

Our sustainability programme



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hr wallingford

Our sustainability programme

HR Wallingford is shaping a future where people live and work sustainably with water.

We design smart, resilient solutions across the natural and built environment. By harnessing research, data, and the power of our collective expertise we help the world to better understand the changing influence and impact of water.

Drawing on our unique capabilities in science, technology and engineering, we invest in knowledge and innovate to address future challenges and opportunities.

In the UK, HR Wallingford is based at our beautiful and historic riverside site, Howbery Park in Oxfordshire and our manufacturing site in Manchester, with international offices in the US; Europe; the Middle East; South, East, and South-East Asia, and Australia.

Howbery Park Estates, part of the HR Wallingford Group, manages the 280,000 m² Howbery Park site as a business park.



A satellite image of Earth showing a large, swirling hurricane over the Atlantic Ocean. The landmasses of North and South America are visible on the left, and the ocean extends to the right. The hurricane has a distinct eye and spiral cloud structure.

Why now?

The movement and influence of water is fundamental to the health of our planet and all that live on it. Water has a critical role to play in sustainable development, including addressing climate change, enabling social development, and facilitating human wellbeing.

We recognise that it is vital for our business to operate in a sustainable way and create a positive impact. These impacts are felt primarily through our consultancy and equipment supply businesses but we can use our site to demonstrate our commitment to sustainability.

The world's current challenges – such as climate change, social breakdown, resource constraints and health inequalities – provide opportunities for us to lead and create positive change in our own way for the good of society and the environment, while also supporting our own financial sustainability.

Our innovation in research and consultancy in the UK and internationally has long been world-leading and the efforts of the Howbery Park Estates team has led to multiple awards for their work in environmental sustainability.

Our strategy will harness the power of our existing innovation and provide a programme to create maximum impact for the future.

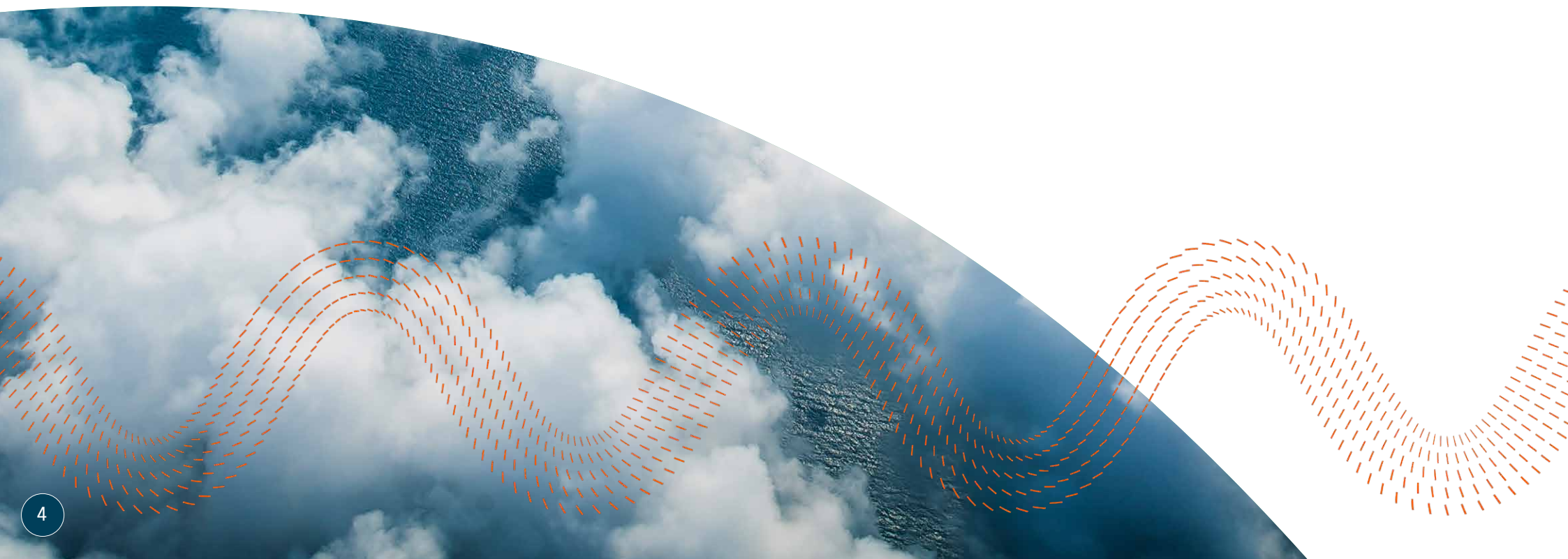
Our approach

HR Wallingford already has many initiatives that create positive, sustainable impacts.

