

Waddesdon Manor & Rothschild Foundation Environmental Sustainability Strategy

Waddesdon Manor
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The Rothschild Foundation, charity number 1138145
Your support really makes a difference to us.
Proceeds go towards the upkeep of Waddesdon Manor.



ROTHSCHILD
FOUNDATION



WADDESDON



Executive Summary

The ambition of this strategy is for Waddesdon Manor and the Rothschild Foundation to be self-sufficient in energy, water, food, with a thriving and diverse biological population and remain a top UK visitor attraction by 2050. The framework of the strategy is based on a five-pillar model; **climate**, **water**, **land**, **biodiversity** and **people**, where each pillar is as important as each other.

The complexity and uncertainty of climate change necessitates that all departments take agreed actions and change their operations away from historic norms. Over the next three years the focus will be on baselining our starting point, training staff, implementation of simple adaptations and gathering detailed costs for all capital works.

This strategy will reflect the Rothschild Foundation (RF) mission to deliver positive change and meaningful

impact for the benefit of the next generation as it will ensure that our environmental impact is reduced year on year. The RF also has the significant ability to influence change both locally in Buckinghamshire and nationally by engaging with our own and wider communities through collaboration, funding priorities and networking.

There will be a strong focus on communication to mobilise all stakeholders to protect the climate and environment.



Opposite and above: Waddesdon Manor parterre and Aviary, photo Hugh Mothersole © Waddesdon Image Library



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Left: Waddesdon Manor wildflower meadow
Clockwise: Tomatoes growing in the greenhouse at Eythrope, photo Tom Hatton;
Waddesdon Greenway; Estate drive with hay bales; Trees planted in Jubilee Wood



Introduction

The strategy is based on the concept of five pillars. Four are based on the natural world: climate, water, land, and biodiversity, and the fifth pillar is people. The strategy encompasses buildings and land managed by the RF, including the Grade 1 listed Manor, the Stables, Aviary, the Dairy, the Five Arrows hotel and the Bow pub, Windmill Hill Archive and office buildings, shops and catering outlets, residential buildings, historic gardens, parkland, farmland, woodland, streams and ponds.

It also includes Manor activities and people as a visitor attraction, collection of works of art, exhibitions, financial management, staff, volunteers and many stakeholders. It also includes the operations of the RF and the Grants programme.

The wide range of physical structures, activities and the ambition of the Rothschild family throughout the generations, means that sustainability cannot rest solely on Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions reduction and nor should it.

Achieving The Goal

The RF Sustainability Strategy is made up of three aspects: Measurement, Engagement and Communication.

Measurement To understand where we are on the journey, data is critical to measure change. Each department which controls aspects of the sustainability framework will capture data to measure its baseline. As changes are made, the data will indicate progression. 	Engagement All stakeholders (staff, volunteers, suppliers and visitors) will be engaged to improve their environmental understanding. This training is key to change our environmental impact as it will give everyone the tools and knowledge to be more sustainable. Engagement will give responsibility to each department to deliver the changes and adapt the implementation as needed. 	Communication The RF will communicate the ambitions, successes and challenges that we find on our sustainability journey. Open and transparent communication promotes trust and reassurance that the RF is committed to positive environmental changes. 
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Opposite: The Dairy and Windmill Hill Archive, photo Darren Merriman © Waddesdon Image Library



