



# Environmental Sustainability Policy

## 2022-2027

Gold Award, Visit England

Bronze South West Tourism Award

Visit England VAQAS Excellence

Best Small Business , CCoC

Green Apple Award



**CORINIUM  
MUSEUM**  
DISCOVER  
ARCHAEOLOGY

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## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY POLICY

### CORINIUM MUSEUM, CIRENCESTER

Date approved by the governing body: N/A

Date Policy is due for renewal: 2027

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## 1.0 Museum Aims and Objectives

### 1.1 Museum Vision

The overall vision of the Museum is:

*“To be a leading archaeology museum that continues to evolve.”*

With the Museum’s purpose being:

*“To collect, preserve, and interpret collections from the Cotswold District for public engagement.”*

The Museum’s core values underpin everything we do as a Museum and are:

**Excellence:** We strive for excellence across all areas of our service.

**Inclusion:** We want to appeal to the widest audience possible to be intellectually, physically and economically accessible.

**Innovation:** We want to be leading the way not following the crowds by thinking outside of the box.

**Engagement:** We want people to have experienced the Museum through our programmes both in person and virtually.

**Preservation:** We safeguard the collections for future generations because the objects make the Museum what it is.

In addition to the above, the museum has a commitment to meeting carbon reduction and energy saving targets on a local, regional and national level.

### 1.1 Museum Aims

1. Attract more visitors.
2. Generate more income to reduce our overall revenue subsidy.
3. Consider the Museum's cultural assets.
4. Maintain Corinium Museum's award-winning status.
5. Increase access to our facilities and attract new audiences.
6. Improve the Museum's displays and interpretation.
7. Achieve excellence in standards of documentation and collections care.
8. Achieve excellence in our education and lifelong learning provision.
9. Broaden and deepen access to the collections through diverse media, and further develop the Museum's academic profile.
10. Reduce the Museum's carbon footprint and make it more environmentally sustainable so it is recognised as a leading 'green' visitor attraction in the Cotswolds.

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The Corinium Museum is a service of Cotswold District Council managed by Freedom Leisure on behalf of Cotswold District Council and is committed to a Net Zero Policy and initiatives linked to reducing the Museum's carbon footprint.

"Freedom Leisure Environmental & Sustainability Commitments

We have launched our Environmental and Sustainability Commitments targeting net zero across our operations by 2030. These commitments demonstrate the ongoing focus we have on our environmental performance and how we continue to build on our past successes.

- 2025 Achieve net zero at multiple leisure centres and 50% carbon reduction
- 2027 Achieve 50% of our leisure centres with at least one form of on-site renewable energy generation
- 2030 Achieve net zero across our operations by 2030”

#### Carbon Reduction Projects

The following environmental management measures and projects have been completed or implemented since the 2019 baseline. The carbon emission reduction achieved by these schemes equate to 5273 tCO<sub>2</sub>e, a 21% reduction against the 2019 baseline (original boundary) and these measures will remain in effect across the organisation.

- Environmental Sustainability being included as a key business strategic objective.
- Our environmental management system is certified to ISO 14001
- We have secured Certified 100% REGO (Renewable Energy Guarantee of Origin) for all of the sites where we procure electricity.
- Implemented necessary consumption reduction measures (the Energy and Sustainability Non-negotiables) to achieve substantial reductions on top of previous housekeeping measures.
- Prioritised capital projects offering an energy and carbon saving.
- Additional savings were realised by improved housekeeping and controls work to ensure that operating hours of centres and facilities matched time schedules, ensuring efficient operations.
- Freedom Leisure works closely with energy-saving consultancies, to minimise the environmental impact of our leisure centres. Together we recognized the significant funding opportunity offered by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and other funding platforms.
- Working with our council partners, many of the bids were successful in their bids to secure funding to invest in energy-saving measures at leisure centres.
- Efficiencies through teleconferencing and an improved system of reporting have also resulted in a significant reduction in transport emissions.
- The establishment of an Environmental Network across our business.
- We have and continue to build awareness across our organization.
- Implemented bespoke solutions for specific waste streams generated at our centres.

