



HEDSOR HOUSE
— ENGLAND —

THE
GREEN
GUIDE

WELCOME TO THE GREEN GUIDE

Wedding planning can be a high-pressured and overwhelming experience. Add decisions about which suppliers are offering the most sustainable choices to the mix, and that becomes even more challenging!

That's why we have created this Green Guide, which is full of details about wonderfully inventive businesses who are pioneering planet-conscious alternatives to traditional essentials.

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SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT

Wedding planning involves a lot of decision-making, and we understand how overwhelming this can be. That's why we've compiled a list of 'easy wins' for you to consider during the process to help your wedding be more environmentally friendly.

SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT

There is a lot of inspiration within this guide to help those seeking the most sustainable wedding possible. Though you as a couple may not be eco-activists, there are always ways to lessen your impact and mitigate your carbon emissions.

We've compiled a list of 'small change, big impact' ideas for easy, quick changes you can make to help the planet.

PLANNING

- ~ Lower guest numbers mean smaller carbon footprint.
- ~ You can offset the carbon emissions of your wedding through online companies like [Ecologi](#).

GETTING READY

- ~ Ensure your wedding ring is ethically made and conflict-free.
- ~ Encourage guests and bridesmaids to re-wear something they already own or to rent their outfit.
- ~ Consider the journey of your dress and accessories after the wedding. You could donate, tailor or dye them for future use.

DECOR

- ~ Choose recycled paper, electronic or seed paper stationery.
- ~ Say no to disposable decor and entertainment, like balloons, fireworks and sparklers.

FOOD AND DRINK

- ~ Incorporate vegan/vegetarian dishes into your menu.
- ~ Try to use locally-sourced, seasonal ingredients, where possible.

FLORISTRY

- ~ Use locally-grown, seasonal flowers; or replace them with reusable (e.g. silk) alternatives.
- ~ Offer surplus leftover flowers to local charities.

WEDDING FAVOURS AND GIFTS

- ~ Ideally do not give out wedding favours. If you do, choose something useful and reusable/recyclable.
- ~ Create a sustainable gift registry that supports artisans worldwide.

TRANSPORT

- ~ Arrange group transport to reduce the number of cars needed.
- ~ Reduce the number of guests flying in from abroad by live streaming the wedding.



WEDDING PLANNING

The concept of The Green Guide came about with the creation of our planet-positive wedding package, [The Alexander](#). We noticed an opportunity to guide our couples on tweaks and choices they could make during their wedding planning to reduce the negative environmental impact of hosting an event like a wedding.

Similarly to a PR professional's Little Black Book of contacts, The Green Guide is full of wonderfully inventive businesses that are pioneering planet-conscious alternatives to traditional wedding essentials. You can expect easily implementable suggestions for your wedding and recommendations for suppliers going above and beyond in their sustainability efforts.

CHOOSING YOUR WEDDING VENUE

The process of choosing a wedding venue is one of the most important steps in a couple's journey. Ask the venue what they are doing on their sustainability journey, and how they can advise you on making similarly conscious choices for your special day.

Take into consideration the venue's location, as transport contributes considerably to a wedding's carbon footprint. If it is well connected to public transport, this is an excellent way to reduce your and your guests' impact. Hosting both the ceremony and the reception in the same venue means there's no need for guests to travel from one place to the next. At Hedsor, we are fully licensed for ceremonies inside and outdoors, as well as being conveniently located within walking distance to St Nicholas', a beautiful 12th Century church.

VISITING THE VENUE VIRTUALLY

A reduction of in-person trips to visit your wedding venue makes a positive contribution to a more sustainable wedding. By viewing the venue virtually, for example with one of our Wedding Specialists on a Virtual Tour, you are able to see all areas of the venue in great detail and reduce transport emissions. A virtual viewing is an excellent option for showing your venue to friends and family.





GUEST NUMBERS

Celebrating with an intimate group of only your closest family and friends can be even more special and memorable than a lavish wedding of 150. In general, due to impacts on food, travel and transport, fewer guests means fewer carbon emissions.

CARBON OFFSETTING

What is carbon offsetting? A carbon offset is defined as any activity that compensates for the emission of CO₂ or other greenhouse gases. This could be activities such as tree planting, or land restoration. Carbon offsetting is possible because climate change is a non-localised problem; greenhouse gases mix throughout the atmosphere, so reducing them anywhere contributes to overall climate protection.

