

Minutes of 113 AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting**Thursday 30 April 2026, Aldermaston****Present:**

Ian Rogers	Chair, Chief Nuclear Officer and Executive Director Assurance, AWE
Cllr Lyndon Austin	Silchester Parish
Cllr Adrian Betteridge	Wokingham Borough Council
Cllr Dominic Boeck	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Mike Bound	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Cllr Avril Burdett	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council
Cllr Colin Cooper	Baughurst Parish Council
Cllr Sophie Crawford	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Kevin Cross	Mortimer West End Parish Council
Cllr Andrew Hopkinson	Theale Parish Council
Cllr Stephen Hoskins	Ashford Hill with Headley Parish
Cllr Andrew Hyde	Upton Nervet Parish Council
Cllr Mark Keeping	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Brenda Kerr Muir	Pangbourne Parish Council
Cllr Paul Lawrence	Burghfield Parish
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Parish Council
Cllr Ian Montgomery	Shinfield Parish Council
Cllr Susan Mullan	Tadley Town Council
Andrew Perkins	Wasing Parish Council
Cllr Vicky Poole	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Jo Slimin	Basingstoke and Deane Council
Cllr Simon Taylor	Swallowfield Parish Council
Cllr Tim Whitaker	Mapledurham Parish Council
Cllr Andrew Williams	Padworth Parish Council
Cllr Paul Woodley	Wasing Parish Council
Cllr Diane Woodward	Sulhamstead Parish Council

Health and Wellbeing Operations Manager	AWE
Responsible Business Manager	AWE
Responsible Business Specialist	AWE
Site Director Estates and Liabilities	AWE
Head of Asset Management, Estates and Liabilities	AWE
Programme Director, Future Materials Campus	AWE
Head of Infrastructure Logistics	AWE
Head of Delivery, Environment, Safety and Health	AWE
Senior Environmental Specialist	AWE
Manager Site Response Group	AWE
Nuclear Threat Reduction Principal Specialist	AWE
Senior Responsible Business Manager	AWE
Head of Environment	AWE

Regulators:

Rob Green	Environment Agency
Gareth Lock	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Angela Wright	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Nicholas Alexander	Office for Nuclear Regulation

Local Authority:

Jonah Maddocks	West Berkshire Council
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Introduction:

Ian Rogers, Chair, welcomed members to the 113 LLC meeting.

Membership changes

Cllr Clive Littlewood has stood down from Holybrook Parish Council – a new representative will be selected in May.

Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Graham Bridgman	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
Cllr John Seto	Theale Parish Council
Cllr Rob Jones	Padworth Parish Council
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Rob Wallace	Purley on Thames Parish Council
Cllr Jim Thompson	Wokefield Parish Council
Karl Pallester	Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator
Carolyn Richardson	West Berkshire District Council

Approval of 112 LLC minutes

Actions from 112 LLC Meeting

Action 111/10: To provide information on AWE's focus groups including Wellbeing.

Health and Wellbeing Operations Manager is part of 113 LLC agenda.

Closed

Action 112/01: AWE to provide an update on the process for visitors entering a nuclear licenced site

Working with Security and Estates and Liabilities Team, able to provide a single check in desk for LLC representatives to speed up security check-in process. As demonstrated for this meeting.

Closed

Action 112/02: To provide additional information about biodiversity at AWE sites from an ecologist

Included in the SHEQ update from AWE's Senior Environmental Specialist.

Closed

Action 112/03: West Berkshire District Council to provide a response to Cllr Sophie Crawford's question on 'number of people who could sign up for the AWE text alert service'.

"This is a difficult question to answer since the system is not only for residents but every person within the DEPZ including farms, hotels, offices, schools, visitors, businesses etc. Some people in the DEPZ may register more than one phone, some people will sign up for both sites and some people will be registered who do not live or work in the area.

We have looked at using census data but that does not capture businesses, we have looked at residential units and multiplying by 2.4 and other data sources but none are perfect for our needs.

The data source we use is from our GIS Gazetteer database which as of the beginning of March 26 had over 8100 properties for AWE Aldermaston DEPZ and over 9100 for AWE Burghfield DEPZ – which includes all types of premises.

These 'flaws' are known hence there are a number of layers of alerting the public including landlines, text alerting, the national emergency alert system and media communications."

From West Berkshire District Council

Closed

Action 112/04: To include a representative from the ONR Emergency Preparedness and Response Team and the Land Use Planning Team at a future Local Liaison Committee meeting.

Angela Wright and Nicholas Alexander from the ONR Land Use Planning and Emergency Planning and Response Teams present as part of the Regulator's segment for 113 LLC.

Closed

Action 112/05: To provide LLC representatives with a digital copy of Project Servator leaflet

Emailed out digital copy with minutes on 18.12.25

Closed

Questions arising:

Cllr Kevin Cross: I was listed as attending the 112 LLC but I had in fact sent my apologies.

***This has been amended*

Action 113/01: How many sign-ups have there been to the AWE text alert service for AWE Aldermaston and AWE Burghfield site? WBDC or AWE to provide the percentage uptake of our site alerting arrangements

Chair's Update

Organisation update including site operations

1.1 Rising Global Tensions

Rising global tensions stress the need for and importance of what AWE does to protect the nation through nuclear security.

1.2 Aldex 2026

Under the Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations 2001 (REPPPIR) there are requirements for the Operator (AWE plc) of a nuclear establishment and the Local Authority to comply with. Under REPPPIR, the requirements for the Local Authority include having an Off-Site Emergency Plan and testing this plan on at least a 3 yearly basis. This testing was held on 15 April 2026.

1.3 Organisational Design & Strike Action

AWE is undergoing an organisational design change, currently affecting c1,700 people. Last month saw strike action by unions. AWE is committed to meaningful dialogue and working towards an outcome that supports its people. In the event of industrial action, pre-planned contingency measures will be implemented to maintain defence outputs and the safety and security of AWE's sites.

1.4 Aldermaston Park

Since the last LLC, AWE has completed the purchase of Aldermaston Park. AWE was not able to give you advance notice of this, as it was under a non-disclosure agreement, but all relevant stakeholders were informed at point of sale and AWE have since presented at Aldermaston Parish Council. Covered in the Development Update.

