

# Airfield Estate

## Annual Review 2022

For the year ending December 31 2022





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Following years of uncertainty – augmented by the effects of a global pandemic that proved to be one of the most challenging events in history - Airfield opened its doors fully, welcoming back visitors from all walks of life. We revised our mission 'to inspire and enable informed food choices' ensuring that it was deliverable with impact. In 2022, we were farming, growing food, educating, facilitating research, showcasing our heritage and advocating for change. We stayed true to our Charter and the legacy of the Overends, who in so many ways were ahead of their time. The sisters were purpose led, in how they farmed sustainably, their support to the local community and their foresight in leaving the Estate in trust to the people of Ireland.





# Redefining our Ambition and Strategy

In 2022, we also developed a new five-year strategy and ambition for Airfield.

Our ambition is to be **Dublin's Sustainable Food Hub** in a world leading sustainable food city. We published this strategy with renewed clarity and confidence about how Airfield can in parallel be a leading Dublin tourist attraction while bringing long term change to food sustainability in Ireland. We have identified five strategic drivers in achieving our ambition and we are committed to them over the lifetime of this strategy. As a result of this, we will support young people to be leaders in food sustainability and ensure Airfield becomes financially secure.



1.  
Sustainable  
Legacy



2.  
Impactful  
Experience



3.  
Powerful  
Partners



4.  
Powerful  
Voice



5.  
Powerful  
Research



## 1. Sustainable Legacy

### Reducing our Carbon Footprint

Across the Estate itself, we aim to be as sustainable as possible, and this has meant a full review of our carbon emissions and a plan has been developed to further reduce them (*Scope 1 and 2 are underway and we will work on Scope 3 in the future*). In 2022, we installed an aerobic digester to take all our food waste and convert it into compost saving 10 tonne of carbon per annum and creating a truly circular system on the Estate. Our focus on sustainability goes beyond the four walls of the Estate and we are taking environmental, social and governance (ESG) considerations into account when making investment decisions with our finances. By the end of 2022, 75% of our fund is ESG invested and the carbon footprint of our fund has reduced by 53% since 2019.



## 2. Impactful Experiences

### Totally Terrific Tomato Festival

After a two-year hiatus, Airfield was delighted to host the colourful “Totally Terrific Tomato Festival”. As was the intention of its founder Nicky Kyle, this festival continued to celebrate the delicious and diverse fruit in displaying over 100 tomato varieties. Community involvement was key to creating this showcase with 60 tomato growers from across the country growing tomatoes for the festival. The catalyst for bringing the festival to Airfield was the desire to carry out a tomato taste test, a sensory experiment, whereby Airfield pitched four distinct tomato varieties against each other to find the tastiest tomato for our garden team to grow. The festival also allowed us to bring the stories behind the varieties of tomatoes to life and so connect the wider community with issues around crop genetic diversity.



### Social Enterprise Market

In May, we put the spotlight on the work of Social Enterprises and welcomed 9 vendors to Airfield as part of a dedicated market. We also featured panellists and workshops to raise the profile of these amazing organisations.

The event was supported through our digital channels, press coverage and attendance from key stakeholders. Hosting the market and the resulting communications from it allowed us to expand the reach of both the event and Airfield to a broader audience.



### Interns, Placements, Training and Disruptive Learning at Airfield

We welcomed new faces to the Estate by providing students from diverse backgrounds a chance to come and learn new skills and knowledge, combined with the opportunity to put these into practice across a range of Airfield projects. Internships, training and placements represent a fantastic opportunity to train and develop a new generation of undergraduates and graduates with specialist experience. Students from UCD, Tufts University Boston, TU Dublin, Organic Growers Ireland interns and transition year students from around Dublin got the opportunity to work with experienced staff in Airfield and have the benefits of access to the Estate. We also welcomed back school visits and gave free access to exam year students in the month of June. A total of 12,500 children who came and spent time with our Education guides getting to know where the source of their food comes from.