2.2 There is an acknowledged environmental emergency<sup>1</sup> with Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire County Council declaring a Climate Emergency in 2019. Councils have clear targets for reducing carbon emissions and are committed to taking steps to protect the environment through their respective strategies. There is a national urge towards businesses and companies reducing the carbon footprint of their buildings and services. The Museums Association has pledged support to Culture

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<sup>1</sup> <https://climateemergencydeclaration.org/>

<https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/environment/climate-action/cotswold-climate-and-ecological-emergencies/>

<https://data.climateemergency.uk/councils/gloucestershire-county-council/>

Declares Emergency (CDE)<sup>2</sup> as part of our commitment to the ethical and sustainable future of museums. The CDE campaign launched on 3 April 2019 with more than 190 UK institutions and individuals from the arts and cultural sector joining together to declare a climate and ecological emergency. The Corinium Museum's Environmental Sustainability Policy sits within the context of legislative, public and professional guidelines.

"The MA is signing up to Culture Declares Emergency because we recognise the significant role that museums can play in alerting the public to the threat to our natural environment and all of our futures"

Sharon Heal, Director, Museums Association

- 2.3 This policy aims to complement and highlight elements of Cotswold District Council's Local Plan which highlights sustainable development, low carbon travel and low carbon energy development. The Local Plan feeds into Council policies and impacts across the Cotswold District.
- 2.4 The Corinium Museum's Carbon Footprint, recorded on the DEC, in 2007 was 147 tonnes of Co2 emissions and 115 tonnes in 2017. This measurement was taken for the Museum building only and does not include the Resource Centre storage facility. This figure gave the Museum building a 'D' rating for energy efficiency. Recent work to the lighting and an increased awareness and effort by staff to be vigilant in energy use and reduction, saw the Museum consumption reduced to 94 tonnes of Co2 in 2019 scoring 51 points as a 'C'-rated building. Consumption reduced again in 2021, possibly impacted by building closures due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with 67 tonnes recorded making the museum a **'B'-rated building**. In 2024, the DEC was still rated 'B' but with a more realistic operational figures of 95 tonnes of Co2 recorded through electricity and heating. The site **DEC** (Energy Rating certificate) is displayed for public viewing.

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<sup>2</sup> <https://www.museumsassociation.org/campaigns/climate-crisis/declaring-a-climate-emergen.cy/>

2.5 The Corinium Museum premises is, in part, based in the Grade 2 Listed Abberley House. The Museum is also in a conservation area in the historic town of Cirencester.

### 3.0 FREEDOM LEISURE ENVIRONMENTAL AND NET ZERO CARBON MANAGEMENT POLICY

3.1 Freedom Leisure aims to be the leading provider of operationally Net Zero leisure facilities. One of their facilities is the Corinium Museum. The company ambition is to provide efficient and sustainable measures that reduce operating costs, energy use and carbon emissions as well as supporting local authority partners to meet their climate targets. Freedom Leisure is committed to achieving net zero carbon emissions across their operations by 2030.

3.2 Achieving the **Environmental Management standard ISO 14001** demonstrates our commitment to the environment and energy efficiency and ensures the Net Zero Strategy is having a positive impact.

“Through these commitments we aim to play our part in reducing emissions and contributing to the global target. We acknowledge that we cannot do this in isolation and are committed to supporting and working alongside our partners in the public sector, as well as our suppliers and customers to ensure that through a collective journey we make this happen.” FREEDOM LEISURE’S CEO, Ivan Horsfall Turner

3.3 Freedom Leisure’s Net Zero goals are implemented across all sites managed by the company. These changes include the following:

- The reduction of natural gas as a heating fuel
- 14% reduction in electricity usage across centres
- 2110 tonnes of CO2 saved

- The implementation of on-site renewable energy
- ISO 14001 quality standard across the organisation
- Implement a net-zero supplier policy for the procurement of resources and services
- Collect monitoring data to support interventions
- Train the workforce in Carbon Literacy to supplement the environmental awareness modules
- Encourage colleagues to de-carbonise their travel
- Reduce waste and maintain zero waste to landfill at all sites

#### **4.0 COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL PLAN 2011-2031** (incorporating Low Carbon Energy Development and Sustainable Travel.)

4.1 Annual statistics are still provided for each local authority area to monitor carbon emissions against existing national and international targets. The latest report in June 2016 provides data from 2014. The national trend of reduction in carbon emissions is being achieved through reduction in gas and coal use in energy generation. For Cotswold District, since 2005-2014, carbon emissions have decreased overall. A review of the local plan in 2020 shows:

“Cotswold District as a whole emitted 605,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases (CO<sub>2</sub>e) in 2018, equivalent to the emissions from burning about one and a half Cirencester leisure centre-sized pools of diesel every day. A bit less than half is from road travel (diesel and petrol), a third is from gas and other fuels for heating homes and workplaces, and 15% is from electricity for homes and workplaces. Some carbon is also sequestered (stored) in grasslands and woodland.

