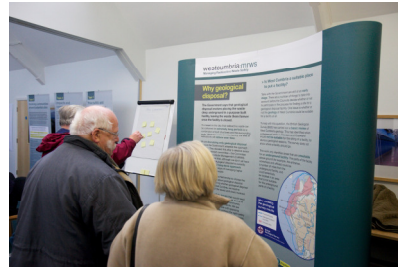


# West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership



## Community Events Report

December 2010

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**Note:**

This report explains the purpose and format of the community events which took place during November and December 2010. It records the main themes which were expressed by the public in their responses via questionnaires and other written comments. It is compiled by independent facilitators 3KQ, operating on behalf of all participants. Note that it is intended as a way of highlighting key issues for consideration by the Partnership, rather than a definitive record of every detail.

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# 1. Summary

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Ten community events were arranged as part of the West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) Partnership's second round of public and stakeholder engagement. Nearly 500 people attended the events which were held in the following locations:

Copeland: Millom, Calderbridge and Whitehaven

Allerdale: Workington, Wigton and Keswick

Eden: Penrith

South Lakes: Kendal

Barrow

Carlisle

There was a comprehensive package of publicity in advance of the events, and most people came on the basis of having heard about the event via such publicity, rather than deciding to 'drop in' spontaneously as a result of hearing about it on the day via street leaflets or happening to pass through the venue.

The quality of engagement of participants was high. Participants on average spent around 45 minutes looking at the exhibition and talking to specialists and Partnership members. Many spent considerably longer, especially if they wished to hear a presentation and take part in a discussion session: some stayed for 2 to 3 hours. Very few stayed for less than 20 minutes. The opportunity to question specialists was particularly welcomed.

Reassuringly the key themes raised in questionnaire responses and Post-it note comments at the events are those that the Partnership are already well aware of. These focused on issues such as health and safety, risk and uncertainty, job creation opportunities, possible knock-on effect on other areas of the economy such as tourism, and environmental impacts including transport issues.

There were some interesting responses in relation to the issue of how public opinion should be measured. The concepts of broad support and net support were felt by many to be good ways forward, but there was also support for a referendum. A number of respondents stressed that those having a say should not just be those who 'shouted loudest'. The importance of having clear and transparent methods for interpreting public opinion came across as paramount to maintaining the integrity of the Partnership in the eyes of the public.



## 2. Introduction

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Ten community events were arranged as part of the West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) Partnership's second round of public and stakeholder engagement. Three events each were held in the West Cumbrian Districts of Allerdale and Copeland, and one in each of the other four Districts of Cumbria.

## 3. Format for the events

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Each one-day event consisted of four main elements:

- An exhibition
- Specialists for people to speak to and discuss concerns/ask questions
- Presentations with question and answer sessions/discussion opportunities
- Opportunities to respond via questionnaire and/or Post-it note comments on flip charts

### **Exhibition:**

This consisted of two main display stands with information on the Partnership and on the MRWS process in West Cumbria. There were also 'pop-up banner' displays explaining each of the topics the Partnership is seeking public feedback on as part of this round of stakeholder and public engagement. The content of the displays and the questionnaires was based on the West Cumbria MRWS Discussion Pack produced for use with community groups, schools etc.

### **Specialists:**

Each event had a representative present from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC), the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and the British Geological Survey (BGS). The Environment Agency (EA) was also represented at all but two of the events which their staff were unable to travel to due to road conditions being affected by snow. The specialists were pointed out to members of the public on arrival so they could direct their questions/comments to the most appropriate people.

### **Presentations:**

The presentation sessions consisted of a welcome by the 3KQ facilitator, followed by a presentation by DECC on the national policy context of the West Cumbria MRWS process. This was followed by a presentation by a member of the Partnership specifically about the West Cumbrian context. This gave Partnership members (of which there were one or often two present at any one time at each event) the chance to introduce themselves and explain the role of the Partnership as independent of government, explain what stage of the process these events were part of, and encourage people to ask questions/raise concerns etc.

Presentation times had been pre-advertised but a flexible approach was taken during the course of the events. Where there were enough people at an advertised time, a full presentation and discussion took place. If there were only a small number of people they were instead offered the opportunity for less formal discussions, though the presentation format was followed if requested whatever the number. It was emphasised that the question and answer sessions and discussions following the presentations were not recorded, to enable informality and not hinder the discussion of sensitive issues; participants were told that they would need to complete a questionnaire or Post-it note for their views to be taken into account.

The question and answer/discussion session after the presentations was facilitated by 3KQ, whose role in the process was also explained to participants.

### **Responses**

Members of the public were offered the chance to comment by responding in a questionnaire format, or adding their thoughts to Post-it notes on flip chart stands next to the topic banners.

### **Venues and access**

Venues were chosen for being locally well known, their location (town centre in most cases), and disabled access. Publicity for the events included an offer of help with transport to ensure that people from rural areas or those with mobility issues were not excluded. An activity box was available for children who came along with their parents or carers. The freephone number was advertised for people to ask for more information.

### **Information to take away**

There was information available for people to take away for their own reference or to share with people who were unable to come to the events.

## **4. Publicity**

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The meetings were publicised in a number of ways:

- Details were circulated in the Partnership's newsletter which is sent to just under 78,000 contacts in West Cumbria.
- Email notices and subsequent reminders about the events were sent to around 600 contacts on the Partnership's database.
- Information about the events was included in an article in *Your Cumbria* magazine which was circulated to 236,000 households throughout Cumbria two weeks before the events started.
- Advance advertorials were placed in local papers relevant to each area where an event was being held: The Whitehaven News on 21<sup>st</sup> October; NW Evening Mail, Keswick Reminder, The Times and Star and The News and Star on 22<sup>nd</sup> October; The Cumberland News on 19<sup>th</sup> November and The Westmorland Gazette on 25<sup>th</sup> November.
- There was radio coverage by three stations at the start of the programme of events.
- Parishes throughout Cumbria were contacted by letter and sent posters to display about the event most local to them.
- Letters and posters were sent to around 3000 contacts via mailing lists of West Cumbrian Neighbourhood Forums.
- Details were sent to Community Involvement Officers in non-West Cumbrian districts for circulation to Neighbourhood Forum email contact lists.
- The community events were highlighted in a letter that went from the Partnership to schools throughout Cumbria, and secondary schools in places where events were being held were additionally contacted.
- Posters were distributed at a Partnership meeting for members to circulate.

- Flyers for the events were sent to all venues where events were being held, as many of them host regular community group meetings who could help advertise the events by word of mouth.
- Other opportunities were taken where possible e.g. sending information to voluntary sector groups via Cumbria Council for Voluntary Service's (CVS) email update service.
- On the day of each event leaflets were distributed on the street in person, close to the event itself to encourage people to attend and/or to give them information about the MRWS consultation and engagement process for future reference.

## 5. Statistics on Attendance and Responses

Event	Number who attended:	Q'aires returned:	Additional written comments received:
<b>Allerdale:</b>			
Wigton – 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov. Wigton Market Hall	54	36	7
Keswick – 24 <sup>th</sup> Nov. Crosthwaite Parish Room	71	35	27
Workington – 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. St Michael's Church	19	9	0
<b>Copeland:</b>			
Whitehaven – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Nov. Civic Hall	68	31	30
Calderbridge – 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov. Village Hall	46	22	17
Millom – 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov. Millom Network Centre	57	33	31
<b>Barrow</b> – 20 <sup>th</sup> Nov. The Forum	24	5	13
<b>Carlisle</b> – 22 <sup>nd</sup> Nov. Old Town Hall	32	21	6
<b>Eden:</b>			
Penrith – 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov. Penrith Methodist Church	34	11	0
<b>South Lakes:</b>			
Kendal – 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov. Town Hall	78	45	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>166</b>

## 6. Reflections

Overall there was a positive feel to the events and participants appreciated the opportunity to speak to the specialists present, with the BGS representatives being kept particularly busy! In terms of the people who attended, the vast majority had heard in advance about the event they attended and had it as a date in the diary; the drop-in element was minimal. Word of mouth via existing contacts and networks seemed important in motivating people to attend, as well as coverage in local media. Although it seems that having someone handing out leaflets on the day encouraged only a few more people to come along to the events, the distribution of leaflets with website and freephone number and some details about the MRWS process will hopefully also assist the Partnership's aim of more general awareness raising. If similar events are held again at a later stage in the process it would be worth considering the appointment of local champions in areas where events are being held. Such a role could pinpoint useful

networks and individuals to spread the word locally in a way which complements the overarching publicity strategy.

The participants who came to the events stayed a long time; estimated average length of time spent was around 45 minutes. There were very few people who stayed less than 20 minutes, and there were a fair number who stayed for two or more hours. The level of engagement of most participants was very high and the opportunity to talk things over in an informal setting seemed valuable to a lot of people.

There were some people who expressed frustration and a perception that the events were only expressing one side, but most were reassured when the consultation process, including the role of the Partnership and 3KQ's role as independent facilitators, was explained fully. 3KQ's facilitator at the events spoke particularly to some people who wished to protest against the idea of a GDF in West Cumbria and their leaflets and reports were made available alongside other reference material. They were also encouraged to add their opinions by completing questionnaires or Post-it note comments. In some events placards and protestors were situated at the entrance.

The nearly 500 people who attended the events obviously made their impact directly, and will have increased their awareness and understanding of the main issues associated with the MRWS process in West Cumbria. However, the process of staging the events and the associated publicity (see section 3 above) meant that the impact and associated awareness-raising aspect was felt more widely. This was assisted by good media coverage of the events; they were mentioned in three television broadcasts, four radio broadcasts and eight newspaper stories.

## 7. Main messages for consideration by the Partnership

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The analysis of public responses in the next section provides useful detail for the Partnership to consider. Many issues have been discussed from the outset of the work of the Partnership – the need to balance the views of those who work in the nuclear industry with others who do not, the overriding concern for safety of both people and the environment, and our collective responsibility to make the best possible decision for the sake of future generations.

