



# *Sustainability at Homme House*

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## *Our Purpose: Wedding-Supported Conservation*

Our purpose is simple - to conserve and nurture the place we call home by enabling the couples and guests we host to contribute to a wider conservation legacy.

Weddings represent a profound moment of mutual commitment in couples' lives. We give this moment a home, and hope to root the vows exchanged and love shared in a concrete and enduring wider legacy which makes a positive contribution to our beautiful corner of Herefordshire.

Ultimately, this means fostering a new approach to the weddings which take place at Homme - one which makes an incredibly special event even more so through the conscious choices made, and the legacy left.

## *Scope*

As a venue we operate predominantly on a 'dry hire' basis, offering every couple as much flexibility as possible to realise their own vision for their wedding day, with external partners - recommended by us or sourced from further afield - for food and drink, as well as all the other aspects of a wedding day.

At this stage in our journey towards a more sustainable business our priority is the venue-centric actions we can take to lower our impact, with specific focus on Scope 1 and 2 emissions related to carbon emissions, water, energy and waste. These actions will seek to impact both our wedding and holiday let activity.

However, we recognise that much of the impact of our business activity lies in our supply chain, both upstream and downstream, and associated Scope 3 emissions. We are working to better understand and quantify these emissions (or estimate them where necessary), with the aim of auditing our supply chain to switch or exert influence where positive changes can be made.

Our expectation is that our total Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions per wedding should fall year-on-year. In the short to medium term we expect our Scope 3 emissions to rise as more sources are included in our reporting. We are committed to reducing those elements within our control or influence.

While the crisis we face is global, our focus is local. We seek to have the greatest possible positive impact on our immediate environs and community - the buildings and wider grounds at Homme, the parish of Much Marcle and the local Herefordshire countryside. In parallel to our sustainability actions we are undertaking a 10 year management plan for the 60 acres of woodland at Homme and a longterm project to restore, conserve and manage 110 acres of parkland grassland to make it as species rich as possible. Both projects seek to maximise benefits for biodiversity, and in doing so their carbon sequestration potential, as we seek to lower the net total footprint of activities at Homme.

This sustainability policy outlines our commitment to sustainable practices at Homme, led by Charlie on behalf of the family team. Our aims, short term (next 12 months) and longer term (next 24-48 months) actions are outlined.

## *Our Carbon Footprint*

Our annual emissions data is displayed below.

**Scope 1** emissions are quantified using actual supplier/supply data where possible. This scope includes - our oil fired heating system, LPG use for catering oven and boiler, gas oil (red diesel) for farm machinery and bioenergy (an estimate of numbers of fires and weight of seasoned logs per fire).

**Scope 2** emissions are quantified using smart meter data and meter readings.

**Scope 3** emissions are categorised by sub-category, with an initial focus on the upstream activities most relevant to our operation as a wedding venue, as follows:

### ***Category 1: Purchased Goods and Services***

Emissions relating to all purchased goods and services are reported in this category, as they become available. We expect reported emissions in this category to rise year-on-year in the short term.

### ***Category 3: Fuel- and Energy-Related Activities***

Cat. 3 is used to report electricity transmission & distribution emissions based on quantified annual usage data, and emissions based on estimated annual guest water use.

### ***Category 4: Upstream Transportation and Distribution***

Cat.4 is used to report estimated annual emissions associated with wedding associated deliveries - food, linen, catering hire and estimated supplier travel.

### ***Category 5: Waste Generated in Operations***

Waste disposal emissions are based on estimates of quantities composted, sent to recycling (open or closed loop) and landfill.

### Category 6: Business Travel

Cat. 6 is used to report the estimated emissions associated with total annual guest travel based on a 'typical Homme House wedding'.

### Category 7: Employee Commuting

Team commuting emissions are quantified based on rota, vehicle type and travel distance.

Other Scope 3 emissions will be added as our supply chain is audited and emissions data available.