1.5 Parking

AWE is aware of staff and contractors parking offsite, resulting in issues for local residents. Covered in the Estates and Liabilities Update.

1.6 Nuclear Regulatory Review

The Government has published its formal response to the Nuclear Regulatory Review (NRR) published in November 2025 in which the Prime Minister emphasises the importance of:

“Strategic energy independence through the expansion of our nuclear industry; maintaining our nuclear deterrent and modernising our nuclear fleet”.

This recognises the importance of AWE, and other nuclear sites, to the government and the country – stressing the need to find the balance between maintaining safety and timely delivery.

1.7 Nuclear Test Veterans

AWE recognise the huge contribution that Nuclear Test Veterans have made to national security.

With increasing external interest in the existence and content of the Merlin Database, which was created and compiled between 2006 and 2008 by AWE at the request of the Ministry of Defence, a decision was made to release and publish as much of the content of the database as possible, by way of electronic transfer of the files to The National Archives.

This has involved a programme of content assessment and review, GDPR redaction, and data analysis to prepare the records for transfer. The transfer itself began in September 2025 and is expected to conclude within a 12-month timeframe. Over 19,300 historic nuclear testing records are now publicly accessible having been transferred to the National Archives from the Merlin database.

AWE is also continuing to take proactive steps to manage additional discovery of its information holdings.

Questions arising:

Cllr George McGarvie: Can you provide a brief overview of what the Aldex 26 simulation scenario was?

Ian Rogers: A mass casualty event, hazard associated with released gases transported on the vehicle that created a potential contaminant being carried over parts of Tadley which initiated the Off-Site Emergency Response.

Cllr Jo Slimin: Why has the Organisational Design been delayed and will there be a solution?

Ian Rogers: It has been delayed because of continued discussions with Trade Unions over the amount of information they are seeking before Collective Consultation can occur. Collective consultation will start on 5 May 2026.

Cllr Sophie Crawford: Post organisational design, what will the total number of employees be?

Ian Rogers: It will be approximately the same as it is now (9,500 employees).

Cllr George McGarvie: Do contractors at AWE follow the same 9-day fortnight that employees have?

Ian Rogers: Contractors do work on an AWE non-working Friday. There are also other business areas on AWE sites that do not work the 9-day fortnight who provide 24 hours support and operational activities.

Cllr George McGarvie: You said that draft documents were released. Are these documents from the fifties and sixties or draft documents about the information on the Merlin database?

Ian Rogers: The draft documents that were produced analyse the results from tests on individuals. They were drafted but never formally approved. They are historical documents.

Questions since the last meeting:

Q: Cllr Sophie Crawford: Aldermaston Parish Council had noticed an increase in traffic around Aldermaston site gates in early December 2025 and wondered if this was due to increased security.

A: There were no security changes at AWE at this time, however AWE had received reports of wider community traffic build up due to multiple roadworks being carried out in the local area.

Q: Cllr Avril Burdett: asking why LLC members had received notification of an evacuation alarm test in January.

A: LLC members had been notified as this building alarm can often be heard external to Aldermaston site. There are three alarms at AWE: building evacuation alarm, fire alarm and site undercover alarm.

Q: Cllr Philip Bassil: received a complaint from a parishioner about speeding traffic on Blacknest Lane through Brimpton Common.

A: AWE regularly reminds its employees of considerate driving both in and around its sites. As the external road network is not managed or controlled by AWE, any concerns about speeding or road safety should be reported directly to Highways or the relevant council.

Q: Cllr Ian Montgomery: request for a guest speaker at Civil Servant Pensioners Group meeting.

A: An AWE Distinguished Engineer provided a presentation on 'The Story of AWE' to the group in March.

Q: Cllr Sophie Crawford: request for AWE drones support to take aerial imagery of Aldermaston Conservation Area to be used as part of the Aldermaston Conservation area appraisal in conjunction with West Berkshire Council.

A: The Uncrewed Vehicle Systems Team can support this request and will do so in May.

Q: Cllr Avril Burdett: request to deliver a presentation on the past and present of AWE for Tadley Youth Council to help inspire them with a mural design for a public space in Tadley.

A: A member of the knowledge specialist team and Responsible Business team delivered the presentation earlier this week to help inspire the Youth Council with their mural design.

Wellbeing Update**Health and Wellbeing Operations Manager**

There are four pillars of Wellbeing at AWE: physical, emotional, financial and social. Employees have access to a programme through a digital app to support physical and emotional wellbeing. AWE also gives employees access to a specialist financial wellbeing provider offering tools and regular in person / webinar events.

AWE has over 300 Wellbeing Champions who are specially trained employees to offer peer support to colleagues.

Because of AWE's Wellbeing programmes, it was able to save 300 GP hours in the last 12 months through providing access to remote GPs, reducing the impact on GPs in local communities. It has also delivered 350 in person health checks for guidance and to highlight early interventions. It has delivered 98 mental health courses (3-6 sessions) supporting employees through their mental health journey.

AWE has delivered 2,500 flu vaccinations in the last 12 months to reduce sickness absence and reduce impact on local communities.

Questions arising:

Cllr Dominic Boeck: Is treatment of individuals provided by AWE's health scheme?

Health and Wellbeing Operations Manager: There are different journeys for different issues. AWE does offer physiotherapy for muscular skeletal injuries.

Cllr Vicky Poole: What are the wait times for AWE employees to be triaged or seen through your health app?

Health and Wellbeing Operations Manager: For employees using the health app, you can see a GP usually the same day. This is the same for mental health support.

Community Update**Responsible Business Manager****Responsible Business Specialist**

November 2025 – April 2026, AWE has delivered 116 STEM events in local primary schools, secondary schools and colleges which include: careers fairs, presentations, workshops, mock interviews, early careers awareness and STEM curriculum support. This has resulted in 37,556 students being made aware of AWE as a local business through STEM support and early careers opportunities.

AWE has been working with Education Business Partners (EBP) to invite home-schooled students in the Basingstoke area to a recent EBP event for Early Careers opportunities.

In December 2025, AWE was able to invite 45 students and 9 teachers from 5 schools with a keen interest in Science, Engineering, Maths and Computing to engage in a series of workshops linked to the Orion Laser Facility. Workshops included: creating a laser target, investigating laser optics, designing and making a working pulse power circuit as well as a tour of the Orion Facility.

