



RIDGEVIEW

ENGLAND

Certified



Corporation

RIDGEVIEW  
IMPACT  
REPORT  
2023



# CONTENTS

03 INTRODUCTION

09 RIDGEVIEW'S B CORP™ SCORE

10 GOVERNANCE

13 ENVIRONMENT

19 PEOPLE

22 CUSTOMERS

25 COMMUNITY

28 FINAL THOUGHTS

# INTRODUCTION

There is an undeniable symmetry in reflecting back on our first B Corp year just as we begin the annual harvesting of our grapes. Harvest time is a reminder of how dependent we are on the health of our land.

Through B Corp, Ridgeview found a methodology to tangibly demonstrate the commitment it has always felt to the environment, community and our people. Reaching certification was not an easy journey. B Corp is not about words, it's about actions and lots of them – small steps of continuous improvement across all impact areas.

While challenging conditions continue to influence the global wine market, we have maintained our long term perspective, investing £4.8 million in new facilities over the last year. This provides the capacity to increase production by more than 100% over the next five years and includes investment into our wine tourism proposition through the launch of our on-site, 150-cover restaurant, The Rows & Vine.

However, we are resolute that growth must not come at the expense of our ethics as a business for good, not just profit. Ridgeview has not changed the world in the last 12 months – nor will we in the next 12 months to come. But we have put a line in the sand from which we will continuously improve, targeting a B Corp score of over 100 points in 2025 and carbon neutrality by 2030.

We want to be a true industry leader, sharing our knowledge and practices, as we have since we started Ridgeview in 1995. Only by working together will we have any chance of changing the world – and preserving it for generations to come.

*Tamara Roberts*

Tamara Roberts  
CEO Ridgeview





# WE ARE RIDGEVIEW

Ridgeview has led the way in the English sparkling wine revolution, crafting traditional method wines since 1995. Established near the picturesque village of Ditchling in Sussex, we are a second-generation family business with siblings Tamara Roberts and Simon Roberts steering the business, as CEO and Head Winemaker.

We are committed to driving continuous improvements and positive impact for future generations.

We created ripples in the wine world by being crowned the globe's best sparkling wine in Decanter World Wine Awards 2010 and Best International Winemaker in the 2018 International Wine & Spirit Competition. Blazing the trail for sustainable winemaking and viticulture, Ridgeview is one of only 25 wineries in the world to be a Certified B Corp™. We were also a founding member of the industry's Sustainable Wines of Great Britain initiative and have been a Living Wage Employer since 2018.

Served at a collection of royal occasions, including to US President Barack Obama at Buckingham Palace and recently at King Charles' first state banquet, Ridgeview's sparkling wines are now exported and enjoyed around the globe.

With stunning views over the South Downs, we love nothing better than hosting visitors to experience the essence of Ridgeview, which is found on the foil of every bottle; 'Life is for Celebrating'.

*'Life is for Celebrating'*



**1995**  
Ridgeview established and our first vines planted



**2005**  
Winner Best Bottle-Fermented Sparkling Wine at the International Wine & Spirits Competition – a first for English wine



**2010**  
Awarded Decanter World's Best Sparkling Wine – another first for English wine



**2011**  
US President Barack Obama was served Fitzrovia Rosé at Buckingham Palace state banquet



**2011**  
Ridgeview Founder, Mike Roberts, awarded MBE for his services to the English wine industry



**2006**  
Ridgeview's Blanc de Blancs served for Queen Elizabeth's 80th banquet celebrations



**2014**  
Pioneering advanced aeration Biobubble installed to treat all our waste water on-site

# RIDGEVIEW TIMELINE



**2019**  
£1.8 million investment on new production facility including additional naturally cooled underground cellar space



**2023**  
New winery expansion completed taking annual production capacity up to 1 million bottles



**2022**  
Ridgeview open on-site restaurant The Rows & Vine



**2018**  
Named Best International Winemaker at the International Wine & Spirits Competition



**2030**  
Ridgeview becomes carbon neutral



**2022**  
Achieved certified B Corp status



**2021**  
Vineyard and winery achieve Sustainable Wines GB Britain accreditation



**2021**  
Ridgeview Cavendish NV and Blanc de Blancs 2016 served at the COP26 Summit

# RECENT IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

## B CORP™

one of only 25 global wineries at the time of accreditation

## ZERO TO LANDFILL

engaged new waste management contractor to increase recycling rates and tracking of waste streams