However amongst these issues one which is key in the context of this stage of the engagement process is the way that public opinion will be measured and considered by the Partnership as it forms a view to advise councils on the decision to participate. Many people who attended the events believed a referendum to be the fairest way to move forward. The reasons why the Partnership may decide to agree with this or not need to be made crystal clear. Likewise, in terms of broad support and net support, transparency of mechanisms and weighting will be paramount. It is this which will ultimately enable the public to understand and believe that, whether they agree with the ultimate decision or not, the process has been transparent and fair. Otherwise the risk to public confidence could be critical, whether or not the councils participate or withdraw.

## 8. Analysis of public responses

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The following analysis is structured around the questions as addressed in the event questionnaire and Discussion Pack.

Many of the views expressed across the events were similar, regardless of geographic location. However, as would be expected there were also some differences in responses from particular areas. For example in Whitehaven a fair number of participants had direct experience of the nuclear industry. Their responses reflected this perspective in terms of a positive attitude towards job creation within the industry and a higher level of confidence in the technical and safety aspects relating to a GDF. However a minority expressed a feeling that further development of the nuclear industry around Whitehaven would stifle the prospects of developing alternative economic strategies for the town based on tourism. The impact on tourism and the National Park was strongly reflected in responses in Keswick where respondents also expressed fears about West Cumbrian opinion being biased in favour of the nuclear industry and not assessing risks as rigorously as they might. Respondents outside West Cumbria were more likely to view community benefits in a negative way, and to state that the decision about whether or not to participate should involve the public across the county.

The analysis below highlights the area respondents come from if it is mentioned by respondents themselves.

### **Topic One: How public and stakeholder views will inform our work**

#### **Question 1.**

**What do you think about the indicators we have suggested? Please explain if you particularly agree or disagree with any of them.**

Broadly speaking there was support for the indicators people had been asked to consider. The following statements were typical of those who were supportive:

“I have read the indicators and I agree because they are not biased so therefore considering the problems as well as the benefits.”

“I agree that these indicators are sensible. I think net support for me, is the most vital, everyone has to come to an agreement, or at least majority which gives it an efficient democratic feel, and then the use of broad support can help rule out corruption.”

“I think the indicators have been well thought out and are appropriate.”

“I agree with all the indicators suggested and feel that they give a good case of all relevant aspects.”

“The indicators are fine. I agree about ‘broad support’. My fear is that there are many people who make very early and irrational judgements without fully understanding what is involved. It is important that the Partnership judge the quality of the arguments against what is proposed.”

However, concerns were also expressed. Some people felt strongly that a referendum was necessary:

“All totally irrelevant! When do we get to vote?”

“Good so far but as this facility will have a significant life crossing generations, the community should give a strong mandate to the government, so I would like to see a referendum – e.g. postal ballot after several months publicity.”

“This is so long-term and so important, a local referendum is needed to give the process openness, authority and ownership. We ALL need to decide.”

“Agreed as suitable – key is to ensure that opinion is sought from the general population – referendum at the end of the communication process could be seen as a fair approach.”

“A referendum to all households in Cumbria, not just the West coast, because Cumbria County Council have expressed an interest, probably to support Allerdale and Copeland, but nevertheless this means Cumbria has volunteered.”

Concerns were also expressed about the possibilities of bias. Interestingly this was expressed in contradictory ways. There were those who felt that people working in and benefiting from the nuclear industry would skew the results:

“Net support – obviously good to ask advice from local people, however our obvious fear is that those who have a ‘vested interest’ i.e. the nuclear workforce living locally will sway the responses.”

Whereas others expressed views that people holding anti-nuclear opinions would dominate:

“Net support – in most consultations the anti-nuclears shout louder and are heard more. We need to address this balance.”

There were more concerns about it being the ‘loudest voice’ that would win the day, rather than majority opinion:

“As usual the minority get a large say. It’s a sound idea as long as the indicators are examined, ask the people it affects not those who shout the loudest!”

“Broad support, as defined, is more important than net support, as defined. Arguments matter, not the loudest voice.”

“Remember the silent majority – those against anything are often the most outspoken. Those in favour often remain silent. You must get them to express their opinions.”

“It needs to be absolutely inclusive otherwise only the most vociferous & opinionated will reply. It needs to be made compulsory to be involved.”

There was a recognition about the importance of the public being well informed:

“It is essential to provide local communities with unbiased, accurate technical information.”

Though some highlighted issues about what information would be available:

“Main concern would be transparency of the information the public are given!!”

“Give the full facts. Explain the volume of extra traffic/dust/noise and light pollution which would be involved, plus risk of terrorism and extra security need in this area.”

There were views expressed in non-West Cumbrian districts about the need to include views of residents of Cumbria as a whole:

“Surveying the people in West Cumbria will give a false indication, as a majority of people are dependent on the nuclear industry in West Cumbria. A true indication of people’s feelings would be to have a referendum of the whole of Cumbria.”

“Broad support” does mention LDNPA or CWT (or are these interest groups?). Do you only need net support from West Cumbria, when transport etc. will affect a wider area.”

“The survey should include areas outside W Cumbria which will be affected by transportation, etc. Also, I have concerns that the councils will take decision on behalf of ‘the public’ based on economic reasons, not safety & environment.”

“Why just the opinions of West Cumbria? This is a county-wide issue – after all nuclear waste will be transported through South Lakes, Eden and Carlisle as well. Any ‘benefits’ should be shared by the whole county and the whole county should have a say. After all West Cumbria is in the pay of the nuclear industry already, they are not going to vote ‘no!’”

There was a concern expressed about the possibility of manipulation of the indicators:

“Indicators’ involve local communities. It is showing that they have been spoken to & their ideas/opinions have been asked. It doesn’t show if the public are totally opposed because their concerns can be explained away. They can be ‘addressed’ & explanations given for not listening /taking into account the public’s view.”

“Are you just hoping the more people you involve they are going to tip the scales in your favour?”

“This seems to be designed to allow progress in spite of opposition. Weasel words abound. Have you made the decision already & this process is just spin?”

“Biased towards a ‘yes’ vote. ‘Net support from West Cumbria area Public’. If ‘net support’ was all of Cumbria – outcome would likely be ‘no’. If ‘net support’ was in area most affected, likely outcome would be ‘no’.”

“Indicators fine, but doesn’t seem clear how they are weighted i.e. if there is not net public support, can this be superseded by other indicators? This makes people disinclined to take part.”

Finally some respondents felt that they would like to see the indicators placed in a broader context:

“I would suggest an additional indicator – provide an overall, long-term strategy, for Whitehaven – Copeland in which this proposal is one of many which will develop and regenerate the area.”

“Maybe there should be a broader national discussion on nuclear waste and nuclear power in general. It affects more than the immediate area.”

**Question 2: Are there any other indicators that you think should be considered to judge how well we have used public views in making our final recommendations?**

The main feeling indicated in answer to this question was the importance of showing that the views of people of all ages had been taken into account:

“More involvement with the younger generation who perhaps are the ones which this scheme will affect the most in the future.”

“They have to target all ages of the public from young people to the older generation.”

“The future generation? Sixth forms? Wide age group?”

Some indicated that they felt that specific views should be shown to have influence:

“Consideration of the public’s views on emergency management would be nice. As would consideration of groundwater monitoring.”

“Interested parties should include those empowered within the industry. NDA, Sellafield, NUVIA etc.”

“Evidence that views of groups strongly opposed to this (& nuclear power in general) have been considered and their objections addressed but that undue weight not be given to their views.”

“There are clearly different viewpoints amongst those that work and live in West Cumbria and those that live in and work in the National Park – they both need to be involved in supporting any proposal.”

Some participants also expressed their feelings in this context about the implications of the process not going ahead:

“Not sure if it is an indicator – but I am aware that if there is not a facility in West Cumbria we are likely to host surface storage of Higher Activity waste. This to me is less palatable than deep disposal.”

**Topic 2: Impacts and community benefits**

**Question 3: Are there any impacts that you feel strongly about or that you think we have missed? Please explain?**

There were a number of key topics that came up under this question:

**Tourism and environmental concerns**

Many people commented about the negative effects they felt that a GDF would have on the reputation of West Cumbria in terms of tourism. For some this seemed to come from not feeling comfortable with the nuclear industry generally, often linked with concerns about the environment:

“I worry about tourism. People from outside the area are scared of the term ‘nuclear waste’.”

“Again I am very unhappy on environmental grounds. This is a beautiful, relatively undeveloped, relatively unpopulated area, one of our most popular national parks. We need to retain these qualities which are so needed by an urban industrial population in



other parts of the UK and world. Associating this area with storage and production of nuclear waste is extremely damaging to our image and to our traditional activities – (farming and tourism).”

“Effects on environment – feel strongly shouldn’t affect picturesque surroundings.”

“Secondary impacts on high quality environmental brand of Cumbria and LDNP, and how this could impact on the wider economy and non-nuclear investment. The term ‘Nuke District’ has already been used in National media.”

“I cannot believe that this can be discussed in these low level tones as if one were discussing a new railway line. People who don’t really think about it need to be fully informed of what it all means. What about the concept of one of the most valued & beautiful parts of the country having all this stuff under it? Doesn’t it just make the Lakes an empty façade?”

For others it was a case of economic pragmatism:

“Tourism – which is the only viable alternative to the nuclear industry, will be affected if this goes ahead without other real initiatives in place.”

“I would like someone to show me the benefits. We have not only lost jobs and soon to lose more, the money that has gone into Whitehaven has spoilt a beautiful Georgian town, lost shops. It is only known to the wider world as it is near a nuclear county.”

“Effects on tourism – this shouldn’t happen because it is relied upon.”

“I feel very strongly that the Nuclear Industry in West Cumbria has a very negative effect upon the Tourism Industry. There should be no expansion of it beyond the Sellafield area, whether Nuclear Power Stations or waste storage and disposal.”