As a result of the event, 87% of attending students said that they would consider applying for an AWE Early Careers opportunity. 100% of attending teachers said that the event met the needs of their students.

In December 2025, AWE ran its annual 'Give a Gift' collection. The Responsible Business Team liaised with AWE working groups to nominate charities so that the business could collect for and donate to them. As a result of AWE employee gift donations:

- 450 gifts were donated to PACT to ensure that the children and women that the charity supports were provided with a gift over the festive period.
- 1.14 tonnes of food was donated to West Berkshire Food Bank by employees which equates to 805 meals.
- Enough toiletries and warm clothing to create 100 gift bags were donated by AWE employees and subsequently given out by SWAT to the homeless in the Reading area.
- 50 gift bags were created and given to elderly patients across three Hampshire hospitals over the festive period.

AWE employees are given 2 days of individual volunteering time and 1 day of team volunteering time to support charities and non-profit organisations in local communities. The Chair of the LLC and his wider team volunteered for the day at PACT, helping women who are supported by the charity to select and wrap toys and gifts for their children which they may not otherwise have been able to afford.

Questions arising:

Cllr Mike Bound: Because of the difference in attendance numbers between males and females (males 64% females 36%) were the students self-chosen?

Responsible Business Specialist: Schools were encouraged to include students with a keen interest in science, engineering, maths and computing. AWE did not stipulate any additional criteria for attending students. AWE continues to host female only STEM events to encourage them into future STEM subjects and roles.

Avril Burdett: Is the Orion STEM week video on the AWE website?

Responsible Business Specialist: It has been shared on social and digital channels.

Cllr George McGarvie: You mentioned that volunteering hours are tracking upwards. How much has the uptake of volunteering hours increased since the last LLC?

Responsible Business Manager: It is increasing by an uptake of approximately 500 activities per year. This does not include the work of STEM Ambassadors in schools and colleges.

AWE Estates and Liabilities Update**Site Director**

Historically, AWE has reported the number of telephone calls to the community concerns line. However, there are multiple communication channels into the business including email and social media. AWE aim to provide a more complete overview at the next LLC meeting.

Since the last meeting, there have been three main themes for calls to the community concerns line: parking, unauthorised development at Reading Road and light pollution.

Parking in local residential roads:

AWE's initial response was to deploy parking marshals to these residential roads which had a positive effect but has recognised the need to monitor this. In addition, the AWE Project Director for The Hub and the Balfour Beatty Project Director are to observe the current parking situation on residential roads and meet with local residents to hear their concerns. Cllr Jo Slimin and Cllr Sophie Crawford thanked AWE for its proactive efforts in solving contractor parking in local residential roads.

Unauthorised development on Reading Road:

AWE has advised anyone contacting the business about the unauthorised development on Reading Road to contact Enforcement at West Berkshire District Council if they see individuals breaching planning enforcement or to contact the local Police force if they observe any illegal activity.

Light pollution and intrusion:

A resident reported light intrusion coming from the AWE Burghfield site. AWE has now repositioned the light and the resident is now content that this issue has been resolved.

Lighting continues to be reviewed at Aldermaston & Burghfield whilst upgrades are undertaken to modernise. Lighting levels across both sites are measured periodically which will also highlight where lighting is causing a potential nuisance. Existing lighting is being replaced with LEDs to focus the light rather than illuminating a large area. The perimeter fence is lit for safety & security reasons. Buildings inside the perimeter run on minimal lighting outside of core business hours where practicable. Solar powered temporary lighting with movement sensors is also being used. All of these changes support sustainability at AWE.

Parking

Since the last LLC meeting in November, AWE has been working on a number of short-term developments to improve parking in and around its sites. These include: temporary parking provision for up to six months at Aldermaston Park, looking at alternative park and ride locations which include Tadley Rugby/football club, creating additional temporary and permanent parking spaces within the sites, adjusting the internal bus timetable to allow employees to move easily from underutilised parking areas, reminding employees and contractors of considerate parking and alternative parking options, initiating revised traffic and parking surveys and reinstating car parks that had been previously used as construction laydown areas.

Questions arising:

Cllr Andrew Williams: Why are you not using some of the alternative gates for entrance / exit to sites to reduce traffic?

Site Director: AWE does routinely review which gates are used, however the reasoning behind some gates remaining closed is due to balancing operational and security requirements.

AWE Development Update**Head of Asset Management Estates and Liabilities****Taurus:**

Taurus is a new facility that AWE is looking to develop over the next five years. It consists of five buildings for explosives engineering. This is to consolidate existing operations and employees into new, modern facilities. Planning applications for Taurus will be submitted to West Berkshire District Council later this year.

Unauthorised development at Reading Road:

AWE and DNO are providing expert witnesses to support proceedings. The court case has been moved to 8 – 10 June 2026.

Aldermaston Park

The Ministry of Defence has purchased Aldermaston Park (139 acres) on 5 February 2026 to secure AWE's northern border. It is Ministry of Defence Land that will be operated by AWE. AWE is engaging with its Regulators, Local Authorities, Historic England, Natural England, and Environment Agency to understand from an ecological, historical and heritage perspective what is required.

So far, the focus is on making the site safe and secure; there are some legacy actions that need to be taken around the reservoir. The previous owner of the site had outstanding actions for making improvements to the reservoir. Working with the Environment Agency, AWE now has a plan to address these over the next three years.

There is a listed church wall on the Aldermaston Park site that has the potential to collapse. AWE is progressing a party wall survey so that it can be repaired properly.

Preliminary ecological assessments have been undertaken around the site for baseline purposes. A Conservation Management Plan is currently being devised with Historic England.

Temporary hoarding has been positioned around Portland House and the Manor House to secure both buildings as well as installing fixed security systems for monitoring purposes. An additional outer fence will need to be installed in the future and AWE is working in conjunction with Historic England and security on this.

AWE will involve its stakeholders in discussions for the proposed future of Aldermaston Park.

Questions arising:

Cllr George McGarvie: Is the engineering design for Taurus the same as those that are being replaced?

Head of Asset Management Estates and Liabilities: The operations are separated by building type and are designed to meet all explosive regulations need including blast walls and containment activity.

