



A Living Learning Landscape

Demonstrating how people and nature can thrive together

Our Strategy 2027-2052



OUR PLACE IN THE WORLD

In 1976, Neil and Jenifer Wates, founders of the Commonwork Trust, asked a bold question:

How could this beautiful historic estate be used as a place to experiment, to learn, to care for the natural world and to create opportunities for people who might otherwise never experience a place like this?

Fifty years later, that spirit of curiosity and experimentation remains at the heart of our charitable work. Our responsibility now is not simply to preserve that legacy, but to build on it – with the same courage to question, experiment and evolve.



Neil and Jenifer Wates

The challenges around us have changed and intensified. Climate change, biodiversity loss, food insecurity, declining health and social inequality are deeply connected.

Our response must be too.

As a working estate, Bore Place offers something unusual: a place where people can experience those connections for themselves and explore practical solutions through education, regenerative land management, nature recovery, food production, research, enterprise and partnership.

We call this our Living Learning Landscape.

Our role is to create the conditions in which ideas can be tested, evidence gathered, learning shared and people inspired and equipped to become part of the solution.



OUR VISION

A world where people are inspired and equipped to care for the Earth.

OUR AMBITION

By 2052, Bore Place will demonstrate what is possible when people and nature thrive together – inspiring and equipping future change makers, restoring resilient landscapes, and testing and sharing practical solutions that help transform food systems, land management and wider practice.

Our ambition is not simply to create change here, but to generate the people, learning and evidence that enable change to spread.

**Learning is how we create change.
Place is where we bring it to life.**



OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE

To inspire and equip people to drive change.

The environmental and social challenges we face cannot be addressed through changes to landscapes, food systems, technology or policy alone. They depend on people having the understanding, confidence, skills and opportunities to act – and on a new generation of change makers willing and able to challenge existing systems and create better ones.

Education is therefore at the heart of Bore Place. Through our Living Learning Landscape, we create immersive, practical experiences that connect people with food, farming and the natural world – bringing ideas to life through direct experience.





WHO BENEFITS

Our work creates opportunities for people to learn, participate and drive change, while delivering lasting benefits for nature, the wider environment and future generations.

We believe everyone should have the opportunity to experience and connect with nature. We will actively seek to reach people and communities who face barriers to accessing the natural world, outdoor learning and spaces like Bore Place – prioritising those who are underserved, vulnerable or disadvantaged so they can benefit from the experiences, learning and opportunities this place provides.





We will focus particularly on:

Communities

Connecting everyone with nature - enabling people to learn, participate and take practical action through growing food, volunteering, nature recovery and shared experiences that strengthen connection to caring for the earth. We will continue to prioritise those who face barriers to accessing nature and outdoor learning.

Future Change Makers

We will identify, connect and support people with the potential to drive wider change, creating opportunities to experiment, develop ideas, learn from others and build the confidence, knowledge and networks to turn ambition into action.

Children and young people

Creating opportunities to experience nature, understand where food comes from and develop the knowledge, confidence and agency to care for the Earth. We will continue to prioritise those who face barriers to accessing nature and outdoor learning.



Farmers, growers and land managers

Creating opportunities for peer learning, demonstration and knowledge exchange around regenerative farming, landscape recovery, food production and climate resilience.

Educators, researchers and practitioners

Providing a real-world environment for learning, experimentation, research and knowledge exchange.

Partners, policymakers and organisations

Generating practical evidence and shared learning that can inform decisions, influence practice and support wider change.

Nature itself

Restoring ecosystems and building greater resilience into the landscapes, food systems and organisations on which future generations will depend.

Our ambition is not simply to increase knowledge, but to turn learning into action.

HOW WE CREATE CHANGE

Our strategy connects our purpose to action through a simple framework.

OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE	 Inspire and equip people to drive change
OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	 A climate-resilient landscape
	 Transform local food systems
OUR METHOD	 A living laboratory Innovation • Experimentation • Evidence • Learning
OUR ENABLERS	 Strong communities and partnerships
	 Long-term organisational resilience

Together, these create the conditions for lasting change at Bore Place and beyond.

Our Living Laboratory

The whole estate functions as a Living Laboratory, where education, regenerative land management, food production, nature recovery and research are integrated to explore, test and demonstrate practical solutions to interconnected environmental and social challenges. The evidence, knowledge and experience generated are shared to support wider systems change.





OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

A climate-resilient landscape

Healthy landscapes are the foundation of a healthy future.

We will make Bore Place a living demonstration of organic and regenerative stewardship, rooted in our commitment to organic principles – restoring soils, habitats and water systems while producing food, supporting wildlife and adapting to a changing climate.

Across our woodlands, grasslands, wetlands, hedgerows, orchards and cropland, we will create a healthier and better-connected landscape.

We will also continue to decarbonise and future-proof our historic buildings, demonstrating how our built and natural environments can become more resilient together.