How can this work in the context of a wedding? In order to offset carbon emissions from a wedding, you would first have to calculate the CO₂ generated by the event. Our environmental consultant has done the hard work for us, so we are able to contribute to organisations that will offset our specified amount of emissions through positive activities. Carbon offsetting is included in our [Alexander wedding package](#), making the entire wedding carbon neutral (meaning there is no net release of CO₂ in the atmosphere). If you would like to offset carbon emissions from your Hedsor wedding, we recommend offsetting companies [Ecologi](#) and [Gold Standard](#). Though we cannot be certain of the exact emissions of your wedding, our research suggests a typical wedding at Hedsor House is responsible for 5-10 tonnes CO₂e.



GETTING READY

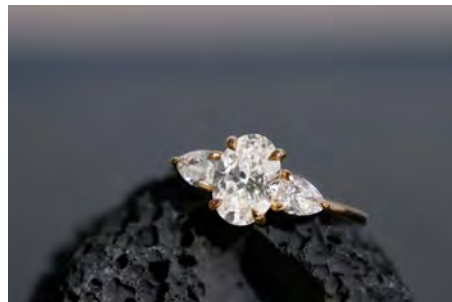
Getting ready for the wedding can be one of the most exciting parts of the day. Covering everything from the all-important wedding rings, to menswear, bridesmaids' dresses, and the wedding dress, this chapter offers recommendations for fantastic suppliers pioneering sustainable practices. If you've already found your dream dress, consider our other suggestions for achieving your perfect look without compromising the planet.

ETHICAL WEDDING RINGS

Your wedding ring is the embodiment of something magical. It represents the loving bond you've built with your partner, besides, you will be wearing them for life. For a sustainability-conscious couple, ethical wedding rings are a must.

Choosing ethically-sourced jewellery means that the gemstones and metals used in your ring come from conflict-free economies, have had a minimal impact on the environment, and have been mined or created by people benefiting from fair and safe working conditions.

When choosing a ring, ask your jeweller if their diamonds are certified through *The Kimberley Process*, a certification scheme created in 2003 for governments to safeguard against conflict diamonds.



We love [VRAL Diamonds](#) (pictured) for their careful consideration of every aspect of their supply chain and commitment to sustainable practices: their diamonds are lab-crafted from greenhouse gases which are crystallised in their foundry before they can pollute the environment, their foundry is run from renewable hydroelectric power and they've been carbon neutral since 2017. As each diamond is grown to order in just two weeks, there is total flexibility to create a truly bespoke ring.

Other excellent options can be found from [Ingle & Rhode](#), which has timeless and classic designs, and [Taylor & Hart](#), which has beautiful ethical and lab-grown diamond options, with a consultation space in Central London.

SAYING YES TO THE DRESS

There is nothing more delightful and gratifying than finding your perfect wedding dress.

Making sustainable choices when choosing a wedding dress can be fun and exciting - after all, discovering the perfect vintage garment and tailoring it means you will have a one-of-a-kind dress.

Looking for secondhand or vintage dresses means the garment's lifecycle is cyclical rather than contributing to fast fashion. Almost all wedding dresses (even bought brand new) are tailored to the bride, so choosing a preloved option and reworking it to suit your body shape and style simply removes the need for new garments entering the fast fashion lifecycle. We love [Bride Reloved](#) for its vast selection of pre-loved dresses and [Oxfam's](#) bridal page for genuine vintage finds.

Renting your wedding dress is the most cost-effective and sustainable option, and there are styles to suit any bride. We love [Something Borrowed](#) for its easy online rental system.

For modern silhouettes *and* sustainable origins, consider choosing a dress designer with sustainability credentials. [Indiebride](#) London prides itself on its zero-waste approach, ordering precise fabric quantities upon purchase. Independent brand [Luna Bea](#) makes bridal gowns to order in the UK, using carefully-sourced chemical-free silk. Ghanaian-British designer, [Rita Colson](#) creates stylish and modern bridalwear using only responsibly sourced fabrics for all garments, even including 3D-printed flowers, wedding dresses from the 1980s, and deadstock fabrics from major fashion houses. Finally, carbon-neutral fashion brand [Reformation](#) has an elegant and relaxed bridal collection made from sustainably sourced fabrics.

RECYCLE MY WEDDING

We're delighted to highlight [Recycle My Wedding](#) as forerunners in reusing wedding items, and as the pro-planet sister of popular wedding planning site Rock My Wedding, they are experts in the industry.

They believe in the concept that 'your wedding doesn't have to cost the Earth' and offer the purchase and resale of pre-loved wedding items. From wedding dresses and outfits to decor and accessories, you'll find something for your sustainable wedding here.

