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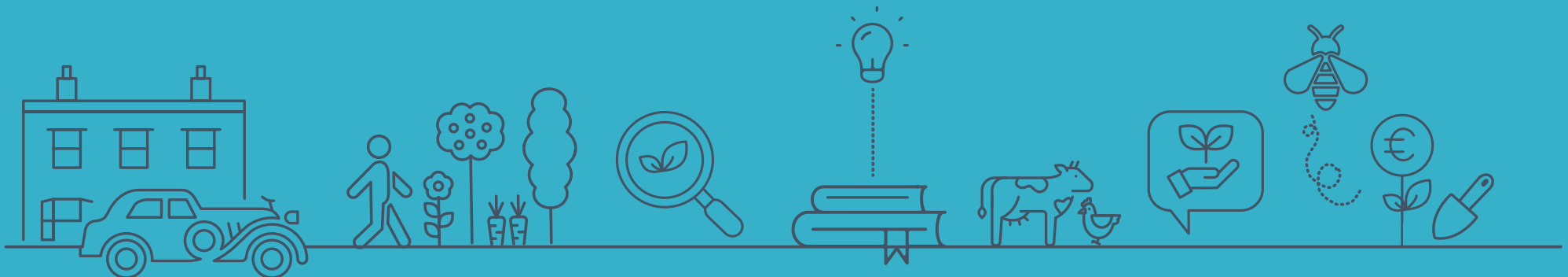
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Introduction

In October 2023, we celebrated 10 years since the redevelopment of Airfield Estate, a major milestone and a great opportunity to reflect on the evolution of the Estate.

Airfield Estate was left in trust by the Overend sisters for the people of Ireland to be used for education and recreation and the sisters continue to be at the forefront of everything we do. We are a leading Dublin tourist attraction, welcoming 230,000 visitors on the Estate.

A registered Charity, Airfield is important to the area. It is a place of cultural, social, charitable, economic and sustainable importance employing 50 people directly.

Airfield has recently set itself the ambition to become **Dublin's sustainable food hub** while driving for Dublin to be a sustainable food city under Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, Sustainable Cities and Communities.

Introduction (continued)

Delivering our Ambition and Strategy

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 continues to be financially secure.

Underpinning these deliverables is the team at Airfield Estate. Across all areas they bring enthusiasm, expertise and a passion to deliver on our ambition to be Dublin's sustainable food hub. The Board and Trust would like to thank the Airfield team. They are the driving force behind the development of Airfield Estate. Through their hard work, connection with our purpose and love of what they do, we will leave Airfield in a better place for the next generation.

Sustainable Legacy



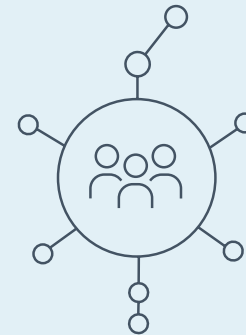
Impactful Experiences



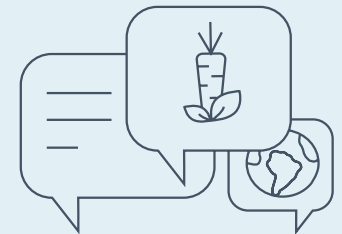
Powerful Research



Powerful Partnerships



Powerful Voice



Sustainable Legacy

A focus on the fund

We have focused on ESG investing.



We are very fortunate at Airfield to have an investment fund, thanks to the foresight of the Overend sisters.

It is this fund that supports their legacy through the running of the Estate and funding our programs beyond the four walls of Dundrum. With the fund, comes great responsibility at a time when investors are increasingly aware of the risk associated with climate change. Over the last number of years we have focused on socially responsible investing. Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) investing is used to screen investments based on corporate policies and to encourage companies to act responsibly. By the end of 2023, 76% of our fund is ESG invested and the carbon footprint of our fund has reduced by 32% since 2019.



The carbon footprint of our fund has reduced by 32% since 2019.

Impactful Experiences

Launch of World of Soil

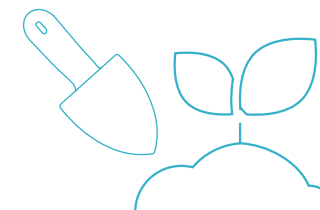
World of Soil is an immersive visitor experience that tells the story of the dynamic and complex ecosystem that lies beneath our feet.

