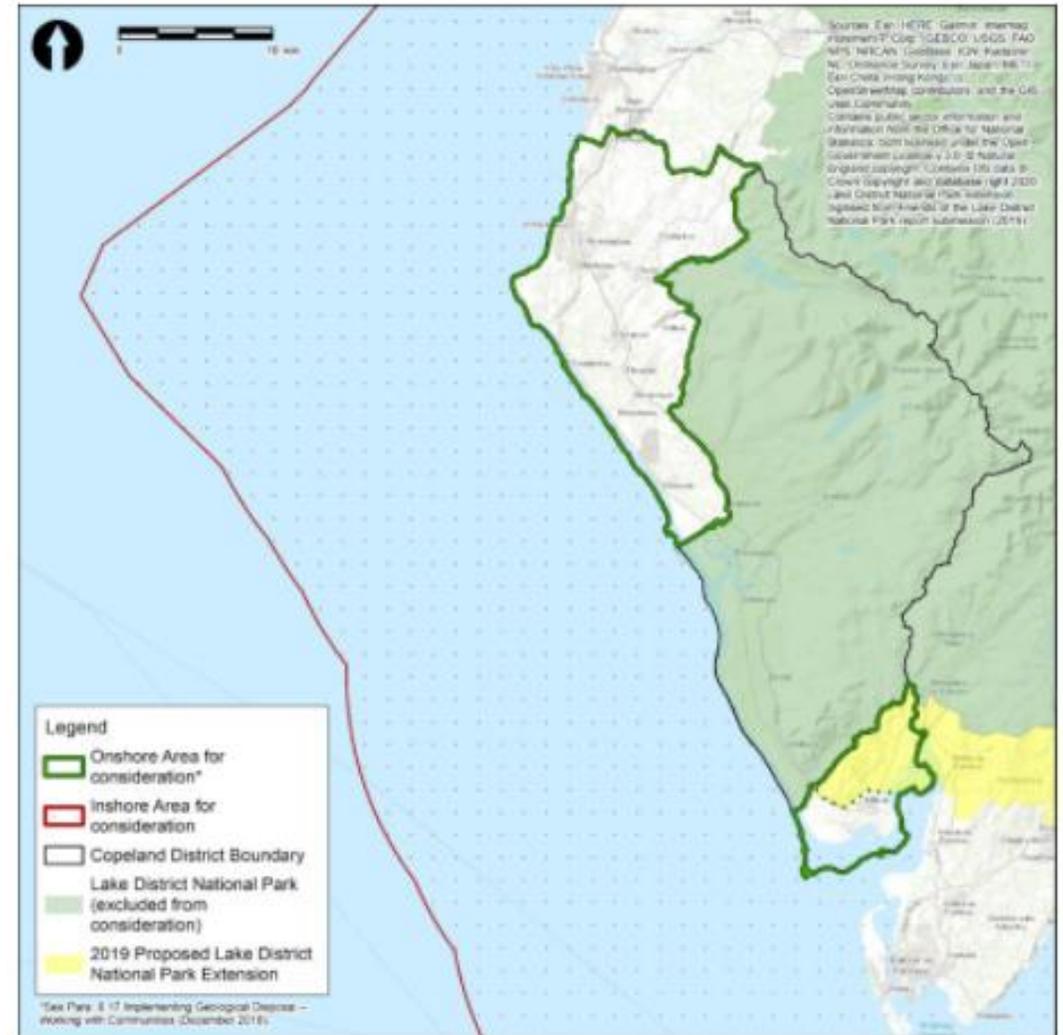
The Working Group comprises the interested parties who originally raised an interest in the siting process, RWM, an independent facilitator, an independent chair, and Copeland Borough Council.



**Mark Cullinan**  
Chair  
Copeland Working Group

Mark is the independent Chair of the Copeland Working Group. A former Chief Executive of Lancaster City Council, Mark is an experienced Chair, Executive and Non-Executive Director, and brings over thirty years of experience in public service leadership to his role as Chair. His background is particularly in environmental, economic and social issues. He is currently Chair of Impact Housing Cumbria and the Riverside Charitable Trust, and Deputy Chair of the Blackpool Teaching Hospitals Trust and of St John's Hospice (North Lancashire and South Cumbria). He previously served as Chair of the Lancashire Children and Young People's Trust.

