



Research Sites  
Restoration Ltd



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# Socio-Economic Plan 2010/2011

# Research Sites Restoration Ltd (RSRL)

## Introduction

Research Sites Restoration Limited (RSRL) is the site licence company responsible for the closure programme at Harwell and Winfrith. RSRL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of UKAEA Ltd, which was sold in 2009 to Babcock International Group. RSRL operates under contract to the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA).

Both sites are an important part of nuclear history with origins that go back, in Harwell's case to the earliest days of the UK's nuclear industry in the 1940s, and in Winfrith's to the late 1950s.

In the longer term, the strategy for Harwell and Winfrith is the progressive decommissioning and delicensing of both nuclear licensed sites. The key focus of RSRL's current work is to process legacy wastes and to prepare redundant facilities for care and maintenance, while at the same time maintaining the highest levels of safety, security and environmental performance.

RSRL has held the site licences, waste disposal authorisations and other legal permits for managing its sites since February 2009. Prior to that, the sites were managed by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority (UKAEA).

RSRL employs approximately 400 people and is supported by a number of subcontractors from its supply chain. UKAEA Ltd maintains a business alliance with CH2M HILL and Amec in support of RSRL. A number of executive management positions in the company are occupied by staff seconded from the UKAEA Ltd alliance.

Over the last few years, a large number of nuclear facilities on the Harwell and Winfrith sites have been fully decommissioned. These include: reactors, a post irradiation examination facility, alpha material facilities, laboratories and active drains. The successful decommissioning programme has allowed the release of land to be used for new purposes.

We aim to deliver a decommissioning programme that challenges the status quo and delivers breakthrough performance. By operating efficiently and providing value-for-money, we aim to increase the funds available for decommissioning and provide exemplary customer services. In doing all this, we endeavour to communicate openly and honestly with our customers, regulators and stakeholders.

## **WINFRITH**

The Winfrith site was established from green field in 1957, principally because the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority's (UKAEA) main original research site at Harwell had run out of room for expansion. In all nine experimental reactors were built at Winfrith with a peak figure of 2,000 employed in support of the UKAEA's research programme.

In the 1990s, as the UKAEA's nuclear research programme began to wind down, the UKAEA at Winfrith refocused on the removal of the redundant nuclear facilities and on-site environmental restoration. To date seven of the experimental reactors have been decommissioned as have a number of ancillary buildings.

Winfrith is situated in rural Dorset in the Purbeck District Council area (pop 46,000) approximately 20 miles west of Poole and Bournemouth. Winfrith is part of a much larger Dorset economy (pop 710,000), in which population growth has been low but steady for the last decade.

## **HARWELL**

The Harwell site was originally an RAF station. In 1946 it became Britain's Atomic Energy Research Establishment. Most of the nuclear reactors and research facilities on site were built in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s and continued to operate until the 1990s.

Since then, work has been in progress to decommission and dismantle redundant facilities safely, manage radioactive wastes and restore the site in a way that is safe, secure and environmentally responsible.

A considerable amount of decommissioning has been achieved and many major facilities removed. Major projects to remediate areas of contaminated land have been completed and seven hectares of land have been delicensed.

The designated area managed and operated by RSRL forms part of the Harwell Science and Innovation Campus, a major science and business centre. As land on the site is delicensed, it is released for commercial development as part of the Campus, ensuring that, as nuclear liabilities are removed, a valuable legacy is left.

The Harwell designated site is located in a generally rural area in southern Oxfordshire close to the towns of Didcot, Abingdon and Wantage/Grove, and is within 20 miles of Oxford, Reading, Swindon and Newbury. The Harwell local economy lies in an area of high population, however RSRL accounts for a relatively small proportion of local economy employment. The area has good rail and road infrastructure and a significant proportion of the working population commute to Greater London and other major towns and cities in the region.

RSRL Harwell employees are considered to have highly transferable skills which are not confined to the energy industry. In particular, the high proportion of managerial and professional staff at Harwell matches the occupational profile of the local economy in which it operates.

When the employment requirements of the restoration programme eventually run down similar employment is likely to be available in the local economy for Harwell employees. It is recognised that assistance will be required to help some staff to tailor their skills to different types of business sectors in the future, and some staff with very industry-specific skills may

struggle to find alternative employment in the local area without re-training. The Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston is less than 30 miles from Harwell; this has an continuing and expanding nuclear defence programme which will continue to require similar skills to Harwell for its operations and eventual decommissioning, which is likely to continue well after the Harwell NDA programme is completed. The UK fusion research programme is undertaken at Culham about six miles from Harwell; this is also likely to provide opportunities for employment, either in the research facilities or on the decommissioning of the JET facility.

