



Gillian Johnston
Community Engagement
Manager, Copeland GDF
Working Group

How to get in touch

Hosting a GDF is a big commitment which needs clear dialogue and accessible information for people. So, come along to our exhibition roadshow to learn more or visit our website.

Visit the Working Group website:

copeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk

Sign up to our monthly newsletter:

copeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk/contact-us/sign-up-to-our-newsletter

Visit our Virtual Exhibition which has videos, information and graphics:

copeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk/get-involved

Send us an email:

gdfinfo-copeland@nda.gov.uk

Give us a call: 0300 369 0000

Follow us on social media:

Twitter: @Copeland_WG

LinkedIn: Copeland GDF Working Group

Facebook: @WIPCopeland

We want to hear your views on a possible GDF in Copeland.

Your voice matters – please scan the code to complete an online survey, so we can hear your views.

Scan here



What is a Geological Disposal Facility?

An introduction to the Copeland GDF Working Group



Working in Partnership
Copeland

Welcome

In November 2020, a Working Group was formed in Copeland to start a conversation about whether this area could be right for a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) for the UK's higher activity radioactive waste – and what a GDF could mean for Copeland.

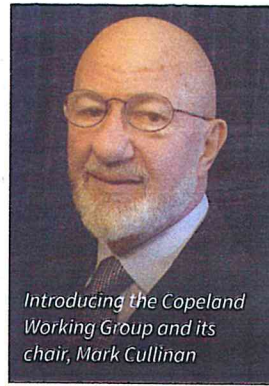
Choosing a site for a GDF requires both a suitable site and a willing community.

The Copeland Working Group has three main tasks:

- Begin to understand community issues, concerns, and questions about GDF
- Identify a Search Area or Areas within Copeland - including the potential to access suitable geology off the coast – for further consideration
- Recruit initial members for a Community Partnership which could take that work forward.

A GDF would only be built in Copeland if it can be shown to be safe and secure. No decisions have been made and it's really important to us that you can have your say, ask questions, request information and make your voice heard – your opinion matters.

Mark Cullinan
Independent Chair
Copeland GDF Working Group



Who is in the Copeland GDF Working Group?

The Copeland GDF Working Group comprises an Independent Chair; an Independent Facilitator; the four interested parties who originally raised an interest: Copeland Borough Council, Irton Hall Ltd, GenR8 North Ltd and a private individual; as well as Radioactive Waste Management (RWM) - a subsidiary of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, and Cumbria Association of Local Councils (CALC).

What is a GDF?

A Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) is an underground facility designed to safely and securely dispose of higher activity radioactive waste. It involves a series of specially designed and engineered vaults and tunnels deep underground, protecting people and the environment for hundreds of thousands of years.

Scientists and other authorities around the world agree the safest way to manage higher activity radioactive waste for the long term is in a GDF.

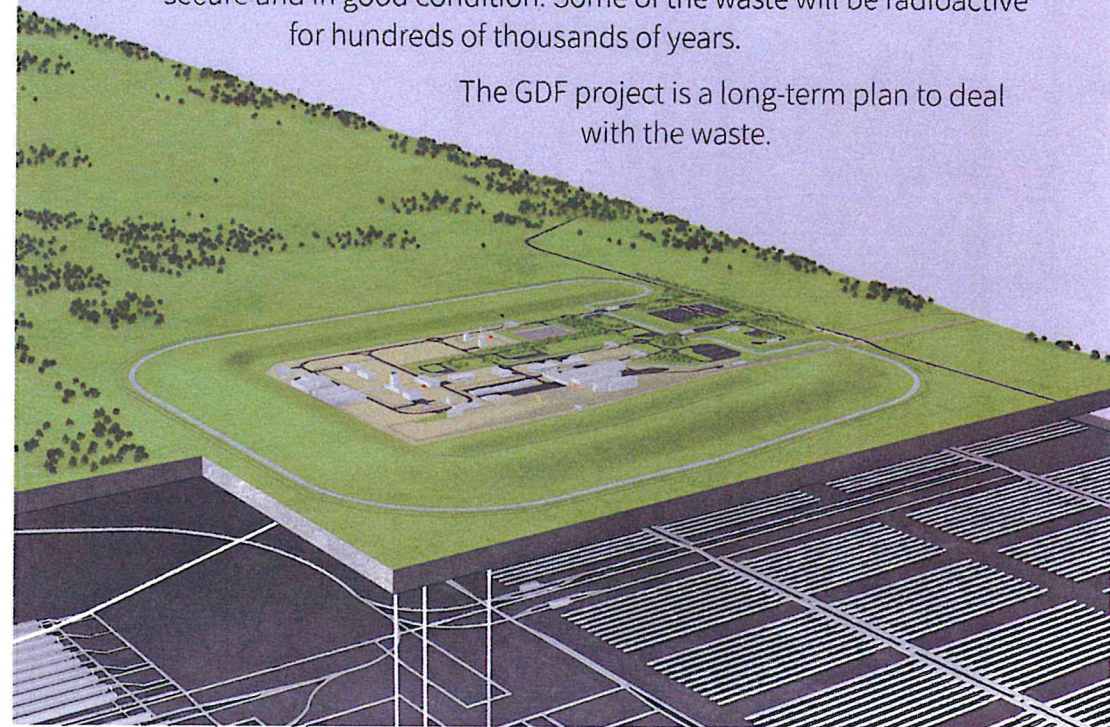
The Copeland GDF Working Group has started a conversation with local people to understand more about a GDF.