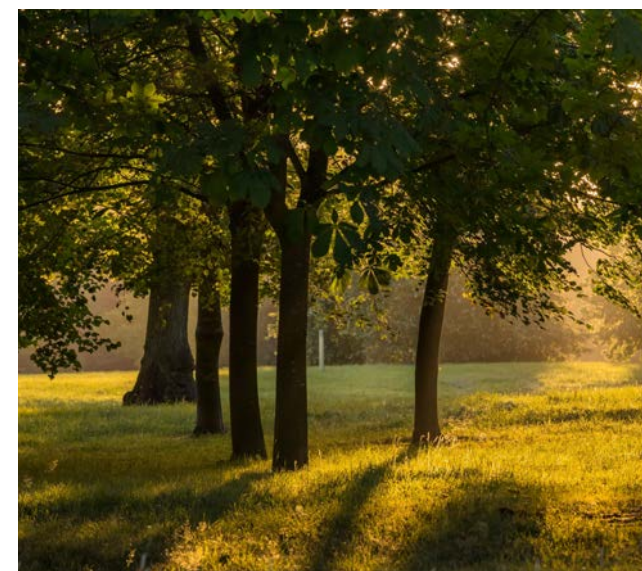


Pillar One – Climate

The RF GHG emissions footprint was calculated by Pilio Consultants for the year 1st April 2022- 31st March 2023 in accordance with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol and includes scope 1, 2 and much of scope 3. The RF produces 14,211 tonnes of CO₂e (carbon dioxide equivalent). This is 41.5kg CO₂e/ visitor.

To reduce emissions the RF will decarbonise through the following actions:

- **Data**
Data improvement for all scopes and categories.
- **Energy**
Reduce energy through the Energy Reduction Hierarchy and generate renewable energy on site and in collaboration with the Waddesdon Estate LLP.
- **Procurement**
Introduce and apply the Procurement Policy and Sourcing Guide.
- **Travel**
Decarbonise travel including reviewing and upgrading our own fleet, introducing sustainable transport options, incentivising greener staff and volunteer commuting, suppliers and visitor travel.
- **Waste**
Embrace the circular economy, reduce the total volume of waste and make improvements in separation.



Opposite: North front of Waddesdon Manor, photo Chris Lacey © Waddesdon Image Library
Clockwise: Main car park with electric charging points; Waddesdon Greenway; Trees in a wood at sunrise on the Waddesdon Estate, photo Chris Lacey © Waddesdon Image Library



Pillar Two – Water

A changing climate has affected rainfall causing stresses on the national water infrastructure and businesses that use water. It's a crucial resource for us in the Manor, Gardens, Aviary, commercial operations and disaster planning. Water shortages are increasing and pose a direct physical and commercial risk. On the RF estate there are seven ponds and three streams that rise on Lodge Hill and feed the River Thames.

We aim to reduce our reliance on mains water and look to greater self-sufficiency. We must also ensure that our impact on the aquatic world is as small as possible and that water supplies are pristine to support maximum biodiversity. The Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) is a separate document that details our approach to protection and improvement.

Actions

- Complete the meter roll out, collect and understand the data.
- Develop the water testing programme already under way for microbes, pollutants and quality.
- Reduce waste through leakage and ensure preventative maintenance programmes are prioritised.
- Introduce water- saving and water harvesting measures where possible, such as rain and grey water use.
- Reduce the Garden's reliance on watering through planting programmes and mulching.
- Work with the Waddesdon Estate LLP to minimise run-off and chemical imbalances.



Opposite: North fountain, photo Hugh Mothersole. Right: South Fountain and Parterre, photo Hugh Mothersole; Wetland on the Waddesdon Estate © Waddesdon Image Library





Pillar Three - Land

The land is not currently heavily cultivated or used so we assume that the soil is in good condition, but this needs to be confirmed through testing. Once a baseline has been calculated we will manage the land to support food production, the historic gardens and increase carbon capture and biodiversity indefinitely. The BAP details our approach to land protection and improvement.

Actions

- Implement a soil testing programme for microbes, pollutants and quality and analyse results.
- Continue to introduce practises which maximise soil health, such as no-dig.
- Work with the Waddesdon Estate LLP to integrate regenerative farming practices where appropriate.
- Manage our woodlands and hedgerows to ensure the tree and shrub population is robust and absorbing as much carbon as possible.
- Increase the percentage of food production in the gardens and extend the network we supply, including increasing the volume to our own catering outlets and businesses.
- Involve local communities and interest groups in our projects.