There were suggestions that this needed to be examined in more detail:

“Research needs to be done to assess how far an underground facility would discourage new business coming into the area.”

“The increase in employment will be minimal (specialist workers). Other companies may be put off.”

Some comments specifically mentioned the National Park:

“That the National Park (in fact any National Park) & an exclusion zone of say 5 miles around should be excluded no matter what the geology.”

### **Health and safety**

Unsurprisingly, health and safety was highlighted as another key issue, both in terms of workers in the industry and the general public and wider environment:

“Health and safety of workers and the public is important because if it is too dangerous it shouldn’t go ahead.”

“There is no mention of timescales of when pollution surfaces.”

"I feel strongly about the impact it could potentially have, as the half-life of the waste will be high and won't be decaying causing a serious problem for environments if it leaks."

"Water quality and water table 1) houses on spring water only 2) animals etc. from streams."

"The overriding issue is safety. There must be clear evidence of a stable geology, and static or slow-moving groundwater environment – i.e. a safe hydrology. I would also accept that additional safeguards could be introduced by using appropriate containment – but this would be in addition to the geological/hydrological environment."

"Your impacts do not stress the main issue – that of the possibility of leakage to the surface or water contamination. Health and safety – long-term. Impact on environment – long-term."

"What about 101 safety issues identified by NWAA?"

A social factor was mentioned by one respondent in relation to some people's perceptions:

"Distress of residents whose relatives refuse to visit them."

### **Transport issues**

A sizeable minority of respondents mentioned transport/traffic concerns in relation to impacts. Sometimes this related to traffic around the site:

"Traffic volumes to and from the surface site. This should be considered – during construction, during operation."

"The impact of huge volumes of traffic movement must be put before the public. This is a prime consideration to be assessed before a decision to move forward further is made."

Other respondents noted the benefit of a local GDF on reducing distances for transporting waste from Sellafield:

"The benefit of not transporting this material long distances – safer roads and rail."

"If the deep waste repository is sited in another area there will, of necessity, be much more movement of waste from the Sellafield site to such a repository – such movements, even at night, would be a significant negative in terms of increasing risk – not just of traffic accidents but the potential for hijacking/terrorist attacks."

### **Other**

Other impacts mentioned included the consideration of the chances of 'incidents':

"Government to underwrite the scheme so a major incident in 100 years is covered."

"It is not clear what the impact of something going wrong would be. This should be clearer – what are the negative scenarios? I know it is not popular to articulate these but if the authorities don't then others speculate in an uninformed manner (sometimes!)."

“What does ‘Health and safety of workers and the public’ mean? It really isn’t made clear at all. Is there a chance of a disaster? Could terrorism be an issue? Tell us what the worst might be!”

The idea of retrievability was identified as important by some people:

“I am very strong in my belief that any waste – especially radioactive, should be retrievable – to allow for future needs and systems. I think that into the mountains, as opposed to deep storage, has not seemingly been considered.”

This respondent also highlighted a concern about the potential impact of fluctuating population numbers:

“Changes in local population – presuming a large construction workforce then smaller continuing workforce would cause different pressures – big influx of temporary residents then collapse of part of economy later as when previous contracts finished.”

Impact on house prices was mentioned by a few respondents:

“Reducing house prices.”

“Worried about effects on reducing home prices, and if so compensation, if effects could be measured.”

#### **Question 4: What do you think about the idea of receiving community benefits for having this kind of facility in West Cumbria?**

Responses to the idea of receiving community benefits divided opinion. Some felt it was only right and proper that the community should receive benefit from hosting a facility of this kind:

“The fact that only one community has come forward reinforces what we know – people do not want a facility near them – it is right that resources to mitigate this adverse impact are made available.”

“I think it is very important to the community. Should benefit to the maximum possible.”

“It gives a wide variety of choices that could be useful to the area.”

“The community benefits are being viewed as countywide. The impacts are predominantly borne by the host community Benefits must reflect the cost to the Host community.”

“Good idea. Should be compensated!!!”

“A good idea to reward the whole community via a range of benefits so locals get a real benefit from housing it.”

“I think its key, it’s a chance to improve infrastructure local communities and the well-being of West Cumbria. Otherwise – why go ahead?”

“Very important.”

“Essential.”

Others thought of the benefits mainly in terms of jobs arising from the facility itself:

“Good – job creation both in construction and operation. Not forgetting job security.”

“I think the main community benefit should be employment as both a direct impact of the GDF as a lot of secondary employment will fall out of this. The second benefit should be education as we have so many specialists in the nuclear industry, we do not want to lose this.”

Some felt the idea of receiving benefits was correct, but were worried about what would actually happen in reality:

“What have we received up to now is minimal for housing the world’s nuclear dustbin.”

“How secure is this? Some wind energy companies have acted like bandits. Promising funds for the affected communities but ending up with general slush funds for vested interests.”

“Benefits should be agreed upfront and guaranteed i.e. cannot be taken away by change of government! (not cynical really!!).”

“A beautiful place to live but money has been wasted. It can only be said that it could have helped small business which pay higher taxes because of Sellafield. Will the jobs that would come here be based here or abroad or out of the county?”

“Benefits should go towards a long-term sustainable future, not just quick windfalls but something for our children and their children.”

Others felt doubtful about the idea of benefits altogether:

“I personally think it is a weak attempt at attempting to keep us quiet about the whole thing.”

“Fine line between ‘rewarding’ a community for volunteering their area and “bribing” poor communities who have few other choices.”

“I do not think that giving community benefits is an appropriate way of coming to an informed and well founded decision.”

“Simple bribery. This must be totally ignored – indeed treated with contempt.”

“The infrastructure and business structure of West Cumbria should be invested in and developed independently of the nuclear industry.”

“Benefits won’t matter if country is evacuated when water eventually brings radioactive pollution to the surface.”

“When is a volunteer not a volunteer – when bribery is involved! No compensation is enough!”

### **Question 5 – What kinds of benefits would you want us to have in mind in our discussions with the Government?**

Benefits suggested by respondents fell into a number of categories:

#### **Road/transport structure**

Many people felt that there should be significant investment in the transport structure of West Cumbria, with roads high on the agenda:

“Need to have better infrastructure e.g. roads and perhaps railway improvements before construction starts.”

“Want to see roads improved and a causeway over Duddon Estuary to deal with increased local traffic if Millom area hosts either underground or above ground facilities.”

“Better transport links would be an advantage.”

“We need other types of jobs and good roads and railways as we have lost this to the East coast. The East coast fought to save their steel works. I don't want the fells of Cumbria to be lost to the wider world as a dump.”

“Improving infrastructure. Roads, rail etc.”

“Upgrading the railway to get rid of single track sections and to modernise the signalling to allow for frequent trains – both passenger and freight.”

### **Economic benefits**

Economic benefits were on many people's minds, particularly relating to employment:

“Local employment and development.”

“Jobs, benefit on the economy and it would mean less reliance on fossil fuels.”

“The benefits should provide for the long-term success of the area. Links to improve tourism, energy generation. We don't need an influx of more residents, but sustainable work for those already here.”

“More money to develop tourism, more attractions and develop ones we have.”

“We need ecologically friendly manufacturing industries e.g. electric cars and buses, solar panels, wind turbines and environmentally friendly fridges, washing machines, heating systems etc.”

“The energy coast Masterplan should be funded in full. Ask the next generation – not all decisions should be made by ours.”

### **Lower bills – e.g. council tax or electricity**

“Long-term levy paid by government (for the life time of the facility) with the revenues providing long-term benefits to the local community, but with the bias to the host community. Zero Council tax/revenues to subsidise Council tax.”

### **Opportunities in research and development; developing specialist skills**

“Significant financial benefits should accrue to residents in the area e.g. large reduction in Council Tax, improved roads and communications, targeted scientific R & D in locations such as Westlakes and other campuses.”

“Economic infrastructure, young people (education/youth facilities). Much of the scope of benefits was established in the West Cumbrian Accord that was signed when the NDA was set up.”

“Education: University of Cumbria as SME on Nuclear.”

“Better training for underachievers in academia who have practical skills.”

### **Combination of benefits**

Others envisaged a combination of benefits for wide ranging community impact:

“Vastly improved infrastructure (improved road between Barrow – Workington and Penrith would be nice). Services (new hospital in Whitehaven?) and facilities (new clubhouses for local sports Teams?) would be very welcome.”

“Barrage over the Duddon – Medical and emergency facilities – Incentives for new businesses – Reduction in rates!”

“Better local facilities, local sport, activities for schools, better roads.”

“Community benefits not related to the repository e.g. playground improvement to schools etc.”

“Employment. Education. Services – hospital, fire and police.”

“Better infrastructure to make transport of waste safer without impacting on the beautiful, remote scenery that is unique in England and a valuable resource for future generations. A centre/capital/county of ecology/environmental awareness theme to developments.”

“House prices in most affected area ‘benchmarked’ against prices in say Cockermouth. Difference made up by the Government. New reprocessing contracts at the Sellafield site – new Thorp. New roads. Whitehaven hospital expanded.”

“Personally the things that I can see are important are: cheap energy – we have no mains gas, public transport – there is none, broadband – where available this is very poor speed and consistency i.e. 20 -50 times slower than cities and although in the vanguard for digital we only get half a service, radio – if we lose FM we will have no service. If you want local people to support these facilities and provide workers you need to make their life better.”

Some people who felt strongly about the impact of wind farms felt that a benefit of accepting a local GDF should be:

“An end to windmills.”

Some respondents wanted to emphasise their opposition to the concept of benefits:

“I don’t think any benefits could be just.”

“I don’t want you to discuss this issue with Govt. Your activities are a complete waste of money.”

There was also a repetition of concerns about safety:

“Safety – longevity – minimum impact on the environment.”

“Any benefits that ensure a future for human beings, animals and plants – without contamination.”

