

SELLAFIELD LTD  
**RBLA Gate Enabling Works**  
Design and Access Statement

C | 12 January 2022

## Contents

---

	Page
<b>1 Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2 Description of Proposed Development</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1 Site location	4
2.2 Existing use	4
2.3 Proposed development	4
<b>3 Design principles</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1 Layout	5
3.2 Buildings and Structures	5
3.3 Drainage	5
3.4 Lighting	5
3.5 DDA Compliance	6
<b>4 Access</b>	<b>7</b>
4.1 Highways	7
4.2 Parking	7
4.3 Footways	7
4.4 Fire and Evacuation Routes	7
4.5 Traffic Lights and Signage	7

Appendix A CCC 4/16/9012 Area D1 Consent

# 1 Introduction

---

This Design and Access Statement has been prepared by the Infrastructure Strategic Alliance (ISA) on behalf of Sellafield Ltd (SL). It accompanies a full planning application for enabling works to facilitate the re-opening of an existing access point to the Sellafield Site, commonly referred to as 'RBLA Gate'. The application is not seeking consent for the installation or use of the gate itself, which is already in existence and will not be subject to change.

The RBLA Gate has been out of regular use for a number of years and several improvements are now required to enable the efficient operation of this existing access point in association with on-site activities. In particular, the RBLA Gate will be utilised to facilitate the timely movement of spoil arising from land preparation / construction activities taking place on site to Landscape Mound Area D1. The use of the RBLA Gate in connection with the transportation of spoil to Area D1 has already been established through the grant of planning permission by Cumbria County Council (CCC) (ref: 4/20/9005) for "Land preparation for future waste development, including bulk excavation and reprofiling". It is recognised that the reinstatement of RBLA Gate for this purpose will minimise the impact of approved / planned development on the public road network and local residents. This approach will also deliver carbon reduction benefits by providing a direct and accessible route for HGVs which will reduce overall travel distances.

This Design and Access Statement forms one element of the planning application package and should be read alongside the following documents and drawings:

- Covering letter
- Planning application form and certificates
- Ecological Impact Assessment (Atkins, 2021)
- Site Location Plan (ref: 1BE 3032307)
- Existing Site Layout (ref: 1BE 3101217)
- Proposed Development (ref: 1BE 3101216)

## 2 Description of Proposed Development

---

### 2.1 Site location

The proposed development is located on the eastern extent of the Sellafield site.

Due to the nature of the proposal, the planning application is split into two areas – one within and one outside of the Sellafield Nuclear Licensed Site boundary.

Within the Sellafield site the application covers an area of 0.007 ha and will allow for the construction of a retaining wall. Outside of the Sellafield site the application relates to an area of 0.170 ha and will allow for the construction of a new vehicle inspection point for HGVs accessing the site, via the RBLA Gate, to and from Area D1. This site also extends to include a section of proposed kerb realignment which would be required to support HGV movements from the existing Calder Gate.

### 2.2 Existing use

The RBLA gate is an existing feature of the Sellafield site. The application site includes the area outside of the site consisting of existing hard surfaced vehicular access, adopted highway (Calder Road) and grassed verges, and a mown grassed area currently occupied by a temporary smoking shelter. Within the application site there is an existing 1:3 slope which is covered in vegetation. The slope runs down from an existing compound area (high level) to an existing site road.

### 2.3 Proposed development

The following development is proposed within this application:

- 1no. retaining wall
- Elevated inspection platform
- 2no. shelters
- Vehicle inspection area
- 5no. lighting columns

Movements of spoil to Area D1 will be made in accordance with the hours of operation, noise limits and all other planning conditions attached to the Area D1 planning permission as granted by CCC (ref: 4/16/9012) on 20 October 2016 (see **Appendix A**).

