

The Nuclear Option

Radioactive Waste Disposal
on the Lincolnshire Coast

Impact on the Tourist and Wider Economy



Report October 2024

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List of abbreviations used

CP – Community Partnership
ELDC – East Lindsey District Council
FTE – Full Time Equivalent
GDF – Geological Disposal Facility
GOTEC – Guardians of the East Coast
LCC – Lincolnshire County Council
NIREX – Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive
NWS – Nuclear Waste Services
RWM – Radioactive Waste Management



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Introduction

The aim of this study is to understand the likely economic and social impacts of a nuclear waste Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) being built in Theddlethorpe.

Between 12th August and 31st August 2024, 1,100 face-to-face interviews with tourists were carried out along the Lincolnshire coastline, to ascertain whether the proximity of a GDF would impact their decision to visit the area.

The GDF is being promoted by Nuclear Waste Services (NWS), formerly Radioactive Waste Management (RWM), formerly NIREX, through a 12 member 'Community Partnership' which is ostensibly "reflective of the local community." Yet large-scale studies consistently show that 85% of the local community do not want a GDF in Theddlethorpe.



Guardians of the East Coast

GOTEC is a diverse, grassroots organisation committed to preserving the natural beauty and quality of life of Lincolnshire's coastline. United across all backgrounds and political allegiances, we stand against this massive and unnecessary industrialisation threatening valuable agricultural land, beautiful and wildlife-rich coast, and the wider Lincolnshire hinterland.

We recognise the profound impact this proposed development could have on the whole region's environment, and the vital tourism industry that sustains the already economically vulnerable seaside towns of Cleethorpes, Mablethorpe and Skegness. Our mission is to protect these irreplaceable landscapes for future generations, to ensure they remain a source of natural beauty, community pride, and economic vitality.

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Executive Summary

This report provides an understanding of the likely economic and social impacts of a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) being built at Theddlethorpe.

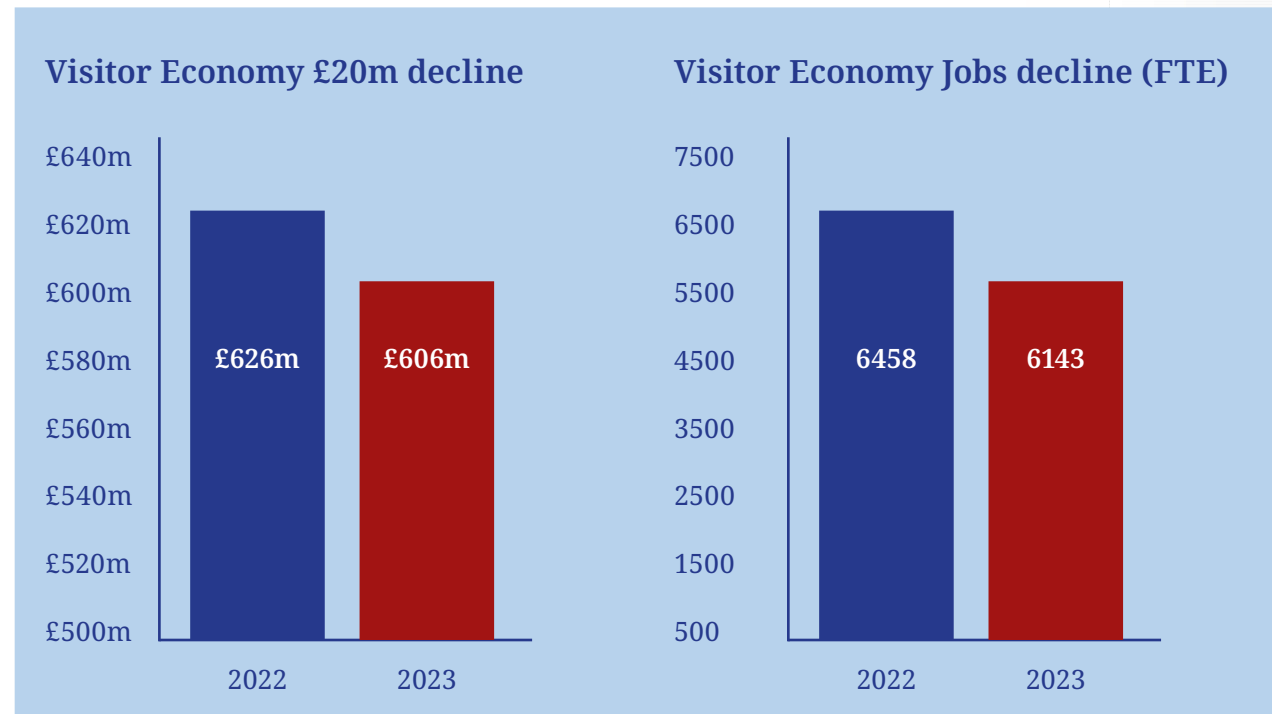
The former Theddlethorpe Gas Terminal (the site of the proposed GDF) is very close to Mablethorpe, a major east coast holiday and visitor destination.

The Lincolnshire coastal economy attracted 2.7m visitors in 2023 and supports over 8,000 jobs, full and part-time. (Appendix 10-6, 10-4) This survey gathers direct feedback from 1,100 visitors to Mablethorpe and Skegness completed in the middle of the holiday season (12-31 August 2024) to maximise input from visitors.

- 1,100 visitors to Mablethorpe, Sutton-on-Sea and Skegness were surveyed face-to-face. 83% of these stated that a GDF would impact their decision to visit.
- Any such decline in visitor numbers would be disastrous for the already parlous coastline economy. According to even the most conservative estimates, there could be an average annual loss of up to £245m. Up to 3,200 people could lose their jobs.
- During the GDF early construction phase (estimated at ten years), the economic impact would be -£2.5bn.
- Fifteen miles along the coast at Skegness, the impact of a GDF is still significant, with 64% of visitors stating they would not visit Skegness if a GDF were to be built at Mablethorpe.
- Even tendentious taxpayer funded NWS “engagements” with visitors suggest there would be considerable damage to the economy. One NWS survey of 56 visitors in July-August 2024 resulted in 23% stating that a GDF would impact their decision to visit. Another 2023 NWS survey reported that a GDF would impact the decision to visit for 16% of those polled.
- A 2016 report carried out by NWS’s predecessors RWM, Geological Disposal Generic Socio-economic Assessment December 2016, calculated the loss to the tourist economy over the lifetime of the project as £1.6bn (£2.1bn today – Appendix 10-14). The alleged offsetting effect of a promised visitor centre and projected business tourism is miniscule in comparison, at £145m (£210m today).

The Lincolnshire Coast Visitor Economy

The visitor economy is of huge importance to local authorities, as well as local people. A comparison of 2022 and 2023 figures reveal a worrying decline, even in the absence of a GDF.



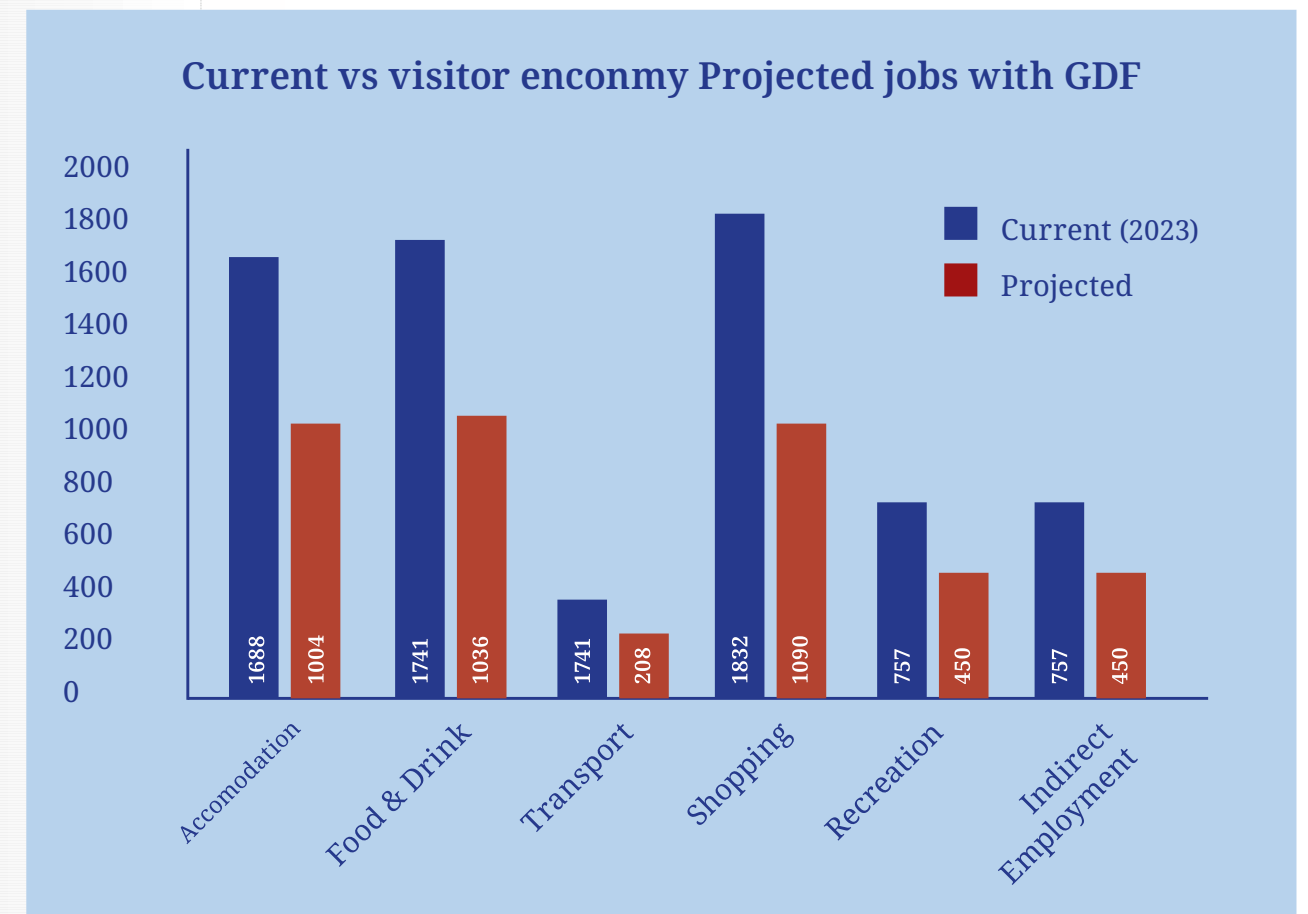
East Lindsey Coastal Strip STEAM Report 11/07/24 – Global Tourism Solutions

Source: East Lindsey District Council. See [https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/media/25408/East-Lindsey-Coast-STEAM-2015-2023/pdf?m=1723652027090](https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/media/25408/East-Lindsey-Coast-STEAM-2015-2023/pdf/East_Lindsey_Coast_STEAM_2015-2023.pdf?m=1723652027090) Accessed 19 September 2024

If, as even NWS figures reveal, a GDF would deter a substantial number of visitors, this picture will not improve. Instead of perpetuating the GDF project, LCC and ELDC could invest the resources and time they are currently expending on that into real-life initiatives to improve the visitor economy or experience.

