



GUARDIANS OF
THE EAST COAST

Special Edition Newsletter QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES

16th March 2022

**Over 80% of
respondents said “no”**

Back in November last year, GOTEC created a questionnaire which was designed to gather views and opinions about the proposal to site a GDF with the overground facilities based at Theddlethorpe Gas terminal. The questionnaire was advertised widely over social media, being shared many times by concerned members of the public over many social media sites and so achieved a wide and varied audience. It was timed to run alongside and after the information events held late last year by NWS (at the time they were known as RWM). We had earlier held our own open forum events at which we outlined our concerns about the proposals and answered questions from members of the public following the information void from NWS after the news about the proposals were leaked last summer, which at the time caused a great deal of controversy.

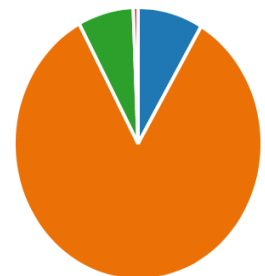
We received 482 responses, the vast majority of which were received in the run-up to Christmas. Read on for more detail.

Overwhelmingly the response was no.

**Only 10% of
Respondents were in
favour of the proposal**

1. Please state your view with regard to the proposal to site a GDF (nuclear dump) at Theddlethorpe

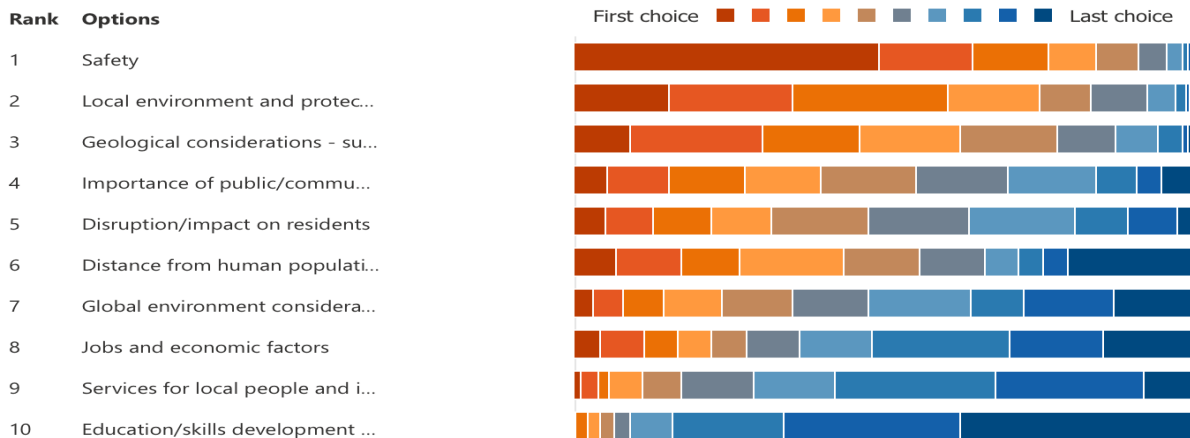
● For	41
● Against	403
● Undecided/need more inform...	35
● Prefer not to say	3



For 49.3% of respondents safety was the biggest concern

2. Using the arrows at the right hand side of the boxes below, or by dragging the boxes into the desired order, please rank the following factors that you consider important when reaching your opinion at Question 1?

[More Details](#)



Notably those who indicated that they were in favour of a GDF here tended to rank either jobs, services and infrastructure upgrades as the highest factors that influenced them or alternatively linked together safety and geology factors. We have already raised concerns about the economic 'benefits' that a GDF might bring in our literature (available in our media centre and on our webpage). The link between safety and geology factors suggests some trust in what is an as yet untested project and perhaps a belief that the GDF should be built in whatever geological area is the most suitable. The best and most suitable geology is in fact the first consideration in a number of other countries in the siting process for their own facility, including Finland and Switzerland, but that is not the case in the UK – there appears to be an acceptance that the geology has to be only 'suitable', rather than the most suitable. The UK procedure permits any person or group of people with an interest in the siting process to open discussions and this means that the areas currently under consideration may not be the areas most suited to the facility. Indeed, NWS responses to our members' questions have made it clear that NWS intend to 'work around' the geology to make the project work, with suggestions of sideways drilling to avoid existing carbon reserves and so on.

