

Dounreay Heritage Project Annual Report 2017/18

DOUNREAY HERITAGE STRATEGY

The Dounreay Heritage Strategy was published in 2010 and is managed by the DSRL Heritage Officer with advice from a panel of external experts from Historic Environment Scotland, National Museums Scotland, Caithness Horizons, Highlife Highland & the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. The Heritage Advisory Panel held its 8th meeting on 17 November 2017 in Inverness.

Key Activities for 2017/18

COLLECTION AND DONATION OF OBJECTS

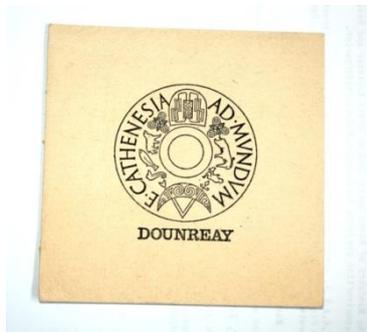
Fourteen objects were donated to the Caithness Horizons museum in Thurso. Seventeen additional heritage objects were collected throughout the year. They are:

1. Four safety awards – British Safety Council (BSC) 2009 safety award (see photo), BSC International Safety Award 2012 & 2016, BSC Globe of Honour 2012.
2. PFR drinks mat (see photo)
3. Haggis magazine (written and published by Dounreay staff) dated January 1960
4. Two hand held radiation monitors (RO2 ion chambers) used by the Fire Brigade (see photo).
5. Desk top embossing press used by Commercial Department for received Invitation to Tender documents. The stamp is; “UKAEA Dounreay Tender Board”.
6. Slide rule embossed with “UKAEA”
7. UKAEA tie
8. Dounreay householders handbook 4th edition (early 1970s)
9. PFR headscarf
10. Teletector radiation monitor in wooden box (early 1960s) – see photo
11. Metric converter pocket sized booklet
12. UKAEA document wallet
13. Apprentice presentation programme from 1971

The star attraction at the Caithness Horizons museum continues to be the original control room from the Dounreay Materials Testing Reactor (DMTR) – see photo. The reactor went critical 60 years ago on 24 May 1958.



DMTR control room in Caithness Horizons



PFR drinks mat



Teletector radiation monitor



British Safety Council 2009 safety award. RO2 radiation monitor

National Museum of Scotland

The National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh had 2 million visitors in the past year and was the top visitor attraction out-with London. Two awards had recently been won. The Energise gallery, which features Dounreay objects, is a particular highlight.

RECORDING HISTORY

Twenty four oral history recordings and transcripts were handed over to the Caithness Archive at Nucleus. These were recorded by James Gunn, Heritage Officer, over the last 6 years and feature former Dounreay employees and members of the public. All have recording agreement forms signed by each interviewee. Historians and researchers have already started to use the recorded information for their studies.

Past and present employees, plus members of the public were interviewed by BBC Radio Scotland for a social history programme called "Our Story". It covered current impressions and past memories of the impact that Dounreay had on Caithness. The 30 minute programme was broadcast on 15 August 2017.

A process to capture the memories of those leaving the site is in place and seventeen forms were completed and returned. The form has five questions.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

V&A Museum of Design Dundee

Four Dounreay apprentices have been working with Caithness Horizons and the V&A Dundee museum, on the Scottish Design Relay project to create a prototype for display in the museum. <https://www.vandadundee.org/news-and-blog/news/vanda-dundee-launches-the-scottish-design-relay>

The Dounreay team created designs for a travel app called "WilderNess", which would provide access to a bank of local attractions, including secret beaches, places to eat and historic sites; enabling users to create their own personal trip. The app would link to social media accounts like Facebook, so notifications from nearby businesses could be accessed during the adventure.

The team's inspiration stemmed from thinking about how to support the local economy and create jobs ahead of the permanent closure of Dounreay. The apprentices created screen designs, developed branding and made a 'survival kit' to complement the app designs which took the form of a rucksack containing things like waterproofs, socks and local produce. They also pitched their prototype design to representatives of the Venture North Heritage app and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.

Separately, the museum will also feature a model and drawing of the Dounreay sphere and is due to open on 15 Sept 2018.

Research Studies

The University of the Highlands and Islands has two on-going doctoral studies that cover Dounreay and the nuclear industry. The thesis titles are:

“The Dounreay Nuclear Establishment and its impact on the Northern Highlands of Scotland”.

“Archiving a nuclear past: exploring the nuclear energy industry and its community impact in Britain.”

James Gunn
Heritage Officer
Dounreay Site Restoration Ltd
e-mail: heritage@dounreay.com

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