



BLenheim PALACE

SUSTAINABILITY

Conservation, Preservation, Restoration.
Community - focused sustainability practices to preserve
our heritage and the planet for future generations.



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Introducing Reusable Cups

Blenheim Palace has successfully phased out single-use cups across all its cafes and events, promoting the use of reusable cups. This initiative has prevented over **100,000 single-use cups** from ending up in landfills annually, significantly reducing plastic waste and setting an example for visitors on the importance of sustainable practices. Single-use cups produce 61g of carbon. Although our returnable cups emit 11g more carbon in the production process than single-use cups, they can be used **up to 1,000 times**. After just 3 uses of our returnable cups, the carbon saved is greater than the amount of carbon emitted.

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In trailing the reusable cup scheme, we identified some areas of improvement. We noticed that rather than returning the cups, visitors were keeping them as souvenirs. This meant Blenheim Palace had to rethink the scheme. A £2 deposit that was paid back on return of the cup was introduced. This idea has contributed to the success it is today and is a testament to Blenheim Palace’s commitment to finding new ways in which to work.



Electric Vehicles

Blenheim Palace have transitioned the vehicle fleet to electric, cutting the transport-related carbon emissions by 20%. By installing multiple electric vehicle charging points across the estate, they have encouraged sustainable transportation for both their staff and visitors, aligning with the broader environmental goals. In addition to this, Blenheim Palace run an Electric Car Scheme and Bike Scheme, encouraging and supporting staff in their decision to transition to a greener way to travel.



We've reduced transport-related carbon emissions by 20%



Eco-Friendly Transportation for Our Visitors

Blenheim Palace provides electric shuttle buggy services to visitors for tours and to help both staff and disabled visitors when travelling across the estate. There are some beautiful cycling and walking routes in and around the estate, which visitors are encouraged to use. This initiative not only lowers carbon emissions but also enhances the visitor experience by offering sustainable and enjoyable travel options around the estate.

Currently, 1 in 5 visitors travel to Blenheim Palace via green means.



Blenheim Palace have considered the emissions that are generated by visitors when making their journey to the site. Visitors are offered the opportunity to buy a tree when booking their tickets and in 2023/24 this resulted in roughly 5,000 trees being planted. To incentivise a greener travel option, visitors are also offered a 20% discount on their ticket price if they can prove they have travelled on the bus, train, by bike or electric vehicle. Currently, 1 in 5 visitors travel to Blenheim Palace via green means.

LED Bulbs

Heating and lighting Blenheim Palace uses up a lot of energy, but over the years there have been various projects aimed at reducing consumption, for example, over 2,000 lightbulbs and light fittings in the Palace have been replaced with LEDs. The radiators in the Palace have also been modernised to help with this. Blenheim Palace have also placed sensors in work buildings for the lights to be turned off when rooms are not in use, saving energy throughout the day.

Over 2,000 LED lights replace old lightbulbs and light fittings.



Orangery Project

The Orangery restaurant project at Blenheim Palace, saw a team of skilled workman, removing the historic glazed roof and replacing it with an insulated slate roof and water gutters (increasing from 100mm to 5mm) which has **saved over 1.5 tons of carbon emissions annually and improved rainfall management**. Additionally, all windows have been repaired and have their sash weights reinstalled, which will significantly reduce the need for air-conditioning. The space will now experience minimal overheating or glare, making it usable year-round, even as climate change leads to higher temperatures.



Partnership with Rowse Honey



We have joined forces with Rowse Honey on a major conservation project to create a sustainable nectar source for local wild bees and other pollinators, as well as introducing new habitats for insects and birds, in and around our Oxfordshire estate. This five-year partnership will see the creation of at least 50 acres of pollinator-rich meadows on agricultural land within our pioneering regenerative farming project, as well as help fund new research into the role diverse mixes of pollinators have in farmed landscapes.