## 3 Design principles

---

### 3.1 Layout

The layout of the proposed development has been designed to allow for the most efficient operation of the RBLA Gate taking into account all security requirements associated with vehicles accessing the Sellafield site, alongside the need to minimise impact on the public highway. Significant pre-application discussions regarding layout and design have taken place with CCC Highways Authority throughout the scheme design.

### 3.2 Buildings and Structures

The following buildings and structures are proposed as part of this planning application:

#### ***2no. Prefabricated Shelters***

Light grey Glasdon Genesis GRP / PP light grey accommodation unit or similar. Space for 1no persons. Maximum dimensions of 1.50m x 1.5m x 2.58m.

#### ***Prefabricated Elevated Inspection Platform***

Elevated steel / aluminium proprietary inspection platform and integral steps used to inspect incoming construction vehicles. Shall comprise SafeSmart Smart Loader or similar. Maximum dimensions shall not exceed 1.2m x 5m x 2.5m. The platform shall be uncoloured. The platform handrail shall be a shade of red in colour in line with manufacturers specifications.

This unit shall incorporate full height handrails (1.10m). The platform deck shall be a minimum of 1.40m from ground level as to achieve satisfactory visibility into the construction vehicle.

#### ***Retaining Wall***

1no. retaining wall shall be provided to the south-west of RBLA Gate within the site boundary. This will retain a maintenance access area with a varying height of 0.5m to 1.5m.

The retaining wall shall comprise a modular mass gravity type wall founded on a compacted granular base. There is no requirement for positive drainage. The walls are designed to resist overturning using the self-weight of the wall units. Due to the change in height a handrail is required to the retaining walls. This shall comprise a 1.10m high proprietary steel tube post and rail type fence. This will be embedded into the wall.

### 3.3 Drainage

There is a requirement for additional highway drainage in the form of a linear drainage channel and carrier pipe. This serves the proposed inspection area and connects into the existing surface water chamber upstream of the existing oil interceptor. All proposed highways, footways and hardstanding areas will drain to the existing highway surface drains or to existing soft landscaping, with the exception of the search area.

The capacity of the existing drainage has been assessed and the existing drainage network and petrol interceptors are capable of receiving the increased flows.

### 3.4 Lighting

There is a requirement for 5no. additional 8m lighting columns to achieve the required lux levels across site. The lighting columns shall comprise route mounted raise and lower type columns such as Abacus TT087RLH or similar and are to be founded

using planted foundation. Lighting shall be operated via direct control and will be turned off over night when no construction traffic is in operation.

### **3.5 DDA Compliance**

The proposed development will conform with the Equality Act 2010 (which incorporates the Disability Discrimination Act 1995) by incorporating the following features.

All footway cross and longitudinal falls do not exceed that specified in BS8300-1.

## **4 Access**

---

### **4.1 Highways**

The RBLA Gate provides access from the Sellafield site to the Calder Road junction. The visibility splays shall be achieved in line with *Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (DMRB) CD123*. There is no anticipated change to the visibility of the Calder Road Junction.

The pavement design of the highways will be flexible bituminous construction. This shall be dark grey in colour and lined with yellow and white markings in accordance with the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSGRD). Sellafield Ltd also propose a minor realignment the kerb at the Calder Road / Fellside junction to accommodate HGV's movements. This modification to the carriageway will be covered by a Section 278 Agreement with CCC Highways Authority.

The proposal will not give rise to additional traffic on the wider local road network from either personnel or goods.

### **4.2 Parking**

Parking for the gate operators will be provided within the Sellafield Main site.

A search area comprising hatched road marking in line with the TSRGD will be provided adjacent to the proposed inspection platform. This will provide temporary parking for construction vehicles while they are being inspected. The area will be formed by breaking out the existing upstand kerbs at the junction radius and extending and providing a new area of surfacing.

All parking surfaces shall be designed as per the highways standards.