The Council’s own corporate emissions for 2019-20 were 2,746 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e, or 0.4% of the district as a whole. Half is from diesel used by the waste fleet, a quarter is from gas for heating council buildings and leisure centres, and a quarter is from electricity.

The Council’s target for its own net emissions is to reduce by two thirds from the current level by 2030, and to zero by 2045, with no reliance on offsetting. This is a challenging target, and how the Council organises itself post



Covid-19 will affect progress towards it.”<sup>3</sup> *Cotswold District Council - Climate Emergency Strategy 2020-2030*

4.2 Cotswold District Council signed the Nottingham Declaration in February 2008, resulting in a strategy and plan to fulfil the pledge. This pledge recognises climate change and is a commitment to tackling the causes of it. The policy seeks positively to encourage renewable and low carbon energy development while ensuring any adverse impact is satisfactorily addressed. The scope of this policy excludes developments which are dealt with by the County Council, e.g. energy from waste and anaerobic digesters.<sup>4</sup>

4.3 SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT outlined in Cotswold District Council’s Local Plan 2011-2031 supports residents, workers and visitors to the District. Development will be permitted that assists in delivery of the objectives of the Local Transport Plan and in particular:

- a. actively supports travel choice through provision, enhancement and promotion of safe and recognisable connections to existing walking, cycling and public transport networks (including, where appropriate, the rail network);
- b. gives priority to pedestrians and cyclists and provides access to public transport facilities taking account of the travel and transport needs of all people;
- c. does not have a detrimental effect on the environment by reason of unacceptable levels of noise, vibration or atmospheric pollution.
- d. ensures links with green infrastructure including Public Rights of Way and, where feasible, wider cycle networks;
- e. makes a positive contribution, where appropriate, to the restoration of former railway lines by retaining existing embankments, cuttings, bridges and related features;

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<sup>3</sup> <https://meetings.cotswold.gov.uk/Data/Council/202009231800/Agenda/Agenda%20Item%2008%20-%20Cotswold%20District%20Council%20-%20Climate%20Emergency%20Strategy%202020-2030.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.fdean.gov.uk/media/c1zp2vx1/gloucestershire-186-delivery-plan.pdf>

- f. incorporates, where feasible, facilities for secure bicycle parking and for charging plug-in and other ultra-low emission vehicles;
- g. accommodates, where appropriate, the efficient delivery of goods and supplies; and
- h. considers the needs of people with disabilities by all modes of travel.<sup>5</sup>

4.4 Thinktravel – New Sense of Direction, is Gloucestershire County Council’s programme is to promote sustainable transport in the county. The initiative has been set up to inform, educate and inspire people to make journeys in a smarter, more sustainable way. The strategy supports measures that include: providing people with information about their existing travel options; improving public transport services and walking and cycling facilities; providing new options and support re-thinking in travel behaviour to reduce the need to travel; using technology and the concept of intelligent mobility to improve customer journey experience and employ new vehicle technologies.<sup>6</sup>

4.5 Buses - to improve travel choice by working with bus operators to provide economic and social benefits directly to bus users, and indirectly through freeing up road space for the benefit of highway users; Cycling - to encourage modal shift away from the private car, support sustainable economic growth, enable community connectivity, conserve the environment and improve community health and wellbeing; Freight - to encourage smarter use of the existing road network, including the use of technology-based and operational solutions, to support sustainable economic growth, enable community connectivity and improve health and wellbeing through improved air quality and carbon emission reduction; Highways - providing the right connections to facilitate economic growth, ensuring the highways network serves all communities, commuters and travellers linking them to job opportunities and services. This balanced against pressures to reduce car dependency and reduce highway transport's contributions to CO2 emissions and other adverse environmental impacts; Rail - whilst the County Council has a limited

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan-2011-to-2031/> P.171

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.thinktravel.info/>

role in respect of investment in rail, its long-term vision for rail is for more frequent, faster passenger services accessed by modern station facilities. In achieving this it seeks infrastructure, service and station improvements;<sup>7</sup>

- 4.6 Regionally, there is also a move to reduce the environmental impact of development and vulnerability to the impacts of climate change by: a. Maximising water and energy efficiency, promoting the use of renewable energy sources and sustainable construction methods, and reducing pollution and waste. b. Supporting the principle of waste minimisation. c. Locating development away from areas identified as being at high risk from any form of flooding or from areas where development would increase flood risk to others.