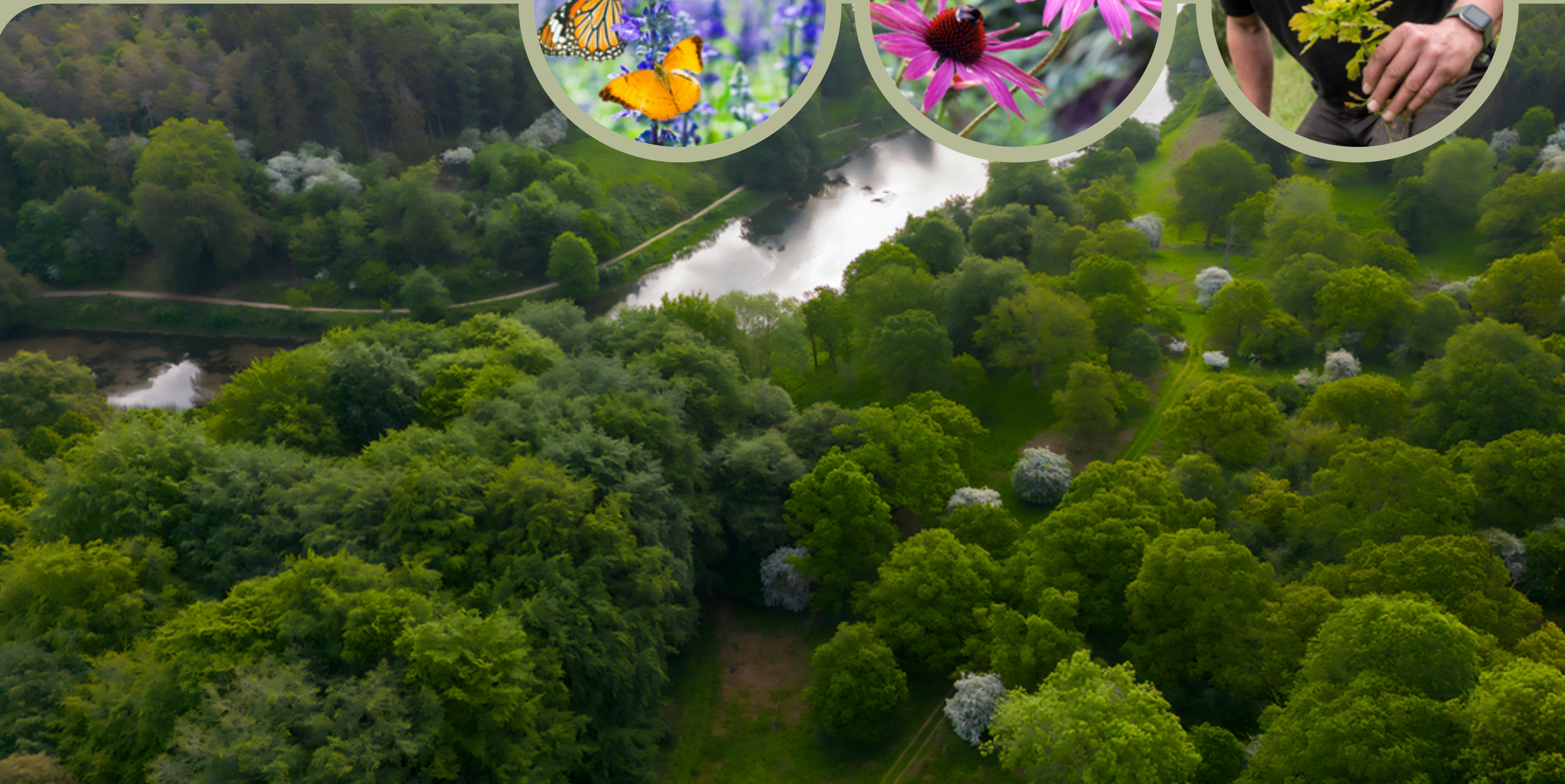
Creating at least 50 acres
of pollinator-rich meadows
on agricultural land

In addition to introducing **over 70 different species of wildflowers** – that have been native to Britain for centuries – to various areas on the land, the project will also see the **planting of 200km of hedgerow**.



Rewilding Programmes

The estate wide rewilding efforts have **restored over 200 acres of natural habitats** promoting biodiversity and enhancing carbon sequestration. Through strategic tree planting and the reintroduction of native vegetation, Blenheim Palace has increased local wildlife populations and improved ecosystem health, contributing to the goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2027.



As part of Blenheim Palace's 10-year plan, they are committed to **planting 358 hectares of new forests, including an estimated 600,000 trees**, assigning 800 hectares of land to regenerative agriculture and restoring 30 hectares of wetland as well as creating new solar farms.



Biodiversity

The landscaping around our solar panels has been carefully planned to protect the local ecology and promote biodiversity. For example, we're planting native hedgerow and species-rich grasses across the solar area, and we're installing bird breeding plots and boxes and underground chambers for amphibians and reptiles. Boundary fences also have small mammal gaps and deer escapes. They reinforced along the southwest of the park which will help in providing a natural visual screen from the Woodstock direction.



Waste Management

For general waste management, Blenheim Palace sends it to the Ardley Energy Recovery Facility (ERF), where it is incinerated to generate electricity, converting the waste into a valuable energy source.