### **4.3 Footways**

A new 0.8m wide bituminous footway is proposed to the rear of the proposed search area and security post unit. The footways shall be designed in accordance with DMRB CD239 and CD143. Footway cross falls shall not exceed 1:40 (2.5%) and a longitudinal falls shall not exceed of 1:12 (8%).

### **4.4 Fire and Evacuation Routes**

There is no proposed change to the Sellafield Site Evacuation Plan as part of the works.

### **4.5 Traffic Lights and Signage**

Whilst the ongoing operation of the RBLA Gate is not dependent on the use of traffic signals, due to the volume of excavation material associated with planning application 4/20/9005, it is proposed that 4-way semi-permanent traffic signals, associated signage and road markings will be used at this location. CCC Highways Authority has engaged in ongoing discussions about the proposal and has raised no objection to the proposed changes. These highways works do not require planning permission in their own right and will be covered by a legal agreement between the relevant parties in accordance with Section 278 of the Highways Act 1980.

Proposals for any signage will be developed in line with the Traffic Signs Manual and in accordance with the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSGRD) 2016.

Locations of signage will take cognisance of the proposed transport routes and be set back such that they do not present a constraint to these movements. Signage shall be located a minimum of 500m back from footways and shall be installed at a minimum 2.10m height.

## **Appendix A      CCC 4/16/9012 Area D1 Consent**



**CUMBRIA COUNTY COUNCIL**

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1990  
THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT  
PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2015**

**NOTICE OF PLANNING CONSENT**

To: Sellafield Ltd  
Sellafield  
Seascale  
Cumbria  
CA20 1PG

In pursuance of the powers under the above Act and Order the Cumbria County Council as local planning authority hereby **permit** the development described in your application and on the plans/drawings attached thereto received on 6 September 2016.

**viz: Section 73 planning application to planning permission 4/07/9014 to amend condition no 1 to allow an increase in the permitted time limit from 31 December 2024 to 31 July 2027; condition no 2 to vary the wording to allow material to be deposited in Area D1 shall consist of inert excavated spoil from the Sellafield Works and/or material being deposited in line with an appropriate CL:AIRE definition of waste code of practice and deletion of condition nos 18 (construction of soil storage mounds) and 21 (restoration of the site).**

**Sellafield Site, Seascale, Cumbria, CA20 1EH**

Subject to due compliance with the following conditions:

**Time Limit**

1. The deposit of materials shall take place for a limited period only expiring on 31 July 2027, by which date all buildings, plant and machinery, including access roads, foundations and hardstandings, shall have been removed from the site, and the site shall have been restored in accordance with the approved scheme within a further period of nine months.

*Reason: To secure the proper restoration of the site following the approved period for this temporary development.*

**Approved Scheme**

2. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the approved documents, hereinafter referred to as the approved scheme. The approved scheme shall comprise the following:
  - a. The submitted Planning Application Form – 30 August 2016
  - b. Letter/planning statement - 30 August 2016
  - c. Plans numbered :
  - d. 0 BE 2595967 (Mod D) – BEPPS excavated material for Area D1 landscaping mound and landscape mound phases
  - e. 0 BE 2575271 (Mod B) – New phase 1 (fill from BEPPS Site) extent of topsoil strip

- f. 0 BE 2575272 (Mod B) – New phase 1 (fill from BEPPS site) GA showing extent of fill
- g. 0 BE 2575273 (Mod B) – New phase 1 (fill from BEPPS site) cross sections through fill
- h. The details or schemes approved in relation to conditions attached to this permission.

*Reason: To avoid confusion as to what comprises the approved scheme and ensure the development is carried out to an approved appropriate standard.*

- 3. Material deposited on the site shall consist of either inert excavated spoil from the Sellafield Works and/or material being deposited in line with an appropriate CL:AIRE definition of waste code of practice declaration from the Sellafield Works. No finely powdered concrete shall be stored on the site.

