



Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Draft Business Plan 2017 – 2020

(December 2016)

Historic England Response

Historic England is the Government's statutory adviser on all matters relating to the historic environment in England. We are a non-departmental public body established under the National Heritage Act 1983 and sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). We champion and protect England's historic places, providing expert advice to local planning authorities, developers, owners and communities, to help ensure our historic environment is properly understood, enjoyed and cared for.

In our response to your Draft Strategy on 09 February 2016 we highlighted the national and international significance of Britain's nuclear industry and the pioneering role that British scientists and engineers played in the development of this technology. In order to mitigate against physical loss, through the decommissioning and remediation of nuclear power stations and related research facilities, a corporate heritage strategy and strategies for individual sites was put forward to ensure they are recorded to a proportionate and adequate level. The heritage strategy adopted at the former research site at Dounreay, Caithness, is a model that could be applied across the whole estate – <http://www.dounreay.com/about-us/heritage>.

Historic England is also working with the owners of England's conventional power stations to develop generic guidance on the recording of redundant sites together with the archiving of selective records and artefacts. The advice we are offering to this sector would be equally applicable to the documentation required for most nuclear facilities – <https://historicengland.org.uk/images-books/publications/englands-redundant-post-war-coal-and-oil-fired-power-stations/>.

Whilst welcoming the creation of the new nuclear archive at Caithness, we recommended the retention of a representative sample of site plans and architectural drawings together with operating manuals and site drawings; the value of social history including oral testimony was also raised. In addition to the collection of documentary records, consideration should be given to the safeguarding of artefacts: architectural and training plant models, inert training aids, sections of control room panels and specialist clothing worn by the workforce. Such material may be used to supplement the National Nuclear Archive, or be deposited with national or local museums.



In your 'Consultation Response to the Review of the NDA Strategy' (April 2016) the specific comment 'to capturing the heritage of the UK nuclear industry and retaining this for future generations' was noted and, in response, the NDA has undertaken a minor amendment to its Information Governance Strategy highlighting the need to capture information relating to the UK nuclear heritage and placing this information in the NDA Archive.

Historic England very much welcomes this commitment to recognising the heritage of the UK nuclear industry. In relation to sites in England, we would like meet the NDA to discuss how this can best be achieved, both at corporate level and with individual site heritage strategies. Given that preservation of sites in England is highly unlikely, recording and the creation and maintenance of archives is particularly important.

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