## Working Group map



# Allerdale Working Group



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## Who is on Allerdale GDF Working Group

**Jocelyn Manners Armstrong**  
 Chair  
 Allerdale GDF Working Group

Jocelyn is the independent Chair of the Allerdale GDF Working Group. A former member of the Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority for the past eight years, where she served as deputy Chair, Jocelyn is committed to the protection of the natural environment. Prior to this Jocelyn practiced as a corporate and commercial lawyer.

Jocelyn has also run a national legal charity, supporting refugee organisations, and served on boards of several charities, including a range of roles for Citizens Advice.

She has also previously served as a lay member of the local health group of Morecambe Bay Primary Care Trust and as an independent member of Cumbria Police Authority. Jocelyn is also Chief Executive of a business and IT consultancy supporting customers in the IT and media sectors.

**Dot Kirk-Adams**  
 Independent Facilitator

Dot is the Independent Facilitator for the Working Group. The role of the Independent Facilitator is to help ensure that discussions are constructive and that issues raised by the community are considered by the Working Group. Dot works for Community Organisers Limited, a small national charity and the membership body and training organisation for grass-roots community organising in England. Their work is all about giving people the tools to listen to their community about the things that matter to them. These conversations inspire people to join together to take action for their community and to become collectively more powerful and able to shape their future.

Dot has worked as a community organiser, trainer and facilitator for 10 years supporting communities and a range of organisations around the country to make change. She believes strongly in active listening, dialogue and supporting communities to come together to decide what should happen in their areas.

**Councillor Marion Fitzgerald**  
 Allerdale Borough Council

In Marion's role as an Executive Member of Allerdale Borough Council, she has responsibility for nuclear matters in her portfolio. Marion is a former Leader of the Council.

She said: "The Council recognises its responsibility to make sure that all of our residents have access to as much information as they need about the project and they feel that they are being listened to at the outset. Whether the GDF is eventually built here in West Cumbria or elsewhere in the country, that decision will affect Allerdale because the waste is already stored above ground in West Cumbria. That is why we decided to be involved and part of the discussion."

**Gen8 North Ltd**

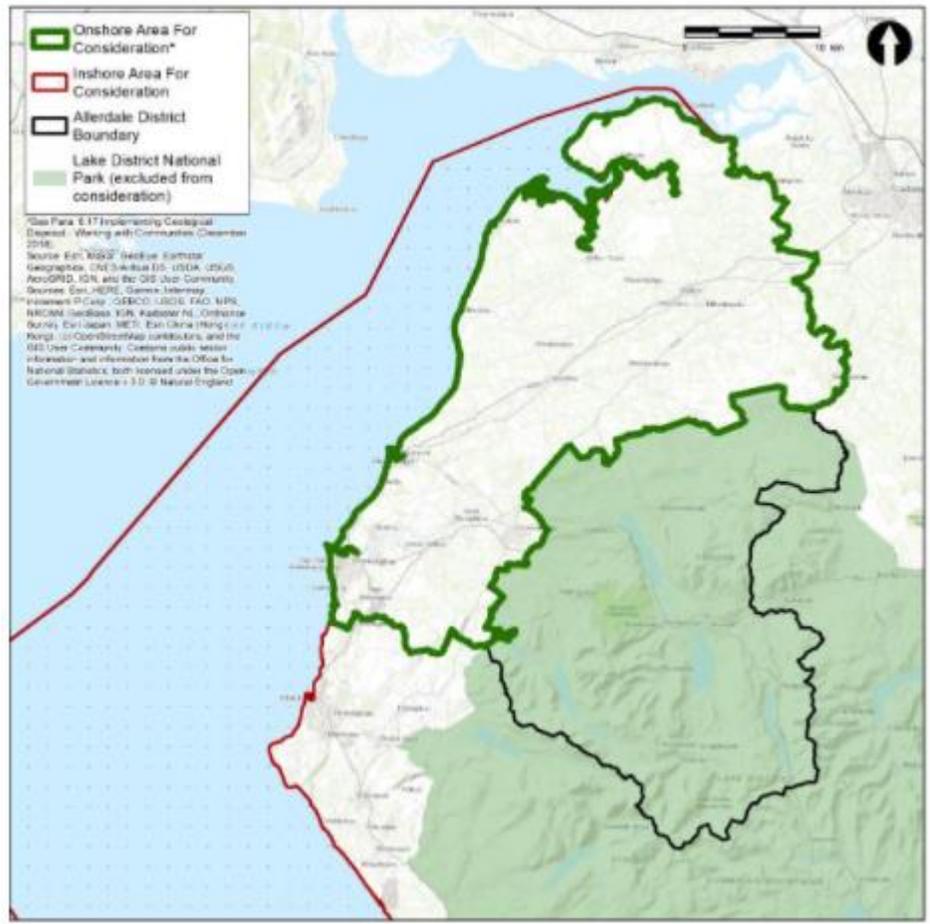
Gen8 North Ltd is an 'interested party' who specialise in land development and regeneration, and as a Cumbrian based company, would like the GDF programme to be given proper consideration in West Cumbria as part of future infrastructure development.