### **Topic 3: Involving communities around potential sites.**

#### **Question 6 – What needs to happen to involve the community if the process to find a site in West Cumbria continues?**

Many responses to this question focused on the aspiration for a greater level of understanding from as wide a range of people as possible:

“Discussions with the public to inform them of what is happening.”

“Discussions with the community should take place in order for them to get other’s opinions.”

“There needs to be a scheme that allows more of the community to understand what is going on and what consequences/benefits they are going to face. At the moment only the people that are interested in the development of this are involved and have a say. Perhaps a way to introduce this scheme to younger/older generations should be inflicted.”

“Explain the current methods used for storing high level waste. Give an honest assessment of the risks to local communities.”

“Produce some evidence based science that is both for and against this sort of storage for people to consider. Much of what I’ve seen today is too ‘neutral’ and anodyne.”

“More consultation – not just drifting into an agreement that they can’t get out of.”

There were suggestions about ways people felt this could be done, as well as a recognition of the fact that not everyone will be receptive to getting involved:

“Hard copy information not just on the net. Circulation of ads for meetings more widely distributed e.g. Age Concern, churches, public notice boards.”

“Questionnaires, surveys, interviews with regular members of the public, lectures on pros and cons.”

“Ongoing consultation. Good presentation of pros and cons – NO SPIN DOCTORING. Accountability of process by Partnership and real ownership of process.”

“Talk to Joe Public not just councils.”

“Identify a range of community reps who are connected to people in that community.”

“Vote after local live debates.”

“Letter drops, more newspaper/radio adverts, interesting programmes on TV news.”

“Be open. Be honest. Ignore irrational arguments (in both directions).”

“This kind of meeting plus more business-like meetings covering the more technical aspects. However if the public do not declare an interest, they should not be allowed to complain at a later date.”

“Engage with young people – they will have to live with the outcome of decision made. Don’t rely on councils to decide, they don’t always represent the views of the people. Visit the market places – town centres – supermarkets.”

“When is the next census due? Get it added as a regional/local issue and questions.”

Some responses highlighted the fact that it is a national issue:

“There should be a series of televised debates on national and local television. This impacts on the whole country, not just one area of it.”

Respondents also commented on the fact that the public needed to be inspired and respected in order to be meaningfully included in the process.

“The people in charge need to respect Whitehaven and the people who we are.”

“Inspire them.”

It was also felt that the public should have a direct input into suggestions to where a site should or shouldn’t be:

“Look at what the public sees as suitable sites for development.”

“The community needs to be able to have a say in where it doesn’t go e.g. not near housing estate as it will affect house prices.”

Concerns were expressed about some methods of engagement and also the range of advertising:

“Direct approach to groups, churches etc. mail drops, etc. don’t work.”

“More direct consultation – Councillor Elaine Woodburn is of the impression this is well advertised – I would argue this. There are so many large companies in the area that this could be advertised through e.g. Sellafield Council.”

### **Question 7 – What kinds of things other than geological suitability should be considered when looking for a potential site, if the process continues?**

There was some agreement that proximity to Sellafield would have benefits:

“It needs to be close to Sellafield to ensure low risk transportation to the repository.”

“Proximity to Sellafield and where the waste is being kept. Low population areas to minimise impact.”

Other comments focused on the long time scale under consideration:

“Although the geological suitability is deemed the most important, the effects this process has on the community of the potential site should be included. Not only should the effects be influenced on the younger generation now, but the following younger generations that are to come, as this process is going to be around for many years.”



“The community needs to be aware that they are not simply making a decision for which they see benefits in the short-term, but remember that generations to come will be impacted, and that an unwise decision could haunt the community for many generations.”

It was important to many respondents that the facility be as unobtrusive as possible:

“Visual effects – will people complain because it is spoiling the view?”

“What impact will it have on the landscape?”

“Aesthetic siting.”

Some felt strongly that acceptance by Cumbrians generally was important:

“Agreed by the majority of Cumbrians as being the best site. For the good of all.”

Again, safety was a consideration for siting, in terms of considerations regarding potential emergency situations whether arising from terrorism or accidents, and the need to protect public health and the environment:

“Safety, security against terrorism and protection of the environment from the waste and the facility itself.”

“Take every step to site it near current industrial areas NOT GREEN BELT.”

“Road and rail infrastructure, health, services infrastructure, well thought through evacuation plans in the event of an emergency.”

“Ecological studies, any SSSIs (Site of Special Scientific Interest), SACs (Special Areas of Conservation), SPAs (Special Protection Areas) within the local area. What endangered species are present – what effect will this have on them? Let alone the impacts on the community & nation if it all goes wrong...”

## **Other comments**

There were a number of themes which emerged from other comments made by respondents which didn't fall into the questions considered above. They were as follows:

### **General comments about the idea of a GDF being located in West Cumbria**

There were a number of general comments about the idea of having a GDF in West Cumbria. Some of these were positive:

“100% in favour. Start project without delay. Ridiculous to wait 15 years before starting.”

“Whether we like it or not we have the waste and we need to get rid of it safely. If underground is the best option and our area is suitable why not have it here, we already have Sellafield storing waste (very safely), so to have a store near the plant will keep waste off the roads and rail.”

“We as a community have been brought up with all the benefits of Sellafield, but with it starting to be decommissioned and the workforce decreasing why should we not benefit from having a repository as Sellafield will always be there, even as a greenfield site it will still have to be monitored for radiation contamination etc.”

“There will be some opposition but I cannot see a safer alternative. It makes sense to keep it here and benefit but the independent inspection must be world class.”

“I think deep geological disposal is essential – no one can guarantee the stability of security, public order and Government into the future – waste stored in surface facilities or needing continued monitoring and care could be vulnerable in the event of war, social unrest, or political change. Secure underground storage seems preferable for the longer term future.”

Others were negative:

“What planet is Elaine Woodburn and the Copeland Council living on, wanting the dump here?”

“Why are we continuing to produce radioactive waste which we don’t know how to deal with?! Why are we imposing this on future generations? The legacy of our generation is already damaging enough. Other things to be considered must be transport & infrastructure.”

“Send it to #10 Downing Street! I am totally opposed to anything to do with nuclear power.”

Some people were not necessarily against the development of a GDF, but did not want it to ‘pave the way’ for nuclear new build:

“A GDF here would make future nuclear build in W Cumbria much more likely – & I would strongly oppose this (here or elsewhere).”

“I would rather the disposal site was not in Cumbria but recognise that this is a ‘Nimby’ approach. With thorough scientific studies, if Cumbria is the best site, it should only be for legacy waste. I strongly oppose nuclear new build and believe that the investment should go fully towards energy efficiency measures and development in energy efficiency technologies.”

“Legacy waste is one thing and something we have the responsibility to deal with as members of the human race that created it. I strongly oppose new build. It is not the answer, we need to consume less energy and negate the need for the new build. I firmly believe investment should go into large-scale energy efficiency measures, both through technology and laws limiting energy use.”

### **Concerns about West Cumbria being the only area to ‘express an interest’**

Some of these concerns were expressed as follows:

“What happens if no community wants this facility? Please refer to the Forest of Dean fiasco in the 1950s.”

“Why are not other councils/areas prepared to get involved at this stage?”

“No informed decision can be made unless other sites have been considered: at present only one area seems to have been considered.”

### **Nirex**

The history of the Nirex process was mentioned by a number of respondents:

“How can an area dismissed by the Nirex Inquiry as totally unsuitable all of a sudden appear OK? We have not forgotten.”

“Waste continues to arrive in West Cumbria despite Nirex (£400m public money) saying that W Cumbria is not suitable for a dump. No geological disposal!”

“After years of neglect this area is deemed suitable!! Would the majority of jobs be local? Would the rail and infrastructure be brought up to modern needs? Would monitoring be such that should an emergency arise, evacuation, resettlement be included?”

“I am not opposed to a repository. Payback is valid as a national repository (dump) is being hosted BUT prerequisite must be an impeachable safety case and public acceptance of same. If prior adverse investigations are to be set aside then it will need to be absolutely demonstrated why.”

### **Comments on the process itself**

Finally, a number of people made comments about the consultation and engagement process. Some people felt very doubtful about the merits of the consultation:

“Geological suitability – this is the main thing – but I feel it will end up as a political decision despite reassurance otherwise.”

“Continuing consultations just seems a good excuse for elected and non-elected persons to earn extra money.”

A number of other respondents felt positively about the engagement process:

“It’s nice to be consulted and to be able to speak to someone about it in layman’s terms.”

“A lot more work to be done over the coming years but you are definitely on the right lines! Keep up the consultation work! Especially for when we move into the more technical side.”

“Involving communities – it has already started by having these sort of events. Some people might be sceptical but if you keep the process open and honest it should go a long way to alleviate worries.”

“Impressed with the process – a far cry from Nirex!”

“Thanks for taking the trouble to do what you’ve done today in a very open manner – this type of engagement will be crucial to ensure the correct decision to be taken – whatever that may turn out to be.”

## 9. Appendices

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[managing radioactive waste safely]

## Update and Invitation to Attend a Community Drop-In Event in Your Area

We are writing to everybody on the distribution lists for the West Cumbria Neighbourhood Forums, to provide an update about the West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste (MRWS) Partnership, and to tell you about a series of Community Drop-In Events that will be taking place in November and December.

MRWS is a Government process to find a final home for the country's higher activity radioactive waste. The West Cumbria MRWS Partnership was set up as an advisory body to reflect a wider community perspective in making *'recommendations to Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council on whether they should participate or not in the geological disposal facility siting process, without commitment to eventually host a facility'*. The role of the Partnership essentially is to protect the interests of the community, ensuring that a facility is not imposed upon West Cumbria by the Government.

The process is still at an early stage, and West Cumbria has not committed to anything yet. The Partnership is keen for people to know what is happening and seek their views. It has already made significant changes as a result of public input, including the views that were given by members of the public when the Partnership previously attended each of the West Cumbrian Neighbourhood Forums.