For every item listed, they donate 10% to tree planting, so whether you sell or buy, you're making a pro-planet choice using Recycle My Wedding.





AFTER THE WEDDING

You've poured your heart into the design of your wedding dress, and had the wedding of your dreams, but what next? Doesn't it seem a shame to let the perfect dress sit in the closet gathering dust? We have several solutions for making the most out of your wedding dress for years to come.

Taking your dress to a trusted tailor will enable you to preserve the fabric and style but will give the dress a new silhouette that might be more wearable in the future. We love the idea of tailoring the dress into a jumpsuit - perfect for the upcoming anniversary party next year!

Reworking the item with dye is ideal for accessories such as your wedding shoes. A black heel is instantly more wearable than white and will get more use out of those special shoes. We love [The Restory](#) for their attention to detail and expertise in reworking special items.

To share the love and generosity of your wedding, you may wish to donate your wedding dress to a meaningful charity after your big day. Many UK charities (such as [Little Baby & Co](#) and [Dresses for Angels](#)) specialise in making donated wedding dresses into layettes for babies born still before 18 weeks. Each layette is gifted to a family facing baby loss for the burial of their child.



THE WEDDING PARTY

Choosing the perfect tux and bow tie is equally as important as finding the right wedding dress. For a more sustainable approach to dressing the wedding party, consider renting a wedding suit and outfits for groomsmen and bridesmaids.

The groomsmen and bridesmaids: As one of the wedding party, coordinating appropriate and beautiful outfits is a must. Finding an occasion to re-wear a bridesmaid dress in a certain colour scheme presents some challenges.

We would suggest two considerations for this: firstly, consider requesting that your bridal party and groomsmen dress in the same colour palette, but in something they already own. This creates a unique and collected look which adds some dimension and interest to photography as well. Besides, one style of suit or dress is not going to flatter every body shape, so give them confidence on the day by allowing the wedding party to wear something they already love.

Secondly, if you would prefer a more uniform appearance, take your wedding party to a rental boutique where you can pick the perfect outfits and rent them for the wedding only. Not only does this reduce their consumption of fast fashion, but it is a more affordable way to style the wedding party by avoiding purchasing clothes they will never re-wear.

For a touch of luxury, brands such as [Rent the Runway](#), [Hurr Collective](#) and [By Rotation](#) have a wide range of beautiful designer options.

There are several excellent options local to Hedsor as well. For exclusively menswear, visit [Cookham Formal Hire](#) and [Jolliffes](#), and for exclusively bridal party dresses, visit [Sapphire](#).

GUESTS DRESSED TO IMPRESS

From tuxedos to high heels, your guests' outfits increase their contribution to your wedding's overall carbon footprint, and can often be expensive and stressful for them.

It's best to encourage your guests to dress for the season, reducing the need for heating or cooling of the venue, as this contributes to overall emissions from the event.

Rather than enforcing a strict dress code, encourage guests to wear something they already own or to rent an outfit for the occasion. Fast fashion harms our planet environmentally, socially and economically, so re-wearing garments is the best option. If guests do need to buy a new outfit, suggest they choose options they can re-wear for other occasions.

Finally, encourage guests to bring a change of shoes if they are planning on wearing heels! Offering boxes of flip-flops or slippers for your guests to wear on the night is a lifesaver, but amounts to an excess of single-use plastic. Our cloakroom is the ideal place to keep your comfortable shoes for later.

Mention these tips on your invites so your guests have the heads up!





TOGETHER
with their families



Information

CEREMONY

*Our special day will be held at
Hedser House, Hedser Park, Tipton. SL6 8HX*

*Our ceremony will commence at 14.30pm
and we kindly ask our guests to arrive at 14.15pm*

RSVP

*Attendance and dietary requirements:
g.g.tcup@hotmail.com*

ACCOMMODATION

*We have preferential rates at the below hotels:
The Bull Hotel in Gerrards Cross or
Slade Park Country Hotel @ Spa
Please quote 'HEDSOR' when booking directly*

PARKING

*Hedser House offers overnight parking for cars
to hotel residents only*

GIFTS

*Your presence on our special day is the
greatest gift we could ask for.
If you insist on giving a gift, a contribution to
our dream honeymoon would give us a lift in
our first moments as Mr & Mrs Bly*

DECOR

Wedding decor can bring unique touches that reflect your personalities as a couple, and make your colour scheme come to life. From essential items such as wedding stationery to non-essential luxuries like fireworks, we have recommendations for how to make your decor the most sustainable it can be.