The other factor that was frequently rated highly by those in favour of the project was global environmental considerations (such as climate change). There appears to be an erroneous belief that nuclear is a carbon free resource and that it will help with the fight against climate change. In fact greenhouses gases are emitted in all stages of the lifecycle of a nuclear reactor: construction, operation, fuel production, dismantling and waste disposal. Similarly the construction of the GDF will require enormous amounts of concrete for the actual build, as well as the carbon cost of transportation of the building materials and the waste itself. Hydropower, biogas electricity, solar and wind energy all have a smaller carbon footprint than nuclear, and without the resultant hazardous waste.

3. Are there any other factors not mentioned at Question 2 above that you consider to be important?

[More Details](#)

225

Responses

Latest Responses

"Effects on tourism hence employment "

We received a wide range of responses to this question, those most commonly cited being the impact on the visitor economy, the impact of coastal erosion and flooding, the impact upon mental health, lack of trust in elected representatives and in NWS to be open and transparent, the legacy for future generations, the breach of planning conditions in not restoring the land to agricultural use, the impact upon house prices and the implications for wider nuclear development of the area.

Here are just a few examples (from all viewpoints!):

"Destruction of our agricultural land to build a rail link or seaport."

"If this is the best and safest choice of site or just the only one currently on offer?"

"Non transparency of what's actually taken place already and underhand tactics"

"Totally opposed to below ground storage where the waste is not monitored. Plus see this as a step towards more nuclear in the county."

"It would kill the coastal tourist economy."

"Why transport it right across the country and this county which has no rail system"

"Adverse effect on mental health of residents and devaluation of properties (if even able to sell now due to the blight caused by this proposal. 15 to 20 years is too long to wait for any decision"

"This is farmland we grow the food you eat. Do you really want it grown/grazed on top of nuclear waste?"

"Long term effects and the fact they only seem to be tipping their hat towards proper process and engaging the community - they have an agenda to be rolled out and desperately need a community to accept the proposal - this is their one and only directive and shut up the May sayers as best you can"

" We can't export nuclear waste, and all want electricity. Therefore we have to deal with any waste produced"

"Social responsibility and scientific fact before personal feelings."

"It's got to somewhere, if under the North Sea is acceptable then so be it"

“Nimbyism and unsubstantiated fears must not be allowed to override facts and the benefit to the country as a whole.”

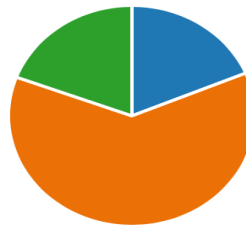
“Why do we need to transport waste so far, are they going to provide flood protection for the facility or the coast, this is a nature reserve, Should we sell our environment and the environment of future residents for less than the salary of a non league footballer, say no to pollution.”

We then asked a number of branched questions about information events attended by respondents:

4. Have you attended or have you booked to attend any of the information events held by RWM (Radioactive Waste Management - a subsidiary of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority tasked with the siting process for a GDF in the UK)?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	90
● No	299
● Prefer not to say	93

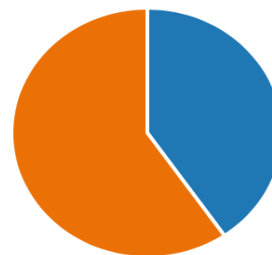


If the answer to question 4 was yes, respondents were asked the following three questions:

5. Which meeting format did you have? (Tick all that apply)

[More Details](#)

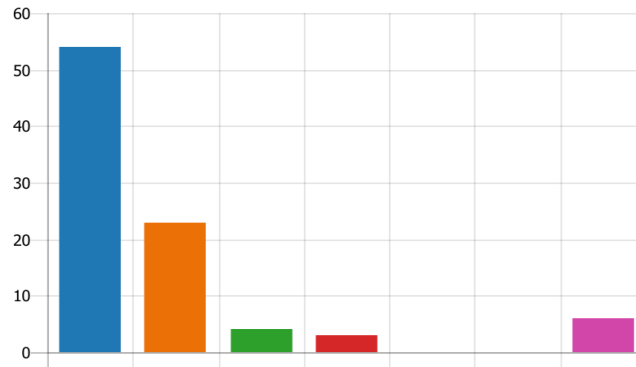
● One to one meeting	42
● General visit to the exhibition	62