Leaders and executives from LCC and ELDC have invested hundreds of hours and tens of thousands of pounds in meetings with NWS about a GDF. Meanwhile, Mablethorpe was ranked in 2024 as the worst seaside town in England by Which? (<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c4ng412evxno>)

The 2023 STEAM report on the Lincolnshire coastal strip shows a 3.2% economic decline year on year. It can be argued that both local authorities have taken their eye off the ball when it comes to tourism. Theddlethorpe residents have consistently expressed a view that the brownfield former gas terminal would be ideal for a visitor centre to access the Kings Nature Reserve, with additional land used for solar generation. A King's Nature Reserve Visitor Centre could have a bigger positive benefit to the economy than a Nuclear Waste Visitor Centre.

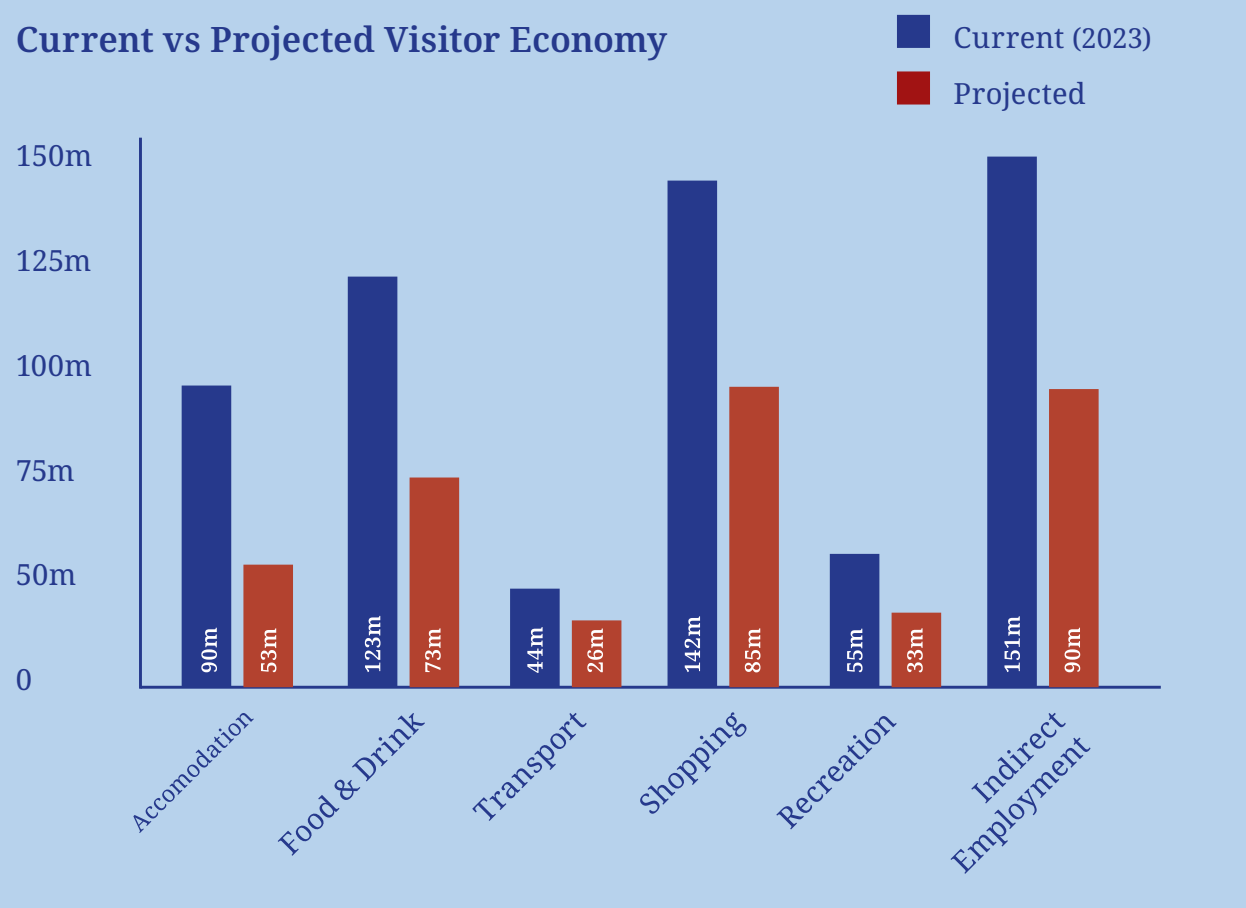


Current vs Projected Annual Visitors with GDF



NOT included – the effect of job losses on Induced employment Jobs generated and supported by the spending of direct and indirect employees. For example, by spending a proportion of their disposable income in the local area, the hospitality workforce will help support additional employment. The decline of the visitor economy would create a spiral of decline as businesses became uneconomic.

Current vs Projected Visitor Economy



The figures for visitors, jobs and economy only consider the coastal strip from Theddlethorpe to Skegness. The results from Skegness imply there will be damage to the Cleethorpes economy also.

The impact does not include any effect on the East Lindsey visitor economy as a whole, which generated £857m of economic impact in 2023. It supports nearly 9,000 FTE jobs. Many who stay in the Wolds area include a trip to the seaside as part of their holidays.

The GDF project is now in its fourth year, and awareness of the looming GDF is growing amongst visitors to the area. This may soon start to have an adverse effect on visitor numbers.

The clear conclusion from these findings is that a GDF would amount to serious harm against the visitor economy. No satisfactory financial mitigation has been offered by the developers.

This is despite RWM’s own guidance, which states:

“Where there is potential for a significant negative effect, the first option is always to avoid the effect, through selection of an alternative location, alternative technology or other changes to the development”

(RWM report Geological Disposal Generic Socio-economic Assessment December 2016, Section 2.2, Mitigation of Socio-economic Effects)

Important note:

All the above figures are predicated on there being no accidents or incidents on the GDF site. Even the most minor accident, or security incident, or failure to meet regulatory requirements, would be extremely damaging to the local economy, and the county’s reputation. A more serious accident or deliberate act would of course not just threaten residents and wildlife, but could literally be catastrophic, with effects lasting as long as centuries.



Recommendations

As all the available information indicates:

- A. A GDF would do major harm to the Lincolnshire coastal and wider economy
 - B. The project is unwanted by an overwhelming majority of residents, and is causing growing public unease
 - C. The construction and operation of the project would be hugely damaging to the environment in a statutorily protected nature reserve – an area incidentally also increasingly vulnerable to coastal flooding
 - D. Any accident, or breach of security, or failure to meet regulatory requirements would have effects ranging from damaging to literally catastrophic
- Lincolnshire County Council and East Lindsey District Council should withdraw from the Community Partnership
 - The binding public vote on the proposal should be carried out as soon as possible.



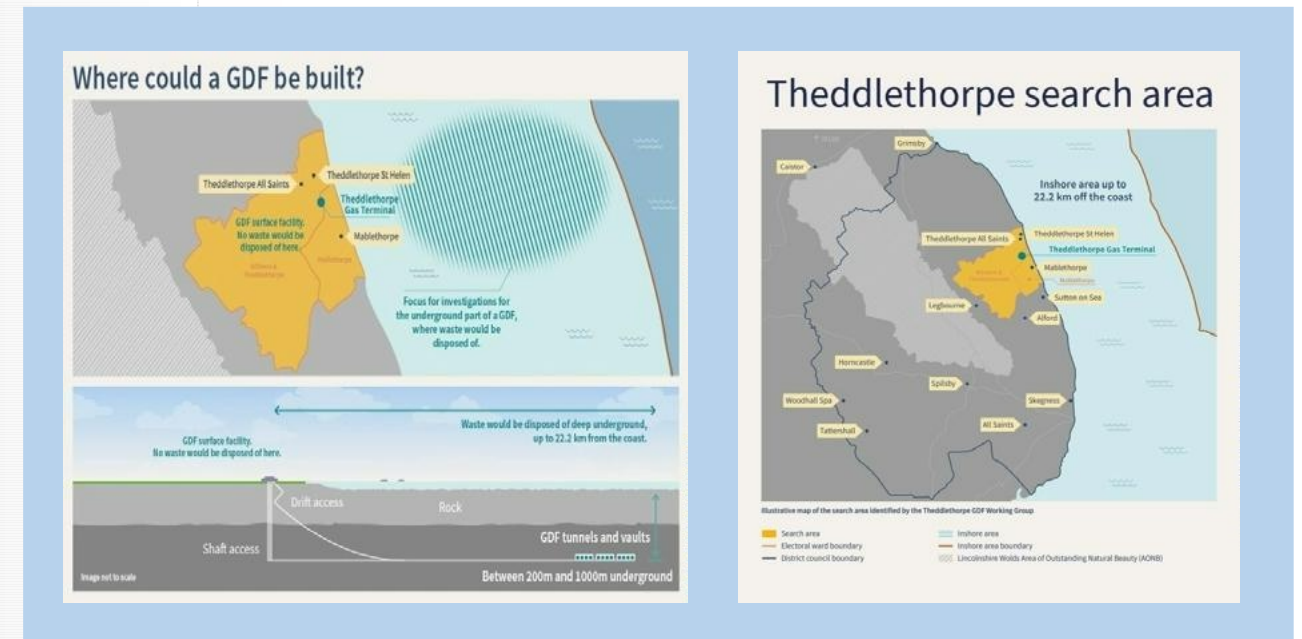
Background to the Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) Project

On 23rd July 2021, it was announced that Radioactive Waste Management (now Nuclear Waste Services) had been working with Lincolnshire County Council and East Lindsey District Council to site a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) or Nuclear Dump in Theddlethorpe.

Four other potential sites around the country were also listed as being under consideration for the scheme, three in Cumbria and one in Yorkshire. One of the Cumbrian sites and the Yorkshire site have since been ruled out. Other potential sites may yet be identified.