Cllr Colin Cooper: How many employees will be based in the Taurus area?

Head of Asset Management Estates and Liabilities: Under 50 people.

Cllr George MacGarvie: Where will Taurus be located on site and will it affect traffic?

Head of Asset Management Estates and Liabilities: There will be no increase in staff and will be in the explosives area on the east of the site.

Cllr Dominic Boeck: How long is AWE prepared to wait out the process of the court injunction at the unauthorised development at Reading Road site?

Ian Rogers: AWE has no authority outside of its perimeter fence line and it does not own the land in question. AWE's concern is its obligation to protect the public within the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone.

Cllr George McGarvie: Given AWE's national security role, how is it acceptable that an unauthorised development in close proximity to the Main Gate has not only been purchased but expanded over the last six months after enforcement action. What specifically is preventing resolution? Will AWE connect to put in place a time bound action plan with clear accountability to ensure this cannot happen again and report back to the LLC at each stage until the plan is fully implemented?

Ian Rogers: No. AWE has no authority outside of its perimeter line and the land in question is not owned by the Ministry of Defence – it is privately owned land.

Cllr George McGarvie: AWE is now an Arms Length Body (ALB). Can you clarify whether this change in governance has reduced operational flexibility to address local security plans? What mechanism now exists under full Government control to ensure issues can be addressed quickly and decisively?

Ian Rogers: Nothing has changed. AWE operates in many ways the same as an ALB as a plc. The way that AWE responds to planning applications has not changed.

Cllr George McGarvie: Is compulsory purchase something that could be considered for the unauthorised development on Reading Road?

Ian Rogers: That is a decision for the Ministry of Defence.

Cllr Mark Keeping: Have you given any thought to potential consequences from the former occupants of the Aldermaston Park site namely the Merlin Reactor?

Ian Rogers: The Merlin Reactor was a research reactor for small-scale experiments. Ground surveys will be undertaken as part of AWE's processes for now operating the site. These surveys include borehole samples and lake samples.

Cllr Kevin Cross: Do you have a timeframe for developing this site?

Head of Asset Management Estates and Liabilities: Now that the land has been purchased, it will need to be secured and address the commitments that AWE is now obliged to undertake including the heritage and biodiversity aspects. The site options will be determined in line with government affordability.

Cllr George McGarvie: Is Aldermaston Park a possible substitute for the Thames Hub expansion or a buffer zone for biodiversity or will the nuclear licence be extended to Aldermaston Park?

Site Director: AWE will need to work with its internal stakeholders and go through the consultation and planning processes to understand feasibility.

Cllr Vicky Poole: I am aware that there is a car park on site that is presently used for dog walkers and church goers. When you are looking at securing the site, how will security impact this?

Head of Asset Management Estates and Liabilities: AWE is aware that the previous owner restricted the site last year. AWE is exploring how it can both secure the site and provide possible future public access in conjunction with operations.

Cllr Vicky Poole: You mentioned that there is a need for some demolition at Aldermaston Park. Will this demolition be in accordance with other AWE demolition?

Head of Asset Management Estates and Liabilities: Oxford House has been secured, and AWE is now looking to progress to demolition for this building as it is not safe.

Future Materials Campus Update

Programme Director

New Programme Director of the Future Materials Campus introduced themselves to the Local Liaison Committee. The Future Materials Campus is a Government Major Project portfolio (GMPP) due to its financial complexity. AWE has had two infrastructure workstreams over the last twenty years: re-fitting aging buildings to extend their life and the creation of new buildings which include the Future Materials Campus.

The Future Materials Campus (FMC) is needed to support future capability, skills and technology as well as to enable safe, secure delivery. The FMC is the cornerstone of AWE's infrastructure modernisation and the business is currently driving forward planning and technical work to enable FMC delivery.

Community engagement is a large part of the Future Materials Campus infrastructure development. In Summer 2026, online and in person events will be held in local communities to share an overview of the programme, environmental assessments, transport assessments and construction impacts.

Questions arising:

Cllr George McGarvie: Would a community session in Pamber Heath be warranted as it falls within the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone?

Programme Director: Thank you for your suggestion, I will add this venue to the proposal options.

Cllr Dominic Boeck: What channels will you use to advertise and communicate these events?

Programme Director: Social and digital channels will be used. AWE will also share this information with LLC members to disseminate in your communities. It will also be included in AWE's Connect magazine.

Andrew Perkins: Is there a current timeline for the Future Materials Campus?

Programme Director: In the next two decades.

Future Materials Campus Update

Head of Infrastructure Logistics

The Head of the Future Materials Campus Infrastructure Logistics introduced themselves to the Local Liaison Committee. AWE, as a responsible business, aims to ensure that it delivers infrastructure logistics as required to support the necessary construction schedule, whilst minimising the impact on communities and surrounding infrastructure.

Future Materials Campus is considering various initiatives to enhance delivery of the infrastructure portfolio whilst mitigating the impacts:

- Developing a model that will capture the number of construction workers and HGVs / vehicles that will need to enter site to ensure that the build goes according to schedule.
- Possible creation of an offsite consolidation centre outside the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone where part-loads are consolidated onto HGVs as full loads to minimise the number of large vehicles needing to enter site. This centre would provide a truck stop to minimise additional traffic and inconsiderate parking.
- Park and ride locations are being investigated to reduce the number of construction worker private cars entering site.
- A delivery management system – the booking of vehicles entering site will be digitised so that access can be controlled. The possibility of avoiding peak times and of utilising out of hours deliveries will be considered.
- The aspiration is that trucks leaving site after a drop off will be loaded with waste products to optimise the reverse supply chain and reduce bespoke vehicles doing one way journeys.
- Green fuelled vehicles will be used where possible in park and ride and supply chain.
- A concrete batcher on site is being considered to reduce HGV traffic, dependent on concrete demand.
- An onsite concrete crusher is being considered so that concrete waste generated from demolitions can be reused onsite to construct car parks and roads.

Questions arising:

Cllr Jo Slimin: Will any consideration be given to the A340 not being the best road for large vehicles to travel on when thinking about possible sites for the consolidation centre?

Head of Infrastructure Logistics: AWE have commissioned specialist consultants to investigate the capacity of the local networks.