It is the first major addition to Airfield Estate since its redevelopment ten years ago. Opened in May 2023, this exciting visitor attraction highlights the critical role soil plays in our lives. Visitors can walk through a series of interconnecting geodomes transporting them to an underground world. This was followed in September by the opening of a Soil Activity Zone, funded by Science Foundation Ireland.

World of Soil encourages the public to:

- get hands-on with soil;
- explore how soil functions;
- discover what lives within it; and
- learn how they can improve soil themselves at home.

99% of people who visited World of Soil now think that healthy soil is important to healthy eating.



85% of people who visited World of Soil said that their **knowledge about the characteristics and importance of soil increased.**

World of Soil winner of the Institute of Designers in Ireland Award for Best Exhibition.



Impactful Experiences


Supporting the night time economy

Opening the Estate in the evenings became a reality in 2023.


Evening opening is thanks to a grant Airfield secured from the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media for a number of very special late night events.

From bat walks, to chocolate making in the NEFF Inspiration Kitchen and an evening of music through a collaboration with the Royal Irish Academy of Music and their young musicians, the funding enabled us to extend our reach and welcome more visitors across a wider range of activities.

We will build from the success of the 2023 programme, creating an annual programme of proven favourites and new events in 2024.



"Bat walks with my six year old daughter was a fantastic experience. We learnt so much and saw a whole different world of nature. It was amazing to see how close to nature we are in an urban setting."



Our bat walks have been a huge success with tickets selling out in just 20 minutes.

Impactful Experiences

Events, workshops and conferences

We extended our portfolio of day-time activities throughout 2023.

We welcomed sector leaders and innovators, hosting conferences and events for:

- The Environmental Protection Agency
- B-Corp
- The Institute of Directors
- Macra, Fáilte Ireland
- The Climate Advisory Council
- Bord Bia

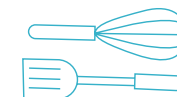
Building on our popular programmes and adding new activities, our sold-out events for people of all ages included:

- Junior and adult cookery classes
- Gardening workshops



We hosted 71 corporate events and conferences in 2023, a 69% increase from 2022.

Our activities bring sustainability to life.



Powerful Research

2023 saw the first year of our Research Strategy focusing on SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) and the consumer come to fruition

Our in-house research delved into Early Childhood Food Environments and included the participation of an undergraduate team of research interns from UCD Human Nutrition and TUD Public Health Nutrition. This programme of work resulted in novel research being presented at two international conferences.

Expanding our research footprint

In 2023, Airfield began two EU projects, the first of their kind undertaken by the research team.

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Action project

This project enables us to host a PhD student as part of a doctoral network, looking at big Agri-Data.

EU Horizon Project (Soil)

We became dissemination partners, in an EU Horizon Project (Soil) which aims to attribute both social and economic value to the ecosystem services held within different soil types.



Airfield now hosts a PhD student as part of our new doctoral network, looking at big Agri-Data.



Powerful Research

Airfield is now contributing to research on a national and international level.



9 Conferences & Events

- Women and Agriculture
- Dairy Le Cheile
- GIY at Bloom
- NDC at Bloom
- GIY Food Festival Waterford
- FENS
- Food as A Gift
- Poster presentation at FENS European Nutrition Conference
- Poster presentation at Sci:Com

14 countries across Europe

Belgium	Romania
Czech Republic	Slovenia
France	Spain
Greece	Sweden
Ireland	Switzerland
Israel	UK
Italy	
Netherlands	

17 universities across Europe

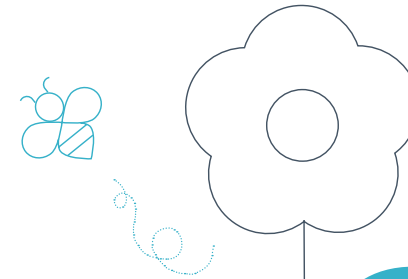
Ireland	France
Italy	UK
Sweden	Israel
Greece	Slovenia
Switzerland	Spain
Belgium	Netherlands
Czech Republic	Romania
Belgium	

10 industry partners

Ranging from farmers to agri-tech, forestry and furniture production.

Powerful Partnerships

Airfield Community Garden supported by Toast



“We chose Airfield as a strategic partner for Toast.org, as the vision of Airfield Estate to serve as Dublin’s Sustainable Food Hub is well-aligned with Toast.org’s mission to enrich the food experience for all, with a focus on food, community, and the environment.”