The scheme proposes using the redundant Theddlethorpe Gas Terminal as a GDF for high-level nuclear waste, notwithstanding a long-standing planning requirement to return the site to agriculture. **The GDF would extend far beyond the 67-acre Gas Terminal site to encompass 250 acres in total, effectively industrialising a large swathe of farmland and natural habitats.**

The waste would be buried at least 200m under the Lincolnshire coastline, with up to 64km of 6m high tunnels extending to 15km² under the seabed. Access to the site would be through Theddlethorpe village. The waste would be left there permanently, dangerously active for thousands of years.



What material would be buried?

- 650,000m³ High-level Waste – used fuel rods from nuclear reactors, military and other sources (uranium and plutonium)
- Intermediate Waste – other material, mixed with cement.

Why can't it be recycled or reused?

Technologies have been advancing rapidly since nuclear waste was first produced in the 1940s. The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority is committed to recycling 50% of waste from decommissioning, and reduce secondary waste by around 70%, by 2030.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/nuclear-waste-services/about>

It is not unreasonable to believe that in the next 100 years a very significant proportion of high-level nuclear waste could be recycled. The GDF proposal for Theddlethorpe assumes that the nuclear waste will neither be retrieved nor rendered harmless.



How would high-level nuclear waste be transported to Theddlethorpe?

The information currently states that the material would be transported by train – an unrealistic proposition, with no lines of any kind in the area, and the nearest train stations over 32km away in either direction.

Diagram layouts of the GDF however show a marine offloading facility. Any such marine offloading facility would need to cut across the King's Nature Reserve. Road transportation would necessitate major roadworks, as many local roads are narrow, winding and undulating, with a poor safety record, and frequently busy with heavy agricultural traffic.

What is the view of the local community?

The GDF process is based on the following HM Government guidance:

- The GDF project is predicated on the basis of a willing host community
- The Community Partnership is charged with monitoring public opinion
- If there is no prospect of gaining community support, the project should stop.

But a 2022 poll of residents of Theddlethorpe revealed that 85% were against the siting of a nuclear dump in the village. A March 2024 survey of residents in Mablethorpe and Withern/Theddlethorpe wards, with over 1,000 responses, returned the same result – 85% did not want the nuclear dump on the coast. Every community gave the same result.

The following have all called for a binding vote in the very near future, to decide if the project should continue:

- Rt. Hon. Victoria Atkins, MP for Louth and Horncastle
- All District Councillors in Mablethorpe and Theddlethorpe
- Mablethorpe and Sutton-on-Sea Town Council
- Theddlethorpe Parish Council
- Withern Parish Council
- Carlton Parish Council
- Tetney Parish Council
- Holton Le Clay Parish Council

LCC and ELDC (presently members of the Community Partnership) have both recently committed to a vote by 2027.

ELDC has committed to holding a vote once the potential host community has been established or withdrawal from the process within 12 months.

What is the process and timeline to a decision?

The project continues until either both local authorities (LCC and ELDC) pull out, or there is a public vote, or NWS stops work.

It is worth noting that the process has been devised to make entry into it easier than leaving. As Eddie Martin, Leader of Cumbria County Council, noted in January 2023, when it called a halt to the search in Cumbria:

“The process appears to be designed to make it very simple to join, by allowing even individuals and landowners to express an interest, but very difficult to leave. The contrast between the openness and flexibility in joining, and the over-prescriptive and complex method of leaving is reminiscent of a timeshare scheme.”



What is Nuclear Waste Services?

NWS is a subsidiary of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (an executive non-departmental public body, sponsored by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero) – a government, taxpayer-funded company, based in Cumbria. NWS was formerly known as Radioactive Waste Management, and in the 1980s, NIREX.

More than three years of well-funded NWS “engagement” activity has failed to make a serious business case, or alter public opinion. In July 2024, Cllr. Craig Leyland, Leader of East Lindsey District Council, noted:

“At this point in time the consultation and engagement process has not been effective or informative in the way we had anticipated or hoped for... all that the Community Partnership and NWS have produced so far is to unnecessarily antagonise our residents and communities.”

(17th July 2024 Full Council Meeting)

What is the Community Partnership and what does it do?

The Community Partnership (CP) is a committee (presently 12 members) managed by NWS, which uses the less threatening sounding CP name in all its public-facing activities. There is a clear democratic deficit on the CP, which has admitted only one declared opponent of the scheme (Ken Smith, of GOTEC). The “impartial” CP website only contains material supporting a GDF.

Despite its lavish funding and careful message control, CP-published materials have occasionally been carelessly disrespectful (one map called Skegness ‘Skegross’), and sometimes factually incorrect, and are generally misrepresentative and misleading.

Who is assessing the potential economic and social impact of a nuclear dump on the Lincolnshire coast?

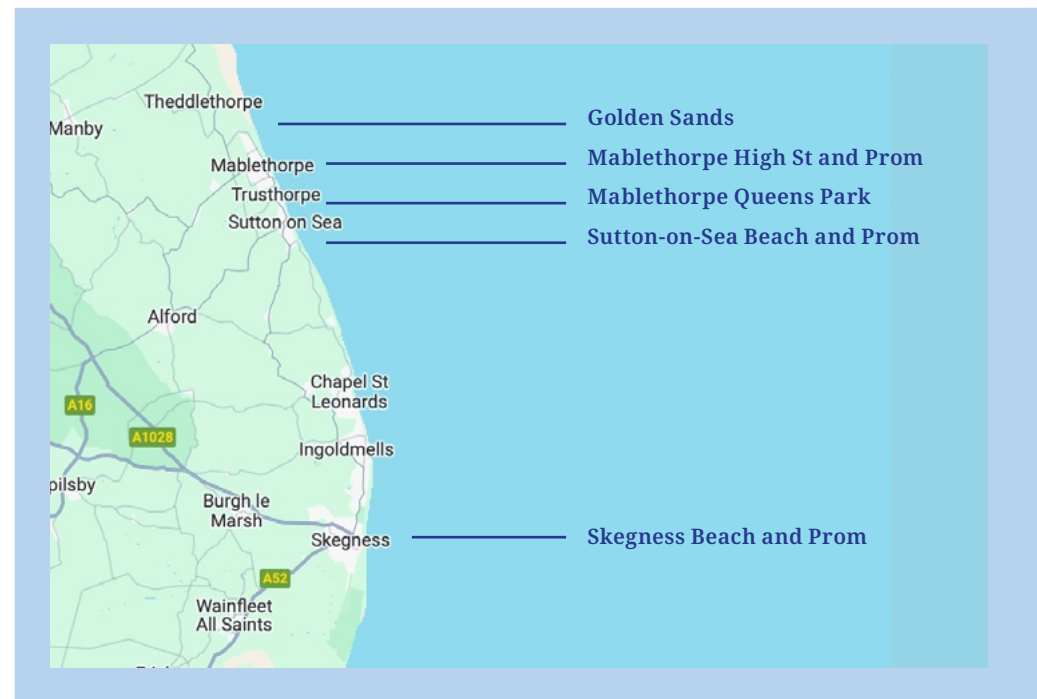
In February 2024, at a council meeting in the East Riding of Yorkshire, Conservative councillors voted emphatically to withdraw from the GDF scheme for Holderness because of concerns about safety, impact on tourism and farming – and, no doubt, awareness of the strength of public feeling. It took them just a few weeks to make that shrewd judgement.

By contrast, after more than three years discussion of the Theddlethorpe scheme, and despite numerous requests from GOTEC and Independent Councillors, NWS, CP, LCC or ELDC have all failed to carry out any serious assessment of the economic or social impact of a GDF.

Results of the Visitor Survey of August 2024

In-person surveying was carried out between 12th and 31st August, which is the peak holiday season for Mablethorpe.

Over 50,000 people visit or stay in Mablethorpe during this period. Four locations in the Mablethorpe area were surveyed – Golden Sands Area/ North Shore, Mablethorpe High Street and Promenade, Queen’s Park plus Sutton-on- Sea and Skegness.



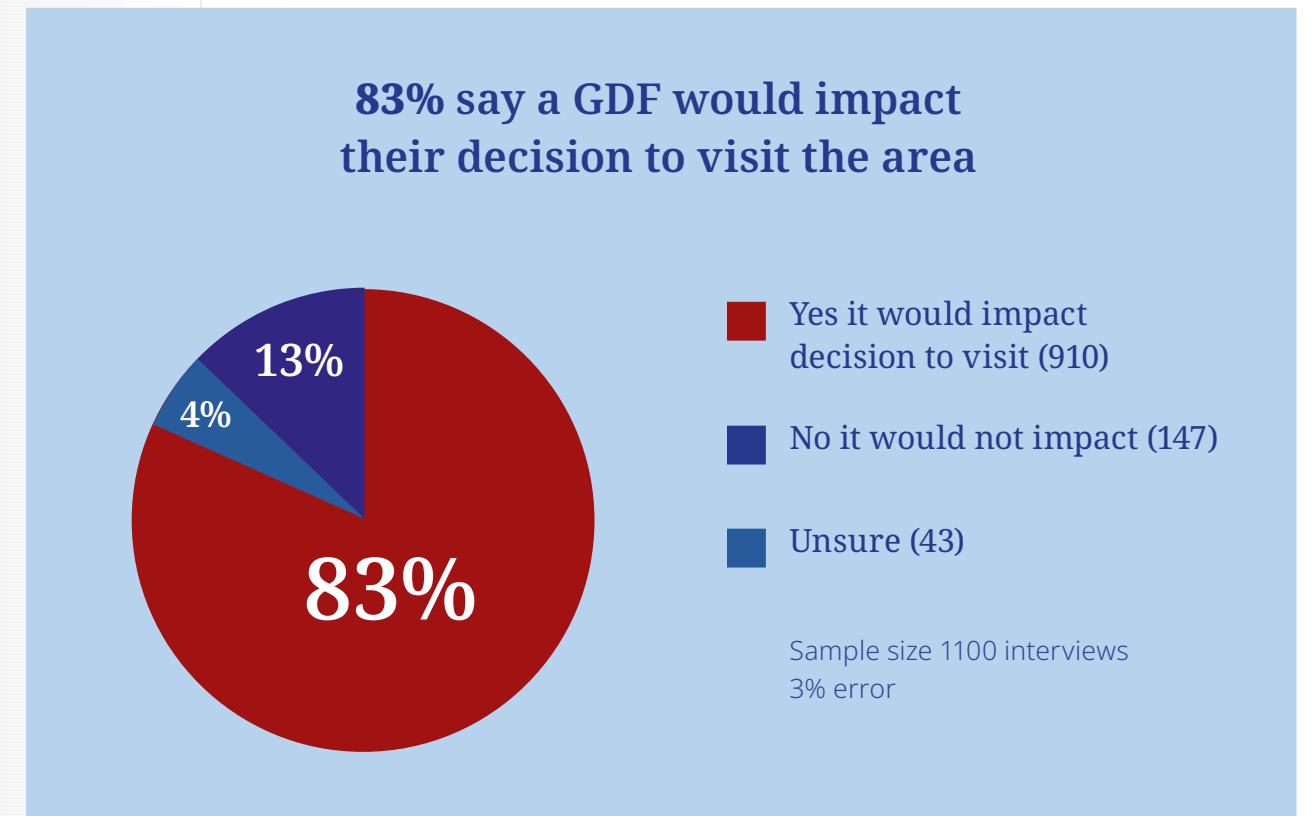
The data collected were the first part of the respondents’ postcodes (to establish they are visitors and to map visitor origins), their responses to a single question, and any unprompted comments. A very simple explanation of a GDF was also given.