The British Geological Survey has undertaken a preliminary screening study of West Cumbria to identify areas that are *clearly geologically unsuitable* – this is a requirement of the Government to check that there are at least some areas that warrant further investigation before the community spends any more time discussing the issue. Following confirmation from the Government of their agreement to continue to provide funding for the ongoing work of the Partnership, the results of this screening study are due to be published at the next Partnership meeting at the Greenhill Hotel in Wigton on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October.

Once the results of the geological screening have been published, and prior to a formal consultation in 2011, the Partnership is seeking to engage with members of the public and organisations throughout the community, so that as many different views as possible are taken into account going forward. The focus will be on raising awareness of the work of the Partnership and seeking input on some key topics including potential impacts, community benefits and community involvement in the process.

As part of this, the Partnership is organising a series of 10 Community Drop-In Events throughout Cumbria in November and December, to tell people about the process and gather views. At each Drop-In Event there will be displays with information about the background to the MRWS process so far and the results of the British Geological Survey screening. People will have a chance to talk to members of the MRWS Partnership about its role and work, and there will be representatives from the Government (the Department of Energy and Climate Change), the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and the British Geological Survey who will be able to answer more detailed questions about Government policy and technical issues. For those who are interested, there will also be the chance to hear short presentations and take part in small discussion groups. You can find the dates, venues and timings for the Community Drop-In Events overleaf and on the Partnership's website.

If you can't make the drop-in events, or want a short film and information that you can discuss with friends or colleagues, then please contact us for a free Discussion Pack by calling 0800 048 8912 extension 1. An updated version of the enclosed newsletter will also be sent to all households in West Cumbria in November following the publication of the British Geological Survey screening study.

If you would like to register to receive regular updates, please visit the Partnership's website [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk), or contact us on the free-phone number 0800 048 8912.

Yours sincerely,



Rhuari Bennett

3KQ, Independent Facilitators and Programme Managers for the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership

# Radioactive waste in West Cumbria?

## Tell local community representatives what you think!

In 2008 the Government proposed an underground store for radioactive waste and asked communities around the country to express their interest in hosting a site. Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council have started talking to Government about the search for a site. These talks are at an early point; talking to the Government at this stage does **not** mean there is any commitment to host a site.

These discussions include YOU – your opinions will determine how far these talks proceed – your opinions matter.

### Community Drop-In Events

A series of drop-in events are being held around Cumbria to give people the chance to find out more information and share their views. Dates and venues as follows:

Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> November	Millom - Network Centre	Drop in 12 midday - 8pm
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Barrow - The Forum	Drop in 10am - 4pm (Sat)
Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Carlisle - Old Town Hall	Drop in 12 midday - 8pm
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup> November	Whitehaven - Civic Hall	Drop in 12 midday - 8pm
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Keswick - Crosthwaite Church Hall	Drop in 12 midday - 8pm
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Wigton - Market Hall	Drop in 12 midday - 8pm
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> November	Calderbridge - Village Hall	Drop in 12 midday - 8pm
Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> November	Penrith - Methodist Church Hall	Drop in 12 midday - 8pm
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Kendal - Town Hall	Drop in 12 midday - 8pm
Frid 3 <sup>rd</sup> December	Workington - St Michael's Church	Drop in 12 midday - 8pm

Presentation and discussions will take place at 12.30, 2.30, 4.30 and 6.30 at the weekday events. (10.30, 12.30 and 2.30 at the Saturday event in Barrow)

#### **Refreshments provided. Enter our quiz and win an iPod Touch!**

We hope you will come along, find out more and share your views.

If you need help with transport please let us know and we may be able to help.

**Free Discussion Packs are also available: call 0800 048 8912 extension 1.**

If you would like more information please get in touch – call us free on 0800 048 8912, Email [contact@westcumbriamrws.org.uk](mailto:contact@westcumbriamrws.org.uk)

[managing radioactive waste safely]

October 21<sup>st</sup> 2010

Dear Parish Clerk

We are writing to all parish councils in West Cumbria on behalf of the West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste (MRWS) Partnership to provide information about the work of the community Partnership and to tell you about the ways in which you, and residents of your parish, can be involved in the process.

MRWS is a Government process to find a final home for the country's higher activity radioactive waste. The West Cumbria MRWS Partnership, which includes CALC representing the town and parish councils, was set up as an advisory body to reflect a wider community perspective in making '*recommendations to Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council on whether they should participate or not in the geological disposal facility siting process, without commitment to eventually host a facility*'. The role of the Partnership essentially is to protect the interests of the community, ensuring that a facility is not imposed upon West Cumbria by the Government.

Given the sensitivity of the management of higher activity waste in West Cumbria, and the complex nature of the issues (both technically and ethically), the Partnership sees one of its key priorities being to engage widely in its work, both within West Cumbria and more widely in the whole of Cumbria. The process is based on voluntarism and will not proceed unless there is support from the local community.

The process is still at an early stage – no decision has been made and the three councils have not committed to anything yet. The Partnership is just talking to the Government at the moment, with the aim of eventually making a recommendation on whether the councils should participate in further talks or not.

## **British Geological Survey Screening Study of West Cumbria**

The British Geological Survey (BGS) has undertaken a preliminary screening study of West Cumbria to identify areas that are *clearly geologically unsuitable* – this is a requirement of the Government to check that there are at least some areas that warrant further investigation before the community spends any more time discussing the issue.

The results of this study are due to be published at the next Partnership meeting, which will take place on October 28<sup>th</sup> 2010 at the Greenhill Hotel in Wigton from 09.30 – 16.00. Members of the public are welcome to attend to observe proceedings and ask questions of Partnership members. If you, or any other members of your parish council, would like to attend this meeting please call 0800 048 8912 or email [sharon.walker@copeland.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.walker@copeland.gov.uk) to ensure that enough seating is made available.

## **Getting Involved**

The Partnership is keen for people throughout West Cumbria to know what is happening and seek their views. Once the results of the geological screening have been published, the Partnership is arranging a series of events throughout the community so that as many different views as possible are taken into account going forward. The focus will be on raising awareness of the work of the Partnership and seeking input on some key topics including potential impacts, community benefits and community involvement in the process.

As part of this, the Partnership is organising a series of events from November to January to tell people about the process and gather views. These will include the following:

## **1. Community Drop-In Events**

The Partnership is organising a series of 10 community drop-in events throughout Cumbria in November and December. At each drop-in event there will be displays with information about the background to the MRWS process so far, and the results of the British Geological Survey screening study. People will have a chance to talk to the community representatives on the Partnership about its role and work, and there will be representatives from the Government (the Department of Energy and Climate Change), the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and the BGS who will be able to answer more detailed questions about government policy and technical issues. For those who are interested there will also be the chance to hear short presentations and take part in small discussion groups.

We have enclosed a number of posters for the drop-in event(s) in your area. If you are able to arrange for these posters to be displayed in your parish we would be very grateful. Further details about the dates, times and venues for all of the events can also be found on the Partnership's website.

## **2. Discussion Pack**

The Partnership is currently producing a pack of materials to enable members of the public find out more and feed their views into the process. This pack includes a 15 minute DVD setting out what a facility might look like, and a paper booklet with information and questions on topics such as impacts, community involvement and siting. The pack is designed to help small groups of up to 10 to have a discussion for around 2 hours, and then give their views on some of the key issues. We will send a copy of the pack to you in November. Please do let us know if you would like to receive any further packs, either by emailing [helenf@3kq.co.uk](mailto:helenf@3kq.co.uk), or by calling 0800 048 8912 extension 1.

## **3. Stakeholder Organisation Workshop**

The Partnership is organising a Stakeholder Organisation Workshop on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at the Hunday Manor Hotel, Workington. This will be a full day event. The workshop is designed to:

- Help stakeholders build an understanding of the MRWS process and the work of the Partnership.
- Seek input from stakeholder organisations about the MRWS process, and in particular on key issues such as community involvement in the siting process, impacts and community benefits, and how public views are used to decide whether to proceed.
- Demonstrate how public input has led to real changes.

We are inviting representatives from all West Cumbrian parishes to this event, so please do make a note of the date and we will send you a formal invitation in November. If you have any questions about the workshop please contact [helenf@3kq.co.uk](mailto:helenf@3kq.co.uk), or call 0800 048 8912.

## **Keeping Updated**

If you are not already registered on our database to receive regular updates, we would like to add you to our distribution list so that we can keep you up to date with the work of the Partnership, and inform you about further opportunities to input your views. If you prefer not to be registered, or if there is somebody who is more appropriate to receive these updates, please do let us know. These updates are usually sent by email but are also available by post if preferred.


The enclosed newsletter provides more information about the MRWS process and the work of the Partnership to date. An updated version of this newsletter, including the results of the BGS study, will be sent to all households in West Cumbria in November, and further information will also be made available on the Partnership's website [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk).



We will write to you again in November with the results of the BGS study, a copy of the Discussion Pack and a formal invitation to the Stakeholder Organisation Workshop.

In the meantime, if you would like an electronic copy of this letter, the newsletter or the Community Events posters for ease of distribution please contact [jane@3kq.co.uk](mailto:jane@3kq.co.uk).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rhuari Bennett".

Rhuari Bennett  
3KQ, Independent Facilitators and Programme Managers for the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership

[managing radioactive waste safely]

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The Partnership is currently producing a pack of materials to enable members of the public to find out more and feed their views into the process. This pack includes a 15 minute DVD setting out what a facility might look like, and a paper booklet with information and questions on topics such as impacts, community involvement and siting. The pack is designed to help small groups of up to 10 to have a discussion for around 2 hours, and then give their views on some of the key issues. Please do contact us if you would like to receive a free copy of the Discussion Pack, either by emailing [helenf@3kq.co.uk](mailto:helenf@3kq.co.uk), or by calling 0800 048 8912 extension 1.

