

Minutes of 112 AWE Local Liaison Committee Meeting

Thursday 6 November 2025

Aldermaston

Present:

Ian Rogers	Chair, Chief Nuclear Officer and Executive Director Assurance, AWE
Cllr Philip Bassil	Brimpton Parish
Cllr Mike Bound	Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Cllr Graham Bridgman	Stratfield Mortimer Parish Council
Cllr Avril Burdett	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Jonathan Chishick	Tidmarsh with Sulham Parish Council
Cllr Colin Cooper	Baughurst Parish Council
Cllr Sophie Crawford	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Stephen Hoskins	Ashford Hill with Headley Parish
Cllr Mark Keeping	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Paul Lawrence	Burghfield Parish
Cllr David Leeks	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Clive Littlewood	Holy Brook Parish Council
Cllr George McGarvie	Pamber Parish Council
Cllr Clarence Mitchell	Reading Borough Council
Cllr Ian Montgomery	Shinfield Parish Council
Cllr Brenda Muir Kerr	Pangbourne Parish Council
Cllr Susan Mullan	Tadley Town Council
Cllr Vicky Poole	West Berkshire Council
Cllr John Seto	Theale Parish Council
Cllr David Shirt	Aldermaston Parish Council
Cllr Jo Slimin	Basingstoke and Deane Council
Cllr Simon Taylor	Swallowfield Parish Council
Cllr Jim Thompson	Wokefield Parish Council
Cllr Rob Wallace	Purley on Thames Council
Cllr Paul Woodley	Wasing Parish Council
Cllr Diane Woodward	Sulhamstead Parish Council

Estate Planning and Development Lead	AWE
Head of Delivery – Safety and Health	AWE
Head of Environment	AWE
Head of Security	AWE
Head of Workforce Planning	AWE
Manager Site Response Group	AWE
Responsible Business Manager	AWE
Responsible Business Specialist	AWE
Senior Responsible Business Manager	AWE
Site Director	AWE
Superintendent	Ministry of Defence Police

Regulators:

Rob Green	Environment Agency
Karl Pallester	Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator
Gareth Lock	Office for Nuclear Regulation
Toby Forster	Office for Nuclear Regulation

Local Authority:

Carolyn Richardson	West Berkshire Council
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Introduction:

Ian Rogers, Chair, welcomed members to the 112 LLC meeting.

Membership changes

- Stephen Hoskins is the new representative of Ashford Hill with Headley Parish Council
- Paul Lawrence from Burghfield Parish Council is the new LLC representative
- Brenda Kerr Muir from Pangbourne Parish Council replaces Suzie Ferguson as the new LLC representative
- Rob Wallace from Purley on Thames Parish Council replaces Jane Langford
- Diane Woodward is the new LLC representative for Sulhamstead Parish Council

- John Seto has been re-appointed as Theale Parish Council representative
- Andrew Hyde replaces Penee Chopping as Ufton Nervet Parish Council representative
- Mark Keeping and Clarence Mitchell have both been reappointed as Reading Borough Council representatives
- Mike Bound and Jo Slimin reappointed as Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council representatives

Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Cllr Lyndon Austin	Silchester Parish Council
Cllr Adrian Betteridge	Wokingham Borough Council
Cllr Dominic Boeck	West Berkshire Council
Cllr Kevin Cross	Mortimer West End Parish Council
Cllr Robert Jones	Padworth Parish Council
Cllr Andrew Hyde	Ufton Nervet Parish Council

Approval of 111 LLC minutes

Questions arising from 111th LLC minutes

Cllr Sophie Crawford: on page 10 of the minutes, this does not completely capture the conversation. Can the minutes be amended to include the West Berkshire Council response.

Chris Daniels: We will double check this and see if we have missed anything for the next meeting. [NOTE: 111 LLC minutes have been amended and updated on the website].

Actions from 111 LLC Meeting

**Action 111/01: Ian Rogers proposed to close action 110/02 as investigation is currently underway and made a commitment to share learning from the Barrow fire when it becomes available.
Barrow is not able to currently share this information.
Closed**

**Action 111/02: AWE to share results of six-month review of shuttle bus service at 112 LLC
This as part of the Development update in the 112 LLC
Closed**

**Action 111/03: AWE to provide an answer to Vicky Poole's question on 'text to voice' system for landlines
This is part of the Emergency response update in the 112 LLC
Closed**

Action 111/04: How do West Berkshire follow up on conditions of planning applications to be a specific agenda item for 112 LLC

After review, this is the responsibility of West Berkshire District Council and any queries or concerns should be followed up directly with them. This is a separate part of West Berkshire District Council to Emergency Response that Carolyn Richardson represents at LLC meetings.

Closed

Action: 111/05 to investigate light pollution and mitigation in the local area.

AWE sites maintain perimeter lighting for security purposes but also to make the fence line visible for the safety of any passers-by.

- Buildings inside the perimeter run on minimal lighting outside of core business hours.
- Street light sensors make the lights turn on at dusk and off at dawn.
- Our external lighting is directed to reduce light pollution.