Cara Kelly
 Director Technology Enablement & Toast.org Ireland lead

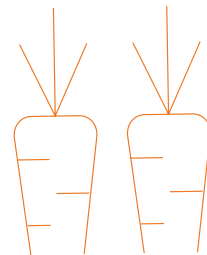
The Airfield Community Garden was opened in October 2023. It aims to provide a space for local community groups and schools to connect with nature, grow produce and learn about the environment and food.

Community gardens are in demand as more green spaces are needed in urban areas and calls have been made in the recent Citizens Assembly on Biodiversity Loss and in government policy. The Assembly believes the Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) sector plays a critically important role in biodiversity in Ireland by furthering research, engaging communities and acting as a watchdog on issues related to the environment.

“Local leadership, local communities and the activities of the Non Governmental Organisation (NGO) sector must be actively developed and resourced to assist the State in addressing the biodiversity crisis.”

Report of the Citizens’ Assembly on Biodiveristy Loss
 March 2023

With the opening of Airfield Community Garden, we are developing a place for our local communities to actively engage with biodiversity loss. Funded by Toast.org, a US restaurant software company, it was opened by Minister Catherine Martin TD and RTÉ presenter Aine Lawlor.



Powerful Partnerships

UCD Recipe Book

We all know that we should eat more vegetables and Irish intakes fall way behind healthy eating advice.

We collaborated with University College Dublin, to produce the Vibrant Veg cookbook. The book was developed through a series of workshops led by a chef and nutritionist, with the general public from across the socio economic spectrum and held in the NEFF Inspiration Kitchen. The recipes, culinary and nutrition tips in an easy to use book will help readers to incorporate more vegetables into their diet, reduce food waste and keep food costs low.



Powerful Voice

Youth Board in action

Airfield's Youth Board, established in 2023, are a committed group of young people that help to guide our policies, campaigns, and strategies. In exchange for their insight and experience, the youth board receive workshops and training to help them become effective and impactful sustainability advocates.

The Youth Board met seven times in 2023, a combination of inperson and online meetings. Their activities included:

- Taking part in workshops on topics including climate anxiety, globalisation and campaign planning;
- Attending the Airfield Estate Strategy Day where they shared their vision for Airfield's work in the coming year;
- Visiting Dáil Éireann in November;
- Working to select a campaign topic which will be launched in 2024.

