

# Connect

THE NEWSLETTER FOR AWE'S NEIGHBOURS **SPRING 2025**

## Welcome to the latest edition of Connect

It's been a while since you heard from us, and we have plenty to share with you.

With a new CEO, new branding, new buildings (and saying goodbye to old ones), record-breaking engagement with schools, a new charity partner, and a public exhibition opening in West Berkshire Museum, 2024 was quite the year in AWE's history. Read on to find out what else is new, and what's coming up in 2025 – which happens to mark 75 years since our story began in Aldermaston.

The eagle-eyed reader may notice we've slimmed down this paper version of *Connect* since the previous edition. As well as protecting the UK through the work we do, we want to protect our environment. Thanks to this change, we've reduced the paper used for *Connect* by more than half. But it's important to us that we keep in touch with you, our neighbours.

That's why, in addition to this short update in your hand, we're introducing a QR code to take you to an extended update on our website. All you need to do is point your phone camera at the QR code on the back page, making sure it's in focus. Then once scanned, a link will pop up for you to click on.

# Who we are

AWE's purpose is to protect the UK through nuclear science and technology. The UK Government has a policy to maintain a continuous at-sea deterrent, discouraging the most severe threats to our nation.

We're immensely proud of how we contribute to national security, through developing, manufacturing and maintaining the warheads for the nuclear deterrent, as well as providing our unique skills and expertise to support counter-terrorism and nuclear threat reduction.

Since 2021, AWE has been a non-departmental public body, owned by the Ministry of Defence.



# We are safe and secure

Under instruction of the Ministry of Defence, AWE is responsible for operating its sites safely and securely.

Being safe and secure runs deeply through our entire organisation. From an uneven path to a spillage in the canteen, every member of our team knows they are accountable for reporting even the most minor of concerns, and how to do this.

As a local resident, you may be aware of the Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations (more commonly known as REPPiR). Like all nuclear-licensed sites, AWE is subject to these regulations. They require us to have a plan in place to respond to any radiation emergency on our sites.

An online version of our REPPiR booklet is available via the QR code on the back page – it explains how you would be alerted, actions to take, and contains a map of the emergency planning zones. This information is also available on the West Berkshire Council website: [www.westberks.gov.uk/awe](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/awe)

# Your feedback from our public drop-in sessions

Towards the end of last year, we met more than 300 local people through our six in-person community events and two webinars.

This is the first time in our recent history that we have done this and is part of a new, more transparent approach to tell people about AWE, the work we do, and the significant infrastructure investment being made in our facilities.

We enjoyed meeting everyone who joined us, and thanks to those who also

filled out our survey. You told us you want to know more about the work we do and would value our support with community and environmental projects. There were also discussions around potential impacts for local people from future investment plans – particularly traffic.

You can find the link to read our summary by scanning the QR code on the back page.

Keep your eyes peeled for information on more drop-in sessions later this year.



## Our new look

As you've probably noticed, we have a new brand! In 2023, research gave us some clear insights. Our brand was either unknown or misunderstood, and this sometimes detracted from the important work we do.

A fresh, simple and modern look will help make us more recognisable, increasing awareness and understanding of AWE and the critical work we do to support national security. This will enable us to connect with a wider pool of people and partners to help us deliver a secure future for all.



# Scan the QR code to explore our extended version of Connect



## **This includes:**

- What to do in the unlikely event of an emergency at an AWE site
- Busting some of the myths about AWE
- Our 2023-24 Environmental, Social and Governance Report
- How we reached 60,000 students in the last academic year, delivering £3.4 million in social value
- Our new exhibition at West Berkshire Museum (open until December 2025)
- Our new charity partner, Parents and Children Together (PACT)
- More on how we're supporting our people and communities
- The latest career opportunities at AWE

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