Cllr Stephen Hoskins: Are you also working with the authorities to look at the road surfaces of surrounding road networks to cope with increased traffic?

Ian Rogers: AWE does not have influence over the condition of roads external to its perimeter fence.

Cllr Vicky Poole: To add to Cllr Stephen Hoskins question, as part of a planning application, surrounding roads can be assessed to see if the roads have the right capacity to distribute the traffic. This may include some roads being mandated as HGV routes.

Cllr Sophie Crawford: Will the application come with any form of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contribution to the community?

Head of Infrastructure Logistics: An initial outline planning application will be submitted which will not include provision for CIL, however, as the planning consenting continues, there may be conversations with the relevant councils about such proposals.

AWE SHEQ Update

Head of Delivery – Safety and Health

In the last twelve months, 27 individuals sustained work-related injuries (February 2025 – February 2026). 17 were AWE employees, 10 were contracted staff on AWE sites. 20 required more than one day away from work to recover, resulting in 338 days lost. AWE's OSHA rate continues to be below its target of 0.3 at 0.251 of 200,000 hours worked.

There has been one Process Safety Loss of Control / Containment event between 1 October 2025 – 28 February 2026. It has been investigated and actions put in place. AWE continues to roll out process safety across the business to prevent high consequence low frequency events.

Extended reality training for Virtual Chemical Store and Explosives development has been completed and rolled out to 180 employees working in Explosives.

AWE has exceeded its Environment Management target for diverted landfill at 99.3%

Radiation doses to members of the public and AWE workers continue to be significantly below regulatory levels.

Questions arising:

Cllr Dominic Boeck: The 338 days lost for 20 injured parties seems a lot. Why is this?

Head of Delivery: This is as a result of fractures and broken bones that can take a significant amount of time to heal.

Cllr Paul Lawrence: Have you trained your CEO and below at Executive level about safety?

Head of Delivery: Yes

Action 113/02: AWE to present the new 'site rules' at the next LLC and provide the link between those rules and the injury/incident data it records.

Action 113/03: AWE to consider reinstating the provision of 'historical' data and context as part of the Notification of Incidents to ONR.

Biodiversity and Heritage Update

Senior Environment Specialist

AWE has a wide variety of different wildlife and species of conservation concern. As a public body, AWE has a duty to conserve and enhance biodiversity on its sites. Biodiversity is seen as one of the key aspects of

AWE's Environmental Management System. This results in the right level of attention being placed upon all activities that happen at its sites including operations, construction and demolition. Monitoring of ongoing populations that AWE has across its sites are used to inform new employees of where these populations exist, so that they can be managed correctly.

Over the last five to ten years, artificial Peregrine Falcon nest boxes have been used, resulting in breeding pairs who have reared young. There is also a wide variety of bat species and they are used as a key ecological receptor for impact. At the east end of Aldermaston site, there is a large proportion of lowland heath and parkland which houses several nationally scarce species including Woodlark.

AWE's sites are able to implement Biodiversity Enhancement Initiatives. These include leaving standing deadwood wherever possible to support the invertebrate and bat populations on site. Several areas have rotational mowing regimes. New hedgerows have been installed with a replacement programme of 3:1. Multiple bee and bug hotels have been created across the sites.

Monitoring and assessment of biodiversity informs how the sites are developed. Annually, AWE collects data on key receptor types across its sites. This year, AWE is undertaking a suite of Great Crested Newt population count surveys. Reptile surveys also take place (adders, slow worms, grass snakes) and the business is looking to expand these surveys to provide a better understanding of different populations across Aldermaston and Burghfield site. AWE also undertakes an annual breeding bird and wetland bird survey which is reported to the British Trust for Ornithology. AWE sites are home to several birds of conservation concern including Peregrine Falcons, Kingfisher and Black Redstart.

AWE has an Environmental Sustainability Strategy of which enhancing biodiversity is one of the three key pillars, alongside reducing carbon and implementing the circular economy. AWE's vision is to be recognised as a leader of enhancing biodiversity across defence and nuclear sectors by 2050. It has already taken steps towards this by implementing sustainability within the new business units. So far, AWE has created a traditional orchard of over 600 trees on land near Burghfield that is part of a wider flood alleviation scheme. This has also supported the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Berkshire. AWE continues into its sixth year of 250,000 m² reduced mow grassland in key areas to provide habitats for pollinator species.

There have been several collaborative conservation initiatives on Aldermaston site, including the restoration of a WW2 era blast shelter.

Questions arising:

Cllr Susan Mullan: What do you do with all the fruit from the Burghfield Orchard?

Senior Environment Specialist: The trees are young and producing minimal amounts of fruit. As the orchard matures, there will be a habitat management plan for the area so that it is managed for biodiversity and the fruit will provide for birds and invertebrates.

AWE / West Berkshire District Council Emergency Planning Update:

Manager Site Response Group - AWE

Jonah Maddocks - West Berkshire District Council (WBDC)

On Site Emergency Plan

The AWE On Site Emergency Plan has been submitted to the Office for Nuclear Regulation for approval.

Off Site Emergency Plan

The AWE Off Site Emergency Plan has undergone an update and has recently been tested in the Aldex 26 exercise. As a result of Aldex 26, there will be a period of review and changes made as appropriate. A public version of the plan will be forthcoming after the plan's review and update.

Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations booklet (REPIR)

The REPIR booklet is delivered to all properties within the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone and provides actions to undertake in the event of a radiation emergency. This booklet is currently being updated and is due to be distributed in the next few months.

Training and Exercising:

AWE has recently undertaken a joint Level 1 and Level 2 exercise known as Aldex 26. The ONR Observatory Team has stated that it has been a robust test of the Off-Site Emergency Planning Regulation in line with regulation 12.1 of REPIR. One of the cited positives that resulted from this exercise was the public warning and informing which was seen to be robust and executed in a timely manner using a range of methods. One of these new methods was the AWE Text Alert Service. Details on how to sign up can be found here: [AWE Text Alert - West Berkshire Council](#)

As a result of the recent Aldex 26 exercise, debriefing will take place, including identifying lessons learned. Over the next year, the plan is to undertake another exercise to look at some of the later response and transition to recovery elements of the plan.