## 3. Stakeholder Organisation Workshop

The Partnership is organising a Stakeholder Organisation Workshop on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2011 at the Hunday Manor Hotel, Workington. This will be a full day event. The workshop is designed to:

- Help stakeholders build an understanding of the MRWS process and the work of the Partnership.
- Seek input from stakeholder organisations about the MRWS process, and in particular on key issues such as community involvement in the siting process, impacts and community benefits, and how public views are used to decide whether to proceed.
- Demonstrate how public input has led to real changes.


If you are interested in sending a representative from your parish to this event, please contact us by emailing [helenf@3kq.co.uk](mailto:helenf@3kq.co.uk), or by calling 0800 048 8912.

### Keeping Updated

If you, or anybody else, would like to register to receive regular updates, please visit the Partnership's website [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk), email [contact@westcumbriamrws.org.uk](mailto:contact@westcumbriamrws.org.uk), or call 0800 048 8912.

The enclosed newsletter provides more information about the MRWS process and the work of the Partnership to date. We will write to you again in November with a further update and the results of the BGS study. In the meantime, if you want to find out more about the Partnership and its work, please do visit the Partnership's website [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk). If you would like an electronic copy of this letter, the newsletter or the Community Events posters for ease of distribution please contact [jane@3kq.co.uk](mailto:jane@3kq.co.uk).

Yours sincerely,



Rhuari Bennett  
3KQ, Independent Facilitators and Programme Managers for the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership



# Nuclear waste in West Cumbria?

## Find out more & have your say!

In 2008 the Government proposed an underground repository for radioactive waste and asked communities around the country to express their interest in hosting a site. Allerdale Borough Council, Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council have started talking to the Government about the search for a site. These talks are at an early point; talking to the Government at this stage does **not** mean there is any commitment to host a site.

**These discussions include you – your opinions matter and will determine how far these talks proceed.**

### Community Drop-In Events

A series of drop-in events are being held around Cumbria to give people the chance to find out more information and share their views. Refreshments are provided.

Fri 19 Nov	<b>Millom</b> - Network Centre	12-8pm
Sat 20 Nov	<b>Barrow</b> - The Forum	10am-4pm
Mon 22 Nov	<b>Carlisle</b> - Old Town Hall	12-8pm
Tue 23 Nov	<b>Whitehaven</b> - Civic Hall	12-8pm
Wed 24 Nov	<b>Keswick</b> - Crosthwaite Church Hall	12-8pm
Thu 25 Nov	<b>Wigton</b> - Market Hall	12-8pm
Fri 26 Nov	<b>Calderbridge</b> - Village Hall	12-8pm
Mon 29 Nov	<b>Penrith</b> - Methodist Church Hall	12-8pm
Tue 30 Nov	<b>Kendal</b> - Town Hall	12-8pm
Fri 3 Dec	<b>Workington</b> - St Michael's Church	12-8pm

Presentation and discussions will take place at 12.30, 2.30, 4.30 and 6.30 (10.30, 12.30 and 2.30 at Barrow).

If you need help with **transport** please let us know and we may be able to help. Free **Discussion Packs** are also available by calling 0800 048 8912 extension 1.

**If you would like more information please get in touch:**

Call free on **0800 048 8912**, email [contact@westcumbriamrws.org.uk](mailto:contact@westcumbriamrws.org.uk) or visit [www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk)





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**These discussions include you – your opinions matter and will determine how far these talks proceed.**

## Community Drop-In Event:

### Calderbridge Village Hall

Friday 26 November, 12 midday to 8pm

This is one of ten 'drop-in' events across Cumbria, that will give **YOU** a chance to find out more information and share **YOUR** views.

Pop in for 5 minutes and have a look at the information displays or stay as long as you like to talk to community representatives and specialists from the Government (Department of Energy and Climate Change), the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and the British Geological Survey.

There will be short presentations and discussion group opportunities at 12.30, 2.30, 4.30 and 6.30. **Refreshments are provided.**

If you need help with **transport** please let us know and we may be able to help.

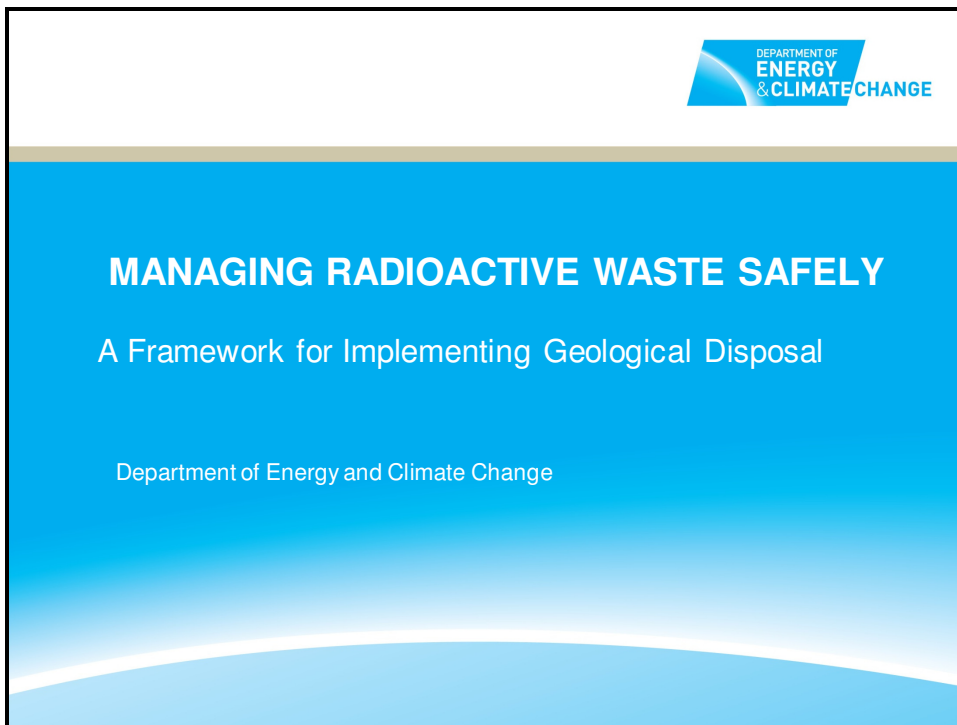
If you cannot attend the drop-in events and want a short film and information that you can discuss with friends or colleagues please contact us for a free **Discussion Pack** by calling 0800 048 8912 extension 1.

**If you would like more information please get in touch:**

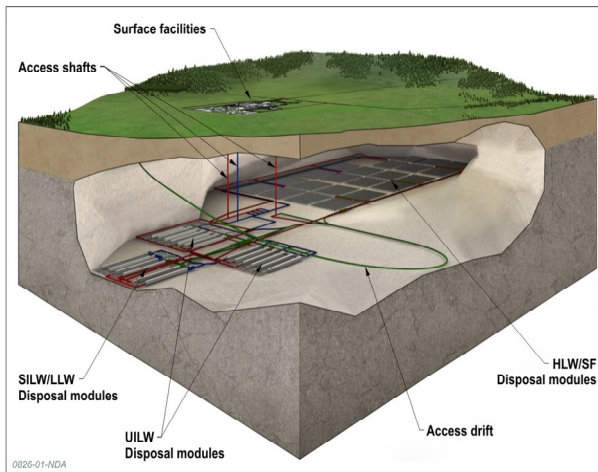
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## Powerpoint slides from presentations at Community Events.

### 1. Department of Energy and Climate Change presentation:



# GEOLOGICAL DISPOSAL



## Preferred International approach

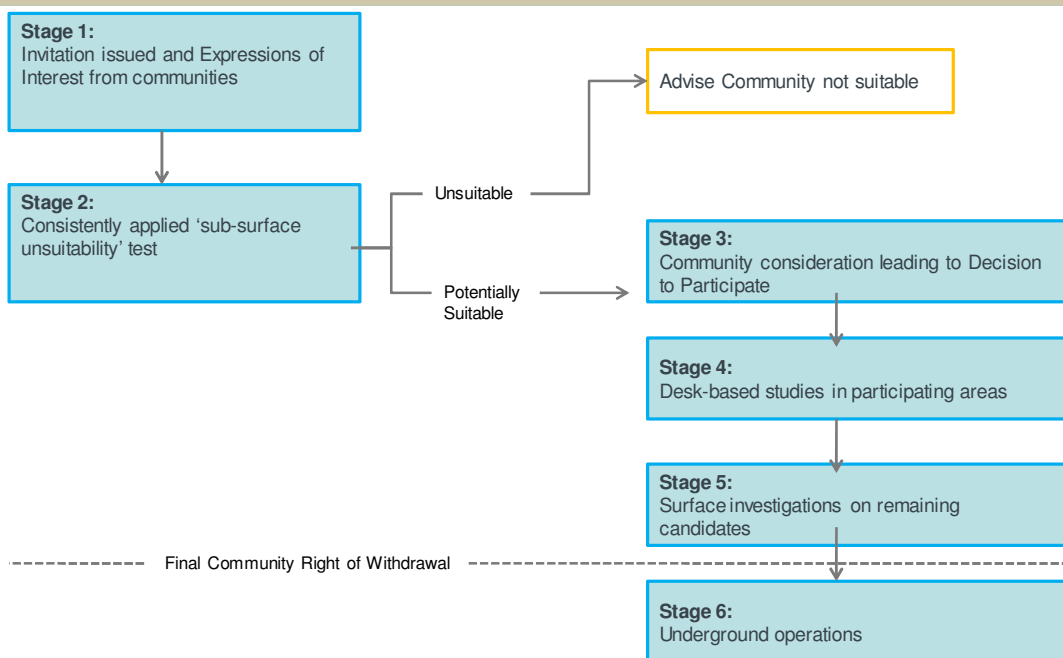
### The Facility

- 200 – 1000 metres deep
- Area of several square km
- 20-30 years until ready for waste
- Century or longer to fill

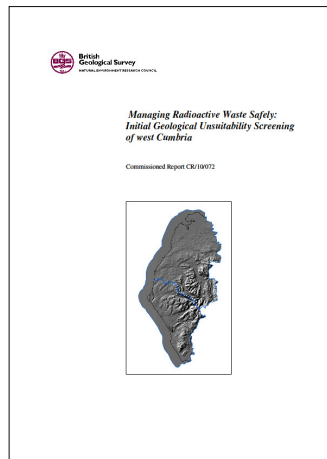
### Safety and Security

• No facility will be built unless it can meet the **demanding safety case** requirements of the independent statutory regulators

# VOLUNTARISM AND PARTNERSHIP



## PURPOSE OF SUB SURFACE UNSUITABILITY TEST



- Broad brush regional assessment.
- Exclude areas based on criteria in White Paper.
- Geology based only.
- Desk-based study using existing knowledge only.
- Does not mean that areas which are not excluded are suitable.
- It does not determine where a facility might eventually be located.
- Detailed assessment using much more extensive criteria if a community chooses to progress further.