## **5.0 CORINIUM MUSEUM ENERGY REDUCTION AIMS**

### **The Corinium Museum will:**

- 5.1 Help meet the targets outlined in the Freedom Leisure Net Zero Carbon Reduction Policy through Site Energy Plans.
- 5.2 Display the DEC energy certificate for the public to view, in line with the statutory requirement for all public buildings regardless of size.
- 5.3 Calculate CO2 emissions from analysis of the energy and fuel used in relevant buildings and transport.
- 5.4 Assess risks and opportunities when adapting to climate change and demonstrate an annual reduction in CO2 emissions of around 5% per year meeting tTargets towards achieving Net Zero carbon emissions by 2030

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.cotswold.gov.uk/planning-and-building/planning-policy/local-plan-2011-to-2031/> P.174

- 5.5 The Museum will measure developments by achieving and evaluating milestones detailed on an Environmental Sustainability action plan. These milestones are detailed in the Site Energy Action Plans.
- 5.6 Reduce expenditure through careful review and management of energy and travel resources.
- 4.7 Communicate and educate the public by raising awareness of environmental issues, waste and travel options, especially through the onsite Visitor Information Centre.
- 5.7 Keep up to date and comply with current and new national legislation and guidance that arises from developments in adapting to energy efficiency and carbon reduction.
- 5.8 Regularly review and consult upon what the Museum can do to help reduce energy consumption and raise awareness through regular staff meetings, advice from the Museum Sector, public consultation and new partnerships.
- 5.9 Subject to funding, develop and deliver projects that reduce the Museum's carbon footprint.
- 5.10 Ensure workplace 'Health and Safety Welfare regulations 1992' are met in areas of the building where staff and public convene, including heat and light. The recommended minimum comfort temperature for the workplace is between 18 and 21 degrees C., with no maximum internal temperature in current UK building regulations or health and safety guidance.
- 5.11 Work with the Freedom Leisure Environmental and Technical Teams through the to explore energy and carbon reduction solutions to meet annual targets and ensure the building is working efficiently.
- 5.12 Explore options for increasing recycling and reducing waste to meet Freedom Leisure targets.

## 6.0 ENERGY REDUCTION OBJECTIVES

**The Corinium Museum is committed to the following:**

### **Reducing Consumable Resources**

- 6.1 Reduce paper use as much as possible and commit to moving to electronic means of communication, planning, booking and ordering.
- 6.2 Reduce printing output and photocopying as much as possible by monitoring paper waste, especially colour printing to reduce printing costs. Move towards digital provision through bookings, marketing and promotions.
- 6.3 Keep radiators to the lowest possible setting during periods of cold weather whilst maintaining a comfortable level and meeting workplace guidance for temperature control.
- 6.4 Ensure all battery chargers, phone chargers, laptops, computers and screens are switched off after each working day as these trickle energy if not switched off.
- 6.5 Limit the use of air conditioning and fan heating/cooling systems as these use the highest amount of energy.
- 6.6 Build on the previous lighting project to implement more energy efficient lighting throughout the galleries & in cases contributing to reducing energy consumption and saving energy costs.
- 6.7 Ensure the team switch off lights when a room is not in use and keep a check on lights around the building. Explore lighting options for areas that could have sensor lighting (PIR controls i.e. kitchen, galleries during off-peak hours and stock cupboards.)

- 6.8 Ensure all electrical equipment has an up to date PAT sticker and report any faulty equipment, IT or lighting as soon as possible.
- 6.9 Use low energy light bulbs in all lamps and lighting.
- 6.10 Conserve water where possible by reporting leaks in a timely fashion and introduce water hippos in toilets where possible.
- 6.11 Encourage staff to attend Carbon Literacy training where available and ask them to make suggestions for alternative ways of working and reducing overall consumption during team meetings. Ensure in-house Environmental Sustainability modules have been completed.

#### **Promoting Green Travel**

- 6.12 Promote car sharing for commuting/meetings/training and reduce meetings or trips that result in extensive mileage.
- 6.13 Make available green travel information for public and staff awareness.
- 6.14 Explore the installation of cycle stands in the rear courtyard to encourage people to visit the museum by bicycle or point visitors to nearest bicycle stands.
- 6.15 Encourage visitors to travel to the museum using green transport, walking or bicycle means by offering an incentive such as a reduction on admission.