6. Which venue did you attend?

[More Details](#)

● Theddlethorpe Village Hall	54
● St Mary's Church Hall, Mablet...	23
● Marshchapel Village Hall	4
● Grimoldby & Manby Village H...	3
● Aby Village Hall	0
● Legbourne & Little Cawthorpe...	0
● Prefer not to say	6



7. How satisfied were you with information provided by RWM?

[More Details](#)

83
Responses

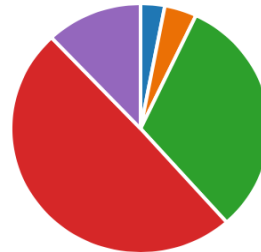
★ ★ ☆ ☆ ☆
2.36 Average Rating

If they answered no to question 4, respondents were asked:

8. Why haven't you attended one of RWM's events?

[More Details](#)

● Not interested	9
● Unable to obtain an appointm...	12
● Times and dates not convenient	94
● Already made my decision	148
● Prefer not to say	36

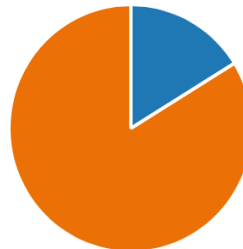


All respondents were then asked:

9. Have you attended an open event held by GOTEC?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	78
● No	404

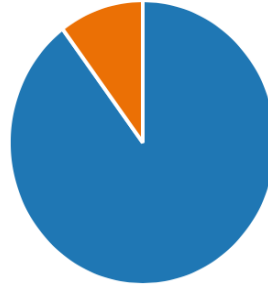


If the answer was yes, they were asked the following two questions:

10. Which venue did you attend?

[More Details](#)

● Theddlethorpe Village Hall	70
● St George's Hall, Mablethorpe	8



11. How satisfied were you with the information provided by GOTEK

[More Details](#)

78

Responses



4.32 Average Rating

GOTEK in fact welcomed around 200 visitors to its first event held at Theddlethorpe. Thank you if you were able to attend.

The next question again provoked a wide range of responses.

12. What further information, if any, would you like to receive to enable you to reach an opinion about a GDF?

[More Details](#)

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Responses

Latest Responses

"Transportation further development prospect "

We had many responses from both the yes and no camps indicating that no further information was needed as they had already made up their mind. Most others raised concerns about why a GDF might be here rather than close to the location where the waste is produced and about geology of the area. Here are a few of the responses:

"Any information provided will be biased toward the decision of yes and I would rather gather information independently so I can ensure it is from a reliable independent source."

"Better understanding of the process and how the community can vote - what we need to do to ensure our views are heard."

“The star ratings above reflect on how much is still unknown or secret about the plans. Even GOTEK have limited information available. THE RWM meeting was full of bright pretty pictures and colouring books for children, but of the 30+ questions I asked, only a couple could be said to have been answered. The rest were all 'it depends' and 'to be decided'. (Also my 1 to 1 consultation was 2 of them, 1 of me). However even without the questions being answered I feel my concerns outweigh any positive responses that may be forthcoming in the future. “

“I honestly don't think our opinions matter to the powers that be.”

“Further confirmation of the suitability of the site with particular reference to the concern raised about short and long term safety.”

“Unbiased, independent details giving pros and cons for the GDF to be sited at Theddlethorpe. Including effects on villages and towns within 30 mile radius of site.”

“Why here and not down south”

“More information about the transparency of the public consultation process as to how widespread an area the poll is conducted and if the local residents votes are being diluted by the votes of more outlying areas to deliberately sway the outcome”

“Written statements about the project, it's effects short term, long term and also alternatives. I'd also like to know more facts about the benefits and possible issues - eg will house prices really fall, or might they go up because of local prosperity, will it really affect tourism?”

“Would be satisfied it was safe if Boris bought and lived in a house at Theddlethorpe!”

“I want to know how the waste is going to be transported to the potential site.”