The following question was asked of all respondents:

“Nuclear Waste Services are working on a project called a Geological Disposal Facility to bury high-level nuclear waste under the Lincolnshire coast. If a Geological Disposal Facility for Nuclear waste was to be built in the area, would this impact your decision to come here to visit or holiday?”

No lobbying was carried out by those surveying. Surveyors were instructed not to give any personal opinions or wear anything that might influence responses. No personal data were collected, except for the first part of the respondents’ postcodes to provide an understanding of where the visitors had travelled from to Mablethorpe.

The responses give an unequivocal picture of visitors’ feelings.



The question posed is very similar to the question used by NWS in their “Tourist Survey” or “Holiday Maker and Visitor Engagement” of 2023 and 2024. One key difference is that a simple response was recorded for the GOTEC survey, whereas the NWS was involved in “engagement” – in other words, lobbying, or propagandizing. As the NWS/CP report states baldly,

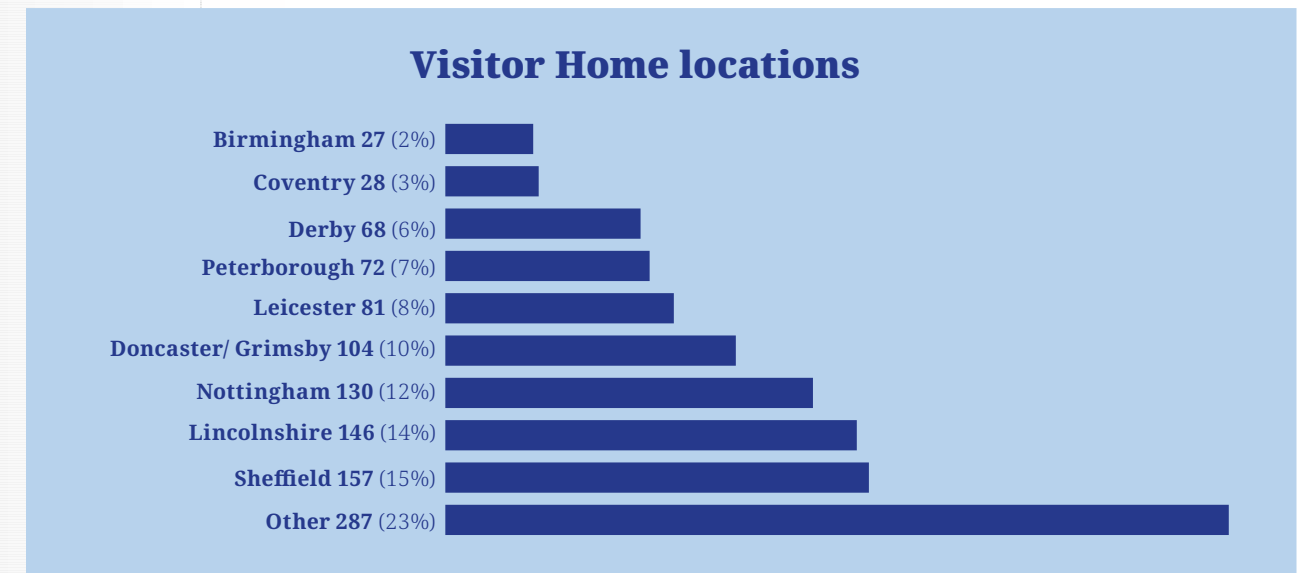
“It is essential to communicate with them [tourists] to ensure they are aware of the plans. It is an opportunity to educate tourists about the importance of radioactive waste disposal and the measures being taken to ensure their safety, as well as safety of the environment...engaging with tourists can help clear up any misconceptions or fears they may have about the facility”.

Even with this intense level of lobbying, 16% to 23% of NWS’s respondents said it would impact their decision to visit, and a further 8% were unsure. The disparity between the GOTEC August 2024 survey and the NWS survey is stark.

NWS reports talk vaguely of “mitigation exercises” to reduce the numbers who are impacted, and states that the Sellafield Visitor Centre was one of the most visited attractions in Cumbria. It fails to mention that, because of falling visitor numbers, the Centre was compelled to become a conference centre in 2008, was closed down in 2015, and was demolished in 2019.

Where do visitors to Mablethorpe come from?

The survey process collected the individual postcodes of those taking part, to help understand where visitors live and travel from to get to Mablethorpe.



Over 500 comments from visitors were captured on the survey sheet and collated into categories. Comments were not requested but simply recorded after the question was answered.

Comment Category	Number of Comments
“Would not visit”	156
“Health & Safety”	144
“Opposed to GDF”	92
“Too close to seaside resort”	47
“Does not bother me”	17
“Would move caravan/home/lodge”	12
“Relatives here so will return”	7

If a negative impression of Mablethorpe because of the GDF siting becomes widespread, alternative seaside locations may be considered for vacations or day visits. There are plenty of other holiday destinations eager to attract new visitors, many of them more convenient for holidaymakers.

Journey times to Mablethorpe from various towns

Nottingham			Doncaster		
Mablethorpe	2 Hr 6 mins	81 Miles	Mablethorpe	1 Hr 48 mins	71 Miles
Cleethorpes	1 Hr 44 mins	76 Miles	Cleethorpes	1 Hr 2 mins	52 Miles
Hunstanton	2 Hr 30mins	94 Miles	Hornsea	1 Hr 26 mins	57 Miles
Scarborough	2 Hr 34 mins	117 Miles	Bridlington	1 Hr 38 mins	63 Miles
			Scarborough	1 Hr 59 mins	72 Miles
Sheffield			Leicester		
Mablethorpe	2 Hr 10 mins	90 Miles	Mablethorpe	2 Hr 12 mins	95 Miles
Cleethorpes	1 Hr 20 mins	72 Miles	Cleethorpes	2 Hr 3 mins	90 Miles
Hornsea	1 Hr 35 mins	76 Miles	Hunstanton	2 Hr 22 mins	90 Miles
Bridlington	1 Hr 50 mins	83 Miles	Prestatyn	2 Hr 42 mins	141 Miles
Scarborough	2 Hr 2 mins	91 Miles			
Prestatyn	2 Hr 19 mins	101 Miles			

Methodology for Calculating Loss of Visitors, Loss of Jobs and Economic Loss

All the pages accessed 23/09/2024

1. Source for visitor numbers, jobs and economic value – STEAM report 2023 (published August 2024) STEAM report on the visitor economy https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/media/25408/East-Lindsey-Coast-STEAM-2015-2023/pdf/East_Lindsey_Coast_STEAM_2015-2023.pdf?m=1723652027090
2. 2014 ABTA report – FTE to Jobs in the tourism industry <https://www.abta.com/industry-zone/reports-and-publications/understanding-the-travel-and-tourism-labour-market>
3. Source for NWS 2024 visitor engagement CP Charts 4/9/24 - Pg 36
4. Source for residents March 2024 visitor survey – visitor section <https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/yusq4k003c2scl8ol6uud/240330GDF-Survey-Final-Publication.pdf?rlkey=v5fay0iqjmtau5af8b18i50lx&e=1&dl=0>
5. Source for RWM report on economic impact (section 6) Impact on Tourism – December 2016 “Geological Disposal Generic Socio-economic Assessment” – Radioactive Waste Management https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a82ba7340f0b62305b9408a/NDA_Report_no_DSSC-332-01_-_Geological_Disposal_-_Generic_Socio-economic_Assessment_Report.pdf

Basic data for 2023

Visitors: 1.3m Staying 1.42m Day Visitors (Page 28/29 STEAM)
 Jobs: 6,143 FTE (Page 53 STEAM) = 8033 People (ABTA)
 Visitor economy: £606m (Page 53 STEAM)

GOTEC Survey Calculations

The survey is heavily weighted toward Mablethorpe whereas the Coastal Strip extends to Skegness. To give a conservative/ best case the lower Skegness result was used to calculate the decline.

Survey data translated into visitor decline	
Using Skegness result	64%
Assumed 11% error rate	11%
Mitigation with Visitor Centre and Business Tourism	2.5%
Other mitigation	10%
Net Decline	-40.5%

NWS Tourist Engagement 2024

Since tourists had 15-minute-long assurance “engagements” with NWS staff, this is treated as a fully mitigated survey. Therefore, there was no factoring of results. Even so, 23% said a GDF would impact a decision to visit or stay and 27% were unsure.



Resident Survey 2024

This has the same basis as GOTEC's calculations, resulting in 74% "would not visit," 14% "unsure."

NWS Tourist Survey 2023

This has the same basis as NWS's 2024 survey, resulting in 16% "impact decision to visit," 8% "unsure."

RWM report – Section 6

The coastal strip is a coastal urban tourist destination (Appendix 10 – 13)

The published economic loss is over the length of the project, for an urban coastal community is assessed as -£1.6bn. Indexed to 2024 (1.33 x multiplier) £2.1bn. After mitigation the result is -£1.9bn.

All surveys, engagements and reports have the same conclusion – a dramatic effect on the visitor economy from the start of the project right through to the end.