Planning Applications:

Within the reporting period November 2025 to March 2026, West Berkshire District Council received a total of 172 planning applications relating to the Detailed Emergency Planning Zones around Aldermaston and Burghfield sites.

Activations of On-Site Emergency Plan:

Since the 112 LLC meeting, there have been 7 activations of the Emergency Control Room. 6 of these were fire alarms that were investigated thoroughly and found out to be false alarms. The remaining 1 activation was multiple buildings smelling gas which were all evacuated. The Emergency On Site Response Teams carried out detailed investigations of the site and reported buildings as well as contacting Southern Gas Network to carry out additional investigations. This resulted in an offsite gas leak being located near to the Falcon Garage on Burghfield Road.

AWE Level 1 Exercises:

Level 1 exercise at Aldermaston was completed in April 2026 – awaiting demonstration exercise outcome from ONR. Level 1 exercise at Burghfield is planned for November 2026.

West Berkshire District Council / AWE Level 2 Exercises:

Level 2 exercise at Aldermaston was completed in April 2026 – awaiting demonstration exercise outcome from ONR.

AWE On Site Exercises:

4 exercises were completed at Aldermaston since the last LLC and 1 no notice exercise completed at Burghfield, which was the first time that AWE had completed a no notice exercise. This meant that the buildings involved and responders were not given advance notice of the exercise. There are another 2 no notice exercises planned or this year.

Questions arising:

Cllr Stephen Hoskins: How far is the REPIR booklet sent out?

Jonah Maddocks: The REPIR booklet is distributed by postcode to all postcodes within the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ). There is a list on the back of the booklet of all postcodes it has been sent to. Some postcodes don't always align to the contours of the DEPZ, resulting in some properties just outside the DEPZ also receiving it.

Cllr Dominic Boeck: To what extent were local council members involved in Aldex 26?

Jonah Maddocks: They weren't involved in Aldex 26. Because this exercise was a joint Level 1 and Level 2 exercise, the way that the command and control groups met was different. It was deemed that if local council members were to come to a physical location to observe it there wouldn't actually be much for them to see.

Cllr Paul Lawrence: Do you have a breakdown of planning applications submitted per site?

Action 113/04: West Berkshire District Council to provide a breakdown of planning applications within the DEPZ of Aldermaston and Burghfield sites.

Cllr Dominic Boeck: The demonstration exercise was found to be 'adequate' in 2025. Is that a pass or fail?

Ian Rogers: 'Adequate' is the best rating you can receive from the Office for Nuclear Regulation for an exercise.

Cllr Andrew Williams: What is the purpose of giving employees advanced notice of the exercise?

Manager Site Response Group: AWE does need to take into consideration some of the activities that occur inside certain buildings which does require liaising with the Facilities Manager and those controlling the work.

Cllr Paul Lawrence: Do you provide no notice Level 2 exercises?

Ian Rogers: The point of a demonstration exercise is the demonstration of your arrangements. There are a lot of agencies involved in the off-site aspects of offsite response. The exercise demonstrates that all agencies involved are able to come together and their own individual response plans work effectively.

Environment Agency

Rob Green

Reporting period 15 October 2025 to 10 April 2026

Radioactive Substances

The Environment Agency (EA) regulates AWE's disposal, use, and management of radioactive materials through environmental permits designed to minimise waste and protect the environment. It checks for compliance with the permits by making regular inspections of AWE's sites and facilities.

The EA also works closely with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR) on shared areas of interest.

The EA reported continued joint work with the Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) on climate-related hazards, including flooding. Joint inspections were carried out at Heysham 2, Sizewell B, AWE and Sellafield to review how operators are managing climate-change risks and to identify good practice.

Chief Nuclear Inspector's (CNI) Themed Inspection report on climate change

The EA noted that the risks of climate change are being appropriately considered, and that there are no immediate threats to environmental permit compliance at the inspected sites.

Planned next steps include further joint guidance development with ONR and additional site inspections. Report: [cni-themed-inspection-on-climate-change-summary-report-22-july-2025.docx](#)

Nuclear Regulatory Task Force Report

The EA engaged and provided evidence into the nuclear regulation review and welcomes the aim of creating a stronger and more streamlined regulatory framework. Report: [Taskforce calls for radical reset of nuclear regulation in UK - GOV.UK](#)

The Government issued its formal response on 13 March. Report: [Building our nuclear nation: government response to the Nuclear Regulatory Review 2025 \(accessible webpage\) - GOV.UK](#)

Chief Regulator's Report

The EA confirmed publication of its second Chief Regulator's Report, which summarises the performance of the business activities regulated in 2024–25 and sets out the aims and priorities of Chief Regulator, Dr Jo Nettleton. Report: [Environment Agency Chief Regulator's report 2024-25 - GOV.UK](#)

Publication of Radioactivity in Food (RIFE) Report

The EA reported the publication of the 2024 RIFE report on 30 October 2025. Report: [Radioactivity in food and the environment \(RIFE\) report - GOV.UK](#)

Natural background radiation remains the dominant source of public exposure across the UK. For AWE sites, the total public dose in 2024 was 0.010 mSv, equivalent to 1% of the public dose limit, representing a slight decrease from 2023.

Site Environment and Review Plan

The EA confirmed it has issued the 2026–27 Site Environmental Review and Plan for AWE Aldermaston and Burghfield. The document sets out regulatory priorities, a risk-based inspection plan, and key actions for the year ahead.

Compliance Assessment

Over the reporting period, the EA completed the following Radioactive Substances Regulation compliance assessment activities:

Solid radioactive waste management arrangements - Assembly/Disassembly facility, Burghfield Site:

It did not find any non-compliances with the permit but recorded two Regulatory Recommendations, for AWE's consideration.

Post-Operational Clean-Out (POCO) and management of contractors - Enriched Uranium facility, Aldermaston Site:

It did not find any non-compliances with the permit but recorded five Regulatory Recommendations and one Observation.

Gaseous Radioactive Waste Management Arrangements, tritium facility, Aldermaston Site:

It did not identify any non-compliances with the Permit but recorded two Regulatory Recommendations and one Good Practice Observation.

Asset Management improvement programme implementation and climate change mitigation:

It did not record any permit non-compliances during the inspection.