### 3. Powerful Research



#### Our First Airfield Research Strategy

With the support of our Education and Research Committee, we developed a new research strategy for Airfield Estate. This strategy establishes a foundation on which we can begin to provide thought leadership on food sustainability and fulfil our vision of being a leading voice for the consumer. Linking our own mission and ambitions to those of national and international priorities, this strategy will facilitate Airfield positioning itself as a trusted voice for all in food sustainability. Airfield will be a model of best practice to others and will use this strategy to identify key, novel projects, measure outcomes and disseminate the information.



### 5. Powerful Voice

#### Youth Board Recruitment

Sustainability leadership today means thinking differently about the way things have been done in the past. 2022 saw Airfield lead the way in the setting up of our first Youth Board. We recruited 14 young people from around the country to support Airfield.

The Youth Board will help shape our new ambition to be at the cutting edge of food systems – and help write the recipe for the sustainable future we all need.



### 4. Powerful Partnerships

#### Food on the Edge

**Food on the Edge** is a coming-together of top international chefs and food enthusiasts for a two-day Food Symposium held for the second year at Airfield in 2022. The aim of the symposium is to challenge our perspective on food and our connection to it. Some 60 speakers took to the stage over the two days including two panels hosted by Airfield – one on the role of young voices in food, including representatives from Friends of the Earth, Think House and the UK based young people's campaigning charity Bite Back and a second focused on education including Darina Allen and TU Dublin.



# Airfield Estate 2022 Celebrations



## Farmer Time

We completed our first full academic year of **Farmer Time** matching 53 farmers with schools around the country. Airfield is the coordinator of FarmerTime - a unique programme that links farmers with the consumers of tomorrow through virtual visits to the classroom throughout the school year. Farmers are beamed into the classroom every two weeks for 15 minutes to talk and meet with the students and introduce them to the farm and all the activities that go on. The aim is to inspire, engage and educate young people about not only the journey from farm to fork but also the everchanging, diverse agricultural industry that will have a lasting, long-term effect on their consumer behaviour.



## Farm and Gardens Continue to Thrive

The farm at Airfield has been practising regenerative agriculture for several years. The aim is to improve soil and animal health and overall performance with minimal external inputs. This should lead to better carbon and water retention in the soil. In the gardens, the mixture between ornamentals in the walled garden and produce in the food production garden have been nourished by our compost made on site in the aerobic digester. Getting the compost certified organic was a significant achievement for the team and by taking the food waste from the café and restaurant made us a fully circular operation.

## Rolls Royce Gets a Facelift

We were delighted to be a recipient of a grant from the Heritage Council to repair the four wings of our vintage 1927 Rolls Royce Tourer. Owned by the Overends, the car takes pride of place in our car museum and will be back on the road appearing at a number of vintage car shows in 2023.



## Dublin's Best Sustainable Restaurant

Overends Kitchen took home the title of best sustainable practices from the Restaurant Association of Ireland at its 2022 awards ceremony. This award is testimony to the link between chefs at Overends and our farmers and gardeners.





# Looking ahead to 2023



1. OPENING OF FOODSCAPE  
– WORLD OF SOIL:  
A NEW VISITOR ATTRACTION



2. EXPANDING OUR PROGRAMME  
OF EVENTS AND INCREASING  
OUR NUMBER OF SCHOOL TOURS



3. INSTALLING OUR NEW  
PV PANELS



4. ENSURING OUR FINANCIAL SECURITY  
WITH NEW REVENUE STREAMS,  
INCLUDING AN OFFERING TO  
CORPORATES TO SUPPORT THEIR  
SUSTAINABILITY GOALS



5. FARM AT AIRFIELD BEGINNING  
IT'S JOURNEY TO ORGANIC  
CERTIFICATION



6. CELEBRATING 10 YEARS SINCE  
AIRFIELD WAS REDEVELOPED

# Airfield Estate Financial Summary 2022