WEDDING STATIONERY

Stationery is the first glimpse that your guests will have of what they can expect from your wedding, so it makes sense to want to wow them. Why not choose a seed paper option for your invites? Seed paper is a cleverly made, compostable paper which can be printed with eco-inks, and then planted into soil after reading. We love [The Seed Card Company](#) for its range of beautiful templates and seed options. Alternatively, recycled paper stationery or e-stationery are excellent planet-friendly options.

DISPOSABLE DECOR

To keep your wedding decor environmentally friendly, it is best to limit your use of disposable decorations such as order of service, menu cards, bubbles, and trinkets. If you are serious about your environmental footprint and are looking to host the most sustainable event possible, you might wish to consider not having balloons, sparklers or fireworks as these can be harmful to the planet. If fireworks are non-negotiable for you, consider using lasers in your display. Lasers will not release pollutants into the air during the display and will be better for our adorable Highland cows on-site, as well.



REUSABLE WEDDING SIGNAGE

Wedding signage is an essential part of the decor but is typically only used just once. While you do need a table plan to inform guests of their seats, having something made with acrylic or foamex boards is bad for the environment and wasted after the day. We suggest choosing a mirror (or using one you already love from home) and writing the seating plan onto it with a paint marker. This can be erased after the wedding and reused as a regular mirror!



OUR PREFERRED
ALEXANDER PARTNER:
GLO PRODUCTIONS

AV and Production are essential elements of any wedding. For things like uplighting, mics for speeches and the dancefloor, you can't have a wedding without them. We are proud to be partnering with Glo Productions on our [Alexander Wedding package](#) to offer couples eco-conscious production elements without compromise.

ECO CREDENTIALS

Event production requires significant energy use and transport of specialist equipment. This is an area in which it is easy to accrue emissions, but also one for which more eco-friendly alternatives abound.

Glo Productions is a production company with extensive experience working with Hedsor House. They have a firm focus on sustainability, employing strategies to maximise the efficiency of their equipment and powering the majority of it with batteries that are charged from solar panels on their premises.

By implementing efficient transport practices, Glo has been able to reduce the per-wedding emissions from transportation by 46%. On top of this, their efficient, solar-powered equipment ensures that additional emissions from power use are negligible.

Glo Productions
info@gloproductions.co.uk
01322 427232
www.gloproductions.co.uk



FOOD & DRINK

Our research showed that catering is the most considerable carbon emission generator of your entire wedding. Where your food is sourced from, whether your menu is meat-heavy and how your catering company deals with food waste are all factors in the sustainability of your wedding menu. Our menu suggestions and preferred partners are a great place to start if you are feeling overwhelmed trying to plan an eco-conscious menu.

A VEGAN WEDDING MENU

Food choices represent the single greatest opportunity to have an impact on the carbon emissions of your wedding.

The best way to reduce the carbon impact of food is to choose a fully plant-based menu. Animal agriculture causes an estimated 18% of all greenhouse gases, including nitrous oxide, which has 296 times the global warming potential of carbon dioxide.

Animal agriculture is responsible for considerable deforestation, including up to 91% of the deforestation in the Amazon, and in turn, depletes the natural world of animal habitats causing modern species extinctions.

While sustainability is not all about carbon footprint, choosing a plant-based menu (or at least incorporating plant-based items) is a positive step for the environment.



ZERO WASTE CANAPES

When deciding on your menu, we suggest you ask your chosen caterer if they are able to create a canapé from any surplus menu ingredients, to help you reduce your waste. Let your caterer use their creativity to incorporate items like vegetable peel, stalks and 'wonky' produce to create a delicious wildcard canapé.

Image by Lettice Events



OUR PREFERRED
ALEXANDER PARTNER:
LETTICE EVENTS

We are delighted to be partnering with Lettice Events on our carbon-neutral [Alexander wedding package](#). Lettice Events is trying to pioneer a new wave of conscious catering and has taken creative and thoughtful steps to ensure every aspect of your wedding catering is as sustainable as it can possibly be, without compromise.

ECO CREDENTIALS

There really isn't much that Lettice Events *hasn't* done to improve the sustainability of traditional event catering. They only work with suppliers implementing sustainable and ethical practices and prioritise the planet and its people in every aspect of their business.

Lettice Events use sustainably grown, locally sourced ingredients as much as possible. Indeed, their seasonal cooking style means they can work with farmers to plant produce specifically for their menus and they even use ingredients foraged by their Head Chef in urban London.

Though minimal, any food waste on-site is broken down by their anaerobic food digestion system and turned into electricity and water, which they use to water their rooftop garden.

As a family-owned business, Lettice Events focus on small, family-owned producers of food and wines that match their own mission statement of leaving the world a better place than they found it.