	<i>Tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e</i>	
	<i>2025</i>	<i>2024</i>
<i>Scope 1</i>	<i>64.80</i>	<i>57.02</i>
<i>Scope 2</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>1.81</i>
<i>Scope 3</i>	<i>372.33</i>	<i>2.9</i>
Category 1: Purchased Goods and Services	0.0051	-
Category 3: Fuel- and Energy-Related Activities	0.28	-
Category 4: Upstream Transportation and Distribution	7.46	-
Category 5: Waste Generated in Operations	0.61	1.16
Category 6: Business (Guest) Travel	362.23	-
Category 7: Employee Commuting	1.74	1.74

#### *What is 1 tonne of Carbon?*

The electricity to power a 40W lightbulb for almost 7 1/2 years.

Around 3,500 miles in a medium size petrol car.

A one way economy flight from London to Chicago.

The rise in **Scope 1** emissions reflects a higher oil consumption across 2025 versus 2024 (by est. 3,021l), underlining the challenge and need to improve energy efficiency and transition away from carbon intensive heating systems.

The fall in **Scope 2** emissions reflects the transition of all electricity to 100% renewable tariffs (transmission and distribution emissions are reported in Scope 3).

The rise in **Scope 3** emissions reflects additional measurement and estimation of our key Scope 3 sub-category emission areas.

# *Sustainability Objectives*

## *Emissions*

**Our aim is to be net zero by 2050.**

Our carbon footprint calculations show that our oil fired heating system now accounts for 95% of our total Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions. It is disappointing that the estimated oil usage increased in 2025 v 2024, though some year-on-year variation is to be expected based on the calendar distribution of events at Homme and the associated heating requirements.

Given the very high cost of replacing this system we have revised our net zero ambition to 2050. We will continue to investigate the pros and cons of a staged switchover from oil fired to renewable systems for individual buildings on the Estate in sequence.

In the meantime we will pursue other actions to reduce our emissions, and continue to limit the number of weddings we host each calendar year, and open our home across the period of the year in which the requirement for heating is minimised (Apr-Oct).

As part of our sustainability drive we have launched a sustainability focused midweek wedding offering specifically targeted at conscious couples aiming to make their weddings as planet-friendly as possible. We have also calculated the carbon footprint of a typical Homme wedding as a reference point for sustainability actions (10.68t) and instigated a system to provide couples with inspiration and tips on lowering the emissions associated with their weddings. The high emissions associated with Scope 3 cat. 6 highlights the need for us to encourage more sustainable travel options for weddings at Homme. We have now completed Carbon Literacy training.

### Short term

We will:

- Continue to use Ecologi to offset emissions in the short term
- Define a carbon reduction plan & report annually
- Investigate how to improve the thermal performance of the Main House, Coach House and Tower with better insulation where possible

### Longer term

We will:

- Confirm the deadline for our journey to net zero (once our emissions and carbon reduction pathway are better quantified)
- Retire our LPG boiler and connect the hot water supply to an (existing) immersion tank system
- Introduce a zoned heating system in the Coach House
- Replace oil fired boilers with low carbon/renewable heating & energy system (heat pump & solar)
- Undertake conservation actions on site where possible to support biodiversity and drive carbon sequestration, including conservation grazing led meadow restoration across the parkland
- Roll out a lower impact wedding offering for all weddings at Homme, including weekends

## *Waste*

***Our aim is to make as efficient use of resources as possible, following the waste hierarchy (refuse, reduce, reuse, recycle) to minimise waste to landfill wherever possible***

We have audited our housekeeping supplies and switched to more planet-friendly alternatives where appropriate, including WGAC toilet paper, a refill system for cleaning products and toiletries, and higher concentrated bio cleaning and washing products to minimise packaging waste. We have also instigated a bin liner-free system for all guest bedroom bins.

We have instigated a paper-free wedding management system, and eliminated all single use plastics where possible. Refillable glass water bottles are provided in all bedrooms. We offer a list of equipment couples can borrow for their weddings, adding to it with donated items over time. We use leftover food waste for in house staff meals where possible. Unclaimed lost property is donated to local charities at the end of each wedding season as appropriate.

Our apple harvest from the Walled Garden is pressed locally (c. 3 miles away) to provide 'Homme Pommes' breakfast juice for overnight guests. We have planted herb and perennial cutting gardens to provide ingredients and blooms for use on site.