AWE received a recent community concern from a Burghfield resident about new lighting. AWE made sure that it was redirected away from the property.

Closed

Action 111/06: AWE to provide a future skills and workforce update at 112 LLC.

This is part of the Strategic and Future Skills update in the 112 LLC

Closed

Action 111/07: AWE to share the environmental monitoring programmes that it undertakes at its sites.

This is part of the SHEQ update in the 112 LLC

Closed

Action 111/08: Rob Green to provide an update at the next LLC as to whether there has been a change in methodology for capturing the estimate gamma radiation dose at AWE sites.

Rob Green, Environment Agency: There has not been a change in methodology for capturing the estimate gamma radiation dose. It is a statistical issue, not an issue relating to an increased hazard on site.

Closed

Action: 111/09: AWE to provide update at November LLC meeting on discharges going into waterways

This is part of the SHEQ update in the 112 LLC

Closed

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

Provide information at the next LLC as part of the agenda.

Closed

Action 111/11: Chair to explore possible options for revising the format of future AWE LLC meetings.

AWE to investigate the format that other companies use to understand options.

Closed

Questions arising:

Cllr Graham Bridgman: Can the process for a large group of visitors requiring access to the site as part of the LLC be looked at as in the past it has been a much smoother process?

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

Chair's Update**Organisation update including site operations****1. ONR findings into The Hub construction fatality**

The Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) announced its investigation findings following the fatality in The Hub construction enclave on its Aldermaston site on 6 July 2023.

The ONR has confirmed that AWE plc will not be recommended for prosecution in this matter. Action will be taken by the ONR against Balfour Beatty Group Limited for alleged health and safety breaches.

2. Secretary of State visit

On Thursday 19 June, AWE Aldermaston hosted the Rt Hon John Healey, the UK Secretary of State for Defence, alongside our local MP, representatives from the Ministry of Defence (MOD), and the Defence Nuclear Organisation (DNO). This visit was a unique opportunity to showcase the cutting-edge science and technology AWE is known for and the crucial role it plays in keeping the country safe.

AWE also welcomed national and regional media, marking the first time in over 10 years that journalists have been invited on site.

3. £15 billion investment to renew the nuclear deterrent

The Secretary of State visit came as the government confirmed a £15 billion investment in this parliament into the renewal of the UK's sovereign nuclear warhead - confirmed through the recent Strategic Defence Review - to keep the British people safe while supporting almost 10,000 UK jobs.

4. Three AWE colleagues named in King's honours

Three AWE colleagues were named in the King's Birthday Honours list which recognises the service and achievements of people across the UK.

1. Professor Andrew Randewich CBE (for Services to Defence)
2. John Whitaker OBE (for Services to Defence)
3. Giles Hartill MBE (for Services to Engineering)

This prestigious recognition reflects the significant contribution that Andrew, John and Giles have made in their service to the strategic and national defence of the UK.

5. Text Alert Services (National)

On 7 September 2025, at approximately 15:00, the UK Government undertook the second national test of the **National Emergency Alert system**. More information on September's alarm testing is available on the Government's website. Previously, alarm testing took place on 23 April 2023.

The system is designed to provide an alert to relevant areas of the UK on a range of events which may pose a risk or harm to that area – such examples include severe flooding, fires, extreme weather.

This phone alert test was a standalone test and has no connection with the AWE community text alert capability which is a separate system.

The AWE Text Alert system will provide an emergency alert text message to local residents who register for the service. It will be used in the unlikely event of an emergency at Aldermaston or Burghfield which has the potential to affect the surrounding Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ).

6. Site Parking

In addition to the issues addressed as Community Concerns, AWE continues to monitor, and respond to, any queries from local residents regarding parking. Teams, including roads and grounds, work hard to manage access and exit of site traffic and on-site parking. Reminders are issued via the internal communications portal and other channels.

7. Partnering for National Defence Report

AWE published its Partnering for National Defence 2025/26 report, providing insight into its strategic partnerships with industry, academia and other sectors – and why they matter to its mission in national defence and its role in protecting the UK.

[AWE publishes Partnering for National Defence 2025/26 report – AWE](#)

Questions since the last meeting:

Cllr Sophie Crawford asked why there seemed to be an increase in unusual activity around the site (May 2025) with a large emergency vehicle presence.

There had been an AWE site exercise that all LLC members were emailed about in advance.

Cllr Sophie Crawford informed us that she and other individuals in Aldermaston Parish didn't appear to be receiving the residents' letter, AWE/WBDC text alerts or Connect magazine

Response sent from West Berkshire District Council:

The distribution list did include the post codes referred to. The delivery agreement was with the Royal Mail therefore cannot confirm house by house if they were delivered. There is the possibility the letters were seen as junk mail. If the residents would like us to send a letter to them then if you could send on their full address details we shall arrange for this to happen. Alternatively, they can review the details and how to register on the West Berkshire Councils website: [AWE Text Alert - West Berkshire Council](#).

Cllr Sophie Crawford asked if AWE was involved in a loud bang that sounded like an explosion around the Aldermaston area.