## WINERY EXPANSION

investment in state-of-the-art equipment for maximum efficiencies and energy reduction

## SOLAR POWER

installed 100 new solar panels increasing our use of green energy

## NEW VINEYARD

planted with fellow B Corp, the Exclusive Hotel Group

50%

of our workforce identify as women - excluding our beehives, which are 99% female

100T

of CO<sub>2</sub>e sequestered across Ridgeview estate each year

## DONATED

over £17K to community charity Table Talk supporting Sussex food education

## GREEN TOURISM

awarded Gold for Green South Downs Sustainability Certification

## WINNER

Environmental Culture of the Year - Gatwick Diamond Business Awards

# CELEBRATING OUR B CORP CERTIFICATION

In September 2022, we were delighted to become an official Certified B Corporation®, joining some of the most innovative and inspirational businesses making strides in the global sustainability movement. Since we established our family business in 1995, sustainability has been a core part of our DNA, and we have always believed in business as a force for good. Becoming a B Corp has been a huge challenge and one of our greatest joys, and marks a new chapter in our sustainability journey.

## WHAT IS A B CORP?

Being a B Corp is underpinned by a philosophy of balancing people, planet, and profit. We are a community of purpose-driven businesses achieving the highest standards of environmental and social practices, leading the global movement for an inclusive, equitable, and regenerative economy.

## WHAT BEING A B CORP MEANS TO US

As a family business in the heart of rural Sussex, our sense of place is strong. We consider it a great honour to be custodians of our beautiful estate, in the South Downs National Park, with a duty to protect and preserve the land and communities within it, for generations to come.

Like us, the B Corp movement measures success by balancing profit with our planet and people. It is so much more than a badge; it's a continuous commitment and a change-making journey towards a more sustainable future for all.



Certified



Corporation

7 RIDGEVIEW

# RIDGEVIEW'S IMPACT SCORE



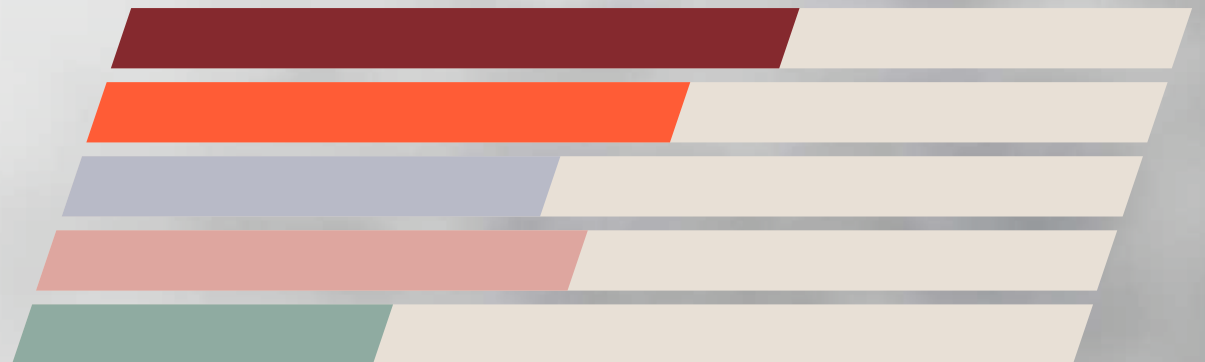
OUR IMPACT SCORE  
**92.9**

SCORE TO QUALIFY  
FOR B CORP  
CERTIFICATION  
**80**

MEDIAN SCORE  
OF ORDINARY  
BUSINESSES  
**50.9**

## RIDGEVIEW'S SCORE

	GOVERNANCE	16.3 / 26
	PEOPLE	27 / 49
	COMMUNITY	23.3 / 52
	CUSTOMERS	3.5 / 7
	ENVIRONMENT	22.7 / 66







# CELEBRATING OUR FOUNDATIONS

Ridgeview is dedicated to the health of the planet, the wellbeing of our employees and the trust of our customers. Our ambition is to lead the way in sustainable and ethical business practices. We are committed to making every step along the journey efficient, ethical and ecologically positive. We have achieved several of our self-initiated sustainability goals in recent years and achieving B Corp status in 2022 was also a significant milestone.