## FINAL MESSAGES



- This is a new process - **Voluntarism and partnership** the key drivers
- Involvement without commitment - '**right of withdrawal**' until construction stage
- **Staged process** – progress made in relatively small steps to ensure those involved feel comfortable before choosing to move on at each stage
- Collaborative process to ensure the project contributes to **community well-being**
- Discussion, engagement and rigorous site assessment **will take time**.



## 2. MRWS Partnership presentation:

# West Cumbria MRWS Partnership

[Managing Radioactive Waste Safely]




[westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://westcumbriamrws.org.uk)

westcumbria:mrws

# Why West Cumbria is involved

- AllerdaleBC, CopelandBC, CumbriaCC made expressions of interest
- Partly because a lot of the waste is already at Sellafield



[westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://westcumbriamrws.org.uk)

westcumbria:mrws

# The Partnership



- Partnership set up to involve a wide range of community interests
- The Partnership will advise the councils on whether they should decide to take part in the siting process, without commitment

[westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://westcumbriamrws.org.uk)

westcumbria:mrws

# Who is on the Partnership



[westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://westcumbriamrws.org.uk)

westcumbria:mrws

## What are we doing?



- Looking at the range of issues involved in taking part in the siting process
- Placing strong emphasis on involving the public
- Not deciding whether there should definitely be a repository here or where it might go

[westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://westcumbriamrws.org.uk)

westcumbria:mrws

FB1

## Key work areas



1. Safety, security and environment
2. Geology
3. Impacts / Community Benefits
4. Design and Engineering
5. Process
6. Public views

[westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://westcumbriamrws.org.uk)

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## What's happened so far

- A preliminary look at a number of issues
- Carried out first stage of Public and Stakeholder Engagement programme
- Adapted our work programme to reflect comments so far
- [westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://westcumbriamrws.org.uk) Geological screening



westcumbria:mrws

## What happens next?

Share results of BGS study + seek views

- Community Events
- Discussion pack & DVD
- Newsletters
- Newspapers, radio
- [westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://westcumbriamrws.org.uk)
- Email updates



[westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://westcumbriamrws.org.uk)

westcumbria:mrws

## 1 - Taking account of public views?

Two main suggestions:

1. Net support from West Cumbrian public:  
*“if more support than oppose – then we continue to be involved in the process”*
2. Broad support:  
*“balance of evidence/argument”*

→ *Your questions?*

[westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://westcumbriamrws.org.uk)

westcumbria:mrws

## 2 - Impacts and Community Benefits

Would be impacts, both good and bad

Additional ‘community benefits’ are available

1. Any impacts we’re missing?
2. The idea of community benefit
3. What kinds of community benefits?

→ *Your questions?*

[westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://westcumbriamrws.org.uk)

westcumbria:mrws

### 3 - Community Involvement in the Siting Process

Siting process, even if it starts, is long

Communities need to be involved

1. How should communities be involved?
2. What other than geology should be considered in choosing a site, if it continues?



*Your questions?*

[westcumbriamrws.org.uk](http://westcumbriamrws.org.uk)

westcumbria:mrws



## Your comments and chance to enter the prize draw

### Topic 1: How public and stakeholder views will inform our work

**Question 1:** What do you think about the indicators we have suggested? Please explain if you particularly agree or disagree with any of them.

**Question 2:** Are there any other indicators that you think should be considered to judge how well we have used public views in making our final recommendations?

**QUIZ QUESTION:** What type of waste would go into a geological disposal facility?

- a. Very low activity radioactive waste
- b. Low activity radioactive waste
- c. Higher activity radioactive waste

### Topic 2: Impacts and community benefits

**Question 3:** Are there any impacts that you feel strongly about or that you think we have missed? Please explain:

**Question 4:** What do you think about receiving community benefits for having this kind of facility in West Cumbria?

**Question 5:** What kinds of benefits would you want us to have in mind in our discussions with the Government?

**QUIZ QUESTION:** Please name three members of the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

### Topic 3: Involving communities around potential sites

**Question 6:** What needs to happen to involve the community if the process to find a potential site in West Cumbria continues?

**Question 7:** What kinds of things other than geological suitability should be considered when looking for a potential site, if the process continues?

**QUIZ QUESTION:** What was the name of the independent committee that recommended geological disposal as the best option for the long-term management of higher activity radioactive waste?

- a. The Committee on Radioactive Waste Management
- b. The Committee on Managing Radioactive Waste
- c. The Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Committee

**Other comments:**

### Contact details (optional):

**Please let us have your contact details if you wish to enter the prize draw and/or receive updates on this work - tick options below as appropriate.**

We will not publish your name or contact details alongside your responses.

- Please keep my details for the purpose of entering the quiz prize draw.
- Please keep my details so I can be kept informed of the work of the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone no.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Postcode:** \_\_\_\_\_

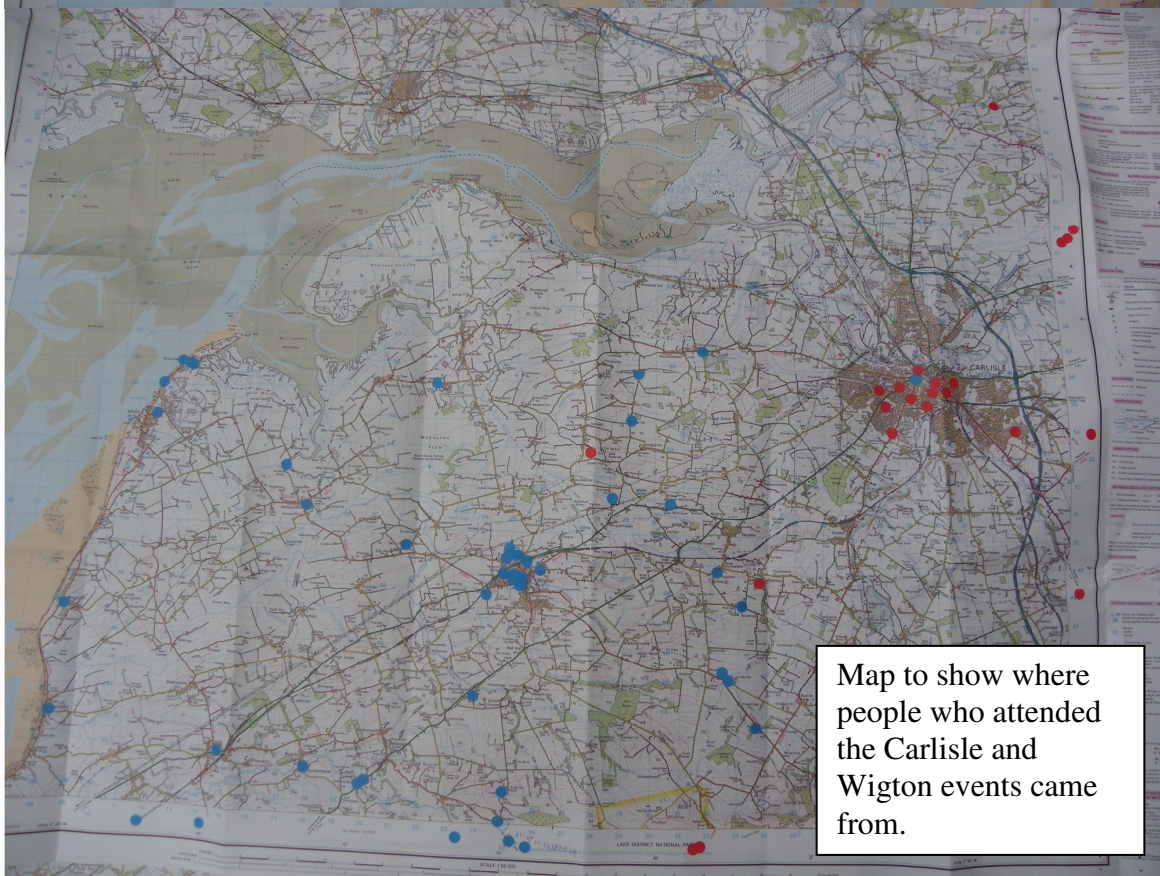
If you prefer to receive updates by post, please also provide your address below:

Please hand your completed form to a member of staff. If you have answered the quiz questions correctly you will be entered into the prize draw. The draw will take place on **Monday 6th December 2010.**