Our sustainability programme will strengthen and extend our existing activity by taking an organised, strategic approach to sustainability.

As an international consultancy we have global reach and impact and it is important to consider how we embed and roll-out this strategy so that all of our people across the world are involved. We aim to set a global standard for our priorities and principles, and work with each other to understand the right way for each region to work towards those goals.

This, our first sustainability programme addresses what we can do now, as well as building a framework for our future business success.



Our drivers

A number of important factors have led to the creation of our first sustainability programme.

Our people

We know that our people have high sustainability ambitions. Our people are our greatest asset and we will help our workforce develop the skills to create change, challenge the *status quo* and help secure a more sustainable future for everyone.

Our clients

Our consultancy clients' needs are evolving. We can work with our clients to deliver sustainable projects, help drive down their carbon footprints and to work in a more sustainable way.

Our beneficiaries

The work we do makes a huge difference to communities worldwide. This could be safeguarding those at risk of flooding, helping port users to live with climate change, or helping residents of low-lying islands to live with more extreme weather and rising sea levels. We can make a real difference to environments, quality of life, security and safety, and wellbeing.

Our research

Our existing research programme and wide network of partners means we already have a way to solve the problems of tomorrow.

Our site

Howbery Park is unique. We can use it to showcase the unique knowledge we have and the work we do, and the great work of Howbery Park Estates can help us reach our sustainability goals.

Our tenants

The award-winning work we do at Howbery Park Estates means we are in a unique position to help our tenants bolster their own sustainability credentials and to build long-lasting and deep relationships with them.

Our products

We are manufacturers, with related environmental and social impacts, and have the opportunity to showcase sustainable production, responsible resource use, and innovative product design.

Our environment

We recognise the world's limited resources will drive change in the way we and our stakeholders deal with the natural and built environment.



Our material issues

In 2021 we conducted a thorough review of our operations and consultancy to assess where we lead, can grow, and can work with others to create even more shared value. Out of this research we assessed our material responsibilities, impacts and opportunities.

The programme we followed to develop the sustainability strategy was designed to identify sustainability issues relevant to HR Wallingford, following the ESG analysis approach (Environment, Social, meaning people and community, Governance).

1. The first stage of our strategy development process focused on an internal ESG performance review; we identified where we have already taken several steps to manage some specific ESG impacts and where we could do more.
2. The second stage of the process looked at the external world and how macro and micro trends and stakeholder expectations impact us and how they influence what our responsibilities are. This included a benchmarking exercise of peer organisations, a stakeholder consultation exercise, a mega-trends review, and a top-line life-cycle analysis of three representative areas of the business.
3. This data was analysed, overlaid with our corporate strategy, culture and operational approach to identify a set of ESG issues we felt were material to us.
4. The identified issues were scored and refined to a set of 'most material issues'. Called a materiality assessment, this exercise has the purpose of identifying the most pressing and priority sustainability issues for us.

We have identified and prioritised 30 material issues, considering the importance to HR Wallingford's business strategy and importance to our stakeholders and the wider world (thereby capturing both responsibilities and opportunities).

Our sustainability vision

**Leading innovation
in sustainable
solutions that
transform how we live
and work with water**

By 2030 we want to be the global leaders and independent experts in how to live and work sustainably with water.

This means that:

- Our innovation will address today's needs and tomorrow's challenges and opportunities
- We will create smarter, more resilient solutions by helping the world understand the movement and influence of water
- We will work together to deliver our ambitious sustainability goals
- We will lead the way, showcasing innovation and impact in how we work. This includes our operations, consultancy, research, product development, as well as how we manage and use our site.

By 2030 we will:

- Have developed a programme to demonstrate how our innovation creates positive impact
- Be thought leaders in our sectors
- Quantify our impacts.

Our programme at a glance

We have developed a sustainability vision, seven commitments and four focus areas: managing innovation, driving operational excellence, building solid foundations, and developing our people.

For each of our four focus areas, we have developed a detailed programme of work for the next three years, which connects our current work to future opportunities and creates positive impact for sustainability.





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Please get in touch



Helen Udale-Clarke
Sustainability Programme Manager
h.udale-clarke@hrwallingford.com



Ian Cruickshank
Responsible Director, Sustainability
i.cruickshank@hrwallingford.com