# GOVERNANCE

## OUR CURRENT GOALS

- Measure our social and environmental targets and publicly share Ridgeview's performance
- Share learnings from Ridgeview's B Corp journey
- Create greater ownership of our mission with employees and empower decision-making based on our goals

## OUR PROGRESS

- Made our B Corp journey central to new employee on-boarding
- Leveraged media and speaker opportunities to highlight B Corp and inspire others
- Added sustainability targets into employees' development plans
- Introduced quarterly internal company updates
- Launched an in-house newsletter, sharing key wins and celebrating our people
- Upped our commitment to promoting responsible drinking
- Published our first Impact Report to demonstrate Ridgeview's commitments

## WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

- Improving data collection, measurement and benchmarking of our impact areas
- Remaining at the forefront of industry best practices and innovations in sustainable business and winemaking
- Increasing our B Corp score – we're aiming to recertify in 2025 with 100+ points



# QUALITY

Strive for excellence independently & together



# NURTURING

Show care & respect for our environment and our community



# FAMILY

Build trusting & lasting relationships



# PASSION

Work hard, champion sustainability & celebrate success



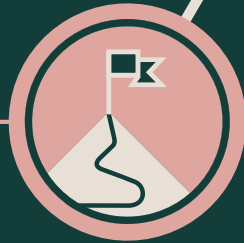
# TALENT

Develop skills & expertise under the guidance of strong leadership



# PIONEERING

Find new ways to make great things happen



**RIDGEVIEW**  
**VALUES**



ENVIRONMENT  
SCORE  
**27**

# CELEBRATING OUR LAND

Ridgeview's environmental commitments are borne from a deep affinity to our beautiful Sussex estate, set in the South Downs National Park. Perfectly positioned to grow the traditional grape varieties used in the world's finest sparkling wines, since our first vineyard plantings in 1995, we have championed responsible and sustainable practices. Intrinsic to our company's philosophy since the beginning, we recognise the need to measure and monitor our environmental impact, from grape to glass.

# ENVIRONMENT

## OUR CURRENT GOALS

- Complete our first year of data collection across scopes 1, 2 & 3
- Improve our waste management and increase our recycling rate

## OUR PROGRESS

- Sequestered 100 tonnes of carbon across our estate, making us carbon negative across Scope 1 and 2 emissions, by a margin of 58.7 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e
- Invested in new winemaking equipment, eliminating up to 5 tonnes of hazardous waste
- Used new grape picking bins, cutting transport emissions by 7 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e
- Introduced a supplier environmental questionnaire
- Treated all waste water using an advanced aeration process
- Moved to a new waste collection company, ensuring zero goes to landfill
- Introduced an innovative pruning system to support vine health
- Started an internal Green Team to increase employee sustainability engagement

## WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

- Completing our roadmap to becoming carbon neutral by 2030, based on science-based emissions targets
- A new environmental dashboard to more accurately track impacts
- Improving waste management and upping recycling rate to 75%



# ...TO GLASS



**1.4 kg CO<sub>2</sub>e**

bottle carbon footprint

**100+**  
SOLAR PANELS  
estimated to provide 20% of our all electric site

**NEW WINERY**  
increased efficiencies with state-of-the art equipment

**CROSSFLOW FILTER**  
has reduced winery waste tenfold

**PRESSING**  
takes less time, cutting energy costs

**100T**  
of CO<sub>2</sub>e sequestered each year across the estate

**INNOVATIVE**  
pruning supports health of our vines

**HAND-PICKED**

harvest to ensure our wines are of the highest quality

**45,000 kWh**  
of energy saved per year due to our naturally cooled underground cellars (equivalent to 25% of our total electricity usage)

13-15°

cellar space for **1,000,000** bottles

RIDGEVIEW  
OUR IMPACT  
**FROM GRAPE...**

**7T OF CO<sub>2</sub>e SAVED**

per year by doubling the number of grapes on each lorry to the winery, due to larger picking bins

**BIOBUBBLE**

naturally treats all waste water. So far system has cleaned 22 million litres of waste water, equivalent to 9 Olympic swimming pools

# CELEBRATING OUR SUPPLIERS

Our commitment to sustainability goes hand in hand with our dedication to quality to create exceptional wines. We believe in fostering strong partnerships not only with our growers, but also with the wider network of suppliers. With shared values of responsible business practices, we continuously look at opportunities to reduce environmental impact, improve efficiency and foster a greener future. Here are some examples showcasing relationships with two of our long-standing supply partners.