Lettice Events
info@letticevents.com
020 7820 1161
www.letticevents.com



LOCALLY SOURCED, SEASONAL INGREDIENTS

The food eaten on your wedding day might have travelled a considerable distance before ending up on your plate. Food miles measure the distance your ingredients have travelled, from field to fork. Local ingredients are great for sustainability in many ways; in general, locally grown produce is fresher, supports local jobs and the national economy, and contributes fewer carbon emissions from transport.

That being said, eating locally sourced and seasonal ingredients is the best way to maximise flavour and reduce carbon footprint. For example, to grow out-of-season produce (such as berries) in the winter in the UK would result in high carbon emissions, despite the local proximity. Eating with the seasons allows you to choose a wedding menu that takes advantage of wonderful, seasonal produce for a meal that's delicious and kinder to the environment. We recommend asking your chosen catering supplier which seasonal dishes their chef recommends and requesting they use locally sourced ingredients where possible.

CHAMPIONING ENGLISH WINE

As Great Britain becomes more well-established in the wine industry, we can expect to see an increase in demand for British wedding wines. The British wine industry generates a positive impact on local farming communities, and has all the same benefits of locally sourced food ingredients; less distance travelled and a boost for the local economy. Indeed, the industry is expected to create between 20,000 and 30,000 new jobs within the next 20 years.

As part of our [Alexander wedding package](#), we have included an allocation of English red and white wine from [Three Choirs Winery](#) in Gloucestershire. As founders of [The WineGB Sustainability Group](#), they recognise the importance of sustainability and all their wines now have a sustainability accreditation and are suitable for vegan consumers. Three Choirs Winery is working towards being carbon neutral, and it uses natural controls for diseases rather than pesticides.

LOCAL, ENGLISH SPARKLING WINE

In the past, English wine sometimes had a bad reputation. This is becoming an increasingly outdated view, however, and if you are looking for quality wine

in the UK you no longer have to search far from home. English sparkling wines, in particular, are becoming increasingly internationally recognised.

We love [Harrow & Hope](#), from only a few miles down the road in Marlow (you can see the vineyards from Hedsor!). Their fantastic, family-owned vineyard produces English sparkling wine using traditional winemaking techniques. Their philosophy is to help the vines best express the character of their site in their wines. We love the idea that you can get a taste of our local area through their delicious wine, which is why we've included it as the sparkling wine option in our [Alexander wedding package](#).





OUR PREFERRED
ALEXANDER PARTNER:
LOVE FROM LILA

We couldn't forget about cake - the perfect end to every meal, and that includes a wedding breakfast. We are proud to partner with Love from Lila on a sustainable wedding cake for our [Alexander wedding package](#) which ticks the boxes of fantastic taste and sustainability integrity.

ECO CREDENTIALS

Love from Lila make a conscious effort to improve sustainability across the entire process of making a wedding cake. With regular reviewing across six stages of the business – raw materials, process, decoration, packaging, delivery, and waste – they are able to maintain a high standard of sustainability.

From fair trade and organic ingredients to carefully adjusting the serving to suit the number of guests, Love from Lila has thought of inventive and smart ways to be a responsible supplier.

As well as offsetting carbon emissions, for every wedding cake booked with Love from Lila, a donation of 1% of the cake's value is made to a charity or project that benefits people and another 1% to a charity or project that benefits the planet.

Love from Lila
info@lovefromlila.co.uk
www.lovefromlila.co.uk



FLORISTRY

Flowers can have a huge impact on the appearance of a wedding, but also on its carbon footprint. We've got suggestions for faux florals, including beautiful faux trees, which are often much better for the environment than real flowers. If real flowers are non-negotiable for you, we've included a helpful guide to prompt you to choose seasonal options.

FAUX FLORALS

Silk or reusable flowers are the most sustainable choice for your wedding florals. There is no wastage as they are completely reusable, you are not restricted by season, and they are hypoallergenic.

PRESERVED OR DRIED FLORALS

For a bohemian look, preserved or dried flowers can be a beautiful option for your wedding. What's more, as they are already dried, you can keep them for years to come after the wedding.

SEASONAL AND BRITISH-GROWN FLORALS

Similarly to locally sourced, seasonal ingredients for the wedding menu, choosing British-grown, seasonal flowers for your wedding is the most sustainable way to have real flowers at your wedding. Not only will seasonal flowers be easier to source (and therefore typically less expensive), they ground your special day in the season and constitute a positive change for the environment.