*Reason: To safeguard local watercourses and drainages and avoid the pollution of any groundwater resources and to minimise disturbance and congestion on the highway.*

- 4. No material deposited on the site shall subsequently be removed unless details of the proposed works to remove the material and subsequent decommissioning/restoration of the Sellafield site have been submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval. The details shall include the area from which materials are to be removed, the method of removal, phasing and timescale of removal operations and a scheme for the final restoration and aftercare of that area of the site from which materials have been removed for a period of five years following removal of the material.

*Reason: To reserve for future approval details not submitted with the application and to secure restoration of the site following removal of stored material.*

## **HOURS OF WORKING**

- 5. No deposit of materials, works to engineer the site and works to restore the site shall take place outside the hours of 07.00 to 19.00 hours Mondays to Fridays and 07.00 to 13.00 hours Saturdays. No deposit of materials, works to engineer the site and works to restore the site shall take place on Sundays or Public Holidays.

This condition shall not operate so as to prevent the use of pumping equipment and the carrying out, outside these hours, of essential maintenance to plant and machinery used on site or the monitoring of landfill gas or leachate.

*Reason: To ensure that no operations hereby permitted which would lead to an unacceptable impact upon the amenity of users of land outside the site take place outside normal working hours in accordance with Policy 2 of the Cumbria Minerals and Waste Local Plan (MWLP).*

## **CONTROL OF DUST**

- 6. Measures shall be employed to provide for the cleaning of all vehicles leaving the site (with the exception of cars), and which shall be maintained for the life of operations and used to ensure that no slurry, mud or other material from the site is deposited upon road outside the site boundary as shown on drawing 1 BE 2938059 Rev A.

*Reason: To prevent material tracked onto roads outside the site giving rise to dust, in accordance with Policy 4 of the MWLP.*

7. The operator shall maintain on site at all times a water bowser or other dust suppression system, together with an adequate supply of water and during periods of dry weather shall spray the access road, haul roads and working areas and waste with water to suppress dust to prevent its migration off site.

*Reason: To safeguard the amenity of local residents by ensuring that dust does not constitute a nuisance outside the boundaries of the site, in accordance with Policy 4 of the MWLP.*

## **CONTROL OF NOISE**

8. All plant, machinery and vehicles used on site shall be effectively silenced at all times in accordance with the manufacturers' recommendations.

*Reason: To safeguard the amenity of adjoining land users by ensuring that the noise generated in their operation is minimised and so does not constitute a nuisance outside the boundaries of the site, in accordance with Policy 2 of the MWLP.*

9. The equivalent continuous noise level (LAeq) attributable to the approved operations shall not exceed 55 dB(A) as measured at Calder Farm. The noise levels are expressed as one hour free field LAeq's.

*Reason: To safeguard the amenity of local residents by ensuring that noise generated by the operations hereby permitted does not cause a nuisance outside the boundaries of the site.*

## **SAFEGUARDING OF WATERCOURSES AND DRAINAGE**

10. Throughout the period of working and restoration, provision shall be made for the collection, treatment and disposal of all water entering or arising on the site, including any increased flow from the land, to ensure that there shall be no pollution of watercourses by the approved use.

*Reason: To avoid the pollution of any watercourse or groundwater resource, in accordance with Policy 5 of the MWLP.*

11. Any chemical, oil or diesel storage tanks on the site shall be sited on impervious bases and surrounded by impervious bund walls; the bunded areas shall be capable of containing 110% of the largest tank's volume and shall enclose all fill and drawpipes.

*Reason: To avoid the pollution of any watercourse or groundwater resource, in accordance with Policy 5 of the MWLP.*

## **ARCHAEOLOGY**

12. Prior to the commencement of soil stripping in Phase 1 and any activity likely to damage the area of archaeological interest identified below a programme of archaeological recording shall be implemented in accordance with written scheme of investigation which has been first submitted to the Local Planning Authority for approval. It shall include the taking of cores from each of the areas of existing marsh and the excavation of a 10m x 10m pit centred on pit 031, features as identified in the Archaeological Services WYAS report no 1828.