## TINWOOD ESTATE

Since 2009, we have developed a strong partnership with Tinwood, a family owned vineyard rooted on the edge of the South Downs.

Our operations have become closely linked – not only do we have their premium grapes in our Ridgeview wines, but we are also entrusted to make Tinwood's sparkling wines.

Underpinned by shared values, we have grown together, learning new approaches to support environmental practices not only in the vineyard but across every aspect of wine production.

Together, we have a shared vision of producing exceptional wines whilst prioritising the wellbeing of the land and planet.

TINWOOD  
ESTATE

## RANKIN BROTHERS

Over the last 15 years we have forged a strong bond with Jim Rankin's like-minded family business - our trusted supplier of high quality wirehoods, foils and corks.

We regularly work together to reduce the environmental impact, for example by bulk ordering from Portugal and France to the central UK warehouse. By consolidating orders we significantly reduced our number of deliveries to reduce transportation emissions.

Rankin are members of the European Cork Confederation and their forestry management and sustainable practices have been independently validated with FSC accreditation.



# SHOWCASING OUR PARTNER VINEYARDS

The world's best sparkling wine starts with the finest fruit. Alongside hand-picked grapes from our home estate in Sussex, we partner with premium vineyards across Southern England. Dedicated to their land and the grapes they grow, each vineyard contributes unique characteristics to Ridgeview's award-winning English sparkling wine.

**COUGHTON**  
Herefordshire



**REDHILL**  
West Sussex



**HALNAKER**  
West Sussex



**ARDINGLY**  
West Sussex



**CROSS-IN-HAND**  
East Sussex



**COMBES**  
Suffolk



**KELVEDON**  
Essex



**FAWKHAM**  
Kent



**STONE-IN-OXNEY**  
Kent



**ICKLESHAM**  
East Sussex





# OUR GROWERS



## TINWOOD ESTATE

"Tinwood Estate is a premier vineyard, producing world-class fruit on flint and chalk soils. Our grapes are grown on the family's 275-acre farm, situated just three miles from the Sussex coast.

We've supplied grapes to Ridgeview since 2009, forging a long-lasting relationship between two like-minded family businesses. Our strong connection is built on shared values, united in a common goal of producing the world's finest sparkling wine.

We are committed to reducing our environmental footprint and preserving the natural beauty that surrounds our estate. In recent years, we have devoted considerable efforts to enhancing biodiversity, ensuring a sustainable legacy for future generations."



## BURNT HOUSE

"Being part of the Ridgeview story means collaborating with a team who upholds the highest standards, who value the heritage of winemaking whilst constantly pioneering and pushing boundaries.

We have a deep respect for the land and actively seek to minimise our ecological footprint, implementing measures to protect soil health and conserve water resources. To promote biodiversity, we've introduced wildlife margins, winter bird food areas, and nectar flower mix areas.

Grape growing provides ample room for experimentation and innovation. From exploring different pruning techniques, there is always space to learn and improve. Trying new approaches and adapting to various challenges can lead to exciting advancements in grape growing techniques."



## ONCOLAND

"With decades of farming experience, we are committed to protecting and preserving the land for generations to come.

Sustainability and how to move the farm towards net zero are key considerations in every decision we make.

Oncoland has adopted a low-carbon farming approach, building on the sustainable practises in place across the whole of the estate.

We've made significant investments in renewable energy, installing a biomass boiler and, more recently, an anaerobic digestion plant in 2019.

Our afforestation and agroforestry programmes have resulted in us planting 30,000 trees in the past 30 years. We are always looking at ways to minimise our impact."



