

# Sustainability at Amberley





## Introduction

Nestled within the picturesque Chalk Pits and embraced by the sweeping landscapes of the South Downs National Park, Amberley Museum enjoys a truly remarkable setting. This environment not only enhances our collections, but also serves as a sanctuary for the rich flora and fauna characteristic of chalk downlands.

Several years ago, we introduced an Environment Policy, underscoring our commitment to recognising and enhancing our role in supporting nature and safeguarding the Museum's natural assets as well as the diverse species that share our site.

We acknowledge that both our activities at the Museum and our daily choices have the potential to impact the environment—sometimes in ways that pose real challenges for the future. This report seeks to reflect on the measures we have taken to care for our site, as well as outline our ongoing and future plans for its sustainable stewardship. While we take pride in all that we have accomplished, we remain mindful that our work is never finished.

Our ongoing mission is to continually reduce our environmental footprint while actively fostering greater biodiversity across the Museum's grounds.



## Energy and Fuel Usage

With support from a small grant, we have introduced an electric bicycle to the site. This sustainable addition enables our Grounds and Maintenance Team to move swiftly and efficiently around the Museum, collecting rubbish and carrying out essential duties while minimising our reliance on conventional fuel sources.

- We have conducted a full survey of energy usage on site by fitting electricity metres in individual areas and conducting trials of switching off areas to try to determine where the electricity use is generated – we encourage all staff and volunteers to switch off lights and heating when not really needed.
- With the benefit of a small grant we have replaced lights with LED fittings/bulbs. This is an ongoing activity and many areas have themselves replaced light bulbs with ones which are more energy efficient.
- We have been upgrading our electricity installations in our buildings to ensure that they are wired safely and also efficiently so that no electricity is being wasted due to a system issue.
- We have solar panels on the roof of our Connected Earth building and would like to continue to investigate the use of alternative energy sources.
- As the result of a MEND grant we have conserved our Bagging Shed – which is a scheduled monument – and as part of this we have included better insulation and lighting and heating.





## **Waste, Recycling and Procurement**

- Since we introduced our Environment Policy we have conducted a review of waste on site and all hazardous waste such as light fittings, batteries and electrical items are properly handled and disposed of
- We separate metal waste so that it is recycled
- We use a contractor to recycle for us dry recyclable waste, and who also separates the general waste for recycling.
- We have focussed on the management of COSHH on site and now all unused oils or paints are collected in one place for proper disposal.
- We have carried out repairs to our Septic Tank and long term we would like to replace this.
- We have a sustainable procurement policy and try to use local contractors and local products where possible.
- We have installed a compost toilet on one of our nature trails.



## **Wildlife, Biodiversity and Site Management**

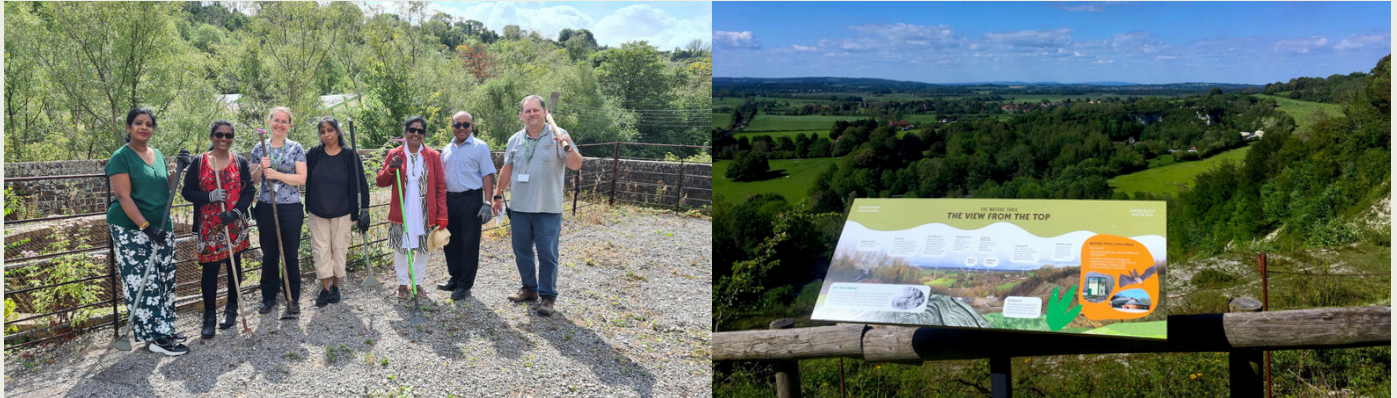
- We have introduced some cordoning off in some areas to protect some wild orchids that we have on site
- As part of our MEND funding for the Bagging Shed project we conducted an up to date bat survey - we have done several of these over the years. We also host 'bat evenings' for wildlife groups.
- We supported a specialist in conducting a spider survey on site which identified some relatively rare spiders
- We have held Environment Days and Nature Days on site - with exhibitors and activities on site and this is something we would like to continue
- We engage in dead hedge laying on site.



- We actively engage in trying to ensure that the site is not overrun with trees/shrubs/brambles/ivy which threaten our buildings and collection items.
- We have 'no mow' policies on some areas so as to preserve wild flowers

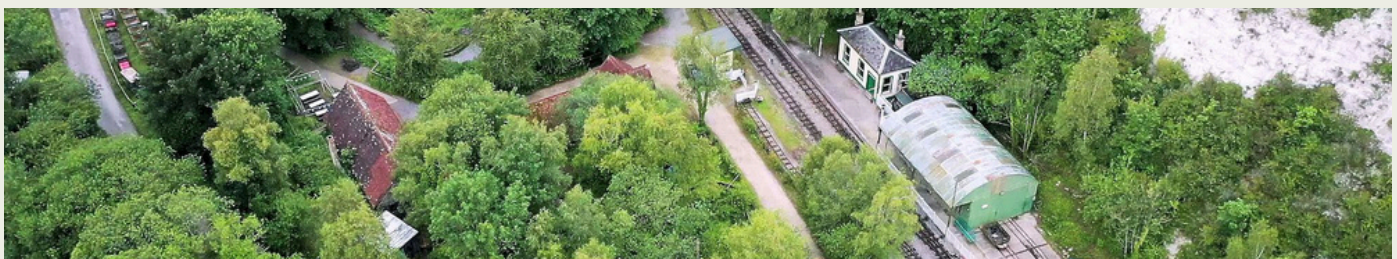
We have a great deal of wildlife on site including:

- Bats
- Birds of Prey and Owls
- Mice and voles
- Deer
- Foxes
- Badgers



## Interpretation, Communication and Engagement

- We hold days for Corporate Volunteering when we encourage them to help us with ground clearance
- Most of our volunteers are from the local area and we actively try and engage with local communities – we have a particular focus on the need for activities to help tackle rural loneliness and we also support groups who have special needs. We have conducted dementia awareness and mental health training with our staff and volunteers which is part of our overall programme for engagement.
- We have many school visits and we talk with them about our nature and biodiversity on site.
- We have a day nursery on site and the children are immersed in the surroundings on site including nature.
- We train our Welcome volunteers to talk about the site
- In the summer we have display boards which indicate the wildlife that can be seen.



## Forward Plans

- We want to introduce wider communication and training for staff, volunteers and information for our visitors
- We will re-examine our waste management, especially in light of new regulations.
- We are always open to working with partners to improve our management of the site, to increase awareness and to encourage biodiversity on site.