The next few questions were designed to find out about when and where you would like to attend a meeting with us and we have used this information to help with planning our future events. Please see our website and Facebook page for details.

We then sought your views about whether an open forum question and answer type meeting might be useful. This is something that GOTEK have suggested to NWS but to date they have not agreed due what we would hope are unwarranted fears of disruption.

16. Would you be interested in attending a public question and answer event held by RWM and GOTEC jointly?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	162
● No	166
● Maybe	154



17. What factors would influence your decision whether to attend or not?

[More Details](#)

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Responses

Latest Responses

Most respondents indicated that they felt they would not be listened to or said they would attend if the meeting was at a convenient time and venue. A few reflected the concerns of NWS that the meeting might get out of hand due to inappropriate behaviour. Responses included:

“The attendance of all sides & all given an equal hearing”

“Less platitudes, more actual information”

“If I were listened to”

“Whether there were any activists making the atmosphere challenging”

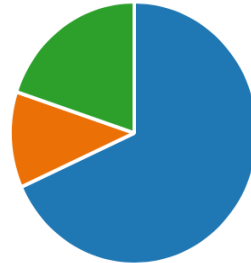
“Public questions tend to attract the extremes, I have no desire to hear how people think their budgie might be affected by vibration caused by a railway track. Those answering tend to feel obliged to answer politely rather than laugh!”

One way that the siting process can come to an end is by withdrawal – either by NWS if they reach the conclusion that the site is not suitable for geological reasons or they reach the conclusion that the local population is unlikely to become a willing host community – or by all local authorities involved exercising a Right of Withdrawal. For the Right of Withdrawal to be invoked, both local authorities have to be in agreement and there is also a requirement for there to be mediation before withdrawal can take place.

18. A Working Group has now been formed to progress the siting process. Both tiers of local authority in our area, Lincolnshire County Council and East Lindsey District Council, have consented to take part in the Working Group alongside RWM and Theddlethorpe Parish Council. If they decide to do so, both local authorities can decide to exercise a Right of Withdrawal from the Group and this would mean that the siting process will come to an end in this area. Would you like them to exercise this right?

[More Details](#)

● Yes, immediately	329
● No, I want the process to go a...	57
● Maybe, but more information ...	96



68% of Respondents would like the process to come to an end now.

We then asked about Community Investment Funding. This question demonstrated that there is a general lack of understanding about what CIF is intended for, with many respondents, particularly from the yes camp, indicating that the money should be spent on improvements to infrastructure or repair of potholes and similar matters. The money is intended for projects within the Search Area or the Potential Host Community which improve community well-being, enhance the natural or built community or provide economic development opportunities.

19. If the siting process progresses to the formation of a Community Partnership, Community Investment Funding of up to £1m per annum initially, rising to £2.5m per annum once borehole investigations commence, can be applied for. It is intended for community projects decided upon in consultation with the community. How would you like that money, if received, to be spent.

[More Details](#)

264
Responses

Latest Responses

"Well it is a pittance so it won't go far ask a footballer "

Many respondents indicated that no amount of money would be enough to compensate for a GDF being sited here, but many had suggestions as to how the money could be applied locally. Here are just a few:

"STEM tuition for local children to drive up levels of attainment"

“Broadband for the areas of Theddlethorpe that are unable to get it at the moment. Traffic calming measures around Theddlethorpe school, total upgrade for Theddlethorpe school.”

“Pottery classes and basket weaving. Extend the observatory building to provide events for the community”

“Not on plants or for the holiday makers on something like a youth centre/community building with computer ext nothing that locals can gain financial from”

“Not a community project but a by pass to cut down traffic would benefit the village. A children's playground. Youth and family based clubs.”

“Food banks, mental health, youth schemes,”

“New medical facilities, youth centre, secondary school”

“Recreation. Green issues and recycling”

“I would suggest that that wouldn't off set the loss to the area from tourism. Devaluation to property prices etc.”

The vast majority of responses were along these lines, or less polite:

“Don't want it, it's blood money”

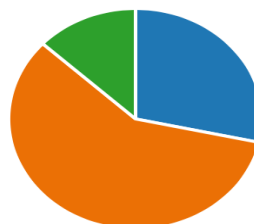
“I don't accept bribes.”