The noise was not linked to any activity at AWE. Instead, an unexploded tank shell was found in Theale. Thames Valley Police and the local authorities made the decision for a controlled detonation in the grounds of Aldermaston Manor House.

Cllr Sophie Crawford – requested for Nicholas Alexander Emergency Planning and OSEP to attend 112 LLC.

Unfortunately, not able to attend 112 LLC. However, Gareth Lock from the ONR is here today and can take any questions if they arise.

Cllr Sophie Crawford asked about a rumour from several sources that Aldermaston Manor House is being bought by the MOD or AWE.

We do not have a formal position on Aldermaston Park.

Cllr Avril Burdett – complaint from the residents of Plantation Road, Tadley which runs parallel to the A340 which runs parallel to West Gate as contractors are parking their vehicles in the road and then walking to AWE. When asked by residents, they were told that there was not enough parking for them on site. Few of these houses have their own driveways and are then left with nowhere to park.

This was covered in the chair's comment.

Community Update

Responsible Business Manager

Responsible Business Specialist

Data for the school academic year August 2024 to July 2025 shows that AWE reached 52,123 young people across 277 schools with many schools having multiple visits throughout the year. AWE works primarily with schools in a 20 mile radius of Aldermaston. Financial year April 2024 – March 2025 social value impact is over £6million.

AWE has around 400 STEM Ambassadors who support with delivery of school engagement sessions. AWE's current offer for primary schools includes: sponsorship of the Queen Mary's College Basingstoke, presentations, guest speakers and STEM workshops. In secondary schools, AWE offers careers fairs, presentations, career talks, guest speakers and mock interviews.

As part of the AWE 75 Anniversary celebrations, local primary school students were challenged to draw what they thought a scientist or engineer may look like in 75 years time. AWE received over 800 entries from students. The winning student from Brimpton Primary School received a Royal Institution Science show for their whole school.

Data for August 2024 to July 2025, AWE employees have delivered 1,150 volunteering activities in local communities, meaning that it has over doubled the number of volunteering hours used from 2023 to 2024.

AWE organises an annual Give a Gift collection. Each year it collects for a variety of local charities including our charity partner PACT. Last year, A member of the Executive Team and their leadership team visited PACT to help women supported by the charity to choose and wrap gifts for their children. For many of those women, it was the first time they were able to select a gift for their children. This year AWE will also be collecting for West Berkshire Food Bank, Hampshire Hospitals charity and SWAT.

The partnership has been in place since October 2024. During this time, AWE employees have raised over £27,501.56 for its corporate charity partner PACT through employee donations, which has enabled 44 families to go through the Supporting Families programme.

The year long installation at West Berkshire Museum to celebrate the 75 anniversary of AWE has seen over 7,800 visitors to its free exhibit on the history of AWE. Alongside this exhibition, AWE delivered a free primary school STEM Day to 180 local students from five primary schools, providing opportunities for students to engage in hands-on workshops linked to science, technology, engineering and maths.

AWE's recent Connect magazine has had 625 views through its QR code.

Questions arising:

Cllr Vicky Poole: How many of these activities have been for students not in education or special needs schools?

Responsible Business Specialist: AWE work with a number of primary and secondary schools with specialist provision units to deliver STEM sessions.

Cllr George McGarvie: Does AWE support tax efficient giving, salary sacrifice or Gift Aid?

Responsible Business Manager: Gift is individual, so when people donate they have the opportunity to add Gift Aid.

Cllr George McGarvie: What are you doing to continue driving an increase of employees using their volunteering time?

Senior Responsible Business Specialist: AWE is continuing to promote volunteering opportunities with its employees.

AWE Development Update

Estate Planning and Development Lead

Only one planning appeal occurred with the description of proposed development as *land east of Hayes Drive and north of Church Lane in Three Mile Cross for 148 dwellings, with associated infrastructure including public open space, with only access to be considered.*

The Secretary of State called in the appeal. The Secretary of State agreed with the Planning Inspector in refusing the appeal citing in his decision (dated 22 September 2025):

“..the adverse impacts of granting permission, including the unacceptable risk to the future capability and capacity of AWE Burghfield to operate effectively and the implications for national security, would significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits when assessed against policies in the Framework taken as a whole, ...”

Appeal Decision, Secretary of State

Appeal [Reference: APP/X0360/W/24/3354607](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/app-x0360-w-24-3354607)

The Aldermaston shuttle bus service from Aldermaston train station to AWE Aldermaston trial has ended and from September 2025, it has become a permanent service for AWE employees with an average of 65 employees using it weekly. AWE has added an additional early morning shuttle bus service and is investigating the feasibility of extending this service.

Questions arising:

Cllr Colin Cooper: What do you mean by ‘a great weight given to ONR (Office for Nuclear Regulation) witnesses professional views that the Off Site Emergency Plan (OSEP) is under pressure’?

Estate Planning and Development Lead: This means that a greater weight was taken from the professional regulator for the country (Office for Nuclear Regulation – ONR) and their independent assessment as opposed to the evidence presented by the developer.