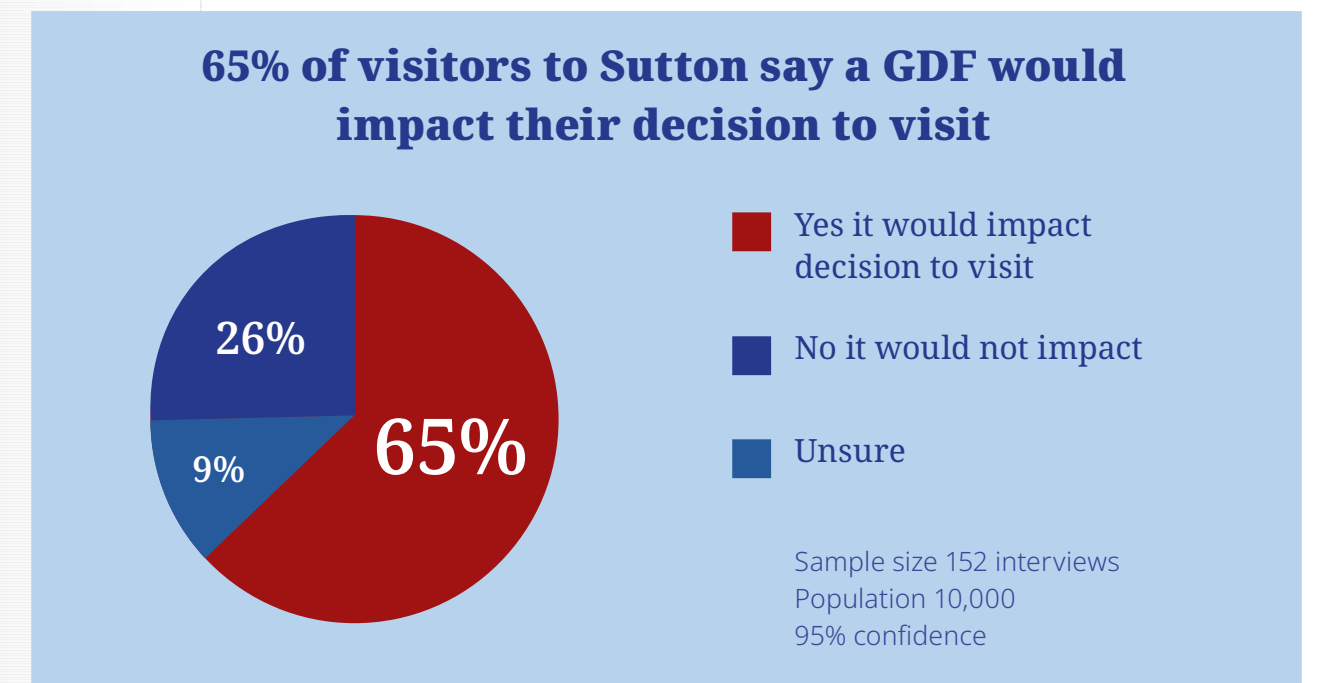
The Economic Impact Along the Coastal Strip from the GDF

North Beach (Golden Sands) and Theddlethorpe survey area is very close to the proposed GDF Site and the impact of a GDF is the highest. Only three people of 169 surveyed said a GDF would not impact their decision to visit. 163 people (96%) stated that a GDF would impact their decision to visit.

Mablethorpe Central and Queens Park and Mablethorpe Beach is about 1.7 miles from the proposed GDF Site. Only 74 of 648 surveyed there said a GDF would not impact their decision to visit. 550 people (85%) stated that a GDF would impact their decision to visit.

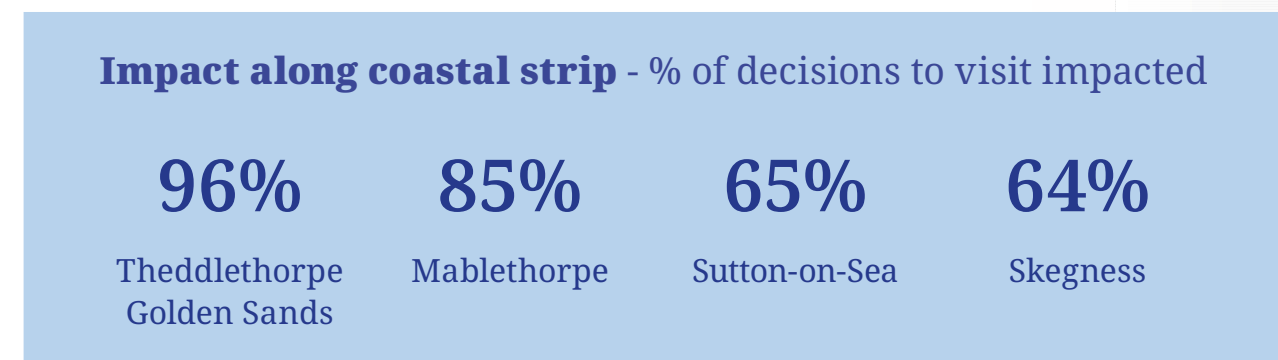
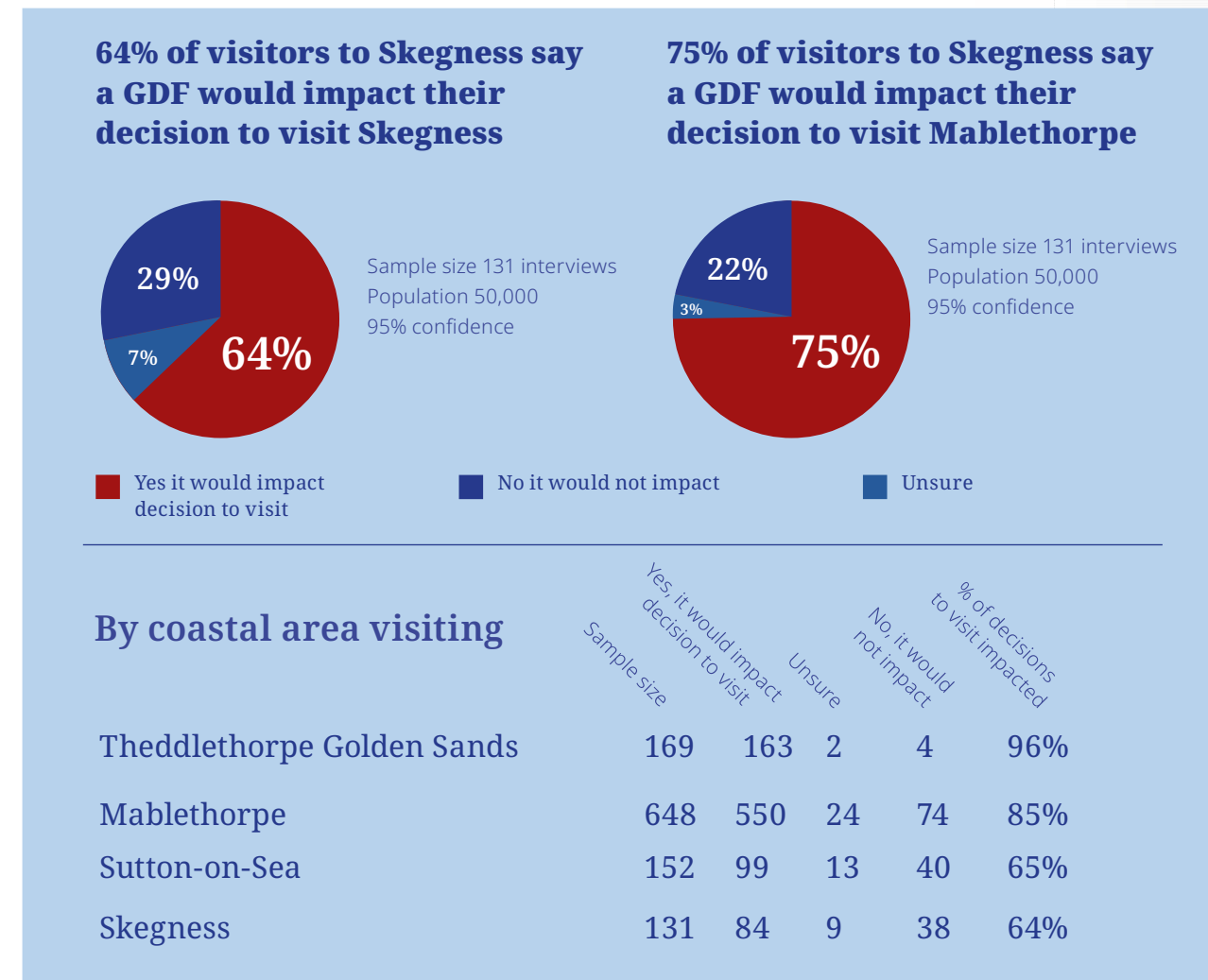
Sutton-on-Sea is a seaside resort at the southern end of the Mablethorpe conurbation. It is four miles from the proposed GDF site, yet respondents there said they would be equally reluctant to visit Mablethorpe in the event of a GDF being built.

The Views of Visitors to Sutton-on-Sea



The Views of Visitors to Skegness

Skegness is a major seaside town south of Mablethorpe, 32 kms from the proposed GDF Site. 64% of 131 visitors surveyed stated that they would not visit Skegness if a GDF were built in Mablethorpe. 75% of those surveyed stated they would not visit Mablethorpe.



All those who surveyed visitors reported that the meaning of “impact” in the responses was that they would not come to the coastline. When asked “would it put you off visiting Mablethorpe” 75% of Skegness visitors said yes.

Surveyors reported that the initial response was shock, horror and disbelief that nuclear waste would be disposed of under the coastline. Some looked around to see if the survey was a spoof and they were being filmed.

No assessment has been made of the possible impact of the Cleethorpes visitor economy 35kms north of the GDF site, let alone smaller holiday sites in between Cleethorpes and Mablethorpe, for example Saltfleet and North Somercotes. Any such impact would need to be factored into the countywide equation.

It is clear the presence of the GDF would adversely affect an area far beyond Theddlethorpe and Mablethorpe.

NWS Tourist Engagement July – August 2024

NWS carried out “engagement” with tourists on the sea front at Mablethorpe. The engagement consisted of explaining what a GDF is and attempting to provide assurances about its construction and safety. The average discussion was 15 minutes.

Afterwards a survey was taken.

If a Geological Disposal Facility for Nuclear Waste was built in the area, would this affect your decision to visit or come here on holiday?

23% said “Yes it would impact”
27% were “Unsure”
50% said it would not impact their decision to stay



This can be regarded as a more than fully mitigated situation, with much persuasion from partisan NWS staff. Yet even so, 50% of respondents said they would not come or were unsure. The sample size is small at 56, but the findings are in line with their other studies.