Why does the UK need a GDF?

We have been using nuclear technologies for over 60 years and the radioactive waste is currently stored at over 20 above-ground facilities around the country, including Sellafield.

These facilities require constant maintenance and monitoring to remain secure and in good condition. Some of the waste will be radioactive for hundreds of thousands of years.

The GDF project is a long-term plan to deal with the waste.



What happens next?

We've started conversations with people to begin to understand questions, issues and opportunities. We're also working to identify a Search Area or Areas within Copeland for consideration - including the potential to access suitable geology off the coast.

Forming a Working Group is the first step in a journey and it will seek to identify members of the community who may be interested in joining a Community Partnership to consider the possibilities of a GDF in more detail. It would also involve RWM and at least one relevant Principal Local Authority, such as district or county councils.

The Community Partnership would share information with local people and find answers to any questions they may have, as well as developing a community vision for the future.

Community Investment

Forming a Community Partnership would also start Community Investment Funding in the area. An initial sum of up to £1m per year would be made available, to fund projects, schemes and initiatives to drive economic development of the area involved.

Community Investment Funding would rise up to £2.5m per year if deep borehole investigations take place to assess geological suitability within the Search Area.

Right to Withdraw

The relevant Principal Local Authorities on the Community Partnership can agree to withdraw communities from the GDF siting process at any time up to a Test of Public Support.

Test of Public Support

If a potentially suitable site is found in Copeland, the local authorities would launch a Test of Public Support – a poll or a referendum that lets every voter in the wards around the proposed site have their say. Without public support, the project will not go ahead.



What would a GDF mean for Copeland?

A Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) is one of the UK's biggest environmental protection projects and could be a unique economic regeneration project for Copeland.

If a GDF is built here, the area would receive significant investment and long-term benefits for future generations, including skills and hundreds of local jobs.

A GDF could also lead to improvements in local services and infrastructure – for example, improved roads or rail links, or stronger broadband.

The process to identify and select a site for a GDF requires detailed technical work that could take up to 15 years. The eventual construction and operation of the facility will then run for 100+ years.

A say in our future

Through the Community Partnerships, local people have the chance to help decide how the investment in this project could shape the future of Copeland.

And discussing this doesn't commit anyone to anything. This is based on consent and a GDF cannot be built without a willing community, as indicated through a test of public support.



Working in Partnership
Copeland

Roadshow events

To pre-register for an event please
visit our website: [www.copeland.
workinginpartnership.org.uk/latest-news](http://www.copeland.workinginpartnership.org.uk/latest-news)

The Copeland GDF Working Group
exhibition roadshow dates are as follows:

The Beacon Portal, Whitehaven:

Sept 1 (10am-7pm); Sept 2 (9.30am-2pm)

Silecroft Village Hall:

Sept 3 (10am-6pm)

Thwaites Village Hall:

Sept 4 (10am-6pm)

Millom Rugby Union Club, Haverigg:

Sept 6 (10am-6pm)

Drigg & Carleton Village Hall:

Sept 7 (10am-6pm)

Egremont Methodist Church:

Sept 8 (10am-6pm); Sept 9 (10am-6pm)

Cleator Moor Civic Hall:

Sept 10 (10am-6pm); Sept 11 (10am-2pm)

St Bees Management Centre:

Sept 13 (10am-6pm); Sept 14 (10am-6pm)

Whitehaven Golf Club:

Sept 16 (10am-7pm); Sept 17 (10am-2pm)