We segregate all waste for (mixed) recycling, food waste composting, green waste composting, and landfill, and upgraded our guest signage to minimise contamination. We have invested in a hot composting system for the disposal of on site food waste (the compost is used in the garden). In 2025 we also instigated an additional waste channel for plastics which can be recycled at large supermarkets, and undertook a waste to landfill weighing project to better quantify our waste in that channel.

### Short term

We will:

- Continue to discourage single use decor/prop items for weddings, and encourage use of hired, secondhand or recycled & recyclable items
- Continue to encourage & facilitate gifting/reuse of leftover flowers, food and drink

### Longer term

We will:

- Instigate a contract clause banning key single use items (e.g. flip flops, glow sticks, single use cameras)
- Develop greater reuse/circularity in the end products from weddings (e.g. flower drying & arrangement service, wine vinegars)

## *Energy*

### ***Our aim is to maximise our energy efficiency and decarbonise where possible***

All energy contracts were switched to 100% renewable tariffs in 2025, equivalent to a saving of 1.8t CO<sub>2</sub>e in annual emissions. Lightbulb use across all buildings has been audited and inventoried, and switched to LED where possible. We have upgraded our signage to encourage guests to adopt energy saving behaviours while at Homme.

In 2025 we also conducted an initial digital audit, which revealed a minimal opportunity in our cloud storage (equating to only 5kg CO<sub>2</sub>e per year), but a greater one in our hosting. We have migrated our website hosting to Krystal, a UK based host powered by 100% renewable energy.

We use the natural ventilation/cooling/heating systems (cellars/shutter/windows) designed into the historic buildings as much as possible. We host events in April-October only to minimise the requirement for lighting and heating, and switch off lights and heating systems when not hosting. We switch off the oil fired aga in warmer months to minimise oil use.

#### Short term

We will:

- Complete our digital audit to embed best practice in our standard operating procedure (photographer galleries stored locally, google drive attachments for email files, regular digital housekeeping/decluttering etc.)

#### Longer term

We will:

- Upgrade to more energy efficient appliances at end of life
- Electrify grounds machinery when machinery is replaced
- Introduce sensor systems for communal lighting areas
- Investigate energy generation options at Homme (e.g. solar)

## *Transport*

***Our aim is to minimise the impact of transport and travel for the purposes of Estate maintenance & event gatherings.***

We live and work at Homme as a family team, with the support of a wonderful small team of four who live locally in Ledbury. We have quantified their annual emissions for the purpose of working at Homme, which we offset with an Ecologi carbon removal product.

Homme's rural location means it is poorly served by public transport. In terms of minimising the impact of travel for weddings we host, we have no minimum number of guests, are lucky enough to have a church on the edge of our grounds as well as a civil licence, provide on site accommodation for up to 34, and recommend both accommodation providers in the vicinity and local suppliers.

We have instigated a visual kite mark system in our supplier directory to indicate local suppliers based under 20 miles from Homme.

### Short term

We will:

- Continue to contract locally where possible, and offset the annual emissions of the team's travel
- Continue to encourage the use of local suppliers to reduce the total supplier miles associated with Homme weddings

### Longer term

We will:

- Install EV charging points at Homme
- Encourage and/or coordinate low carbon transport & sharing options for offsite guests

## *Water*

### ***Our aim is to minimise mains water use & wastage in buildings & grounds***

Our mains water supply to all properties is currently not metered; our water-related emissions are estimated using industry benchmarks. We harvest rainwater in water butts for limited watering the garden (primarily pots).

#### Short term

We will:

- Expand rainwater harvesting for use in the gardens
- Build & supply no cloth reception tables to reduce the table linen washing requirement associated with wedding receptions
- Adapt toilets for low flush where possible using cistern inserts

#### Longer term

We will:

- Install shower aspirator heads & low flow taps on bathroom upgrades, and replace baths with showers
- Install a rainwater harvesting reservoir for garden use
- Adapt garden planting for drought tolerance to minimise watering requirements

## *Supply Chain*

***Our aim is to optimise our use of on site resources to lower external sourcing where possible, and to audit our supply chain to switch or exert influence where positive changes can be made***

We make as much as we can of the materials on site to minimise external sourcing and buying new. The house is furnished with antiques, secondhand furniture and objects collected over generations, which is gently renovated and renewed as required. Homme-grown timber was processed on site to build 18 wedding ceremony benches, while furniture in the Summerhouse, Coach House and Main House is reupholstered on site.