**Mary Bradley**  
 Executive Member  
 Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC)

Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC) is a not for profit membership organisation, representing, training and advising the parish (including town) councils of Cumbria, who form the grass roots tier of local government in England. They offer members a resource of important, operational information and facilitate communication at all levels of the parish network - district, county, regional and national.

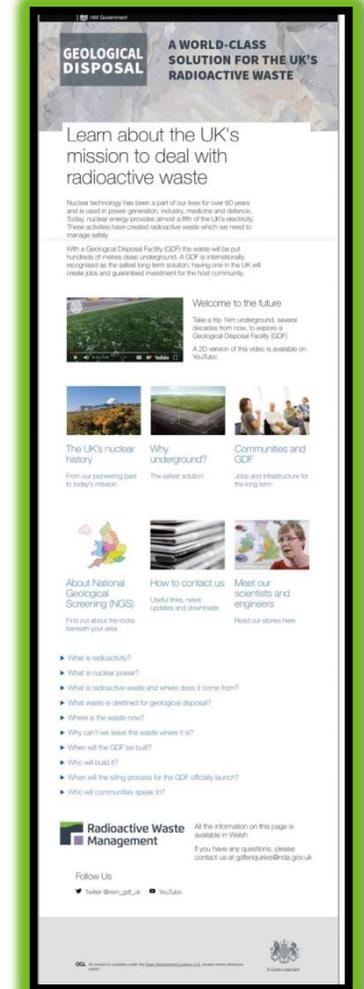
Mary Bradley said: "CALC want to ensure that information about this controversial but important project is made available through the grass roots parish and town councils who represent the many people and communities of Allerdale. The aim will be to ensure that everyone is made aware of the chance to visit face-to-face events, as well as access information and have conversations digitally. This means we can ensure that the project fits well with the aspirations and concerns of the host community."

## Working Group map



# Looking Forwards and Beyond Cumbria

- This is a national process
- Discussions underway in other parts of England
- Cautiously optimistic to form more Working Groups shortly
- Further initial discussions taking place beyond these to ensure a diversity of opportunities for the siting process



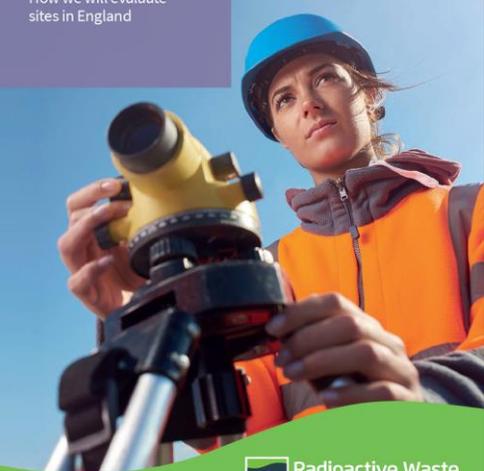
# Site evaluation

Geological Disposal

## Site Evaluation

How we will evaluate sites in England

Site Evaluation  
How we will evaluate sites in Wales



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Working together to protect the future