Nuclear Waste Services have reached only 91 visitors over a two-year survey period. It is unrealistic to expect that this type of engagement would have any material impact on visitor sentiment.

Geological Disposal Generic Socio-economic Assessment (December 2016) RWM/NWS Report

A 155-page report was created in 2016 by RWM. The effect on tourism is considered in Section 6 and Appendix C. The study cites examples in Switzerland, US and Canada. This concluded there could be a negative effect on tourism, but a positive effect on business travel and accommodation, over the lifetime of the project.

Projecting the two US studies onto the East Lindsey Coastal Strip (categorised as an urban coastal area)

- positive impact of business visitors £26m (rebased to 2024)
- negative impact of reduction in tourist visitors – £3,200m (rebased to 2024)

The list of mitigation examples mostly focuses on the local community, plus a business support scheme. A visitor centre is projected to provide a positive impact of between £15m and £290m (rebased to 2024) over the lifetime of the project.

The inevitable conclusion is that the net negative effect on tourism over that period would be – at best – £2,800m.

All the RWM/NWS calculations are furthermore based upon zero accidents or incidents ever occurring on site. This is an unlikely scenario for any industrial plant – even ones less likely to be potential targets for demonstrations, or even terrorism.

It is likely that the losses in Lincolnshire would be even greater because the study uses findings (Switzerland, Canada) from sites that are already stigmatised by nuclear, whereas Lincolnshire is nuclear free.

The RWM report investigates losses to agriculture through reputational damage and negative impact of produce sales from “customer fear”. Many farming businesses in Lincolnshire have holiday lettings, camping or fishing as a means of sustaining the agricultural business. The damage to these associated businesses could make the farms uneconomic.

Error Margins

As a general rule, the larger a poll is, the smaller its margin of error. In the cases of the August 2024 GOTEC polls, the large numbers of respondents ensures that the results accurately reflect public attitudes, with a margin of error of +/-3%. The much smaller NWS polls have a correspondingly much greater margin of error.

March 2024 Mablethorpe resident and visitor surveys

In March 2024, whilst completing the survey of Mablethorpe residents, data was also gathered from visitors and tourists. March is low season, but there are still a significant number of visitors and tourists in Mablethorpe. This is the question they were asked:

If a Geological Disposal Facility for nuclear waste was to be built in the area would this impact your decision to visit or holiday?

74 visitors were surveyed and 74% stated that a GDF would impact their decision to visit Mablethorpe. 14% were unsure

Visitor Comments

“Would not go near it”

“We would not come again”

“Would not come again”

“Not for families”

“I do not want to come if NWS does”

“Not affected”

“It would affect me”

“Won’t come with the little ones”

“I would not want to be anywhere near it”

“It would concern me”

“It is a risk”

“Caravan somewhere else”

“It is safe”

“No one goes to Sellafield on holiday”

“I would find a better place”

“I would sell my caravan”

“Not interested”

“Wouldn’t go near it”

“We would move our caravan”

“Not a good idea - won’t come”

“No way I would come”

“It would affect my decision”

This survey can only give an indication of visitor sentiment. The result is nevertheless so striking that even this snapshot shows a very high level of impact.

As one respondent noted, “No one goes to Sellafield on holiday.”



Comparison with October 2023 NWS Visitor Survey

In October 2023, Nuclear Waste Services acting as the Community Partnership also carried out a two-day survey of visitors to Mablethorpe, asking a very similar question.

Results from the NWS survey were as follows:

1 = It would impact on their decision	16%
2 = Unsure	8%
3 = Would have no impact on their decision	76%

This report is professionally printed and portrayed as a well-conducted exercise. It nevertheless neglected to state how many people were surveyed to gain this 'insight,' merely presenting the results as percentages. [But raw data obtained from NWS by parish council leaders revealed that only 35 engagements had taken place over the survey's period.](#)

The following extract from NWS's Doorstep and Holiday Maker Engagement Report 2023 in any case suggests the results may have been effectively decided upon before a single interview was conducted:

"Moreover, engaging with tourists can help clear up any misconceptions or fears they may have about the facility"

(NWS Doorstep and Holiday Maker Engagement Report 2023)

[It can only be concluded that holidaymakers were lobbied to give a positive answer.](#)

All this calls into question the ability (or willingness) of NWS to understand and report on visitor sentiment – not to mention the ability (or willingness) of the Community Partnership to scrutinise its parent body's output.

There is no recorded scrutiny by the CP of any of the survey work carried out, or any concern about any of the processes used.

APPENDIX 1 GOTEC SURVEY SHEET AUGUST 2024 – MABLETHORPE AND THEDDLETHORPE

GOTEC Survey		
Hi, I am with a team doing a very short survey on behalf of residents, Can you help me please by answering 2 questions?		
What is your home postcode		
Nuclear Waste Services are working on a project called a Geological Disposal Facility to bury High level nuclear waste under the Lincolnshire coast		
If a Geological Disposal Facility for Nuclear waste was to be built in the area, would this impact your decision to come here to visit or holiday?		
YES it would impact your decision to visit UNSURE NO it would not impact you decision to visit.		
PostCode	Answer	Check answer / Record any comment
W1A 1AA	Yes / Unsure / No	
The survey should take less than 1 min - Try not to get into any debate or argument Please do not lead in any way, simply ask the question Please dont wear anything that implies you have an opinion one way or another		
Location of Survey		Thank You
Date		
Surveyor Name		

APPENDIX 2 GOTEC SURVEY SHEET AUGUST 2024 – OUTSIDE MABLETHORPE

GOTEC Survey - Outside Mablethorpe and Theddlethorpe			
Hi, I am with a team doing a very short survey on behalf of residents, Can you help me please by answering 2 questions?			
What is your home postcode			
Nuclear Waste Services are working on a project called a Geological Disposal Facility to bury High level nuclear waste under the Lincolnshire coast. The Entrance to the Mine would be in Theddlethorpe/Mablethorpe and it would be 4.5Km x 2.7Km under the coastline.			
If a Geological Disposal Facility for Nuclear waste was to be built in			
YES it would impact your decision to visit UNSURE NO it would not impact you decision to visit.			
PostCode	Would it put you off visiting Mablethorpe?	Would it Impact your decision to visit here?	Comment
W1A 1AA	Yes / Unsure / No	Yes / Unsure / No	
The survey should take less than 1 min - Try not to get into any debate or argument Please do not lead in any way, simply ask the question Please dont wear anything that implies you have an opinion one way or another			
Location of Survey			Thank You
Date			
Surveyor Name			



APPENDIX 3 NWS REPORT – HOLIDAY MAKER ENGAGEMENT REPORT

APPENDIX 3 – CONTINUED



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Update on Theddlethorpe Engagement Team's Efforts Toward Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) Introduction.

The Theddlethorpe engagement team is committed to engaging with the local and wider community on the possibility of introducing a Geological Disposal Facility (GDF) in the area. To maintain the dialogue, the team has embarked on a series of engagement activities, including doorstep and holiday maker engagements. This report outlines the progress made in these areas.

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KEY FINDINGS

Insight.

Gaining Valuable Insights on Public Opinion through Doorstep and Holiday Maker Engagement.

The team gained valuable insights into public opinion and future engagement strategies through doorstep and holiday maker engagement. It was clear that a variety of engagement principles and methods are required to cater to the diverse needs of the local community.

Pace.

The pace of engagement was determined by the residents which transformed it into a meaningful conversation rather than a binary survey. This resulted in an average engagement time of approximately twenty minutes.

Thanks.

The engagement team would like to thank the following people. The Community Partnership for their guidance. Holivans management and holiday makers for their cooperation during the engagement on the holiday park. The community of Mablethorpe and the wider area for engaging and sharing their thoughts and concerns.



Holiday Maker Engagement

Objectives.

Importance of engaging with tourists about the possibility of a Geological disposal facility in the area that they holiday, particularly as the East Coast is an extremely popular holiday destination and the economy relies heavily on tourism.

Engaging with tourists about the possibility of a geological disposal facility in the area where they are vacationing is of utmost importance. A geological disposal facility is a place designed to store radioactive waste safely and securely for thousands of years. While it is essential to ensure that the waste is disposed of correctly, it is equally important to make sure that the public is informed and educated about the facility's presence.

Tourists who visit a particular area may not be aware of the proposed disposal facility, and it is essential to communicate with them to ensure they are aware of the plans. It is an opportunity to educate tourists about the importance of radioactive waste disposal and the measures being taken to ensure their safety, as well as the safety of the environment.

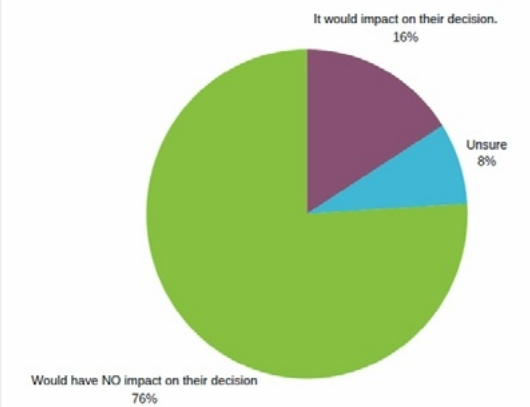
Moreover, engaging with tourists can help clear up any misconceptions or fears they may have about the facility. It is crucial to listen to their concerns, address them transparently and honestly, and provide them with accurate information.

With this in mind it was agreed that the engagement team would carry a series of 'Pop-up' engagements with holiday makers.

The engagement was designed to minimise holiday maker cohort inconvenience and so included two simple questions:

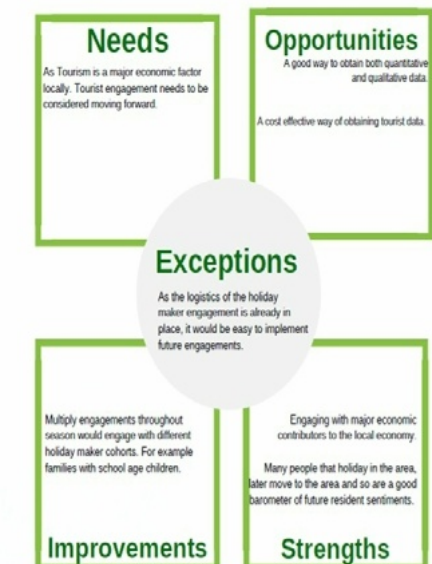
1. How often do you holiday in Mablethorpe?
2. If a Geological Disposal Facility for Nuclear waste was to be built in the area, would this impact your decision to come here on holiday?

