

# Decommissioning of the High Activity Examination Facility, FCA

The heavily shielded high activity examination facility was required for the testing and examination of fuel from the three Dounreay reactors. This was part of the drive to develop a safe and efficient fast reactor fuel for power generation.

- The facility was built in 1957.
- The cell suite consisted of three units which formed a U-shape structure.
- Fuel would undergo preparation, inspection and testing through x-rays, chemical and metallurgical analysis.
- The facility was used for fuel and waste handling once the reactor programme had ended.
- The facility was placed into a care and maintenance phase prior to decommissioning without a postoperative clean being carried out which made initial decommissioning more challenging.
- Decommissioning started in 2006.
- Approximately 5 tonnes of remotely handled low level waste and in-cell furniture was removed from the cells.
- The cells were decontaminated to remove surface contamination and sealed as required.
- Zinc Bromide was drained from both north and south cells shield windows.
- Internal demolition progressed with the removal of the asbestos sheet walls in the D9800 annex.
- The cell suite will be removed as oversized bulk packages which will be placed in the Low Level Waste Vaults for final waste disposal.

