



# RSO Discipline Update: Applied Social Science

Adrian Bull (University of Manchester)
Steve Brown (RWM)

#### Introduction



#### Adrian Bull:

- Almost 40 years experience in nuclear industry 20 in policy, communications and engagement (BNFL, Westinghouse & NNL)
- Currently External Relations Director at NNL 3 days per week
- Since January 2021

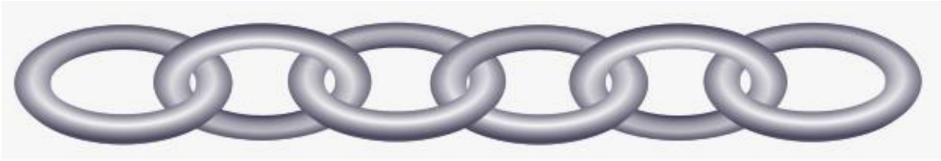
   BNFL Chair in Nuclear Energy and Society at Dalton Nuclear Institute (2 days per week)
- Appointed to DL role March 2021

#### Steve Brown:

- 20 years experience of developing and delivering sustainable energy projects and economic development (EST, Yorkshire Forward)
- Community Investment Manager at RWM since Jan 2017
- Took up role of SME in applied social science in summer 2020
- Member of the IET and Fellow of the RSA







Geology

Waste Behaviour

Societal Acceptance

Engineering

**Funding** 

Political Support

If <u>any</u> link in this chain breaks, we won't have a GDF, and <u>all</u> the work we're discussing at this conference will be for nothing.



#### Forward vision

We need to ensure that the social and political engagement around the GDF programme is effective and underpins the other workstreams

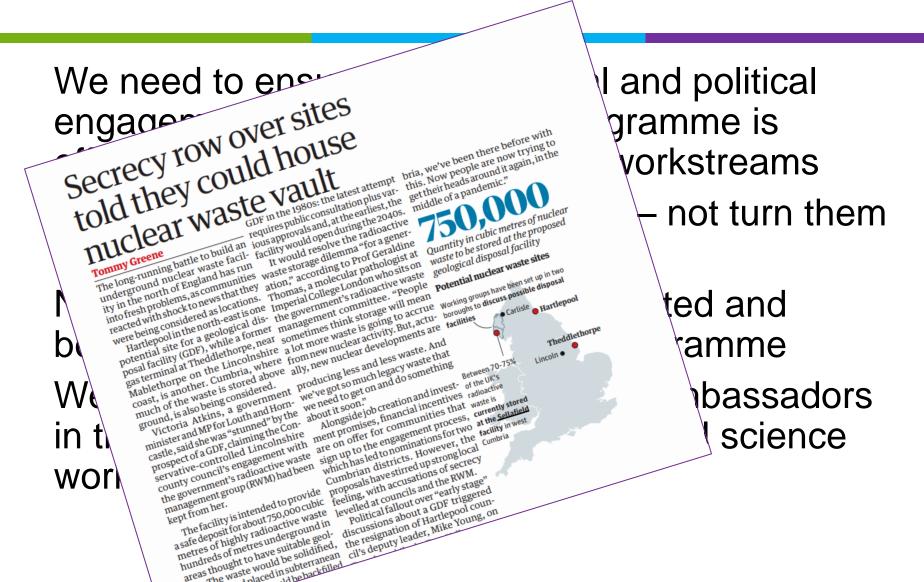
Need to bring communities with us – not turn them against us

Negative sentiment can be exaggerated and become damaging to the overall programme

We need **all of you** to play a part as ambassadors in this – as well as supporting the social science workstream



#### Forward vision





# Forward vision





### Current opportunities

We have a current proposal for a post-doctoral research project in Applied Social Science.

Call to be issued in September 2021:

Focus is "Citizen Participation"

- 18 month proposal to investigate latest insights and the most effective approaches to involving and engaging citizens in the development of major projects and the associated decision making
- Particular focus on how things may have changed in recent years due to – for instance – Brexit, COVID-19 or advances in technology.

Please share the call with anyone in your networks you think may be interested?



## Possible future opportunities

- Cultural dynamics, values modelling and their application to evaluation of the Community siting factor
- Expressed and revealed community values does what people say reflect what they truly feel?
- Collective vs individual psychology and/or values
- Applying Collective Intelligence to solve social problems
- How do we create or enable a social movement in communities that is supportive of GDF?



# Possible future opportunities (2)

- Research that underpins comparative evaluation of the Community siting factor
- Undertaking joint fact-finding and evaluation with communities
- Social science that supports successful EIA's
- Citizen science as a tool of trust building
- Deliberative democracy, citizen participation and consensus building

### Questions?