The recyclable materials get sent to Culham for initial bulking before being transported to the Crayford Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) in Kent where materials are separated into different recycling streams and sold ensuring the recyclable waste is repurposed effectively. In addition to this, the bottling plant at Blenheim Palace has dramatically reduced waste, going from emptying a skip twice a week to just once every six months by sending plastic and cardboard for recycling.

Most of the food waste is processed at the Cassington anaerobic digester, where it is burnt to then generate electricity. Additionally, a

portion of food waste is diverted to The Tumblebug Project, which aims to handle the majority, if not all, of Blenheim's food waste in the future. This initiative is very promising and has already resulted in a saving of approximately £6,000 per year.

The old wood from Blenheim Palace is donated to one of two charities called RAW that recycles it, or to Farmability that repurposes the wood into items such as wooden garden storage units. Blenheim Palace's old IT equipment is either refurbished or stripped for parts to then be reused, with some equipment being reused by staff. In response to recent rebranding needs, Blenheim Palace are collecting old uniforms to be repurposed by the design students at Activate Learning to make cushions and other items that can then be donated to schools.

Many visitors require a map while visiting Blenheim Palace, to reduce paper waste Blenheim Palace have implemented a QR code option instead to access the map digitally.

Sustainable Water Management

Blenheim Palace implemented advanced water management systems that have **reduced water consumption by 41% since 2018, enough to fill 62,201 bathtubs.**



Lake Dredge

We are pleased to announce that we have now successfully completed the first dredge of the Queen Pool in over 100 years. The monumental effort has brought the lake back to life and returned it to its ideal depth of two metres, by removing over 300,000 cubic metres of silt.



The last major dredging operation was in 1895-1897 when 150,000m³ of silt was removed



Land & Water, a leading wet civil engineering firm that maintains and enhances the UK's network of waterways, helped us to dredge the silt from the Queen Pool. Charlie Oakes, Project Manager at Land & Water said, "our chosen methodology is designed to protect the lake bed as much as possible during the dredging with several pieces of equipment being specifically commissioned for this project".



Roof Restoration Project

For the roof restoration project at Blenheim Palace, we will reuse all the existing slates and lead, and recycle the rainwater collected on the temporary roof over the 2-year period. All waste will be recycled, with its end destination logged. Recycled and natural fibre insulation will be used for all roofs, windows will be repaired to reduce heat loss and air leaks, and local stone will be utilized and reused where possible. Timber used will be FSC certified, and only biofuel generators or 100% electric/solar setups will be used for cabins and site huts. This significant project will repair and protect the Palace for future generations.



Green Building Standards

Church Farm is Pye Homes’ flourishing sustainable community in Radley, designed to be in harmony with the natural landscape. This community will consist of 240 new homes in accordance with our legacy principles, prioritising good stewardship, land husbandry and a concern for future quality of life - and all underpinned by a steadfast commitment to sustainability. Most homes boast an EPC rating of A and feature innovative technology to keep households running more efficiently, whilst 25% of Church Farm is attributed to multi-functional green space with a higher-than-average biodiversity net gain. The homes have been designed to sit harmoniously in their rural setting with inspiration taken from surrounding architecture in the village, whilst an improved network of walking and cycling routes has further integrated this community into the existing fabric of the village.



Our homes boast an EPC rating of A and feature innovative technology



CLICK HERE >
to find more
information

Renewable Energy Sources

Blenheim Palace have begun their work on a new solar park on former agricultural land northeast of Woodstock. Once completed the 6.5 hectare site will be capable of producing seven megawatts of clean, **renewable energy enough to power 721 homes**. In addition to generating power, the new park will also reduce CO² emissions by almost 15,000 tonnes over a 15-year period.

Solar Farm

The Solar Farm forms part of Blenheim's 'Climate Pledge' to become carbon neutral on scopes 1-3 of the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) protocol across all operations by 2027 and, beyond that, to **remove 230,000 tonnes CO²e from the atmosphere by 2050**.

From the 6.5-hectare site just northeast of Woodstock, **93.8 gigawatt hours will be generated over 15 years**, which means nearly 15,000 tonnes of CO² will be avoided. It will provide enough power for 721 homes (based on average annual household demand). The park is being built by Bouygues E&S Solutions Ltd, a global leader in the development and construction of utility-scale solar power plants and other low-carbon and renewable schemes.





BLENHHEIM PALACE

If you'd like to know more please contact
Sustainability@blenheimpalace.com

or visit

blenheimpalace.com/sustainability