



[www.nukewatch.org.uk](http://www.nukewatch.org.uk)

## **Warhead convoy movements summary 2015**

The log below is based principally on observations by Nukewatchers, but complemented by deduction as to the purpose of each convoy journey and whether or not warheads were carried.

Nukewatch considers that during 2015 at least two loaded convoys travelled between the Coulport nuclear arms depot in Scotland and the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) at Burghfield in Berkshire, and at least two loaded convoys travelled in the opposite direction. We estimate that between two and ten nuclear warheads were returned to AWE and between two and twelve warheads dispatched to Coulport. Our best estimate is that five warheads were returned to AWE and six were dispatched to Coulport.

It must be stressed that this is an estimate and that convoy journeys will have taken place that Nukewatch was unable to monitor. The overall picture of convoy movements during the year represents a broadly similar level of activity than over the last year and is consistent with general observations over the past three to four years. The level of convoy activity continues to remain consistent with the baseline necessary to allow the movement of nuclear weapons for maintenance and surveillance purposes.

Convoy exercise activities are also thought to have taken place in February, June, November, and December.

## **Special Nuclear Materials (SNM) convoys**

Nukewatch also observed movements of Special Nuclear Materials (SNM) convoys with High Security Vehicles during 2015. These are also shown in the log below. Two SNM convoys were considered to have travelled between AWE Aldermaston and AWE Burghfield, delivering warhead components from Aldermaston to Burghfield. Another SNM convoy was observed travelling between AWE Aldermaston and RNAD Coulport, probably delivering tritium from Aldermaston to Coulport. Further SNM convoys which Nukewatch was unable to monitor would also have made journeys over the year.

On 31 July 2015 the Ministry of Defence withdrew its 'High Security Vehicles', which had been used to transport SNMs, from service. SNMs are now transported in the same 'Truck Cargo Heavy Duty' vehicles which are used to carry assembled nuclear warheads.

**IF YOU SEE A CONVOY PLEASE RING ONE OF THESE NUKEWATCH NUMBERS  
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE:**

South: 0345 45 88 364

North: 0345 45 88 365

Mobile: 07796 226 488

Mobile: 07790 409 339

We need to know what you saw, when you saw it, where, and what direction the convoy vehicles were travelling in.

For more information please see the Nukewatch website at [www.nukewatch.org.uk](http://www.nukewatch.org.uk)



Trip purpose	Date Out	Date In	From	To	Load	No trucks	Route
	Fri 27.11.15	Fri 27.11.15	AWE Aldermaston	AWE Burghfield	Unladen <sup>4</sup>	?	
Exercise?	Mon 30.11.15	?	AWE Burghfield	?	? <sup>4</sup>	?	
	?	Tues 01.12.15	?	AWE Burghfield	? <sup>4</sup>	?	
Exercise?	Wed 02.12.15	Thurs 03.12.15	AWE Burghfield	RNAD Coulport	? <sup>4</sup>	?	M4 M25 A1 A69 M74
	Fri 11.12.15?	Fri 11.12.15	RNAD Coulport	AWE Aldermaston	? <sup>4</sup>	?	

**Notes:**

- <sup>1</sup> High Security Vehicle, not Truck Cargo Heavy Duty.
- <sup>2</sup> Report from a member of the public.
- <sup>3</sup> Journey made as individual vehicles, not travelling in convoy.
- <sup>4</sup> Complicated series of movements, suggesting possibly that more than one convoy, comprised of different vehicles undertaking different duties, was on the road over this period.