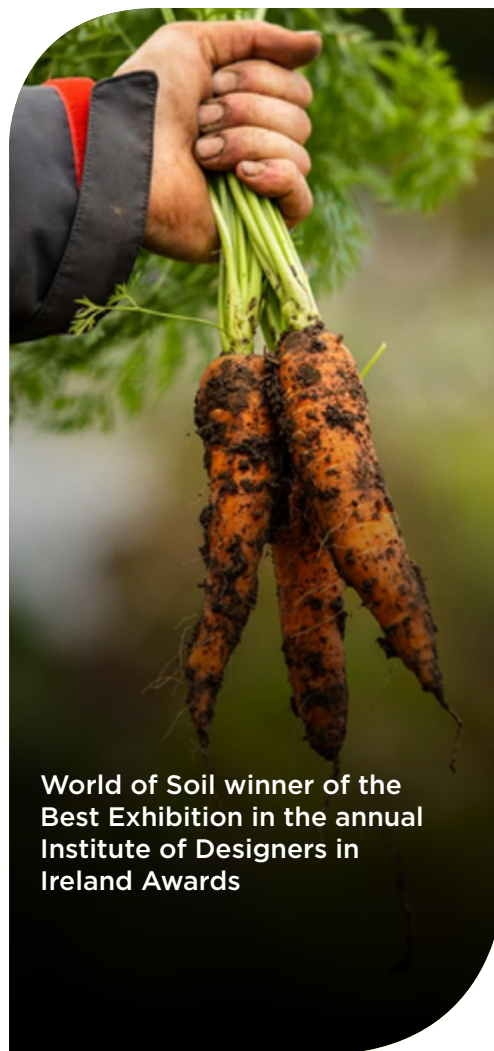


Awards and Recognition

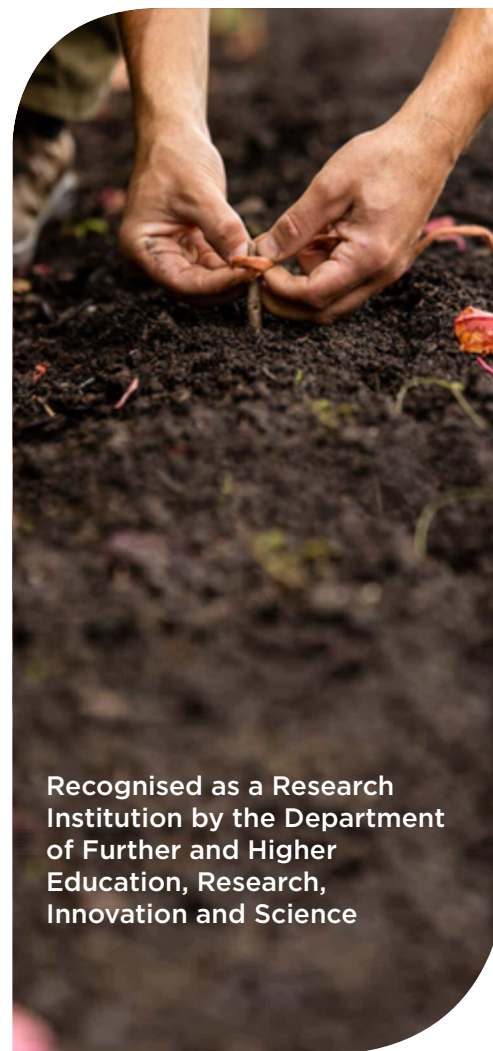
Achieving high standards
in all key areas of focus



Farmer Time winner of the Dairy Marketing Campaign of the Year in the inaugural National Dairy Awards and shortlisted for Best Outreach Programme in Education Awards



World of Soil winner of the Best Exhibition in the annual Institute of Designers in Ireland Awards



Recognised as a Research Institution by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science



Selected by the Department of Agriculture to represent Ireland at the World Food Forum

Our Year at a Glance

Our year
in numbers



8,000

kg of fruit and vegetables
produced in the garden

32%

reduction in our
carbon footprint

75

classes and
courses provided

230,000

total visitors

14

EU countries where
we contributed our
research

8

Undergraduate Research
Interns joined our team

Our Year at a Glance

Acting to deliver our mission

At Airfield we are educating people of all ages and building our role in research. We are also growing our reputation with key decision makers as a leading voice in food sustainability.

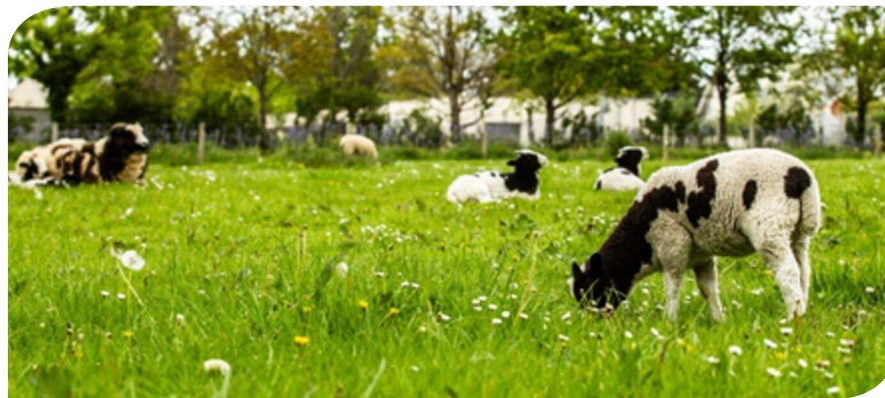


Finances

Grants

We applied successfully for a wide ranges of grants that enabled us to extend our research footprint, add new activities and expand our programmes of stakeholder engagement.

- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media - Night time events
- National Youth Council
- Teagasc
- Leargas
- Fáilte Ireland - Digital that delivers
- Universidad de Vigo
- Entrust Maynooth University
- DLR CO CO



Finances

Financial Summary

Our significant investment in Education and Recreation included the awardwinning and popular World of Soil Exhibit.



Looking Ahead for 2024



**New corporate
volunteering
programme**

**Youth
Advocacy
campaign
launched**

**Enhanced
weekend
offerings such
as Craft R Noon**

**Airfield
Summer Series
of Events**

**New hen house,
home to 120
laying hens**

**Involvement in
four EU funded
projects**

**Optimising operational
efficiency in our gardens,
broadening our vegetable
product line, and incorporating
cut flower production**

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