## **FUNDING**

Anticipated funding available for 2010/11 amounts to £67M across RSRL. This includes approximately £10k at each site for local community support.

## **VISION**

Our vision is to be the first NDA Site Licence Company to restore its sites.

### **In achieving this goal, we aim to:**

- prevent no accidents, cause no harm to people and no damage to the environment
- increase RSRL workforce motivation, competency and efficiency
- implement a decommissioning programme that challenges the status quo and delivers breakthrough performance
- provide exemplary customer service
- increase funds available for decommissioning through increased efficiency and NDA investment
- engage actively with regulators and stakeholders to promote timely decommissioning and restoration In all our activities, our core priorities are:

### **In all our activities, our core priorities are:**

- Concern for safety, health and environment, protecting our workers, the public and our surroundings
- Valuing our employees, treating them well and offering opportunities to develop their potential
- Improving and challenging ourselves, learning from experience and investing in training
- Honouring our commitments, fulfilling promises, respecting individual rights and being held accountable
- Offering value for money, spending our customer's money wisely, delivering work to cost and measuring ourselves against realistic targets.
- Providing responsive and agile services that exceed expectations, delivering innovative solutions and responding to needs, while communicating with the customer, regulators and stakeholders.

## **OBJECTIVES**

In accordance with the 2004 Energy Act RSRL, on behalf of the NDA, continues to give encouragement to its local community in ways that benefit social or economic life or enhance the surrounding environment. Most of the planned activities (see Table 1) will continue to build on experience gained in previous years.

## CONSULTATIONS

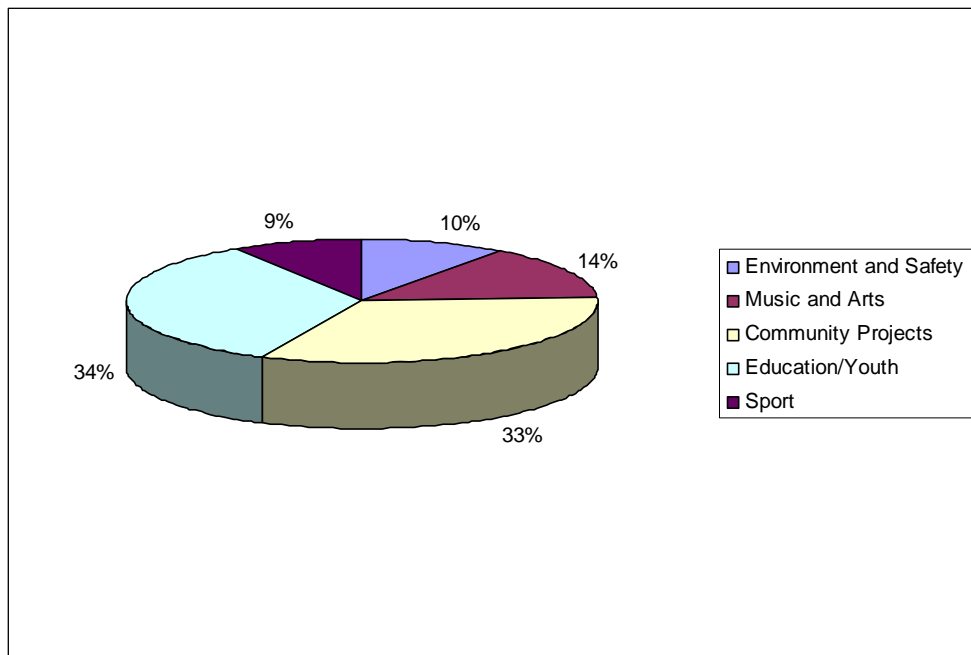
In line with other NDA sites RSRL is committed to proactive consultation with its local stakeholders. The Winfrith Site Stakeholder Group (SSG) and the Harwell-Chilton Campus Local Stakeholder Group (LSG) are independently chaired and has members representing a cross section of the community. The groups meet regularly and subgroups are formed to consider specific issues.

