



Client

**Nuclear
Restoration
Services (NRS)
Ltd – Dounreay**

Project

**VLLW Disposal – Dounreay
Concrete Blocks**

Scope

Consignment, transport, offloading, and disposal of VLLW concrete blocks at a permitted facility.

Volume

6 VLLW concrete blocks

Highlights

- + Safe handling and disposal of a complex, hard-to-handle radioactive waste stream.
- + Diversion of VLLW from Nuclear Decommissioning Authority disposal routes, preserving strategic capacity.
- + Successful coordination of multi-vehicle transport and crane offloading operations.
- + Effective collaboration between public sector client and private sector waste management provider.

Overview

Augean was engaged to support the consignment, transport, and disposal of radiologically contaminated (non-hazardous) concrete blocks from the Dounreay site, operated by Nuclear Restoration Services (NRS) Ltd.

The waste material comprised wrapped steel shot and baryte concrete blocks, characterised as Very Low-Level Waste (VLLW). These blocks originally formed the walls and roof of the D1251 Post Irradiation Examination (PIE) Cave facility and were cut into transportable sections using a diamond wire cutting process.

Following several weeks of planning and coordination, the six blocks were successfully received and disposed of in 2026 under the Nuclear Waste Services Very Low Level and Landfill Compliant Waste Disposal Service Framework.

Transport was carried out using three vehicles (one curtainsider with a retractable roof and two flatbeds), with each load carefully managed and offloaded via crane into the radiological cell at Augean's East Northants Resource Management Facility (ENRMF).

This initial phase formed part of a larger project, with further consignments received as part of the Balance of Site programme at Dounreay.

Outcome

Augean delivered a fully managed solution for the safe disposal of VLLW concrete blocks, combining specialist lifting capability, radiological waste expertise, and permitted infrastructure.

Through early engagement and detailed planning with NRS and Nuclear Waste Services, Augean ensured all regulatory and operational requirements were met ahead of the first consignment. The use of appropriate transport methods and controlled crane operations enabled safe delivery into the radiological disposal cell.

This project demonstrates Augean's capability to manage complex radioactive waste streams while supporting the UK's wider decommissioning strategy by diverting suitable materials away from higher-tier disposal facilities.