Opposite: Sheep grazing in the pasture. Clockwise: Views of the Waddesdon Estate, photo Lord Rothschild; Eythrope produce, photo Mat Sunderland © Waddesdon Image Library



Pillar Four – Biodiversity

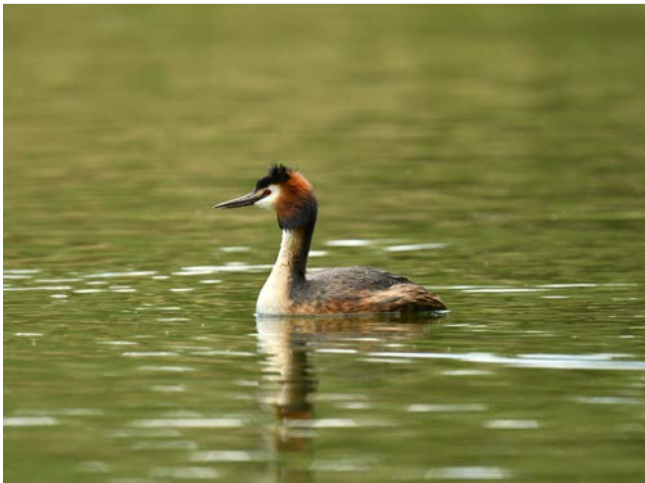
The RF is working closely with our partners to develop a consolidated approach to improving our biodiversity. This includes introducing systematic collection of data. Partners include the local farmer clusters and a number of conservation groups. The BAP details our approach and how these fit with local, national and international BAPs and nature recovery.

Actions

- Baseline testing for microbes, populations, species, pollutants and quality.
- Habitat improvement programmes to support biodiversity recovery.
- Habitat creation and buffer zones to extend biodiversity.
- Management of threats and predators.
- Manage all habitats (grassland, hedgerows, waterways, woodland, orchards) within the RF with biodiversity as an equal driver with finance.



Above: Green garden waste being collected © Waddesdon Image Library, Chris Lacey





Pillar Five – People

The engagement of people is critical to the success of this strategy. Results will be communicated to all to celebrate success and demonstrate how individual small changes collectively make a huge difference to reaching our goals.

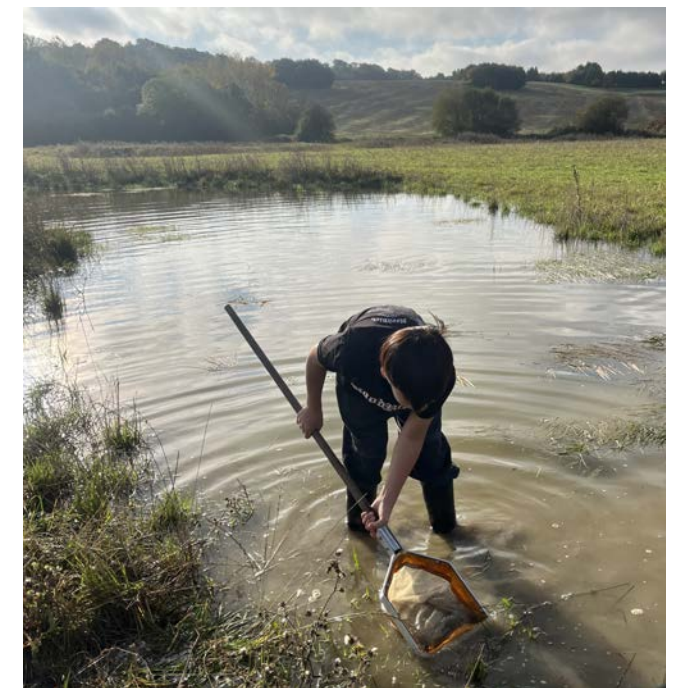
The RF currently engages with sustainable networks across England including the Historic Houses Association, ALVA (Association of Leading Visitor Attractions), Fit for the Future and the National Trust. The RF Grants' strategy enhances our sustainability engagement with a wide and varied network including the Wildlife Trusts, River Thame Conservation Trust, Barn Owl and Raptor Group, BBOWT (Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust) and the Freshwater Habitats Trust, to name a few.

This engagement is one of the most powerful tools the RF has, to mobilise change at a landscape level which benefits and goes beyond Waddesdon.

There are great opportunities to engage and communicate the sustainability journey to stakeholders and the public through our Marketing, PR and Communications, but also through professional networks and advocacy, and via Education and Learning programmes.

