

Environmental Impact Policy Statement



The Committee of the **North Wales Model Engineering Society (the NWMES)** recognises that, as a tenant of the site at West Shore, Llandudno, it has a responsibility to manage and develop this site with due regard to environmental issues alongside its responsibility to the public and the environment when carrying out its activities of model engineering both on and off this site.

The NWMES committee has approved a set of policies for a number of environmental subjects which are set out below. These policies will be reviewed from time to time to ensure they remain consistent with current legislation and directives for environmental matters.

Power Consumption

The NWMES will at all times seek to minimise power consumed wherever practical by:-

- Keeping lighting and electrical appliance use to a minimum and turning off lights and electrical appliances in areas where not required consistent with safety and security
- Using PIR and light sensor controlled lighting in certain outside positions to illuminate areas only when needed
- Replacing lighting when required with low energy or LED lamps
- Heating premises using control thermostats to keep temperatures to an agreed level that does not exceed 20°C and timers to prevent heating premises when they are not occupied whilst maintaining suitable frost protection
- Using all powered equipment efficiently

Water Consumption

Fresh water is a necessary requirement for the operation of steam locomotives and an adequate supply is piped and stored around the West Shore site for this purpose.

The NWMES will seek to minimise water consumption by:-

- Allowing mains water to the site only through a manually controlled valve which is turned off at all times except when required. This is to prevent waste and accidental leakage through frost, faults, damage etc.
- Collect rainwater from the clubhouse and other buildings roofs on the site for use in the watering of plants
- Minimal watering of plants consistent with maintaining them in a healthy condition.
- Watering plants later in the day (preferably evening time where possible) to reduce surface evaporation
- Mulching of grass cuttings where possible
- Use of non-automatic flushes in the urinals

Carbon Emissions

The only processes carried out on the site that may warrant attention for carbon emissions are:-

- Burning of coal in miniature steam locomotives
- Construction, repair and maintenance of miniature locomotives
- Mowing of grass and weed control.

The NWMES consider that the level of activity is very small and falls under the minimum rule of the carbon emissions regulations and therefore requires no specific measures to reduce carbon emissions.

Disposal of Harmful Substances

As a core activity of the Society is the construction, repair and running of miniature steam locomotives and the like, small quantities of harmful substances may be used such as oils, acids and solvents. The use of such harmful substances is occasional and as such the volumes are very small and therefore far below the minimum threshold that requires registration.

The NWMES is aware of the risks associated with using these substances and will allow use only in the hands of authorised personnel following the appropriate Risk Assessments and Method Statements, thereby minimising risk.

Storage is through the use of suitable containers, correctly labelled with details of contents where appropriate, at correct storage temperatures and monitored by the Risk Assessment and Method Statement documents of the Society's Health and Safety regime.

Disposal of lead-acid batteries, used oil, acids, solvents, pesticides and fluorescent light bulbs is through the local authority's waste disposal facilities in the appropriate manner. If not to be stored for future use, disposal is soon after cessation of use and not left as a potential hazard.

Recycling

Very little activity at the site generates waste material of any kind. During specific weekends of the year the public is allowed access and when this occurs the NWMES have waste disposal procedures that collect, bag and dispose of the waste through official channels.

This waste is general and does not normally involve food waste, so separation of waste other than for recycling is not necessary.

At all other times the NWMES arranges for members to regularly dispose of general waste through the local council authorised waste disposal sites using the recycling facilities provided. Small amounts of scrap metal may be accumulated and this will be disposed of using these facilities.

Vermin Control

As with any site that is not occupied twenty four hours a day vermin can become a permanent resident, especially in the banking of a miniature railway or in areas set aside as designated wildlife areas. The NWMES will make reasonable efforts to control and remove vermin humanely and in a manner consistent with current legislation by the following means:-

Prevention

- Removal of all foodstuffs, rubbish and debris close to buildings
- Keeping refuse sealed in rodent-proof containers
- Regularly inspect buildings to prevent rodents entering

Use of Poison Bait

- Using first generation rodenticides only
- Using bait for no longer than 28 days in any treatment
- Removing all bait after use
- Searching regularly for rodent bodies around the site during treatment and up to seven days from the end of treatment
- Disposing of any rodent bodies in the correct manner

Trees, Hedges and Shrubbery

The site currently has a stock of native plants some of which predate the Society's occupation of the site by many years, whilst others have been planted by the Society to enhance the appearance of the site.

The NWMES will continue to manage shrub planting consistent with the core purpose of running a

miniature railway. In particular, the NWMES specifies:-

- 1) Use of native shrubs and plants such as cow parsley and hedge mustard with coarse grasses to encourage wild life.
- 2) Designated areas around the site where grasses are allowed to grow long to encourage wild life, particularly around designated wildlife areas.
- 3) The creation of wildflower areas which are managed to encourage pollinators, butterflies, and other insects .
- 4) Use of native hedges such as Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Field Maple, Field rose, Elder or Guelder-rose or other indigenous species when planting new or replanting existing species
- 5) Mulching of grass cuttings where possible.
- 6) Use organic non-toxic herbicides and weed killers where appropriate to protect wild life species.

Wild Life

With many natural designated areas, a variety of wildlife is resident. The Society will encourage the use of the site as a habitat for wild life and will undertake to:-

- 1) Remove any hazard that could endanger wildlife.
- 2) Minimise any disturbance to wildlife when operating miniature trains and giving access to the public on public open days.
- 3) Site various size nesting boxes around the site to encourage use of the site by birds of a variety of species.
- 4) Site any bird feeding tables carefully and of a type to avoid seed spillage that will encourage vermin.
- 5) Develop and manage an insect 'hotel'

Transport

The core activity of the Society involves the carriage and movement of heavy machinery and personal transport is therefore essential to meet this need. As the Society does not own any vehicles there is no need for a transport environmental policy.

However, the NWMES recognises it's obligation to help reduce carbon emissions where possible so encourage its members to minimise the use of personal transport by:-

- 1) Car sharing where possible to and from the Society's site and other popular venues.
- 2) When a number of members visit an exhibition or similar event to use a coach rather than individual personal transport.

Premises Cleaning

The NWMES will encourage the use of cleaning products that are kinder to the environment by being considered environmentally and biologically friendly, non toxic and biodegradable thereby reducing pollution.

This Environmental Impact Policy Statement was approved by the NWMES Committee at a meeting on the 25th May 2022

Any questions arising from this statement should be addressed via email to the Chairman, NWMES at:-

chairman@nwmes.org.uk