When approved the programme shall be carried out only in accordance with the approved scheme of investigation.

**Reason:** *To afford reasonable opportunity for the examination and recording of remains of archaeological interest within the site.*

13. An archaeological post-excavation assessment and analysis, preparation of a site archive ready for deposition at a store and completion of an archive report shall be carried out within two years of the date of commencement of the hereby permitted development or as may otherwise be agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

**Reason:** *To ensure that a permanent and accessible record by the public is made of the archaeological remains that have been disturbed by the development.*

### **REPTILE MITIGATION**

14. The reptile mitigation scheme as set out in the Additional Ecological Information report ref BNG-02/eco report/final v4/04-08 shall be carried out in areas of the site which have potential to provide habitats for reptiles as identified in the report prior to their development.

**Reason:** *To ensure that species of reptile which may be present on the site are protected.*

### **STRIPPING, STORAGE AND USE OF SOILS**

15. At least 48 hours prior notice shall be given to the Local Planning Authority of the commencement and estimated duration of each phase of the soil stripping operations.

**Reason:** *To allow the Local Planning Authority to monitor the soil handling operations.*

16. Top and sub soils shall be stripped from any part of the site before material is deposited or it is traversed by heavy vehicles or machinery (except for the purposes of stripping that part or stacking topsoil on that part).

**Reason:** *To ensure that soil is removed from the site prior to the deposit of material and to prevent any avoidable damage to the structure of the soils.*

17. Topsoil which has been stripped or removed shall be stacked separately in accordance with the approved plans and prevented from mixing.

**Reason:** *To secure the satisfactory storage and retention of overburden and soils for restoration.*

18. The stripping, movement and resspreading of soils shall be restricted to occasions when the soil is in a suitably dry and friable condition and the ground is sufficiently dry to allow passage of heavy vehicles and machinery over it without damage to the soils and the topsoil can be separated from the subsoil without difficulty.

**Reason:** *To prevent any avoidable damage to the structure of the soils.*

19. Soil storage mounds shall be sown down to grass in the first available sowing season after their construction.

*Reason: To reduce the washing away of soils in the interests of pollution control and in the interests of visual amenity.*

### **CONTROL OF WEEDS**

20. All non-cropped areas of the site and all topsoil, subsoil and overburden mounds stacks shall be kept free from noxious agricultural weeds and all necessary steps shall be taken to destroy such weeds at early stages of growth to prevent seeding.

*Reason: To properly manage the site and to prevent the spread of weeds onto adjacent land.*

### **APPROVED DOCUMENTS**

21. From the commencement of the development to its completion a copy of this permission including the approved documents and other documents subsequently approved in accordance with this permission, shall always be available on site or such location as shall be agreed by the Local planning Authority for inspection during normal working hours. Their existence and content shall be made known to all operatives likely to be affected by matters covered by them.

*Reason: To ensure those operating the site are conversant with the approved scheme and are aware of the requirements of the planning permission.*

Dated the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016

.....  
Signed: Angela Jones  
Assistant Director of Environment & Regulatory Services  
on behalf of Cumbria County Council.

### **NOTES**

- The local planning authority has worked with the applicant/agent in a positive and proactive manner to seek solutions to any problems which have arisen in relation to dealing with the planning application and has implemented the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- The policies and reasons for the approval of this planning application are set out within the planning officers' report on the application which can be viewed online via: [Onlineplanning.cumbria.gov.uk/ePlanningOPS/searchPageLoad.do](http://Onlineplanning.cumbria.gov.uk/ePlanningOPS/searchPageLoad.do)
- Where the permission is granted subject to conditions, attention is directed to the attached Appendix/Notes.
- The conditions attached to this permission may override details shown on the application form, accompanying statements and plans.
- Submissions to discharge conditions may require a fee (*see point 5 of Appendix*)
- Any approval to be given by the Corporate Director of Environment & Community Services or any other officer of Cumbria County Council shall be in writing.

