

COMPARING THE SOCIAL VALUE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AGENDAS

An Application In Large Scale Infrastructure Case Studies

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PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

- Comparing the Social Value and Sustainable Development Goals agendas
- There is limited discussion of the overlap of social value and SDG agendas in either industry or academia
- This paper is the first to apply the SDG template to social value case studies

PUTTING POLICY INTO PRACTICE



Cabinet Office

Social Value Act review - report

February 2015



Social Value Act Review

Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

- (3) The authority must consider –
- how what is proposed to be procured might improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of the relevant area, and
 - how, in conducting the process of procurement, it might act with a view to securing that improvement.

three main barriers currently exist in this respect:

1. Awareness and take-up of the Act is a mixed picture.
2. Varying understanding of how to apply the Act can lead to inconsistent practice, particularly around:
 - knowing how to define social value and how and when to include it during the procurement process
 - applying social value within a legal framework and procurement rules
 - clarifying its use in pre-procurement.
3. Measurement of social value is not yet fully developed.

SOCIAL VALUE OF DECOMMISSIONING

- Large scale infrastructure has the potential for local, national and international significance as it shapes every-day life
- Studies have typically focused on new-build, with a lack of emphasis in decommissioning.

What does social value mean in decommissioning, and how does social value communication affect the outcomes at different stages of infrastructure life?

- Drawing on qualitative case study research of social value I have examined how the legacy impacts of infrastructure are framed in decommissioning and remediation projects

THE CONTEXTUAL REALITY

The pioneering technology, on such a large scale, had been constructed without deconstruction in mind. Nuclear decommissioning challenges from Fast Breeders Reactors hadn't been faced or solved before.

- In **2000** the *Dounreay Decommissioning Plan* was set at **60 years** at a cost of **£4.3 billion**;
- by **2007**, this was brought forward to **2032** forecast at **£2.9 billion**;
 - in **2008** this was again brought forward to **2025** at a cost of **£2.6 billion**;
 - in **2018** it is still set at mid-2020's at a cost of **£2.9 billion**.



- (5) What falls within this subsection is anything that is done for the purpose of giving encouragement and other support to—
- (a) activities benefiting the social or economic life of communities living near the installation, site or facility; or
 - (b) activities producing other environmental benefits for those communities.

Energy Act 2004

METHODS

	Participants' role	Observations	Site visits	Documents	Supporting
Dounreay Caithness, Scotland	9	2	5		6
	Environmental Sustainability Heritage Site manager Stakeholder Archive Museum Union Clergy	Site Stakeholder Group sub-committee meetings (socio-economics, and site-end-state)	Decommissioning site, archives, nuclear museum, heritage museum, tourist trail	Newspaper, grey literature, policy docs, local flyers etc.	Informant conversations
Trawsfynydd Snowdonia National Park, Gwynedd, Wales	5	1	4		2
	Stakeholder Site end-state Engineering Enterprise Zone Local council	Public Site Stakeholder Group meeting	Decommissioning site, Trawsfynydd Lake visitor centre, Slate museum, Blaenau Ffestiniog	Newspaper, grey literature, policy documents, local flyers	Informant conversations

SOCIAL VALUE TYPOLOGY

■ **Social**

- Engaging local community
- Access, mobility and infrastructure
- Education
- History and cultural significance: sense of place
- Recreational and therapeutic experience
- Healthy living and wellbeing
- Human health and safety

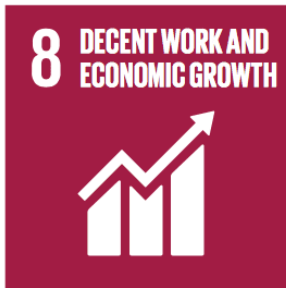
■ **Economic**

- Employment and training
- Quality work and cost security
- Real estate and land management
- Local/ social procurement and responsible sourcing

■ **Environmental**

- Resource management
- Ecosystems pollution and biodiversity

THE UN SDGS





*“Trawsfynydd is ready to be transformed with little upgrade needed to the grid infrastructure. It’s in the right place with the right people and good links to leading academic research institutions in the nuclear sector. **The kind of small reactor which could be sited in Trawsfynydd is set to usher in an era of cost-effective power.**” – Greg Clark, Business and Energy Secretary, 27 June 2019 (Clark 2018)*

Goal 7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all

Dounreay was a pioneering centre in nuclear science but has left a complex legacy. Now the UK is leading nuclear decommissioning processes internationally.

*“There was fishing and farming, and of course those were heading towards decline. So, **this was a big industry to bring to the area. And it was a big exciting vision for the future.** It was cutting edge research, and in some ways it still is today.” – Site manager*



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all

As an employer Dounreay and Trawsfynydd offered above average employment in the areas. As this is being lost, the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Enterprise Zone, respectively, are involved in maintaining sustained growth and decent work.

RESEARCH IMPACT AND THE ROLE OF NUMBERS

- Researchers – both social value and SDGs need further research
- Policy-makers – reviews of social value and SDG roll-outs have highlighted lack of understanding
- Practitioners – putting new social agendas into projects is complex, this can help combine resources for both
- Qualitative, theory-building research: exploring the negotiation behind the numbers

THANK YOU

ANY QUESTIONS?