Transform local food systems

Food connects people, place and nature.

The way we produce food shapes the health of our soils, wildlife, water, climate and people. We will demonstrate how regenerative food production can work in harmony with nature while reconnecting people with where food comes from.

Through growing, harvesting, preparing, sharing and learning about food, we will help people understand the connections between farming, nature and health.

And by working with farmers, growers, educators, communities and partners, we will contribute to stronger and more resilient local food systems beyond Bore Place.



HOW WE MAKE IT HAPPEN

A Living Laboratory

One landscape. New possibilities. Shared learning.

Complex challenges rarely have simple answers. Our Living Laboratory gives us permission to ask questions, test ideas, learn from success and failure, and build evidence through real-world experience.

Within our Living Learning Landscape, the Living Laboratory is our method for innovation, experimentation and evidence – bringing education, regenerative land management, food systems, research and partnership together within one working landscape. Our ambition is not simply to improve Bore Place. It is to trial solutions and create learning that travels well beyond our boundaries.







OUR ENABLERS

Strong communities and partnerships

Lasting change happens together.

No single organisation can restore landscapes, transform food systems or build resilient communities alone.

We will convene and connect people across farming, education, conservation, research, business, public bodies and communities – bringing different knowledge and experience together around shared challenges.

Increasingly, we will work beyond our own boundaries at landscape and catchment scale – collaborating with farmers, land managers and communities to support food security, nature recovery and better water management across a much larger landscape than Bore Place could influence alone.

Long-term organisational resilience

Long-term impact needs a resilient organisation.

A 25-year ambition requires Bore Place itself to thrive.

We will develop sustainable and diverse income, invest in our people, care for our historic estate, strengthen our governance and make decisions that balance environmental, social and financial value.

Financial resilience is not separate from our mission. It is what enables us to sustain it.

If the environmental and social approaches we champion cannot also demonstrate financial viability, they are unlikely to be adopted at the scale the challenges demand.

By demonstrating that environmental, social and financial resilience can reinforce one another, we strengthen the case for others to do the same.





WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS AND FEELS LIKE

We will judge our success not simply by how much we do, but by the lasting difference it makes. Some change will be visible quickly; restoring landscapes, changing systems and equipping generations of people will take decades. We will therefore measure, learn and adapt throughout the life of this strategy.





People inspired, equipped and empowered to drive change

People of all ages and backgrounds have a stronger connection to nature and greater understanding, confidence, skills and agency. A growing network of change makers is using that capability to lead change in communities, organisations and wider systems, creating positive environmental and social impact.

Nature recovery across connected and resilient landscapes

Soils are healthier, biodiversity is richer, habitats are better connected and water is better managed. Bore Place demonstrates what climate-resilient regenerative stewardship can achieve, while collaboration at landscape and catchment scale supports nature recovery and resilience far beyond our boundaries.

A healthier, more resilient local food system

Food is produced in ways that restore rather than deplete natural systems. More people understand where their food comes from, farmers and growers are supported to adopt organic and regenerative approaches, while stronger local networks connect food production, learning, communities and consumption.

Practical solutions tested, evidenced and shared

Bore Place is recognised as a place where ideas can be explored and tested in real-world conditions. Research, experimentation and lived experience generate credible evidence about what works – environmentally, socially and financially – creating practical models and learning that others can use.



THE NEXT 25 YEARS

Bore Place began as an experiment: a place to explore better ways of living and working while creating opportunities for others to learn.

That spirit remains.

We have chosen to look ahead twenty-five years because the change we seek requires long-term thinking. Restoring landscapes, transforming food systems and equipping generations of people to drive change cannot be achieved within a conventional three- or five-year plan.

The challenges we face are too great for any one organisation to solve alone. Lasting change will depend on collaboration – bringing people together to test ideas, share learning and demonstrate what is possible, so that change can spread far beyond Bore Place.





Wider systems and practice becoming more regenerative and resilient

Learning and evidence from Bore Place contribute to change far beyond our boundaries. Practical demonstration, partnerships and a growing network of change makers help drive more regenerative and resilient approaches to land management, food systems, education, policy and organisational practice.

A resilient Bore Place creating impact for generations

Bore Place is financially sustainable, well governed, low-carbon and climate-resilient, with the people, partnerships, infrastructure and diverse income needed to steward this extraordinary place and fulfil its purpose for generations to come.

The future is not predetermined. People can shape it – and Bore Place exists to inspire and equip them to do so.



A Living Learning Landscape

**50 years of learning.
The next generation of change.**

www.boreplace.org



Find out more



Donate here

Bore Place, Bore Place Road, Chiddingstone, Kent, TN8 7AR • 01737 463255 • hello@boreplace.org
Bore Place is the home of the Commonwork Trust (reg. charity 1160725 & company 09254227)