Cllr Rob Wallace: We don't understand the part in the statement 'the Off Site Emergency Plan is under pressure'.

Ian Rogers: The law requires that arrangements must be put in place to protect the public in the unlikely event of a radiation emergency from this site. There are two parts to that: the duty placed upon the operator AWE and the local authority has various duties; including to put in place an adequate Off Site Emergency Plan (OSEP). Over the years, there has been increased housing built within the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ). West Berkshire District Council have objected to planning applications because of the pressure they may put on their ability to maintain an adequate Off Site Emergency Plan. Office for Nuclear Regulation will also object to increasing the population within the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone if it has the potential to negatively impact the Off Site Emergency Plan.

AWE SHEQ Update

Head of Delivery – Safety and Health

In the last twelve months, 28 individuals sustained work-related injuries (September 2024 – September 2025). 17 were AWE employees, 11 were contracted staff on AWE sites. 20 required more than one day away from work to recover, resulting in 321 days lost.

AWE's OSHA rate continues to be below its target of 0.3 of 200,000 hours worked. In the last six months, there has been a number of individuals traversing the site resulting in ankle injuries including fractures and torn ligaments. Each incident is investigated to see if additional safety measure can be put in place.

There have been two Process Safety Loss of Control / Containment events between 1 March 2025 – 30 September 2025. One related to a maintenance check on a pressure system where the alarm was alarming outside of its tolerance. The second was associated with the failure of a chuck during a lifting operation. Both have been investigated and actions put in place.

AWE continues to roll out process safety across the business to prevent high consequence low frequency events.

AWE has slightly dropped on diversion from landfill from 99% to 98.8%.

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

Head of Environment

AWE has two ecologists who are responsible for maintaining and enhancing the biodiversity of its sites. AWE currently has peregrine falcons, great crested newts, badger setts, bat roosts, house martins, woodlark nests as well as reduced mow areas to support pollinators and ancient oaks.

AWE completes annual bird surveys, biennial surveys of great crested newt population counts and reptile population counts.

AWE makes sure that, where possible, site operations are carried out in so as to minimize impacts on biodiversity, for example ground nesting birds (woodlark being a recent example).

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

There are seven permitted surface water discharges at AWE Aldermaston. These are permitted, monitored and approved by the Environmental Agency. Surface water discharge largely consists of surface drainage from rainfall.

AWE has a trade effluent network on site, discharges are collected at the on-site effluent plant. AWE is not a heavy user of chemicals and chemical processes. It has a consent through Thames Water to discharge effluent trade into the foul network. AWE collates, monitors and then discharges any material that goes into the trade effluent plant. It is also monitored as it leaves site. AWE Burghfield has eight consents for discharge of surface water in the same way as AWE Aldermaston. AWE Burghfield has its own sewage treatment system before discharging to the brook. These points are also monitored.

Cllr Graham Wright: On the way that you dispose of the effluent, is the release into Silchester sewage works flow controlled?

Head of Environment: Yes, we can control the release of flow for monitoring purposes.

AWE Strategic and Future Workforce Update

Head of Workforce Planning

AWE currently has approximately 9,600 employees. Over the next eighteen months to two years, that may rise to a maximum of 10,000. There has been a significant investment in recruitment for early careers including apprenticeships, graduates and a year in industry. Around 1,000 of AWE 's current workforce are within early careers employment, with many of these coming from the local area. Approximately 1,000 employees are moving to an alternative location in Reading, Berkshire which will relieve some of the activity on site.

Approximately half of the current employees have the ability to hybrid work or work from home, but this does depend on the work they are doing. Around 100 employees work internationally with partners and approximately 250 employees working nationally with industry, academia and partnerships that AWE has across the UK.

Questions arising:

Cllr Jo Slimin: Does that include contractors?

Head of Workforce Planning: Those figures are AWE's employees only.

Cllr Ian Montgomery: How many apprentices did you take on this year?

Head of Environment: It was approximately 90 apprentices.

AWE Estates and Liabilities Update

Site Director

Since 111 LLC in April 2025, AWE has received 12 calls to its community concerns line – only two were related to AWE regarding parking and construction on its sites.

The issue raised was in relation to people parking in local streets. There has been an increase in traffic due to increased employee numbers and increased contractors as part of AWE's infrastructure projects. There have been multiple communications with current workforce, asking them not to park in the local vicinity and to respect site gate opening times so as not to cause congestion in the local area.

In terms of building contractors, there are arrangements in place for vehicle sharing to minimise the amount of traffic. AWE is also working with Human Resources to see if employees can stagger the times that they arrive at site. AWE is looking at a long-term Parking and Travel Strategy to include park and rides as well as looking at the feasibility of extending the shuttle bus service to other local train stations such as Mortimer and

Basingstoke. In the longer term, for larger capital projects, AWE will look at how to minimise lorry movements to and from AWE.

A concern was raised to AWE about lighting from the Burghfield site. AWE surveyed this area and subsequently moved some of the construction lighting.

AWE received a concern about construction work at the Blacknest site. There were concerns about the proximity of welfare units to neighbouring housing. These units were subsequently moved from the boundary.