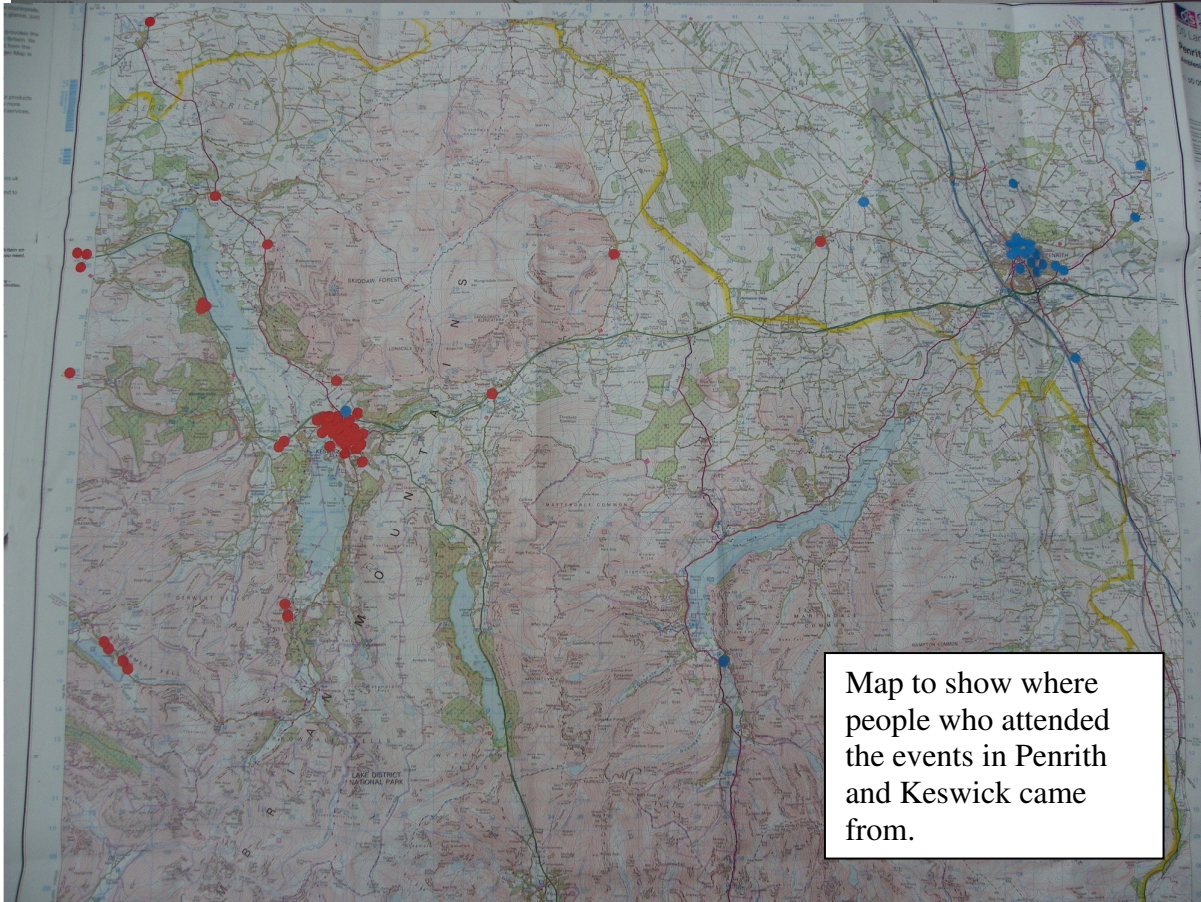
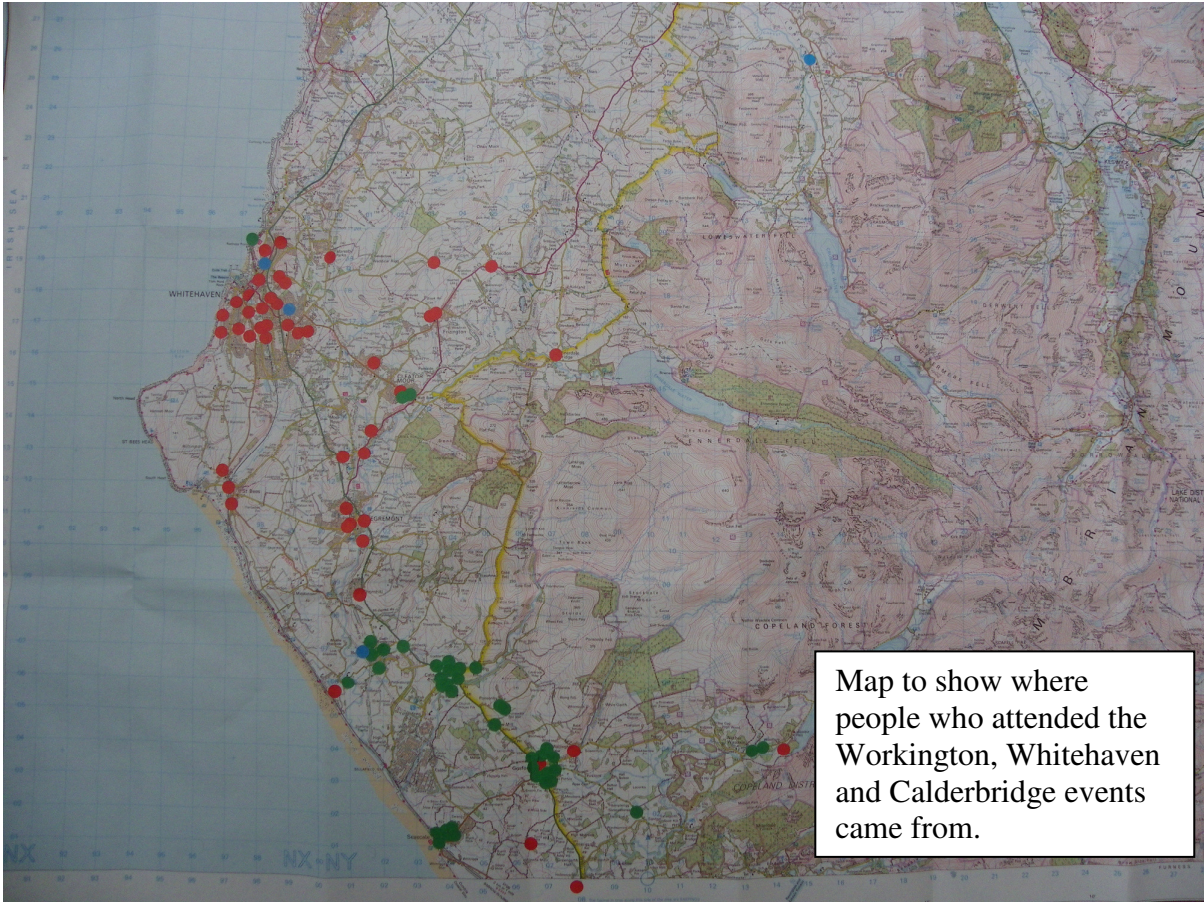


Map to show where people who attended the Millom and Barrow events came from.

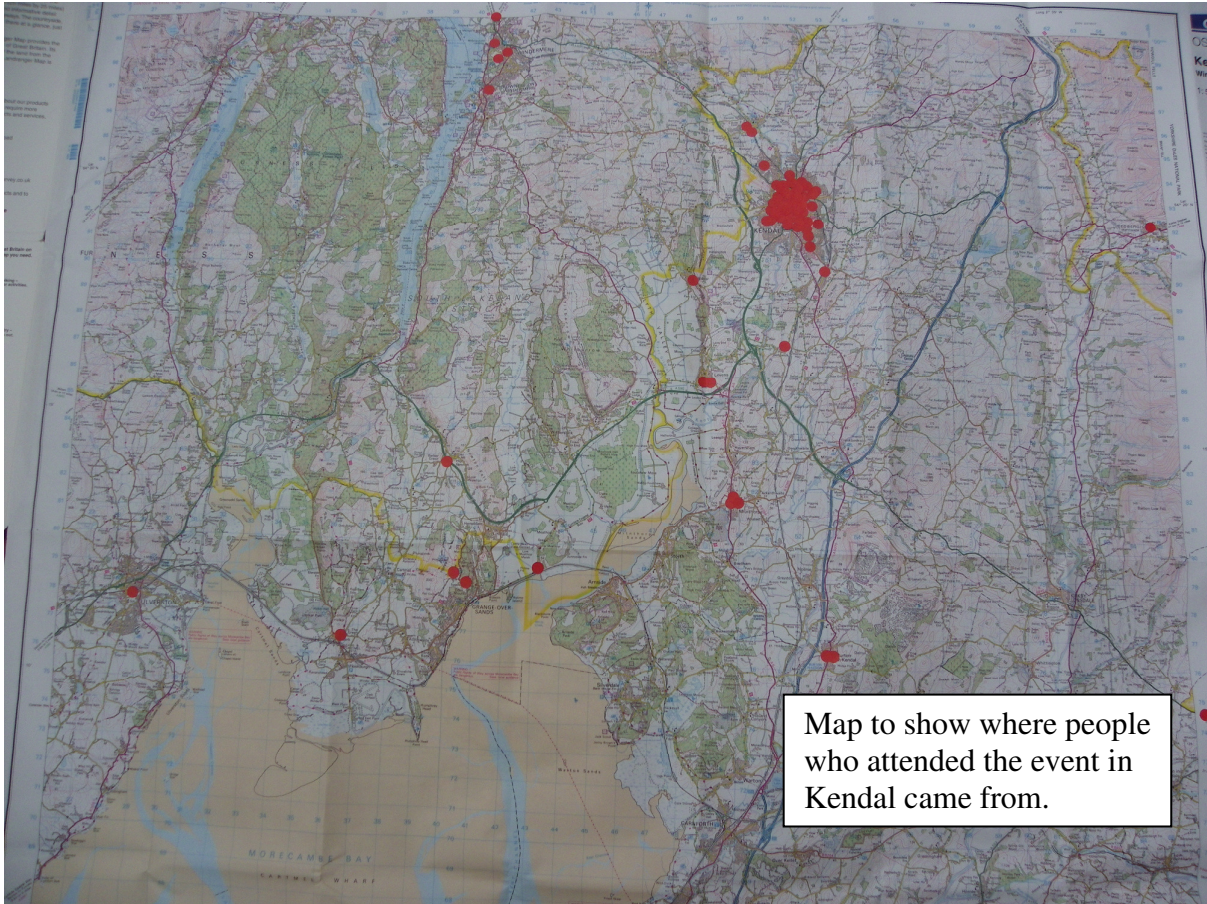


Map to show where people who attended the Carlisle and Wigton events came from.









ENDS