NO FLORAL FOAM

Oasis, or floral foam, is notoriously bad for the environment, and even when it finally biodegrades, it leaves behind microplastics. Consider asking your florist if they can use as little as possible or none at all.

SEASONAL FLORAL GUIDE

ALL YEAR ROUND

Roses | Lisianthus | Snapdragon | Alstromeria | Freesia
Gerbera | Bouvardia | Gypsophila | Chrysanthemum Blooms
Carnations | Veronica | Hypericum Berries

JANUARY TO MARCH

All year round flowers plus:

Anemones | Tulips | Ranunculus | Hyacinths | Hellebores
Forget-me-nots | Muscari (Grape Hyacinths) | Narcissus (all
types of Daffodils including Paperwhites)

APRIL TO JUNE

All year round flowers plus:

Sweet Peas | Nigella | Scabious | Alchemilla Mollis | Ammi
Astrantia | Astilbe | Lilac Hydrangeas | Sunflowers
Delphinium | Stocks | Guelder Rose | Spirea | Peonies

JULY TO SEPTEMBER

All year round flowers plus:

Hydrangeas | Lupins | Dahlia | Chocolate Cosmos
Waxflower | Stocks | Gladioli

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER

All year round flowers plus:

Rosehips | Berries | Autumnal flowers | Some varieties of
Ranunculus and Anemones are available from around late
October.



LEFTOVER FLORISTRY

One of the greatest sustainability issues facing floristry is the wastage of flowers following an event. While filling the tables with flowers is beautiful and breathtaking, most people simply don't have space to take fifteen centrepieces home, particularly if they are going away on a honeymoon straight after the wedding.

We recommend two options: firstly, make a list of all your floristry and allocate each arrangement to a member of the wedding party to take home.

Secondly, consider donating your surplus flowers to a charitable cause, such as a care home, hospice, school or community centre (some hospitals do accept donations, but best to check it doesn't infringe on their health and safety rules). While you should always call ahead to make sure you can make a donation, most places are delighted by the gesture and flowers can really brighten up a potentially gloomy space.

One of our preferred florists, [Lavender Green Flowers](#), has a wonderful donation programme for post-event flowers. If event wastage is important to you, they are a beautiful florist with credible and established community links for donations.



OUR PREFERRED ALEXANDER PARTNER: TWILIGHT TREES

Floristry is often a key component of a wedding, but there is ample scope for both significant carbon emissions and excessive waste. We are delighted to be partnering with Twilight Trees on our [Alexander wedding package](#) to replace floristry with beautiful, reusable faux trees that make a big visual impact, but a small environmental one.

ECO CREDENTIALS

Even if all the right steps are taken to procure responsibly grown flowers, there is no avoiding the fact that they are normally used for one event and then discarded. This is why we have partnered with Twilight Trees, who produce reusable artificial trees, specifically designed to decorate luxury event spaces.

They put a strong emphasis on sustainability, with each of their trees being designed to suit many events and the materials being recycled into new products when they reach the end of their life.

By replacing flowers with reusable alternatives, we have reduced the overall carbon footprint from floristry by 38%. This partnership allows Hedsor House to have a high degree of confidence in the scale of their environmental impact from floristry/ decoration — an area that is fraught with difficulty in terms of emissions oversight.

Twilight Trees
info@twilight-trees.com
01962 877644
www.twilight-trees.com



WEDDING FAVOURS AND GIFTS

It's the little touches that make your wedding day special and memorable, and wedding favours and gifts certainly come into that category. While typically not the most sustainable, there are ways to make smart and planet-conscious choices to reduce your impact.

WEDDING FAVOUR INSPIRATION

Wedding favours are beautiful thank you gifts for your guests to know how much you appreciate their attendance on your big day. They do, however, contribute to an excess of single-use items and wastage.

There are more sustainable options when it comes to wedding favours, for example, a charitable donation on your behalf to a charity of your choice. You can announce this in your speeches, on the table numbers or on the seating plan, to avoid unnecessary stationery.

If you would prefer to give something physical, we recommend seed bombs, which are compostable packets containing seeds for your guests to grow. Why not suggest a competition between guests of who can grow the tallest sunflower from your wedding favours?

HEDSOR HONEY

We have kept beehives on the Hedsor estate for over 20 years. They help with pollination and the spread of biodiversity throughout our grounds. You are able to buy Hedsor honey directly from us, in a reusable glass jar. Simply add a name tag, and optional honey dripper to make the perfect wedding favour. Contact your wedding specialist if you would like to order honey for your special day, but please give us plenty of notice as this is harvested by hand.