Actions

- Engagement and communication to all staff, volunteers and key stakeholders.
- Environmental stewardship programmes through collaboration with partners.
- Expand the Grants programme focussing on natural world recovery and support the development of the Centre for Excellence (a series of events to share, enhance and collaborate positive change).
- Engagement with visitors to the Manor, through the Conservation Hub and other activities and online audiences through newsletters and blogs.
- Extend the Education, Learning and Communities programme in the environmental sphere, with a particular focus on local schools.



Students from Waddesdon School were involved with planting rare and endangered native plants and seeds into the new ponds that were grown in the 'Grow Wet' projects greenhouses.
© Waddesdon School

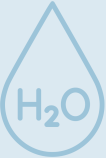


Timeline

For the next three years the targets are:

Year	Measurement	Engagement	Communication
FY 25/6	Improvements to data capture to establish baseline and progress.	Training to be delivered to all staff.	Informing necessary stakeholders of the RF's sustainability ambitions.
FY 26/7	5% improvement on all targets from baseline year. - Focus on Scope 1 and 2. - Approval for costed sustainability 3-year plan.	Staff have communicated our sustainability requirements to all main suppliers.	Inform stakeholders of our successes and challenges.
FY 27/8	10% improvement on all targets from baseline year. 	Encouraged the top 25 suppliers to be actively engaged in environmental change. 	Publish our data and demonstrate how we are achieving our targets. 

This will set the RF on trajectory to achieve five ambitious goals across the pillars

Year	Climate	Water	Land	Biodiversity	People
2050	Net Zero - 90% reduction from baseline year across all scopes, offsetting final 10%.	Be self-sufficient for all water requirements.	RF land to produce 100% more food and be sequestering historic carbon emissions to become carbon negative.	Biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored, and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet, and delivering benefits essential for all people.	For the reputation of the RF and Waddesdon to be synonymous with natural world protection.
					

Opposite: Main drive with wildflowers, photo Chris Lacey © Waddesdon Image Library



Details to meet the 2050 ambition across the Five Pillars

Year	Climate	Water	Land	Biodiversity	People
FY 25/6	Implement carbon counting tool.	All volume data captured in detail; meters planned for installation if needed.	15 points bi-annual soil quality.	All habitats mapped and routine monitoring.	Communication engagement plan for all stakeholders.
	All depts have started to collect best data/ start date agreed.	4 water points have regular quality monitoring.	Total food production at Eythrope known.	Biodiversity Action Plan accepted.	All staff/volunteers to start sustainability training.
	Procurement and Sourcing Policy accepted.	All water discharge points assessed (taps, loos, showers).	Woodland Management Plan accepted.	Conservation volunteer network officially registered.	RF to engage with landowners/ farmers within a 10-mile radius.
	Supplier engagement started.		All grazing fields, woodlands and hedgerows under RF management and Rural Payment Scheme managed by RF.	Key species as marketing tool for public engagement identified.	Sustainability champions across RF.
	Routine sustainability workshops across key Scope 1 and 2 teams.		Land plan drafted with soil improvement plan in association with countywide landscape recovery scheme.		Opening of Conservation Hub for public engagement.
	Waste reduction plan approved.				
FY 26/7	5% energy reduction across every dept. By avoiding, reducing, and replacing.	All water points optimised and not leaking.	Location for planting 1000 climate resilient trees. (Approx 10% uplift in tree numbers).	Species monitoring more systematic and coordinated.	Closer link to Waddesdon School for student engagement.
	25% of top 50 suppliers, agreed to carbon reduction strategies.	All unacceptable water pollution stopped.	Food production proposed plan on RF land/ Greenhouses.	All capital works have a biodiversity net gain.	Website to host sustainable actions and targets.
	Manor Net Zero plan finalised.	All streams (3)/ Ponds (4) are included in water testing.	All soil regularly tested and in a programme of recovery.	All new flora species planted to be climate resilient.	Centre For Excellence initiated with 2+ public events hosted by RF with National organisations and local estates inc. public question time.
	Public to have options to offset travel and food purchases by donating to offset fund.	5% water reduction across RF.	1st year of hedgerow cutting scheme.	Location of 7 more ponds identified and created.	Enhanced school engagement programme focussing on sustainability with School Access Fund.
	25% reduction in waste (general, plastic, metal, compostable, food, paper).		Understand carbon capture on land and manage in detail.	New habitat management improving the priority areas and ensure protection with buffers around other habitats.	Farmer collaboration to develop markets for their regen produce, and support for more local routes to market.
	Carbon sequestration of RF trees and land measured.		University and other research projects initiated.	Release land for new priority habitats and install them.	All grantees to have decarbonisation programmes and actively engaged with RF sustainability team.
			Utilise Biodiversity Net Gain payments to ensure land recovery.	Initiate ecotourism activities e.g. walks, life skills, species identification.	