#### **Reducing Waste**

- 6.16 Encourage visiting schools to promote recycling with their pupils by implementing innovative ways of getting schools, children and teachers on boards with segregating waste.

- 6.17 Encourage staff to recycle by providing bins for mixed recycling and remove office bins. Monitor site targets and aim to reduce annually.
- 6.18 Re-use stationary where possible. Purchase goods and products locally and opt for local services to reduce negative environmental impact and travel costs whilst supporting local trades, retail and services.

### **Encouraging Biodiversity**

- 6.19 Ensure the museum garden and scrub areas to the rear are planted to encourage biodiversity with insect, bat and hedgehog boxes revitalising poor and untidy spaces.

### **Meeting Energy Saving Targets**

- 6.20 Aim to maintain the building's DEC B-Rated status for a public building.
- 6.21 Use third party suppliers that have commitment to environmental sustainability. I.e. choose recycled printer paper, low energy consumption products, A-rated fridges or dishwashers. Ensure external companies have a green policy in place.
- 6.22 Reduce, reuse and recycle wherever possible but most importantly, try not to create waste at all.
- 6.23 Explore options for further energy improvements such as PIR lighting in galleries during winter season and replacing gas boilers with an alternative.
- 6.24 Explore options for solar panels on the building, being sensitive to the museum's Listed Building status.

## Sharing Environmental Sustainability Information

- 6.25 Promote environmental awareness and green opportunities with audiences of all ages that use the museum service.
- 6.26 Consult with stakeholders and visitors regarding the Museum's efforts to adapt to carbon reduction initiatives and ensure staff are environmentally conscious.
- 6.27 Partner with organisations on projects that promote environmental protection and sustainability.
- 6.28 Seek funding for exhibitions, digital resources and training that promote and address environmental issues to staff and the public.
- 6.29 Inspire museum peers through sharing successes, awards and achievements.

## Managing the Care Collections Efficiently

- 6.30 Install the most environmentally friendly controls and appliances for the management and care of museum collections.
- 6.31 Continue to explore alternative ways of managing micro-climates and environmental conditions such as use of air conditioning, in line with Spectrum and Accreditation guidelines.
- 6.32 Install thermometers in places around the building to ensure the minimum temperature is maintained and hot and cold spots can be monitored.
- 6.33 Incorporate, where possible, an environmental message in displays, events and exhibitions.



- 6.34 Monitor heating through newly installed energy-efficient heat pumps, at the resource centre to assess and manage future energy reduction.

## 7.0 MEASUREMENT

### **The Museum's Environmental Sustainability Policy will be evaluated and measured by:**

- 7.1 Achieving milestones outlined in the site Energy Plans
- 7.2 Securing funding to assist with implementing alterations to the Museum building (particularly in relation to heating, water, light and humidity.)
- 7.3 Seeing a reduction in Carbon Emissions annually using the baseline Carbon output figure from 2007 achieving an annual reduction towards Freedom Leisure's Net Zero target.
- 7.4 Achieving net savings on energy year on year by comparing budgetary spend annually.
- 7.5 Generating feedback and ideas from museum visitors and staff about our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint.
- 7.6 Consulting staff on energy awareness, travel and environmental issues through regular ad-hoc questionnaires.
- 7.7 Measuring capital achievements and alterations to the building, for example: installation of LEDs, installation of solar panels, installation of PIRs, adequate insulation.
- 7.8 Monitoring room temperatures around the building to identify hot and cold spots and managing these accordingly.

7.9 Sharing successes and aspiring to lead by example to museum and heritage peers.

7.10 Ensuring Environmental Sustainability is reviewed at site Team Meetings.

## 8.0 RELATED POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND PLANS

Cotswold District Council's Local Plan  
2011- 2031

Business Plan prepared by Iridescence,  
April 2021

Commercial Strategy prepared by  
Iridescence, 2018

Collections Management and  
Maintenance Plan

Collections Development Policy

Care and Conservation Policy and Plan

Lifelong Learning Policy and Plan

Human Remains Policy

Guidelines for the Preparation &  
Presentation of Archaeological Archives  
2016

Marketing Plan and Digital Strategy

Access Policy

Emergency Action Plan

Audience Development Plan