WEDDING GIFTS

The most sustainable option for your wedding is to request that your guests refrain from offering both gifts and cards. That being said, many guests would love to bring something to show their love for you as a couple and congratulate you on your big day.

If your guests would like to bring a gift, you could politely request that they wrap it in sustainable paper (traditional wrapping paper is coated and therefore not recyclable).

Another increasingly popular option for a wedding gift is a donation to a charity of your choosing or to a honeymoon fund. Both options may be gifted electronically, which is better for the environment.

A SUSTAINABLE GIFT REGISTRY

The concept of a traditional wedding gift registry has gone out of style in recent years, but we do still love the idea that your beloved wedding guests have helped to curate the items in your marital home.

The most planet-conscious way to do this is to use an online marketplace that specialises in sustainably-sourced, ethical goods which benefit small businesses across the world. The fairtrade marketplace [Ten Thousand Villages](#) has hundreds of handcrafted goods made by artisans earning fair wages and working in a safe, healthy environment around the world.

Similarly, you can set up a gift registry on [Buy Me Once](#), whose well-made products are designed to last a lifetime, or [Made Trade](#), an online ethical and sustainable store that has pretty much everything you could need to curate a beautiful, conscious space.



TRANSPORT

Our research showed that transport and catering were the two areas which contributed the most to a wedding's carbon footprint. Bringing together up to 150 guests in one place means that significant travel is inevitable. You can mitigate transport emissions, however, and we have given helpful suggestions for how you might do this.

THE WEDDING CAR

There's something so classically beautiful about an old-fashioned wedding car. Though they have low fuel economy and higher emissions, a short, wedding drive isn't enough to make that big of an impact on the environment in those areas alone. Indeed, the carbon footprint of just simply manufacturing one brand new car today can far outweigh the impact of maintaining a much older car.

That being said, if you are interested in renting a wedding car, why not ask if they have any electric or hybrid options for you?

To avoid hiring a car at all, family or friends may already have a beautiful car they would let you borrow for the day.





GUEST TRANSPORT

The most planet-friendly way to get your guests to your wedding is via pre-arranged, group transport. One bus is far better for the environment than 53 cars (the average number of seats per coach). You could suggest that guests meet at a specific location (a train station, for example!) and a

coach will arrive to transport them all to the house. A London double-decker bus is a fun and memorable option!

For taxi users, why not recommend that guests request an electric or hybrid vehicle to pick them up.

While possible at Hedsor House, it goes without saying that the use of helicopters generates excessive carbon emissions which are unnecessary. Though this is technically shared transport, the maximum number of guests per helicopter is low.

If you would like to keep your wedding completely carbon neutral on the Alexander package, we recommend that you ask your guests to offset their transport emissions. [Sustainable Travel International](#) have a useful web tool to help your guests calculate their carbon emissions and they will be able to pay to offset the carbon through them directly. We also recommend [Ecologi](#) for offsetting carbon emissions by investing in impactful community projects for people and the planet. Make sure to mention this request on your invites so your guests can offset their carbon.



AIR TRAVEL

Travel, and in particular, air travel, has a huge impact on the overall carbon footprint of a wedding. For example, just one couple flying to/from New York to attend the wedding could *double* the carbon footprint of the event, versus a baseline of no guests flying from overseas. We can't — and wouldn't want to — prevent our couples from inviting overseas guests; all we can do in this case is to present the facts as clearly as possible.

The solution of live streaming the wedding is perfect if you have a lot of overseas friends who you would love to include. Live-streamed events became popular during lockdown, and they are here to stay! The convenience of having global friends and family witness and form part of your wedding ceremony is unbeatable. If you would like to live stream your wedding ceremony or wedding speeches, please speak to your wedding specialist and your chosen production company to set it up.

THE HONEYMOON

For some couples, the tradition of the honeymoon is integral to the wedding. A private holiday, for just you and your partner, offers the ideal opportunity to reminisce about your favourite moments from the wedding and start your married life together.

We understand that honeymoons are a once-in-a-lifetime getaway full of beautiful memories, and we would never want couples to compromise on that. We recommend that you make arrangements which reduce the footprint of your honeymoon.

If you were to take a long-haul flight for your honeymoon, for example, you would be responsible for emissions that outsized (many times over) any savings that you have made via interventions to the wedding itself. We recommend you consider eco-hotels, and offset the emissions of your flights or look into flying with an airline that includes carbon offsets in the price of the tickets, as some do nowadays.





THE DIRECTORY

In The Directory, you will find website links for all the companies mentioned in the guide, compiled into one easy list.