There were also noise issues from an air conditioning unit. Initially, AWE tried to mitigate this with a new fence and sound barriers, but this was not effective. As a result, a new air conditioning system has been ordered, which will be located on the opposite side of the building to minimise the likelihood of noise.

The Women's Peace Camp continue to protest on every second weekend of each month. There are no additional known or planned events.

Questions arising:

Cllr Susan Mullan: Do you have any incentive for car sharing?

Site Director: People who car share are able to park in priority spaces before a certain cut off time.

Cllr Avril Burdett: Recently we have had complaints about vehicles going through estates. A lot of our estates don't have driveways and so need to park on the road. There are issues with people trying to get children to school and having to move between parked cars as well as cars moving through residential roads at speed resulting in several near misses.

Site Director: We do send out regular messages to employees asking them to respect local residents and not to cut through residential roads.

Cllr Jim Thompson: Goring Lane between Burghfield Common and Grazeley Green is going to be closed to through traffic for nine months. The posted diversion will take people through the middle of Mortimer and past two schools. Are you aware of this?

Estate Planning and Development Lead: AWE has not currently been informed. AWE will contact West Berkshire Highways to see if it is a nine-month total closure or whether it is a rolling closure.

AWE / West Berkshire District Council Emergency Planning Update:

Manager Site Response Group - AWE

Carolyn Richardson - West Berkshire District Council (WBDC)

Plans:

AWE has been updating the On Site Emergency Plan, which is currently with the Regulators awaiting approval. The AWE Off Site Emergency Plan is in the final stages of revision by WBDC and is now progressing through the Council's governance procedures for final sign off, with an anticipated completion of December 2025. The first session of training on this new plan has already happened. The plan is currently OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE and will therefore not be released into the public domain. However, it has been recognised that the public would like access to some of this information as to how the responders will be responding should there be a nuclear emergency, therefore, a version of the plan is currently being created.

Alerting the Public

The text alert system which was launched in Jun 25 is now in place. So far 22,021 phones have been registered - approximately 11,500 for the Aldermaston site and 10,500 for the Burghfield site. Approximately 9,000 have registered for both.

Planning Applications

WBDC has received 118 planning applications over the last six months. At this moment in time, there are no appeals pending.

Review of DEPZ

WBDC is expecting the Consequences Report from AWE as part of the legislative requirement to review and determine the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone (DEPZ) which is expected on or before 19 November 2025. WBDC will then re-determine the DEPZ as necessary for both AWE sites as is routine every three years. The REPPIR legislation will be followed for this.

Questions were asked by Cllr Graham Bridgman and Cllr Simon Taylor as to the impact on any DEPZ redetermination with regard to planning applications on or near the boundary of the existing DEPZ.

Response: Carolyn Richardson advised that there are a number of variables in relation to this and the process set out in REPPIR 19 as to the considerations in relation to redeterminations. Therefore, it is not a simple answer. It may be that it would result in the DEPZ extending further but it is not a definite outcome with each application being considered on their own merits. Carolyn Richardson also advised that if the DEPZ changed then the Off-Site Emergency Plan (OSEP) would need to cover the new DEPZ. Noting however that already within the OSEP is the area known as Outline Planning Zone (OPZ) which is an area larger than the DEPZ for which outline emergency planning is in place within the OSEP.

Exercises

WBDC and AWE are currently preparing for Aldex 26, which is a three-yearly major exercise to test the Emergency Off-Site Plan. This will involve 27 different agencies and approximately 400 people will be involved. It will be over 2 days and involve a Level 1 (onsite) and Level 2 Off-Site element to it.

There have been two Level 1 (on site) exercises delivered – one at Aldermaston and one at Burghfield since the last LLC in April 2025. Both were assessed as 'adequate' by the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

AWE has delivered 48 in-house, local facility and site wide exercises outside of the Level 1 exercises since the last LLC in April 2025, with the current calendar year total at 60 exercises.

Activations:

Since the last 111 LLC in April 2025, there have been five activations of the Emergency Control Room at Aldermaston site and none at Burghfield. AWE has fielded 218 calls from site workers at Aldermaston and 46 at Burghfield. The majority of these calls were for automatic fire alarms and non-work related medical conditions.

WBDC has been informed of all five activations of the Emergency Control Room, with no potential consequences to outside of the site.

Questions arising:

Cllr Colin Cooper: 22,000 people have signed up for the AWE test alert system, with 9,000 of those registered for both sites. How many people have signed up?

Manager Site Response Group: It's approximately 13,000 people who have signed up.

Cllr Sophie Crawford: How many is that against the number of people who could sign up?

Carolyn Richardson: We will have to come back to you with an answer for that question.

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

Cllr Paul Lawrence: Will there be a public version of the Off Site Emergency Plan?

Carolyn Richardson: No because it is aimed at responders and is marked as OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE but as stated previously, we are creating a public plan to explain what the responders will be doing.

Cllr Stephen Hoskins: What is the validity of what there is already on the website?