## REVIEW OF 2009/10 – Local Sponsorship

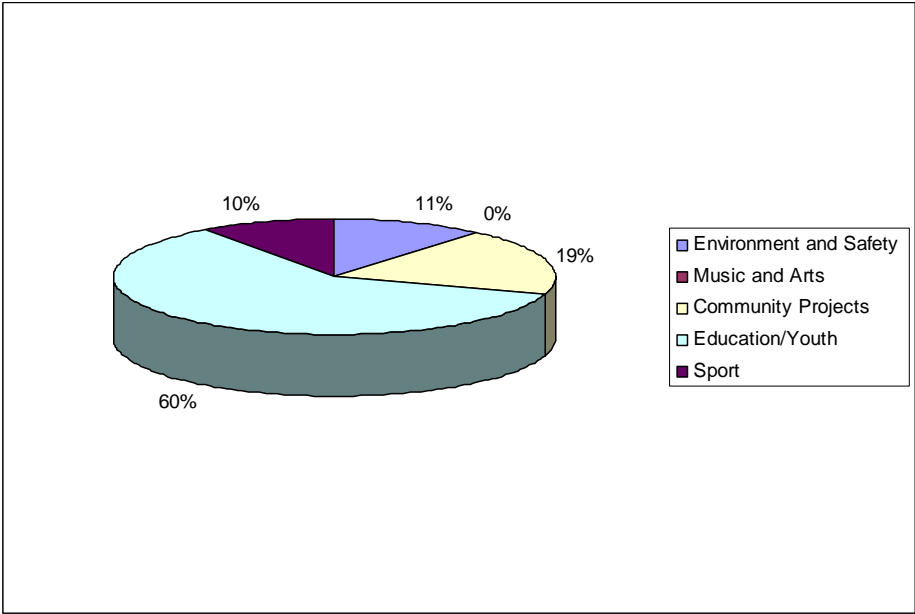
In 2009/10 the local sponsorship budget was spent according to an established criterion. It was used to support a wide range of local projects and provided sponsorship for schools and community groups in the nearby area. Figure 1 shows the distribution of donations by type:

**Figure 1 – Distribution of Local Sponsorship Donations (2009/10)**

**Winfrith – actual spend £9,288.50**



**Harwell – actual spend £9,393.16**



At RSRL the safe delivery of the Harwell and Winfrith site restoration programmes depends on the active involvement of all employees and contractors. A scheme operates in RSRL that encourages staff to report any unsafe or potentially unsafe activity, for every suggestion a £1.00 is donated to charity. During 09/10 the following was donated;

Cancer Research UK	Donation £1 per UNOR Jan - Mar 2009	£467
Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance	Donation £1 per UNOR Apr - June 2009	£536.00
Home Farm Trust	Donation £1 per UNOR Jul - Sept 2009	£489.00
Julia's House Hospice	Donation £1 per UNOR Oct - Dec 2009	£512.00

**COMMITMENT TO SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

RSRL is committed to making social and environmental responsibility integral to the way it does business.

- Safeguarding the health and safety of the general public, employees and contractors working on its sites;
- Protecting the environment;
- Providing value for money to its shareholders, its customers, and UK taxpayers;
- Supporting the prosperity and well being of the communities around its sites;
- Maintaining good employment practices;
- Dealing fairly with its contractors and suppliers;
- Being open and honest in its communications;
- Consulting and engaging proactively with its stakeholders.

## SUMMARY

This plan is a living document and will be reviewed annually. RSRL believes the current plan provides a sound footing and is enthusiastic to develop appropriate aspirational plans on behalf of the NDA in partnership with local stakeholders.

**Table 1: PROPOSED SOCIO-ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES AND BENEFITS**

Ref	Description of Activity	Cost of Activity	Selection Criteria	Socio-economic Benefit
1	Local sponsorship	£20k per annum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geographical proximity. Approx 20 mile radius at Winfrith and 10 mile radius at Harwell</li> <li>Balance of type of activity - environmental, youth, sport, cultural</li> <li>No support for national charities or individual sponsorships</li> <li>To reflect priorities identified with SSG/LSG</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local community groups encouraged and developed. A little funding often goes a long way.</li> <li>Interest in various activities fostered widens contact in often relatively isolated communities.</li> <li>Funding often used to pump prime further support (e.g. match funding).</li> </ul>
2	Appropriate commercial development of RSRL Site consistent with strategy agreed with the NDA	Not currently quantifiable for costing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activity is appropriate to the nature of the site e.g. proximity to SSSI</li> <li>Activity in accordance with planning status</li> <li>Focus remains on the creation of high quality employment</li> <li>Regeneration and re-use of existing footprint</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reuse of brownfield areas for job creation</li> <li>Creation/retention of high quality jobs</li> </ul>
3	Community volunteering	Not currently quantifiable for costing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Line management approval as appropriate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local organisations benefit from professional support that would otherwise prove too costly for many</li> </ul>
4	Training and development of staff	Approximately £500k	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate for RSRL needs</li> <li>Appropriate for individuals</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long term value for the local community should the individual leave RSRL employment</li> <li>Benefits directed through community volunteering</li> </ul>
5	Work Experience placements	Time not currently quantifiable	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appropriate for school needs</li> <li>Appropriate for Health and Safety</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Benefit for local youth experience</li> <li>Benefit for local schools programmes</li> </ul>

