



## GDF siting process

The UK Government’s policy for managing higher activity wastes is disposal in a geological disposal facility, known as a GDF. Currently, there is no GDF operating in the UK, but RWM has launched the GDF siting process to find a suitable site and willing community to host a GDF.

With the publication of their policies in 2018 and 2019, the UK and Welsh Governments confirmed an approach based on working collaboratively with communities, through what is known as the consent-based approach. This means communities will be able to work in partnership with RWM, throughout the siting process, so that people within those communities have the opportunity to create a future that works for them.



Image: Timeline for the siting process

Finding a suitable location for a GDF is a process that will take many years. The image above is an indicative look at the timeline for delivering a GDF. The siting process contains a number of key features, which are shown on the siting process timeline. The key features include:

- initial discussions
- forming of local groups with the communities, such as, Interested Parties, Working Group and eventually a Community Partnership
- undertaking site characterisation to understand the geology of the local area – this is achieved initially through local studies and more detailed investigations are carried out through intrusive surveys such as the drilling of boreholes

- right of withdrawal – an important part of the siting process; it allows a community to withdraw from the siting process up until the point at which a Test of Public Support is taken

There are a number of benefits available to communities who engage in the siting process and go on to host a GDF. These are explained fully in the Community Guidance documents for [England](#) and [Wales](#). To summarise, benefits will include:

- **community investment.** Significant investment will be available to communities who eventually host a facility, with immediate funding available to all communities who form a community partnership and take part in the siting process
- **local jobs for Local People.** Thousands of people will be required to support the construction and operation of a GDF over the long timescale of this project
- **infrastructure Investment.** The development, construction, operation and closure of a GDF will be a multi-billion-pound undertaking and there will be significant investment in local infrastructure. This may include development of road and rail networks, improvement of environmental spaces or even the construction of new schools for the local community

	for 1 - 5yrs	for 5 - 20yrs	for 100+yrs
<b>People</b>	<p>Initial conversations, Working Group, establishing partnerships with communities, providing information</p>	<p>Developing a vision, providing information, funding and support for each community Realising local plans for benefits and investment</p>	<p>Continued investment in supply chain, skills, infrastructure, etc</p>
<b>Place</b>	<p>Desktop research and site evaluation</p>	<p>Site investigations, designing and planning Site selection and final decision</p>	<p>Construction, operation and closure</p>
<b>Investment</b>	<p>Up to £1m per year per community</p>	<p>Up to £2.5m per year per community during borehole investigations</p>	<p>Significant investment package for a host community</p>

Image: How RWM will work with communities

RWM have launched a GDF Campaign website which provides background information on geological disposal and up to date information on the siting process. This can be found at: <https://geologicaldisposal.campaign.gov.uk/>.