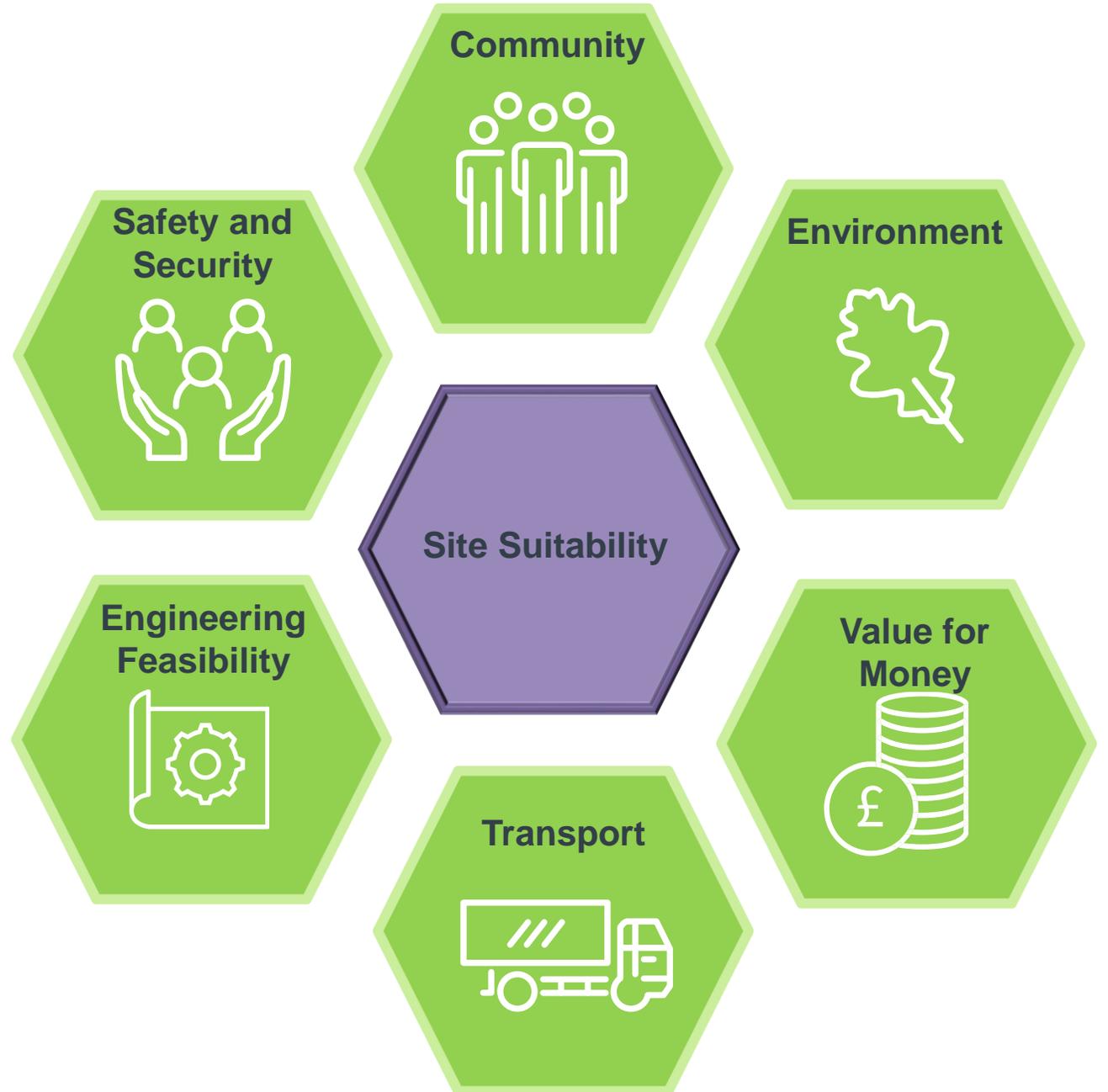
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# Site Evaluation

## The purpose of Site Evaluation:

- Ensure a consistent and transparent approach to the evaluation of potential areas and sites.
- Support an appropriate level of evaluation for each potential area and site against the existing and applicable requirements.
- Enable RWM's future applications for permissions, including land use planning consents, environmental permits and a nuclear site licence.
- We recognise there are many interactions and relationships between our Siting Factors and Evaluation Considerations.



# Conclusions

## **A GDF will only be built where there is both a suitable site and a willing community**

- Communities are at the heart of the siting process - RWM are working hand in hand with local authorities and place leaders to build positive visions for the long-term future

## **Early but tangible progress with siting**

- First Working Groups established in Copeland & Allerdale. Started the process of exploring the potential benefits of hosting a GDF in their communities
- National process - positive discussions ongoing in range of other locations - we expect further Working Groups to form

## **Anticipate creation of Community Partnerships**

- RWM will be able to gain more information to assess the suitability, feasibility and acceptability of alternative sites
- Site evaluation criteria have been published - RWM will work with Community Partnerships to ensure evaluations are discussed and challenges/benefits of hosting a GDF are understood.

# Get in touch

To learn more about the UK's mission to deal with radioactive waste

Email: [\*\*gdfenquiries@nda.gov.uk\*\*](mailto:gdfenquiries@nda.gov.uk)

Telephone: **03000 660 100**

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