Our respondents were mainly local people

20. Do you live within the Theddlethorpe and Withern electoral ward (this includes the parishes of Beesby with Saleby, Gayton le Marsh, Great Carlton, Little Carlton, Maltby le Marsh, Reston, Strubby with Woodthorpe, Theddlethorpe St Helen and Withern with Stain)

[More Details](#)

● Yes	137
● No	282
● Prefer not to say	63

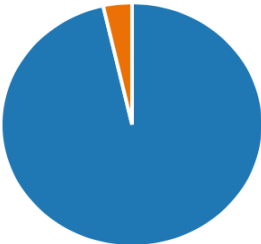


Question 20 was intended to measure the level of response from the Theddlethorpe and Withern ward as there are concerns about the ability and/or willingness of a largely elderly population to engage. Since the questionnaire was written, Mablethorpe has been confirmed as part of the Search Area and unfortunately it is not now possible to determine how many of our respondents reside in the whole of the Search Area. Some of those residents will be included in the response to the next question, which was put only to those who said that they did not live in the Theddlethorpe and Withern ward.

21. Do you live in Lincolnshire?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	272
● No	10

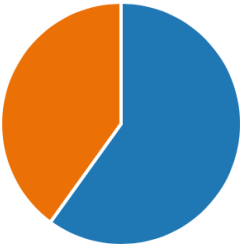


Question 22 was put only to those who indicated that they did not live in Lincolnshire.

22. Do you own a holiday or second home in Lincolnshire or visit the county for regular holidays?

[More Details](#)

● Yes	6
● No	4



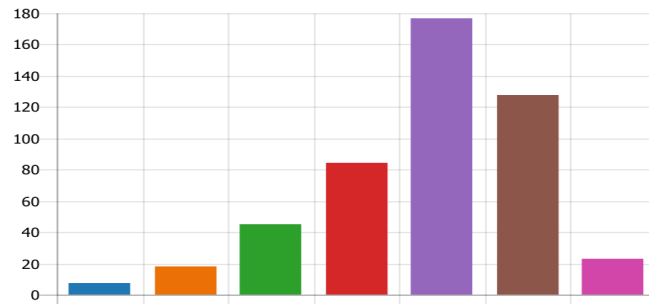
Consideration will need to be given to the rights of those who own second homes or businesses in the Search Area who do not actually reside there, but who will still be impacted by the siting of a GDF here. Will they be entitled to vote in any Test of Public Support?

Finally we asked some demographical questions as follows:

23. What age group are you?

[More Details](#)

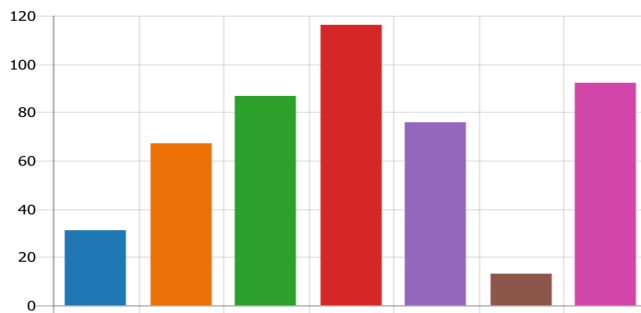
18-24	7
25-34	18
35-44	45
45-54	84
55-64	177
65 and over	128
Prefer not to say	23



24. What is the highest level of qualification (or equivalent) you have achieved/currently studying?

[More Details](#)

GCSE	31
A level or equivalent	67
Trade/technical/vocational trai...	87
Degree	116
Postgraduate/masters/profess...	76
None of the above	13
Prefer not to say	92



The only notable conclusion about these questions seems to be that there was no real correlation between either age or level of education and a yes or no vote.

If you completed the questionnaire, thank you for your time and thank you for your patience in reading about the outcome. GOTEK make no apology for the direct and implied criticisms contained within this article. We hope very much that our elected representatives will choose to withdraw from this process or that NWS will accept that a GDF is not wanted here. If the process does continue, we hope that those driving the project will listen carefully to our comments (and yours) and ensure that local people are put first in the process.

Please come along to one of our events if you have any questions or you can contact us via our website or Facebook page.