Carolyn Richardson: Those documents and plans which are not on the WBDC or AWE website are not valid. The WBDC website is currently being updated.

Cllr Graham Bridgman: I know that there is an interactive map of the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone, but it is not a layer within the normal West Berkshire map. Why is this?

Carolyn Richardson: We will engage with the GIS team to investigate this.

Cllr Sophie Crawford: There seems to be inconsistency with planning applications and commercial units, where an 'informative' was used rather than a condition.

Carolyn Richardson: I am aware of the questions relating to this that have been sent to me and I have referred these to the Planning Service to discuss with Aldermaston Parish Council at one of their routine meetings.

Cllr Jo Slimin: The Off-Site Emergency Plan is important for school governors who have to look at Emergency Plans for schools. It is quite difficult to tell them what to put in if we don't know exactly what it is that we are supposed to do.

Carolyn Richardson: The Off Site Planning Group have been working with schools and their plans.

Office for Nuclear Regulation

Gareth Lock

Reporting period 1 April 2025 to 30 September 2025

Routine matters

Inspections:

Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) has completed 7 inspections in the reporting period which reflects the move of AWE to Routine Attention. All ONR inspections are risk informed, so the inspections target high risk areas. These inspections include: management of operations including control and supervision, training, qualifications, fire safety, emergency preparedness. All evidence gathered by ONR supports the decision of AWE moving to Routine Attention.

Other work:

ONR have regular updates with all the safety representatives within operational processing areas.

AWE has initiated its new Business Unit operating model. ONR is satisfied that AWE provided adequate evidence to demonstrate its readiness to initiate the Business Units and will continue to monitor its implementation.

ONR continues to provide advice to local planning authorities on any planning applications for developments around nuclear sites. ONR will be part of the Level 1 and Level 2 AWE exercises next year.

The Emergency Preparedness and Response Team from ONR will deliver an inspection of West Berkshire District Council to assess the Off-Site Emergency Plan.

The exercise at Burghfield in October 2025 was rated 'green' by ONR.

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

Non-Routine matters

ONR's investigation into the Hub Construction Enclave fatality has finished and found that Balfour Beatty breached the Health and Safety at Work Act. This will now proceed through court.

In August the ONR closed an improvement notice issued to AWE after the company successfully addressed a safety concern at its Aldermaston site. The improvement notice required AWE to better plan, oversee and control activities in the Explosive Technology Centre. There was no risk to the public or the environment from this event.

Questions arising:

Cllr Vicky Poole: You commented that AWE has moved to different Business Units so what is the impact of that on the ONR and is there scope for improvement?

Ian Rogers: AWE is now designing, manufacturing and building a replacement warhead, so the restructure into business units has moved AWE from a campus environment into a manufacturing environment.

Gareth Lock: It doesn't affect how the ONR interacts with AWE. The only part that may change is how the ONR aligns itself with the new Business Units.

Cllr Paul Lawrence: When you test the plan, who assesses that?

Gareth Lock: The ONR, DNSR and EA assessor assess the on-site plan.

Environment Agency**Rob Green**

Reporting period 9 April 2025 to 17 October 2025

Over the reporting period, the Environment Agency (EA) has undertaken several compliance inspections at AWE. The first inspection completed during the period focused on laboratories and management of regulatory samples.

We also completed an inspection focussed arrangements within AWE for roles associated with Environmental Permit Compliance.

An additional inspection of the Old Waste Management Yard area of Aldermaston site was undertaken.

The EA also completed a compliance inspection at the main combustion facility at Aldermaston site.

The EA did not find any permit non-compliances during these inspections but we provided regulatory advice to AWE on potential improvement areas.

In addition to site-based inspections, we review data and information that AWE is required to submit to the us as part of its permit. We completed a compliance assessment activity in July 2025 following notification by AWE that an autosampler at the Aldermaston Site's Trade Effluent Treatment Plant (TETP) had been inoperable for an extended period. The autosampler's role is to ensure that AWE takes representative samples of low activity radioactive liquid effluent to support its process for discharging the effluent into the environment, via the public sewerage network.

The EA recorded 3 minor permit non-compliances, noting that the autosampler failure had no potential to impact on the environment, and required AWE to take appropriate remedial action. AWE has since replaced the autosampler. There were no radiological or other potential impacts on the environment.

The updated MoU that sets out working arrangements between the Environment Agency and ONR was published in July 2025 and is available on ONR's website.

The EA provided responses to the 'call for evidence' by the Nuclear Regulatory Taskforce, which has been tasked by the Government to undertake a review of civil and defence nuclear regulation in the UK. The Taskforce published its Interim Report on 11th August.

In April 2025, Dan Corry published his report: 'Delivering economic growth and nature recovery: an independent review of Defra's regulatory landscape'. The report puts forward 29 recommendations and the EA is assessing the impacts.

Following Jane Longman's retirement in June, Tim Fediw has now taken over Jane's role as Team Leader covering the AWE regulatory team. Darryl Messer has also replaced Chris Glaister as our Nuclear Waste Assessor covering AWE's nuclear sites.