# CELEBRATING OUR PEOPLE

Ridgeview's values stem from our family roots. We believe in fairness and consistency, giving everyone the opportunity to develop while they are with us. We celebrate as our people grow in their knowledge, skill and confidence, empowering them to progress and excel at Ridgeview and in the wider English sparkling wine industry. A Real Living Wage Employer since 2018, one of our key drivers is to ensure our employees feel valued and we are focused on improving our strong record on employee satisfaction and retention.

*Life is for Celebrating*

# PEOPLE

## OUR CURRENT GOALS

- Ensure employees feel valued by focusing on development, internal promotion and rewards
- Provide a framework for employees to feel purpose in the wider context of community, ethics and sustainability
- Support inclusion by embedding flexible working as well as training to support minority groups

## OUR PROGRESS

- Widened financial incentives through KPIs and a new loyalty bonus scheme
- Introduced an annual wellbeing and development day
- Supported more volunteering opportunities
- Provided coaching and training in neurodiversity
- Had our first SEDEX Members Ethical Trade Audit (SMETA)
- Set-up a people committee, opening up more internal conversations and feedback
- Awarded Employer of the Year in the Gatwick Diamond Business Awards 2023 and achieved Wellbeing Bronze accreditation by East Sussex County Council – one of the first organisations to be certified

## WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

- Increasing our 85% employee retention rate and improving our score in the annual staff survey for feeling valued at work
- Schemes to support the next generation of talent into the English wine industry
- Menopause Friendly Employer Accreditation



## TEAM DEVELOPMENT



## BRANDON BARNHAM

### HEAD OF TRADE SALES

"I started seven years ago as a part-time retail and events assistant, hosting tastings and tours. I was determined to move into sales and, after eight months, got a chance at the Business Development Associate Manager job. I then progressed to Sales Manager and Head of Trade Sales. As my responsibilities have grown, I've been given training to fill knowledge gaps. I've had some internal mentoring and also did the Drinks Trust's programme, where I was paired with a sales director with 20 years' industry experience.

I want to keep learning more about the industry and help shape the future of the business."



## CHRIS HOSKING

### PRODUCTION OPERATIONS MANAGER

"My time with Ridgeview started in 2018 as Warehouse Co-ordinator. After six months, as the business grew, I was offered the Logistics Co-ordinator role. When someone left in 2022, I was promoted to Production Operations Manager. I feel appreciated at Ridgeview and my promotions have been fairly remunerated with the increased responsibilities.

I've had on the job training and my manager is always available to answer questions. I also have an internal mentor to discuss career goals, management training and any work-related issues. It's been an exciting time with the winery expansion. This year I'll oversee more developments including the installation of a new warehouse management system."



## CARA LIDDIARD

### E-COMMERCE AND WINE CLUB EXECUTIVE

"I only intended on being here for the summer, but it's been three years now. At the beginning, I was working front of house in the wine garden tasting area, but it was during Covid, and shifts were sometimes very quiet. I asked if I could work in the office, which quickly progressed to the role of Events Co-ordinator and then into my current role of E-commerce and Wine Club Executive.

My current job gives me lots of autonomy and I'm trusted to make decisions. I never thought I'd go down the website and wine club route, but I'm building on what I've learnt and will keep going for opportunities when they come up."



CUSTOMERS  
SCORE  
**3.5**

# CELEBRATING OUR CUSTOMERS



Ridgeview is proud of its global accolades as a world-class producer of sparkling wines and we strive to deliver exceptional experiences for our customers to celebrate moments that matter. Quality is at the heart of everything we do and we work continuously to maintain and improve our high standards. We are also passionate about supporting our trade customers, forging long-term partnerships and collaborations built on shared values.

# CUSTOMERS

## OUR CURRENT GOALS

- Continue to nurture trade customer relationships with innovative ideas to grow shared value
- Improve customer awareness of our awards, certificates and accreditations
- Offering an exciting new visitor experience with the opening of our on-site restaurant, The Rows & Vine

## OUR PROGRESS

- Introduced a supplier environmental questionnaire
- Better communication of our accreditations and awards. Alongside B Corp and Sustainable Wines GB certification others include:
  - Annual SALSA certification for Food Safety
  - Ethical Trading – SEDEX Members and SMETA
  - Green South Downs Gold Award
  - Gatwick Diamond Business Award for Environmental Culture and also Employer of the Year
  - The Drinks Business Green Awards 2022 – runner up
  - Best UK Winery Wine Club – Decanter Retail Awards 2023

## WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

- A customer stewardship programme to monitor satisfaction feedback and retention
- A trade customer survey to ensure we are delivering against expectations
- Relaunching Ridgeview's OurView wine club to make it even more compelling





## CELEBRATING SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

Since our wines first became commercially available in 2000, we have welcomed visitors to our Sussex estate in the South Downs National Park.