Improvements following Warning Letter

The EA reported that its planned January 2026 inspection of AWE's improvement programme has been postponed. Due to delays in AWE's organisational design changes, the inspection has been rescheduled for June this year.

Investigation of low volume waste disposal

The Environment Agency provided an overview of an ongoing investigation relating to the disposal of a low-volume waste stream that had been sent to facilities not authorised for that specific waste type. The Environment Agency has requested further information, including details of consignments, destination sites and the characteristics of the material involved, and will undertake a regulatory assessment once the investigation is complete. The discussion focused on the identification of the issue, the adequacy of existing assurance and verification arrangements, the investigation of underlying causes, and any potential implications for the receiving facilities. It was noted that AWE had identified the matter and notified the regulator, and that the findings of the investigation would be used to determine any necessary improvements to processes and controls. An update will be provided following completion of the investigation.

Review of Annual Performance Reports

All reports were submitted in accordance with EA requirements.

Questions arising:

Cllr Dominic Boeck: Who is the 'representative person'?

Rob Green: It's not a person, it's a hypothetical group similar to an analogue that follows broad habits.

Cllr Mark Keeping: Do you believe AWE has made progress on the outstanding action that you placed on it?

Rob Green: Yes. Of the three outstanding parts, EA has already closed two of them, leaving one outstanding.

Cllr Mark Keeping: Are you going to be relying solely on AWE measurements for the activity of the effluent disposed of offsite or will the EA take its own?

Rob Green: EA will likely not take its own measurements. Instead, it will rely on AWE data to inform. An EA regulatory assessment will be undertaken under the permit conditions to produce a compliance report.

Cllr Vicky Poole: If EA are relying solely on AWE's data, how many other instances could there have been that you don't know about?

Rob Green: The EA did not expect this facility to be handling this type of waste. AWE did discover it and report it to EA and will need to ascertain what the root cause is and implement subsequent improvements.

Cllr Colin Cooper: Will you be checking the end disposal points to see if there has been any environmental impact?

Rob Green: AWE is still investigating this event and has committed to providing available radiological data on the wastes. I have not formally received all of the data from AWE, so I would not be able to comment on this without first reviewing the data. However, the initial levels reported to us by AWE from its own investigation indicate that risks or impacts to the environment are likely to be very low.

Ian Rogers: It is a byproduct of a manufacturing activity using dye penetration checks. It's a trace element within a commercially available product.

Cllr Mark Keeping: Will the EA be making a statement about this product?

Rob Green: The impact of this is very low. We will provide an update after the investigation report has been submitted.

Cllr Vicky Poole: For low volume waste disposal, does AWE carry out any sampling or testing to confirm this? If not, are there plans to introduce testing, and by when?

Action 113/05: AWE to provide a written response to Cllr Vicky Poole's question

Office for Nuclear Regulation

Gareth Lock - ONR

Reporting period 1 October 2025 to 31 March 2026

ONR report:

[awe-nuclear-security-technologies-ssg-llc-report-for-the-period-covering-01-october-2025-to-31-march-2026.docx](#)

Nicholas Alexander - ONR

Nicholas Alexander introduced himself as the Off-Site Planning Lead for ONR's Emergency Planning and Response Team.

REPPiR has to be benchmarked against international planning standards. Complimentary to REPPiR, there is the Nuclear Emergency Preparedness and Response Guidance that is owned by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and working on key elements including a chapter on emergency workers guidance and a transition to recovery guidance.

ONR need to be mindful of the Regulators' code and work in a way that helps to sustain and comply with expectations. ONR are working with the council on future changes that are coming down the pipeline.

One of the important recent changes that ONR has seen and confirmed at Aldex is a step change in public warning informing.

Angela Wright – ONR

Angela Wright introduced herself as part of the ONR Emergency Planning and Response Unit, focusing on the Land Use Planning Team. ONR has several different roles including site inspection for compliance; regulation of operator, local authority and others under REPPiR 19 and providing advice on planning applications.

ONR's Land Use Planning Team focuses primarily on development around existing nuclear and authorised Ministry of Defence sites. The ONR provides advice to The Scottish Government, The Planning Inspectorate and The Welsh Government. In addition, it provides advice to the Local Planning Authorities within these countries.

The ONR provides advice on any planning application that is within one of its consultation zones and meets its consultation criteria. ONR also provides advice on Local and Neighbourhood Plans to ensure that policies are included in the Local plans that offer clarity to everyone and transparency over what the expectations may be.

When ONR provides advice, it considers whether the proposed development will affect the Off-Site Emergency Response and whether the proposed development will affect the nuclear or authorised site as an external hazard.

The ONR has planning consultation zones. The Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ), the Outer Consultation Zone (OCZ) and a 12km radius zone.

Each zone is linked to different criteria that are consulted on by the ONR. If the planning application is within the nuclear site boundary, the ONR consult on all aspects. If the application is within the DEPZ, the ONR ask for consultation on anything that will add additional population including vulnerable groups and if it will create an external hazard to the site. In the OCZ, ONR focus on residential developments greater than 200 dwellings, change of use to an existing facility that will add more than 500 people and if a non-residential development that could introduce vulnerable groups such as a care home of hospital and anything that may pose an external hazard. The ONR provide advice on major hazard facilities and military installations storing munitions within the 12km zone.

The Land Use Planning Team acts as the main point of contact in ONR for consultations on planning applications. It consults ONR colleagues for advice relevant to their role in relation to Control Of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH), External Hazards, Nuclear Reactors (Environmental Impact Assessment for Decommissioning) Regulations (EIADR), Site Inspectors for development on a nuclear site.

ONR work with local authorities because REPP19 places duties on the local authority to set the DEPZ and develop OSEP for public safety in the event of a radiation emergency at a nuclear site. Any development within ONR's consultation zones, including the DEPZ, needs to be accommodated within the OSEP and if it cannot, ONR will advise against the planning application. ONR seek input from the local authority emergency planners in making this decision as the owners of emergency arrangements.

If a local authority makes a decision to disallow a planning application, it can be appealed. There are different levels of appeal which include: written representation, appeal hearing, planning inquiry and recovered appeal.

Currently, the government has an open consultation on 'Consulting the Secretary of State on planning decisions' (closes on 4 May 2026). Under section 3, this applies to domestic planning applications for one or more dwellings in the DEPZs around AWE sites.