We have selected the Scope 3 sub categories most relevant to our business operations and are using them to build a clearer picture of our Scope 3 emissions.

### Short term

We will:

- Engage and partner with wedding suppliers to promote sustainable wedding practices (e.g. in supplier tips shared with booked couples)
- Continue to audit our supply chain to research our areas of Scope 3 emissions and estimate/quantify them where possible
- Continue to source locally through sustainable suppliers where possible (e.g. for fencing materials)
- Develop a more comprehensive local sustainable food and drink supplier list as an option for wedding couples and for produce offered at breakfast for overnight guests
- Increase the proportion of home made produce offered for overnight guests' breakfasts - granola, bread, jams, breakfast fruit from the walled garden, fruit compotes from frozen produce out of season

### Longer term

We will:

- Evolve our sustainable wedding supplier definition beyond travel distance only
- Develop a sustainable procurement policy
- Instigate an incentive/reward system for couples to promote sustainable wedding choices
- Offer estate-grown culinary herbs/flowers for catering & cocktails
- Propagate garden plants & trees on site using a nursery area to offer for weddings

## *Team & Community*

**Our aims are to provide leadership and advocate for more sustainable wedding practices, and to invest in our community through the commercial activity at Homme**

Homme is very much a shared endeavour - it is only through the support of couples who choose to host their weddings here that we are able to continue the work of conserving the buildings and grounds. We seek to stay in touch with our couples as members of a growing community who have contributed to the conservation of Homme, and are part of its history, and have launched a commemorative conservation focused tree planting offer across the garden, parkland and woodlands.

While the crises we face are global, our focus is local. Through our holiday lets, weddings and other events we support the local hospitality economy, but aspire to better harness the positivity at the heart of weddings to make a more tangible positive impact at Homme and in the local area. We now have a relationship with Much Marcle Primary School, with whom we have partnered on two nature-based initiatives at Homme (meadow restoration and tree planting).

We have launched a sustainability-focused midweek wedding offering. Each wedding we hold will make a positive contribution to our local community by 5% of the total venue hire revenue being donated equally to Much Marcle Primary School and Much Marcle Community Shop Ltd, our local initiative to develop a sustainable shop, Post Office and café, as a vital services and friendly social hub for the local community.

We specifically recommend excellent wedding professionals local to us (under 20 miles). We are often contacted by new wedding professionals seeking relationships with venues, and have set up a dedicated suppliers page on our website signposting our sustainability journey and policy, encouraging those who share our ethos and passion to get in touch to discuss opportunities for collaboration on lower impact weddings.

We are supported by a lean, local team - a part time, self-employed groundsman/gardener and three part time, self-employed housekeepers. We are committed to paying above the Living Wage.

### Short term

We will:

- Training - hold a sustainability session with the Homme team to share our sustainability journey and discuss ideas to reduce our impact
- Continue to seek opportunities to learn more about sustainability initiatives through our affiliation with the Sustainable Wedding Alliance
- Establish a (local) network of sustainability focused wedding professionals to share ideas & best practice
- Host Conscious Connections events at Homme
- Develop an ongoing partnership with the local primary school for nature-based learning opportunities
- Community engagement - support local nature based and social charities through our weddings and work with the SWA

## *Money*

***Our aim is to put sustainability at the heart of our financial decisions, driving how our money is spent, saved and invested***

In 2025 we used Bank.Green to establish a new relationship with an ethical bank, transferring cash reserves from a traditional high street bank to one which better reflects our ethos and sustainability ambitions.

### Short term

We will:

- Continue to divest funds to more ethical banking providers

### Longer term

We will:

- Investigate the feasibility of a ring-fenced sustainability fund to fund decarbonisation of our business
- Investigate how to better link financial decisions with our sustainability ambitions, for example via Internal Carbon Pricing (e.g. Shadow Pricing) for larger capital expenditure projects and green finance/sustainability-linked loans

This policy will be updated annually at the end of each wedding season.

We welcome collaboration with like-minded people and businesses seeking to make a positive impact on people and planet. Feel free to email us at [hello@hommehouse.co.uk](mailto:hello@hommehouse.co.uk).