Questions arising:

Cllr Mark Keeping: Is the autosampler failure for water? How long was it out of order and how was it picked up?

Rob Green: It samples the liquid effluent discharged from the Trade Effluent Treatment Plant. It was out of order for approximately six months. AWE informed the EA of the failed autosampler at the time. AWE did put in place mitigation measures, so it was still able to sample discharges before making them. Environmentally, there was no potential or actual impact from the autosampler being out of action.

Cllr Mark Keeping: The six months of the failed autosampler didn't result in six months of lost samples?

Rob Green: Within a period, there will be a number of discharges made. AWE will then collate this information and report to us. AWE put alternative measures in place to sample the effluent while the autosampler was out of action.

Cllr Mark Keeping: Is there an Examination, Maintenance, Inspection, Testing (EMIT) schedule that picked it up?

Rob Green: This was one of the shortfalls that we identified in our investigation.

Head of Environment: In terms of controls, AWE did not miss any of its monitoring. During the six months of the auto sampler failure, an alternative monitoring technique was used.

Cllr Ian Montgomery: AWE used to provide updates on low level and intermediate level waste management as part of the LLC. Is AWE still involved in this?

Ian Rogers: AWE does generate waste, however it has appropriate waste management arrangements in place that are monitored by the Regulators.

Rob Green: Radioactive waste management in all of its forms whether its gaseous, liquid or solid is a core part of what the EA regulates at the AWE nuclear sites.

Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator**Karl Pallester**

The Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR) is part of the Defence Safety Authority which sits under the Department of State within the Ministry of Defence. Changes in Defence during the period include a new Permanent Under Secretary (PUS) Jeremy Pocklington, 2 new ministerial appointments and the re-affirmation of John Healey as the Secretary of State for Defence and one of his first actions was to visit AWE.

The DNSR is not a statutory regulator. The DNSR is responsible to pick up where there are Disapplications, Exemptions or Derogations from Statute.

The DNSR Assurance Rating of AWE is currently MODERATE, which is the second highest rating. There are no Prohibition or Improvement notices that have been served on AWE by DNSR. There are 9 Corrective Action Requirements outstanding: There are 7 at Burghfield centred around safety cases, 1 on tooling and 1 at a corporate level. There is one Regulatory Hold Point at Burghfield, however the DNSR assessment for this has been completed and a letter releasing the hold point has been drafted.

Interventions:

May 2025: The DNSR places Regulatory Hold Point on the Explosives Business Unit as a result of a routine inspection. AWE made improvements in this area, a subsequent inspection was carried out and the Hold Point was released.

May 2025: The DNSR was part of the assessment team for the site exercise at Aldermaston.

July 2025: The DNSR was involved in the Annual Review of Environment, Safety and Security with AWE at board level.

August 2025: The DNSR has been working with AWE on its organisational changes alongside the ONR and EA to support moving from technology centres to business units.

September 2025: The DNSR received the Periodic Review of Safety for the assembly at Coulport Business Unit. This is currently being triaged by DNSR and ONR.

October 2025: The DNSR was part of the assessment team for the site exercise at Burghfield.

Questions arising:

Cllr Jim Thompson: How long did the Regulatory Hold Point last on the Explosives Business Unit? Did you come back for another inspection

Karl Pallester: Several months and yes, to ensure that all points noted had been addressed before releasing the Hold Point.

Ministry of Defence Police Update

Superintendent, AWE Group, Ministry of Defence Police

Police Constable

Police Constable

Project Servator Officer

Head of Security AWE

The Ministry of Defence Police (MDP) is a civilian police force that protects the UK's Defence community, capabilities and assets. Unlike territorial police forces, their jurisdiction and expertise are focused on protecting the critical infrastructure that underpins national security. This includes defence national infrastructure.

90% of MDP officers are Authorised Firearms Officers Counter Terrorism. They are a specialist armed police presence and are trained to national police firearms standards. MDP is a visible security presence within and beyond protected sites, including AWE to: provide immediate response capability, provide rapid response to incidents and deter potential threats through visible presence.

The MDP includes Police Dog Handlers who are specialist armed officers partnered with highly trained police dogs. They provide enhanced security capabilities across defence establishments and are a crucial component of the operational security framework.

There are two types of police dogs at AWE: specialist search dogs who are trained to find drugs, firearms cash and explosives as well as specially trained firearms support dogs.

In the communities around AWE sites, you are most likely to see Project Servator Officers. They are a specialist policing tactic team to disrupt criminal activity including terrorism. They create a network of vigilance with police, businesses and the public. They are disruptive offence trained and look for signs and behaviours that someone may not be telling the truth or is doing something that they shouldn't be.

The MDP work alongside other UK forces including: Hampshire Police, Thames Valley Police, British Transport Police or any police force that requests assistance. There are two main deployment types: a spontaneous incident and planned deployments. The aim of this is to enhance national policing capability.

The AWE MDP has changed the way that it is policing within local communities around AWE sites to be more proactive by being visible out in the community to make areas around AWE sites hostile to criminality in order to keep the site and surrounding areas safer.

