



Historic England

## Department for Energy, Security & Net Zero – ‘UK Policy Proposals for Managing Radioactive Substances and Nuclear Decommissioning Consultation’

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

Most of this consultation deals with the management of radioactive substances which falls outside our remit, but the section in Part II of the consultation on ‘records management’ and **Q8 ‘Do you have any suggestions for how this chapter on nuclear decommissioning could be improved? Please provide the reasoning behind your response’**, is of relevance. This is also appears as Q6 in Part I of the consultation.

Given the national and international significance of Britain’s nuclear industry and the pioneering role British scientists and engineers played in the development of this technology, historical records and their archiving are also of importance.

We are currently engaged with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) and EDF, alongside Historic Environment Scotland, Cadw, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, The National Archives, Museums, Archives, Libraries Division, Welsh Government, and The Science Museum Group in developing and implementing the NDA’s heritage strategy. This involves the recording of sites, selective retention of archives both at ‘Nucleus’ (the Nuclear and Caithness Archive), together with other suitable national and local locations, and the safeguarding of selective artefacts with The Science Museum Group and at other appropriate repositories.

In order to acknowledge this and for completeness, we therefore suggest the addition of a further paragraph after 9.45 in the policy framework perhaps along the following lines: ‘Records should also be archived for their historic interest and the NDA’s approach is set out in their heritage strategy (together with recording sites and the selective retention of artefacts)’.

We very much hope the NDA will publish their heritage strategy in a publicly accessible location in the very near future.

Shane Gould

Head of Industrial Heritage Strategy

23 May 2023

Historic England, The Engine House, Fire Fly Avenue, Swindon SN2 2EH  
Telephone 01793 44 5050 Facsimile 01793 41 4707

Please note that Historic England operates an access to information policy.  
Correspondence or information which you may send us may therefore become publicly available