PLANNING

ECOLOGI

Carbon offsetting
www.ecologi.com

GOLD STANDARD

Carbon offsetting
www.goldstandard.org

GETTING READYTHE KIMBERLEY PROCESS
SCHEME

Diamond certification
www.kimberleyprocess.com

VRAI DIAMONDS

Wedding rings
hello@vrai.com
uk.vrai.com

INGLE & RHODE

Wedding rings
 020 3393 4952
www.ingleandrhode.co.uk

TAYLOR & HART

Wedding rings
enquiries@taylorandhart.com
 0203 126 4915
www.taylorandhart.com

BRIDE RELOVED

Wedding dress
www.bridalreloved.co.uk

OXFAM BRIDAL

Wedding dress
www.onlineshop.oxfam.org.uk/bridal

SOMETHING BORROWED

Wedding dress
www.somethingborrowedrent.co.uk

INDIE BRIDE

Wedding dress
info@indiebridelondon.co.uk
 020 7735 4678
www.indiebridelondon.co.uk

LUNA BEA

Wedding dress
www.lunabea.com

RITA COLSON

Wedding dress
contact@ritacolson.com
www.ritacolson.com

REFORMATION

Wedding dress
www.thereformation.com/bridal

RECYCLE MY WEDDING

Wedding dress/decor resale
www.rockmywedding.co.uk/recycle

THE RESTORY

Garment/accessory restoration
www.the-restory.com

LITTLE BABY & CO

Wedding dress donation
littlebabyandco@hotmail.co.uk
www.littlebabyandco.com

DRESSES FOR ANGELS

Wedding dress donation
info@dressesforangels.co.uk
 07415 523665
www.dressesforangels.co.uk

RENT THE RUNWAY

Guest garments
www.renttherunway.com

HURR COLLECTIVE

Guest garments
www.hurrcollective.com

BY ROTATION

Guest garments
help@byrotation.com
www.byrotation.com

COOKHAM FORMAL HIRE

Guest garments
phil@cookhamformalhire.co.uk
 01628 526222
www.windsorformalhire.com

JOLLIFFES

Guest garments
info@jolliffes.co.uk
 01628 475757
www.jolliffes.co.uk

SAPPHIRE

Guest garments
 01628 530516
www.sapphiredresses.co.uk

DECOR

THE SEED CARD COMPANY

Wedding stationery
support@theseedcardcompany.com
www.theseedcardcompany.com/pages/wedding

GLO PRODUCTIONS

AV/Production
info@gloproductions.co.uk
 01322 427232
www.gloproductions.co.uk

FOOD & DRINK

LETTICE EVENTS

Event catering
info@letticeevents.com
 0207 820 1161
www.letticeevents.com

THREE CHOIRS VINEYARD

Wine

info@threechoirs.com

01531 890223

www.three-choirs-vineyards.co.uk

WINEGB GROUP

Wine

01858 467792

www.winegb.co.uk

HARROW & HOPE

Wine

enquiries@harrowandhope.com

01628 481091

www.harrowandhope.com

LOVE FROM LILA

Wedding cake

info@lovefromlila.co.uk

www.lovefromlila.co.uk

FLORISTRY

LAVENDER GREEN FLOWERS

Wedding floristry

info@lavendergreen.co.uk

0207 127 5303.

www.lavendergreen.co.uk

TWILIGHT TREES

Floral decoration

info@twilight-trees.com

01962 877644

www.twilight-trees.com

FAVOURS & GIFTS

HEDSOR HONEY

Wedding favour

info@hedSOR.com

01628 298080

TEN THOUSAND VILLAGES

Gift registry

www.tenthousandvillages.com

BUY ME ONCE

Gift registry

www.buymeonce.com

MADE TRADE

Gift registry

www.madetrade.com/pages/gift-registry

TRANSPORT

SUSTAINABLE TRAVEL

INTERNATIONAL

Travel emissions calculator

www.sustainabletravel.org/our-work/carbon-offsets/calculate-footprint



Photography by Thirdy Ado, RS Brown, Poppy Carter, Caught the Light, Zaki Charles, James Davidson, Mike Garrard, Emma Jane, Pippa Mackenzie, Courtney Marie, Sophie May, The McHendrys, Melissa Megan, MIKI Studios, John Nassari, Christina Sarah, Rebecca Searle, Liam Smith, David Wheeler, Charlotte Wise.



HEDSOR HOUSE
— ENGLAND —

HEDSOR PARK, TAPLOW, BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, SL6 0HX

01628 819050 ~ INFO@HEDSOR.COM

HEDSOR.COM