Year	Climate	Water	Land	Biodiversity	People
FY 27/8	Grantees Carbon footprint as criteria for grants.	25% of all water reduction measures installed.	25% increase in food production on RF sites.	10% increase in diversity of the invertebrates, small mammals, soil microbes, flora.	RF host 5 annualised sustainability focussed events cementing Centre For Excellence for nature.
	15% carbon reduction from baseline year (2100tCO2e) and reduce energy use by 10%.	10% water reduction across RF.	50% of all soil to have significantly improved in carbon capture, microbe count and chemical composition.	Key species habitat shows significant improvement i.e. increased population.	70% of all visitors to have engaged with Sustainability team and changing an aspect of their life due to education.
	50% reduction in general waste sent for incineration.	5% of all water needs captured from rainwater.	Zero inorganic fertilisers/ herbicides/ pesticides used anywhere at RF.		Green fund available to enable climate mitigation/ adaptation for grantees.
	75% of top 50 suppliers, agreed to carbon reduction strategies.				
BY FY 30/1	New boilers installed in the Manor.	25% reduction on baseline year.	50% increase in food to be grown and sold locally.	UN initiative from COP15. 30 by 30. 30% more land by 2030 is protected for conservation.	Host Annual Historic Houses/ NT/ Farming/ Local community/ Grantees sustainability knowledge exchange events.
	50% of Scope 1 and 2 emissions reduction.	25% of water captured on site.	All woods in programme of recovery from Ash dieback and other diseases.	(10% more woodland, 10% more biodiversity corridors, 10% increase in ponds).	To explore the potential to establish a wider pool of funders and build the funding available for regen food and agriculture.
	50% of all electricity generated onsite.	30% of water waste processed on site.	Make the land more resilient to climate impacts like drought and extreme weather events.	Influence asserted on all landowners to connect habitats with Bucks &MK Natural Environment Partnership.	
	All suppliers demonstrated compliance with sustainability policy.			Reintroduction of UK bird species e.g. Turtle Doves in conjunction with Aviary and SE England.	
BY FY 35/6	90% of all Scope 1 and 2 emissions reduced from baseline year.	100% of annual bedding plants to need minimal water maintenance.	75% increase in food to be grown and sold locally.	UK Leading estate showing how society can prosper with nature.	To be a top leader in sustainable historic houses and within the cultural sector.
	33% of all Scope 3 emissions reduced from baseline year.	50% reduction from baseline year.	All soil quality to have reached ambition and be thriving.		To have educated/ directly assisted 1 million people in conservation.
BY FY 45/6	70% of all Scope 3 reduced.	75% of water captured on site.	Carbon capture on RF land to cover all emissions.	Visitors attracted to Waddesdon for nature.	To influence 200,000 people annually in forward thinking innovation for climate change.

Year	Climate	Water	Land	Biodiversity	People
BY FY 50/1	Net Zero - 90% reduction from baseline year across all scopes, offsetting final 10%.	Be self- sufficient in all water requirements.	RF land to produce 100% more food and be sequestering historic carbon emissions to become carbon negative.	Biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored, and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people.	For the reputation of the RF and Waddesdon to be synonymous with natural world protection.



Cover: Misty view looking towards Waddesdon Manor, photo Chris Lacey © Waddesdon Image Library. Above: Waddesdon Manor grounds, photo Chris Lacey © Waddesdon Image Library. Opposite: Aerial view, photo Flying Pictures