Holiday Maker Engagement Sentiment.



Holiday Maker Engagement

NOISE ANALYSIS OF THE HOLIDAY MAKER ENGAGEMENT



APPENDIX 2

Comments from the Holiday Maker Engagement.

1. I'm not bothered.
2. So long as I can't see it. I don't mind.
3. If it brings a railway, it's worth it
4. I accept it if it brings jobs.
5. Not bothered.
6. Not at all, I'm happy!
7. Yes, I have a fear of nuclear things.
8. Yes, I'm 75 and I don't like nuclear.
9. I'm not bothered.
10. No (Initially a yes but changed their mind once they realised it wasn't a new power station being built.)
11. No, the benefits for the area outweigh the costs.
12. Not bothered – so no.



APPENDIX 4

GDF PROMISES VERSUS GDF REALITIES

NWS documents state that site evaluation is based upon a series of siting factors:

- Safety and security
- Community
- Environment
- Engineering feasibility
- Transport
- Value for money

However, despite repeated requests over the three-year project, no scope of work, quality plan, success factors, deliverables, milestones or timelines have been provided by NWS. No overall plan has ever been presented.

NWS makes extravagant promises about potential positive impacts of a GDF – flood defences, jobs, railways, roads, and even schools. The likely reality is less appealing.

The GDF is a multi-billion-pound project, at a time when the UK government has admitted there is a “black hole” in the nation’s finances – a deficit unlikely to go away soon, if ever. Vast government agency projects of this kind furthermore have a history of overspend and ineptitude, as seen in the case of HS2.

If the project was ever started, the chances are there would very soon need to be cost-cutting of a kind that would threaten the much-touted community benefits. Cheaper contractors could be used to minimise costs. Waste could be transported by sea to Grimsby or Immingham and brought in by lorry, rather than along a new railway line (or a dock could be built near the GDF site). Community projects, and the likes of the proposed visitor centre, could be scaled back or dropped altogether. Flood defences could be confined to the GDF’s site perimeter.

A 2022 report by NWS claims that 4,000 jobs would be created in the first 25 years, either directly on site or in the supply chain. The truth is that any jobs would be created *over* a period of 25 years. Many workers would work on the project for only a short time; in other words, they would be temporary jobs. Even in the supply chain, the jobs would often be created in other parts of the country, or even overseas, where the specialist companies are based.

Similar job promises were made in the 1970s, during the Theddlethorpe Gas Terminal construction and commissioning. The reality is that the local economy saw no measurable impact.

“A few people locally worked there. They came here to work there. They were not local people who were given jobs. When they were first coming, they said there would be lots of jobs and the local people did not have the required skills” Eleanor Milner, 1960s Theddlethorpe Postmistress (video interview, 2002)

And even if many jobs could somehow be created in Mablethorpe, where would these employees and their families live? Mablethorpe is on a flood plain and new-build housing is scant. This is not to mention already existing problems with healthcare and scholastic provision.

The most highly paid roles on site – those with expertise in nuclear, tunnelling and safety – would be carried out by staff who would live some distance from the site (as is the case at Sellafield for nuclear workers). Most other functions would be carried out by temporary contractors.

The few jobs that could be created for people in Mablethorpe would almost certainly be in services – security, healthcare, site maintenance and catering. These would probably pay higher salaries than comparable roles in the area around, but that itself would create problems, by making it even harder for non-GDF employers (for example, in local caravan parks or care homes) to fill these kinds of positions.

There is no evidence that proximity to a nuclear plant brings prosperity. Sellafield has been in existence since 1942 and is the largest nuclear site in Europe. It presently houses 70% of the UK nuclear waste. The surrounding towns are certainly not prosperous, and indeed have levels of deprivation comparable to those in Mablethorpe.

With an unemployment rate of 3.2% over the entire district, new jobs could only be filled by recruiting existing workers, or importing staff from other parts of the country, or overseas.

Railways

A CP video suggests a new railway line could be built if the GDF were to go ahead. The facts suggest otherwise.

(<https://youtu.be/0xvnl3aYQWI?si=EYUnrck9s31i1Zw2>)

Nuclear waste is primarily transported by rail. A new rail link would be required to transport the high-level waste from already contaminated Cumbria, other UK waste depots, and planned new power stations.



Quite apart from the eccentricity of choosing to transport hazardous waste hundreds of miles unnecessarily across country when it could be dealt with near source, there are reasons to doubt any new line's cost-efficiency or even usefulness to the public.

Passenger railway developers sought to pass through as many towns and villages as possible. But a line designed to carry high-level nuclear waste would understandably have different priorities, with safety primarily in mind. It might even be constructed to be as far from any centres of population as possible.

Even if a more passenger-friendly route is chosen – most likely a connection from Boston, according to a 2023 Network Rail report (Appendix 10-8) – would enough people use it to make it worthwhile?

Analysis shows that, from a purely rail perspective, the greater benefit-cost ratio is likely to be via the southern-approach option. This route is likely to have a relatively stronger economic case and improved engineering feasibility compared with a northern approach. (Network Rail Report 2023)

Rail travel is hugely subsidised, and yet passenger numbers remain stubbornly low. Trains were a transport afterthought even before 1970, when Mablethorpe station was finally closed, after decades of that line's decline. The existing Boston-Skegness route has fewer than 35 passengers per service, making it one of the least used services in England (in the 1963 Beeching Report, passenger weekly numbers of 17,000 were deemed uneconomic).

<https://www.railwaydata.co.uk/stations/overview/?TLC=SKG>).

Even if NWS was willing to pay for a passenger service, then an operator would need to be found, to run what would almost certainly be a loss-making route on a "management basis." Any such subsidy to operate a passenger rail service would be paid for by the taxpayer, and would always be at risk of being withdrawn if the route proves especially uneconomic, or government policy changes.

Flood defences

As a major infrastructure site, handling extremely hazardous waste, the GDF would need to be protected from the ever-increasing risk of coastal flooding. LCC, ELDC and the Environment Agency may be hoping to find new sources of funding through NWS. But flood defences will be built for Mablethorpe irrespective of whether a GDF is built.

There are 1,700 businesses, 55,000 homes and 25,000 static caravans on the coast, and the Environment Agency, LCC and ELDC all understand the threat. The ominous NWS narrative that residents need nuclear waste, or their houses will be flooded, is a false dichotomy.

Town-style flood defences cannot be built for Theddlethorpe in any case, without destroying the character and viability of the nature reserve. Luckily, Theddlethorpe has substantial natural defences in the shape of sand-dunes that have withstood the sea since the eighth century.

Schooling

Mablethorpe's fifty-year-old secondary was closed in 2016 after a failed merger with another school in Louth. Children are now bussed to schools outside Mablethorpe, and there is a public desire for a new school. NWS staff play on this, by implying a new school will be built if there is a GDF. But NWS has no power to make such decisions.

Roads

Roads in this area are generally the responsibility of LCC, which justifies and provides funding for any works. Where there are problems with the current roads, LCC needs to resolve them rather than hope NWS will do the work for them.

A GDF would require a massive and long-lasting roadworks programme in order to carry thousands of tonnes of equipment and machinery, vast amounts of debris, plus of course commuting staff.

Even after construction has finally been completed, there would be vastly increased levels of traffic along all roads in the wider area – employees, visitors to the site, incoming equipment, incoming waste, and security personnel monitoring the strategically vulnerable site.

Widening the A1031 to gain access to Immingham and Grimsby ports would be a massive undertaking and damage many rural communities. Any new roads will mostly not benefit visitors, many of whom, as we have seen, will no longer be coming to Mablethorpe.

APPENDIX 5

OTHER IMPACTS AND RISKS OF A GDF

Apart from economic damage, construction of a GDF would have other serious effects on the quality of life for residents, and on Lincolnshire's ecology.

We also cannot overlook the perhaps but nonetheless real risk of some accident or incident releasing deadly waste into the environment.

Industrialisation of the Countryside

The GDF is just one (albeit the worst) of several major energy industry schemes proposed for this part of Lincolnshire, the cumulative effect of which would be to worsen local quality of life and erase this area's unique (and legally protected) natural character.

Theddlethorpe is also expected to absorb a carbon capture pipeline from Immingham to the Theddlethorpe terminal, plus a line of pylons just inland carrying electricity from Grimsby to Norfolk. There would also be several 40-acre substations in the area. This is furthermore an area which already has many wind turbines, both onshore and off. [It is unreasonable to expect one small area to absorb so many deleterious schemes.](#)

The GDF will need a very high security fence around its perimeter – and powerful lighting all night long. 40 miles of tunnelling debris would also have to be stored somewhere, or transported out of the region. Large tracts of both farmland and nature reserve will become brownfield. Even the beach could become an industrial zone, because there is a possibility of constructing a marine offloading facility.

Stalled investment – and property blight

Local visitor-based businesses have reported that investment decisions have been shelved indefinitely due to the uncertainty surrounding the GDF.

The GDF does not presently appear on any Land Registry searches. [House sales in the area have fallen through when the plans are discovered. Homeowners have reported feeling trapped and unable to move.](#)

NWS have recognised that a GDF will devalue properties by introducing the Property Value Protection (PVP) Plan to be applied during the siting process and beyond to compensate for losses associated with any decreases in property values, rental income or associated mortgages. But the process is complex and hurdles to gain compensation are very high and likely available to very few. To qualify, an applicant must meet the following criteria:

1. Qualifying interest in the property
2. Location of the property
3. Effort to sell and the effect of the search for a suitable site to host a GDF
4. No prior knowledge
5. Compelling need to sell

Very few house vendors would easily be able to meet all these criteria.

Physical, Mental and Emotional Impacts

In-depth interviews were carried out with 18 households who live close to the Theddlethorpe site. 13 of those interviewed stated that the GDF entered their thoughts hourly or daily. Every respondent reported a negative impact on wellbeing since the announcement over three years ago.

One long-time village resident speaks for many.

Sophie Forman's story

"Ok so it's time for me to talk and tell my story!

I haven't been strong enough to talk publicly until now as I have been very down and suffering from anxiety which I believe is due to all this. In 2021 our lives fell apart when we learnt that GDF wanted to set up a working group in Theddlethorpe.

Last February after two years of repeated emails and calls I managed to set up a meeting at our house and business with two people from NWS. On Friday 17th February 2023 at 11.15am we had two gentlemen from NWS come as arranged to talk to us and see how close our home and other people's homes and businesses were to the proposed site. We took them for a walk around, up our drive and the yard area where they could see the site and all the fields etc. We walked up the national grid emergency road (our field was too wet!) there we talked them through the whole history of the national grid land, pointing out the path that is used by locals and tourists to get to Theddlethorpe beach as we walked over the bridge next to our field and continued around the corner to the tall fencing of the old gasworks site.