## **APPENDIX TO NOTIFICATION OF PLANNING DECISION**

This Appendix does not form part of any consent. However, you should take careful notice of the advice given below as it may affect your proposal.

1. Unless specifically exempt by the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994, all operations involving “controlled waste”, which includes most wastes excluding mine and radioactive waste, requires a Waste Management Licence or Pollution Prevention and Control Permit issued by the Environment Agency. Where your proposal includes the disposal, storage, transfer or treatment of any waste material on the permission site, you should contact the Environment Agency, Ghyll Mount, Gillan Way, Penrith 40 Business Park, Penrith, CA11 9BP (Tel. 03708 506506), regarding applying for a licence, if you have not already done so. It is a criminal offence to deposit controlled waste and in certain circumstances to store, transfer or treat waste without a licence.
2. Obtaining any planning permission does not imply that any consents or licences required to be obtained from United Utilities Plc or the Environment Agency would be granted. You are advised to consult the appropriate body to determine if any such consent or licence may be required.
3. Any grant of planning permission does not entitle developers to obstruct a public right of way. Development, insofar as it affects a right of way, should not be started, and the right of way should be kept open for public use, until the necessary order under Section 247 or 257 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, or other appropriate legislation, for the diversion or extinguishment of right of way has been made and confirmed.
4. The attention of the person to whom any permission has been granted is drawn to Sections 7 and 8A of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 and to the Code of Practice for Access of the Disabled to Buildings or any prescribed document replacing that code.
5. Any application made to the Local Planning Authority for any consent, agreement or approval required by a condition or limitation attached to a grant of planning permission will be treated as an application under Article 27 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 and must be made in writing. Applications will be acknowledged and the Local Planning Authority is required to determine them within 8 weeks of receipt unless otherwise agreed in writing. A fee of £97 is payable for each submission (except for mining and landfill sites where fees are chargeable for site visits). A single submission may relate to more than one condition. If the County Council does not make a decision within 12 weeks of the date of submission the fee will be returned.
6. There is a right of appeal against the failure to determine applications within the specified period and against the refusal of any consent, agreement or approval for which application is made (see enclosed “Notes in respect of Appeals to The Secretary of State”).



## NOTES IN RESPECT OF APPEALS TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE

- If you are aggrieved by the decision of your local planning authority to refuse permission for the proposed development or to grant it subject to conditions, then you can appeal to the Secretary of State under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. Please note, only the applicant possesses the right of appeal.
- If you want to appeal against your local planning authority's decision then you must do so within 6 months of the date of this notice.
- Appeals must be made using a form which you can get from the Secretary of State at Temple Quay House, 2 The Square, Temple Quay, Bristol BS1 6PN (Tel: 0303 444 5000) or online at: [Planningportal.gov.uk/pcs](https://www.planningportal.gov.uk/pcs)
- The Secretary of State can allow a longer period for giving notice of an appeal but will not normally be prepared to use this power unless there are special circumstances which excuse the delay in giving notice of appeal.
- The Secretary of State need not consider an appeal if it seems to the Secretary of State that the local planning authority could not have granted planning permission for the proposed development or could not have granted it without the conditions they imposed, having regard to the statutory requirements, to the provisions of any development order and to any directions given under a development order.

## Purchase Notices

- If either the local planning authority or the Secretary of State refuses permission to develop land or grants it subject to conditions, the owner may claim that he can neither put the land to a reasonably beneficial use in its existing state nor render the land capable of a reasonably beneficial use by the carrying out of any development which has been or would be permitted.
- In these circumstances, the owner may serve a purchase notice on the Council (District Council, London Borough Council or Common Council of the City of London) in whose area the land is situated. This notice will require the Council to purchase his interest in the land in accordance with the provisions of part VI of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.