Limiting our impact on the local environment remains a key consideration as we expand our wine tourism, creating experiences from grape to glass.

Built using sustainable design principles, this year we opened The Rows & Vine restaurant, set within a biodiversity-rich garden of native plants. To respect the local ecology and the park's Dark Skies policy, lighting from the venue is also carefully controlled.

In the last year, over 18,000 visitors have come to enjoy vineyard tours, tastings, dining among the vines and our cellar door shop. We encourage greener ways to travel to us and have installed free to use EV charging stations.

The Rows & Vine's opening marks an exciting new step not only for Ridgeview, but the evolution of Sussex as an iconic wine tourism destination.

Ridgeview is part of the wider Sussex Tourism community. This group aims to establish Sussex as a leader in wine tourism creating over 3,000 jobs and bring in an estimated £283 million to the local community by 2040.



COMMUNITY  
SCORE  
**23.3**

# CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY

Ridgeview's foundations are built on family and strong community. We believe in a business model based on interdependence with our stakeholders. We're proud of the inclusive work environment we've created – and want our teams to be representative of the communities we serve and operate in. Knowledge sharing and creating conditions for collective growth to help the industry thrive is in our roots.



# COMMUNITY

## OUR CURRENT GOALS

- Continue to push the boundaries of equity, inclusion and acceptance and provide a safe workplace for all
- Support our local charity partners and the hospitality sector

## OUR PROGRESS

- Achieved level one Disability Confident accreditation
- Installed a defibrillator and ran employee and local community training
- Gained Charitable Payroll Giving Silver accreditation from the Charitable Giving organisation
- Raised £17,000 for the Table Talk charity, which provides food education for children in Sussex and assists hospitality venues
- Organised winemaking and harvest training for our local special educational needs college
- Our CEO and Ridgeview's senior leadership team are active members of over ten business and trade bodies, strengthening relationships and positive outcomes
- Supported local community sports

## WHAT WE'RE WORKING ON

- Launching the Ridgeview charitable foundation
- An employer supported volunteering scheme
- More charitable giving and community investment policies and practices
- Hosting more work experience events



# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

The Ridgeview team believe in supporting our local business, education, sport and charitable communities. We are active participants in the following groups, lending our time and support to these worthy organisations, together making an impact on our local region.

## TRADE ORGANISATIONS



**WINEGB**  
WINES OF GREAT BRITAIN



**wsta**  
speaking for the wine and spirit trade

WINEGB SOUTH EAST

## LOCAL BUSINESS ORGANISATIONS

**Burgess Hill**  
BUSINESS PARKS ASSOCIATION



NETWORKMYCLUB



platinum

## COMMUNITY AND CHARITY SUPPORT



TABLE TALK  
FOUNDATION



## EDUCATION



**US**  
UNIVERSITY  
OF SUSSEX



woodlands  
meed



## TOURISM

SUSSEX  
MODERN



Green  
Tourism

visitBrighton



# FINAL THOUGHTS

Thanks for reading our first Impact Report, we are extremely proud of what the Ridgeview team has achieved so far on our B Corp journey. We're now looking to the future, setting our sights on recertifying in 2025 with 100+ points as we reach for evermore ambitious goals.

We strive to foster long-term relationships with all our stakeholders, creating shared value built on the principles of business for good, not just profit. We welcome all feedback about how we're doing – please drop us a message to [info@ridgeview.co.uk](mailto:info@ridgeview.co.uk) or come and visit us at our winery.

RIDGEVIEW ESTATE WINERY  
FRAGBARROW LANE,  
DITCHLING COMMON  
EAST SUSSEX, BN6 8TP  
+44 (0) 1444 242 040

[WWW.RIDGEVIEW.CO.UK](http://WWW.RIDGEVIEW.CO.UK)