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

Questions arising:

Cllr Jonathan Chishick: How long does it take to train a police dog and at what age would the dog be effective?

Police Constable: Approximately 8 weeks to train but they must have a ball drive. They are effective at approximately one year of age. Depending on the dog, they can have a working life of around ten years.

Cllr John Seto: Do you work with the Home Office or are you called upon to help with other operations?

Police Constable: Yes, we are asked if we are able to assist other police forces or operations.

Cllr Vicky Poole: When you are out in public and the dog starts presenting to you, what do you do?

Police Constable: If something serious is found, we contact the force for assistance.

Cllr Sophie Crawford: When you talk about 'hostiles' who specifically are you looking for?

Project Servator Officer: Essentially, we are here for terrorism and serious organised crime, but we do stop anyone that displays key behaviours and markers that may deter an incident.

Cllr Avril Burdett: There have been many films of convoys on social media recently. Is that something that bothers you?

Project Servator Officer: There is a media strategy within the Ministry of Defence Police that is handled by a specific team.

Cllr Clive Littlewood: Do you get called out to help other police forces?

Project Servator Officer: Yes. Project Servator is a national project and there are fifteen forces that have it. They are a national resource.

Cllr Graham Bridgman: What are your thoughts on 'stop and search' and how that can be used?

Project Servator Officer: It is a tool that needs to be used within the guidance and in the correct manner.

Superintendent: As a force, any 'stop and search' that happens anywhere in the country is then put through an assurance process. Every time a 'stop and search' happens by a MoD police officer, it is sent for an assurance check and to make sure that it is delivered within the confines of the law and without any prejudice.

Head of Security: From a site security perspective, those that come onto an AWE site give consent to be searched as part of their employment or as a visitor. They can be searched by the MDP but also by the guard force to ensure that the site is kept secure.

Cllr Clarence Mitchell: You mentioned liaising with other forces, does that include British Transport Police?

Superintendent: Yes. Recently, there were two MDP Officers who went to the Huntingdon incident to attend and carry out first aid.

Cllr Mike Bound: Would you ever use Thames Valley Police or Hampshire Police with AWE sites?

Superintendent: Yes, if we needed to use specialist capability that we did not have at one of our sites.

Cllr Diane Woodward: How long does it take to train to be in the MDP?

Superintendent: As a Specialist Firearms Officer, it takes 17 weeks of law training and then a further 9 weeks of firearms training. If you decide to do a specialism such as police dogs, this would incur additional training.

Cllr Jim Thompson: You said that you have the same powers as civil police, if you saw suspicious activity outside of the perimeter fences, would you stop them?

Superintendent: Yes, this may include drink driving, speeding or an accident. Anyone breaking the law, we are obliged to stop them.

Cllr Jo Slimin: How far out from AWE sites do you patrol?

Superintendent: It tends to be a 10 – 15 minute response time back to site.

Cllr George McGarvie: I would like to personally thank the MoD police for their service in the local area as I do believe that it does reduce crime considerably in the area by displacing it.

Any Other Business:

Cllr Avril Burdett: Traffic cutting through estates in Tadley with near misses of children at a school, traffic backing up near the Esso garage

Response given in the Estates and Liabilities Update

Cllr Jim Thompson: Update on the tender for renewable electricity for AWE Burghfield

Head of Environment: We are looking at purchase power arrangements for solar farms which would contribute towards AWE carbon reduction targets. This is still in progress.

Questions arising:

Cllr George McGarvie: Would AWE create car ports so that solar panels can be included?

Head of Environment: It's something that AWE has considered.

Cllr Mrk Keeping: You have a lot of buildings with flat roofs and spaced out buildings. Has any thought been given to including solar panels in roofs or between buildings?

Head of Environment: AWE has to consider maintenance, access and safety when considering this approach.

Cllr Avril Burdett / Cllr Vicky Poole: Circus Farm site update

Site Director: AWE has worked with West Berkshire District Council to put a temporary stop notice in place on the development site. AWE is also aware that there were some unauthorised connections to utilities which have subsequently been disconnected by Scottish & Southern Energy.

Cllr Sophie Crawford: A planning application has also been submitted for development on this site.

Cllr Stephen Hoskins: Does AWE check the state of roads around its site with a focus on the B3051?

AWE is not responsible for the maintenance of roads outside of its sites. If someone is concerned about the state of a road, they should contact the council or report it through:

West Berkshire Highways mapping tool [Map](#)

Hampshire Council reporting tool [Report a pothole | Transport and roads | Hampshire County Council](#)

Cllr Colin Cooper: I am aware that large developments accumulate a fund that would be used by the community surrounding that development to mitigate the effects over time. This is known as S106 money. Is this applicable for the current AWE developments?

Cllr Graham Bridgman: Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is not payable in West Berkshire.

Cllr Sophie Crawford: It's only payable on residential and retail in West Berkshire. Of the £15 billion investment, none will come our way.

Ian Rogers: There will be secondary benefits of the £15 billion investment including using local services as far as reasonably practicable.

Meeting closed

Date of Next meeting:

Thursday 30 April 2026