ONR is a statutory consultee under The Space Industry Act 2018 which means that the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) has to consult ONR in deciding what licence conditions to include on any licence granted under the Act for Spaceport licences, launch or return operator licences, orbital operator licences.

Questions arising:

Cllr Sophie Crawford: How does the ONR see how well the Off-Site Emergency Plan would work?

Nicholas Alexander: There are five important actions: evacuation, sheltering, iodine tablets, food restrictions and water restrictions. For AWE, evacuation on a detailed emergency planning basis does not go off site. The detailed emergency planning area stipulates sheltering in place, hence the importance of public warning and informing. It's about ensuring a consistency of messaging to a variety of channels. Based on what the ONR has seen at Aldex with emergency alerts, landline alerts, text alerts and social media campaign, it is as good as any other site for getting the message of public shelter out.

Cllr Sophie Crawford: We have a lot of people that potentially have accommodation that isn't suitable for shelter, resulting in a possible need to evacuate. There are two park homes made up of caravan accommodation and a traveller community. Planning applications come forward for that site that West Berkshire assume an average household size based on national average. Similar applications from Reading Borough Council have assumed up to 10 people per pitch. This means that the population numbers could be out by a long way. More due diligence should be done by the council to understand the actual numbers of these vulnerable residents. The ONR is regulating the OSEP as adequate but based on inadequate understanding of population size, distribution and vulnerable groups.

Cllr Vicky Poole: West Berkshire holds data from vulnerable adults, young people, people in the community and the Drive Public Protection Committee, who go on vulnerable sites.

Cllr Jo Slimin: How are you sure of the population number when you are designing a plan? How long will people stay in their properties as part of shelter?

Nicholas Alexander: REPIR on a risk basis has tiers which include Detailed Emergency Planning, Outline Planning and No Planning. Within the envelope of Detailed Emergency Planning, evacuation does not go beyond site. From a detailed Emergency Planning point of view, the emphasis is on sheltering.

Cllr Sophie Crawford: Why are we being told that the OSEP is under so much pressure that not a single new home can be built?

Ian Rogers: I think this is a question for West Berkshire Council.

Nicholas Alexander: In terms of this legislation, sheltering could be anywhere from 30 minutes to three weeks. By three weeks, it doesn't mean the accident is over, it has transitioned into recovery and it moves into a different part of legislation. When we talk about sheltering in situ, you can't do that for two weeks so that is the problem with this particular zone. The second day of ALDEX 26 which was postponed will explore this.

Action 113/06: WDDC to provide the basis of the population density used in the development of the OSEP.

Cllr Dominic Boeck: Does ONR always respond to planning applications which it's invited to comment on?

Angela Wright: Yes, if it applies to something within its consultation zones and meets our consultation criteria.

Cllr Adrian Betteridge: I understand that the Off-Site Emergency Plan is the responsibility of the local authority. You said that you would object if it cannot be accommodated within the OSEP. Do you reserve the right to act independently of the local authority in terms of taking that decision?

Angela Wright: Yes. There are four different local planning authorities however the owner of the OSEP is West Berkshire District Council because the facilities are located within West Berkshire. Equally, each of the four local authorities has their own emergency plan for their populations.

Nicholas Alexander: In terms of REPIR 19, there are duties to coordinate and collaborate most on the operator and the local authority. There is also a duty to cooperate between local authorities.

Nuclear Threat Reduction Update

Nuclear Threat Reduction Principal Specialist

Nuclear Threat Reduction's (NTR) purpose is to counter radiological and nuclear threats and be recognised as the UK technical authority for radiological and nuclear threat reduction capabilities. NTR has three strategic objectives: to understand the radiological and nuclear threat, to counter the radiological and nuclear threat and to be future threat focussed.

NTR has five broad areas that it works within: threat assessment, treaty verification, detection science and operations, nuclear forensics and operational response.

Operational response covers several areas which can all be delivered under 'blue light' circumstances with vehicles being driven by the Ministry of Defence for rapid response purposes. All responders are volunteers from within the business.

Nuclear Emergency Organisation manages transportation moves that have incurred errors of known materials. This can include convoys and air freight. The mission is always to assess, advise, stabilise and recover.

NTR Counter Terrorism response supports Counter Terrorism Police and is about defeating devices. A terrorist device may have been found with a nuclear or radiological 'flavour' to it and the role of NTR Counter Terrorism is to secure and defeat it. This mission is always to identify the threat materials, assess, advise and render safe.

NTR Radiological and Nuclear Specialist Support (RNSS) work in conjunction with Counter Terrorism Police and UK Border Force. This support focusses on material threats found in the public domain by Counter terrorism Police or UK Border Force.

NTR has a Radiological and Nuclear Reachback Centre to check and balance the active response teams.

Events that AWE NTR has been involved in include in 1987, at Dean Hill in Salisbury, where a transport vehicle came off the road and tipped over whilst carrying nuclear material. In 2006, NTR worked with the Police to solve the Russian poisoning of Litvinenko. In 2023, AWE NTR supported with an investigation at Heathrow airport after suspicious materials were intercepted.

Questions arising:

Cllr Diane Woodward: When you are carrying out detection work, do you wear a suit of any kind?

Nuclear Threat Reduction Principal Specialist: This will depend on the intelligence picture. There are some circumstances where the radiation source is potentially a contamination particulate hazard where suits and respirators would be worn. If the source has no contamination hazard, then a suit would not be required.

Cllr Adrian Betteridge: Is there material in the wild that terrorist groups could make a dirty bomb from?

Nuclear Threat Reduction Principal Specialist: Technically yes, although there are globally robust controls in place to keep those materials under control. This does rely on compliance with treaties and international agreements. This is why the UK has intelligence and monitoring systems and controls in place.

Any Other Business:

Cllr Avril Burdett: Is there an opportunity to share progress of the construction projects on site with local communities?

Action 113/07: AWE to present the current 'site development' video at the next LLC

Cllr Mark Keeping: A document referenced link within the ONR report does not take you to the relevant site.

Gareth Lock: I will investigate and have this amended.

Meeting closed

Date of Next meeting:

Wednesday 4 November 2026