They had never visited the site before and were quite surprised how close to the community the site was.

On our walk back we talked about how the road we were walking along has always been an emergency road and the fact that gate has always been padlocked with only the farmers using it to access their fields, the gates were opened once a year on Christmas Day for gas work employees to use.

We showed them where the old rail line was (in our yard area!) We asked exactly how much space would this project need and their reply was every inch of National Grid land, including the farmland that's rented out.

We then showed them our businesses which are on our property premises (barns we converted) then proceeded indoors and had a coffee!

We asked the straight out question – would our businesses be affected? The answer was that it would be very difficult to operate 4 star holiday lets with all the noise pollution and industrial traffic being ten paces away from the holiday accommodation.

We would need to take an offer from NWS, or our house would be taken by compulsory purchase.

We kept things polite and had a few jokes even though all I wanted to do was scream and sob, but I managed to keep it in until they left. Then I sobbed and sobbed.

On 23rd February 2023, I went onto anti-depressants/anxiety medication from the doctors. On the 28th, my blood pressure was so high the nurse at the doctors surgery wouldn't let me leave and had to ring through to the on-call doctor. I was given blood pressure medication to take straight away. I had never suffered from high blood pressure before; my blood pressure had always been on the low side and used to cause me to feel faint on occasions!

So our new life of constantly suffering from depression and anxiety had started – doing up “our forever home” not knowing whether it will be – planting plants and trees but not knowing if we would see them reach full height. And we have to live like this for the next how many years?

In September I had a call from a market research group wanting to interview me on behalf of the nuclear industry. I said yes because I wanted them to know how it is not right to do this to people. This took place on 12th September 2023. During this, I again burst into tears. I told the researcher everything I had been told and how it had made me ill. The poor man doing the interview said he didn't realise what I had been told and was very apologetic towards me.

So this is my story so far of living and working next to a proposed nuclear waste facility

Life will never be normal until we have a resolution. I know I'm not the only one to be going through this so I'm happy for anyone and everyone to share far and wide.”

Handling high-level nuclear waste

There can be no guarantees when it comes to nuclear safety. By definition, high-level nuclear waste can never be safe.

The moving and handling of such noxious materials should be kept to a minimum. Even waste which has not been disturbed for decades escapes, as containers rot or rust, gauges and seals fail, and vigilance slackens.

Sophisticated waste storage facilities in Germany and the United States are proving dangerously inadequate, requiring vast amounts of money in temporary stabilisation schemes, with no long-term solutions presently in sight.

The waste stored in Cumbria, which NWS wishes to bring to Lincolnshire, is already leaking. Why bring such toxins to nuclear-free Lincolnshire?

NWS acknowledges there will be dangers for workers:

Some waste packages will be moved into position using conventional handling equipment such as forklift trucks or overhead cranes, whilst others will require specially designed ‘emplacement’ machines. The levels of radiation given off by some waste packages mean that workers cannot handle them directly. Where this is the case, workers will stand behind radiation shields / windows and move packages into place from a distance. - Nuclear Waste Services | What will a GDF look like?

Nuclear incidents can be caused in many ways, most commonly by human error, but also by natural disaster, military or terrorist attack, sabotage and theft. Since the advent of the nuclear age in the 1940s, there have been over 100 nuclear incidents around the world – of which Three Mile Island (1979), Chernobyl (1986), and Fukushima (2011) are just the most notorious. Even Britain has not been immune, with Windscale having to rebrand itself as Sellafield after a major radiation escape in 1957. There have been subsequent accidents at Sellafield, and at two Scottish sites.

A single mistake could not only wipe out the Lincolnshire economy, but also cause great upheaval and loss of life.

Even if we avoid any such mistakes ourselves, we will be leaving generations far into the future a deeply dangerous legacy.

APPENDIX 6

LINCOLNSHIRE HISTORY OF OPPOSITION TO NUCLEAR WASTE

GOTEC has been working with three Senior Lecturers researchers from the University of Lincoln. They research histories of peace, anti-nuclear and civil rights activism. They are currently researching histories of anti-nuclear and anti-dump protests in the region.

One area of study is the successful effort of the residents of Fulbeck (between Grantham and Lincoln) to resist efforts by NWS predecessor NIREX to dump nuclear waste at a site near the former RAF base at Stragglethorpe, in 1986.

NIREX were pursuing plans to bury five train loads of radioactive waste per week, for 50 years, under Fulbeck Airfield. The researchers recognise the similarities to the situation in Mablethorpe and are bringing learning from the campaign there.

Julian Fane was one of the leading opponents:

“It would have been a huge industrial site with concrete mixing and bunkers in the middle of rural Lincolnshire with a railway line feeding into it. Forget radiation, it would have changed this bit of Lincolnshire.”

There has never been a nuclear industry in Lincolnshire. When NIREX (an earlier incarnation of NWS) wanted to build a nuclear dump north of Grantham in 1986 the people of Fulbeck had the same reaction as today’s Theddlethorpe and Mablethorpe residents. NIREX never built in Lincolnshire.

NWS – NIREX By Another name

Originally known as the Nuclear Industry Radioactive Waste Executive, it became United Kingdom NIREX Limited in 1985. The ownership of NIREX was transferred from the nuclear industry to the UK Government departments DEFRA and DTI in April 2005, and then to the UK’s Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) in November 2006. NIREX staff and functions were integrated into the NDA in April 2007, at which point NIREX ceased trading as a separate entity.

NIREX’s role continued through the activities of the Radioactive Waste Management Directorate of the NDA, which later became Radioactive Waste Management Ltd (now trading as Nuclear Waste Services).

APPENDIX 7

TIMELINE FOR UK NUCLEAR WASTE

1947 -1973	Windscale produces plutonium nuclear material	1991-	NIREX announce Sellafield as preferred site for an “underground laboratory”
1952- 1962	Highly Enriched Uranium produced at Capenhurst (Chester area) principally for military use	1997 -	Pre election Government reject NIREX planning application
1962-1982	Enriched Uranium for thermal power plants produced at Capenhurst	2009 -	Working group set up with councils in Cumbria on a GDF
1956-1989	Calderhall (Sellafield) civilian power station reactor produces military Plutonium 239	2011 -	Scottish Government rejects the idea of GDF and opts for near surface storage
1964-2022	Sellafield deals with Magnox and thermal oxide reprocessing,	2013 -	Cumbria County Council reject preliminary plans on GDF
1976 -	First consideration on what to do with nuclear waste (Flowers Report)	2018 -	Government sets framework to find GDF site with Radioactive Waste Management (RWM)
1978 -	Planning permission to test drill granite site in Loch Doon	2019 -	Sellafield Visitor Centre demolished
1978 - 1979	test drilling bore holes near Dounreay	2020 -	RWM identify Hartlepool as potential GDF site
1978 -	Planning application to test drill in Northumbria National Park	2021 -	Hartlepool Borough Council refuses to join the working group
1980/81 -	Planning application for test drilling in Somerset and Leicestershire	2022 -	Community Partnerships to be set up in Allerdale, Mid Copeland, South Copeland
1981 -	Pre-election government abandoned test drilling for Vitrified storage	2022 -	Theddlethorpe is potential GDF via Lincolnshire County Council and RWM
1981 -	Windscale renamed Sellafield by BNFL after a string of accidents	2023 -	East Lindsey District Council and LCC promise a vote by 2027
1982 -	Government switch focus to Low and Intermediate waste with new company, NIREX	2023 -	NWS (RWS) drop Allerdale as potential GDF
1983 -	NIREX plan deep mine under Billingham and Elstow in Bedfordshire	2024 -	NWS announce Holderness as a potential GDF Site
1985 -	Billingham plan abandoned after 83,000 sign petition	2024 -	East Riding of Yorkshire Council listens to the public and withdraw from Working Group
1986 -	4 sites Elstow, Bradwell, Fulbeck, South Killingholme announced by NIREX	2024 -	ELDC votes to have a vote or withdraw within 12 months (July 2025)
1987 -	Government abandons all four sites		
1989 -	NIREX announces focus on two deep sites, Dounreay and Sellafield		
1989 -	Council Referendum resulted in 74% against NIREX plan at Dounreay		

APPENDIX 8

SECURING PUBLIC SUPPORT

Government guidelines on the siting of GDFs repeatedly stress the necessity of securing the approval of local communities.

Here are some relevant extracts from the government's position paper, Implementing geological disposal – working with communities:

- 1) Section 6.95 – “Government policy is not to impose a GDF on a community, but to seek to build community support through open and transparent engagement in a consent-based siting process”
- 2) Section 6.30 – Role of the Community Partnership – “• monitor public opinion in relation to siting a GDF within the Search Area and the Potential Host Community.”
- 3) Section 6.88 – “The community can withdraw from the siting process at any point up until a Test of Public Support is taken. The Community Partnership itself might have concerns about continuing further in the process. Or it may judge, through its monitoring of public opinion, that there is no realistic prospect of building support for a GDF within the community.”
- 4) Section 6.42 The role of Relevant Principal Local Authorities (RPLAs) – “The relevant principal local authorities can either take the decision to withdraw the community from the process themselves or do so after seeking the community's views.”
- 5) Section 6.28 “Where a relevant principal local authority decides not to be a member, the Community Partnership would need to keep it informed of its work.

6) Section 6.45 If one RPLA wants a test of public support but the other does not – “In the event that the relevant principal local authorities do not agree on whether to invoke the Right of Withdrawal or move to the Test of Public Support, RWM could fund independent mediation to ensure concerns are heard, understood and attempts are made to address them.”

See <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65a7e79fb2f3c60013e5d451/implementing-geological-disposal-working-with-communities.pdf> Accessed 20 September 2024

Past surveys and election results have indicated consistently that the community is not a willing participant in the GDF project. The high-level of public participation shows that the community wants to express its opinion on a project to dump nuclear waste under the Lincolnshire coastline.

Despite three years of lobbying by NWS, the view of the community is the same now as it was three years ago – this community does not want a GDF. It is not a willing community. There is no change of opinion taking place despite persistent NWS lobbying. It is reasonable therefore to conclude that there is no prospect of gaining community support for the GDF.

85% Say NO in 2022
85% Say NO in 2024

APPENDIX 9

REFERENCES

All pages accessed 23/09/2024

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