

A forest centred approach

Constructing a new Forest Holidays location

Nature sensitive cabins

Cabins gently blend into the forest offering those staying in them a rich connection with the natural world. Using a forest-centred approach to development, design and integration, the creation of a Forest Holidays location uses extremely low impact and ecologically sensitive methods and techniques. This helps to retain and enhance the woodland, its wildlife and their habitats.

Cabin locations are sustainably designed and constructed in a unique way with a pioneering design which blends with the forest, using a technique which allows cabins to be carefully assembled between the trees.

Cabins are created using modular and prefabrication methods. This is when components are built in one place off-site, creating less waste, less noise and using less energy. This light touch construction method ensures that no large-scale excavation or reshaping of the land is required. Low impact piles are used to create the foundations for cabins. A lightweight micro pile system is installed with simple portable tools, making it ecologically sensitive. This process protects the forest floor, ensures that nearby trees are unaffected, soil movement is minimalised, and allows rainwater to drain into the forest floor naturally.

To preserve Dark Skies and protect nocturnal wildlife, Forest Holidays use no external upward lighting and the minimum lighting required for the location to operate.

Managing surface water

Forest Holidays cabins are designed differently to your homes. Cabins are designed without gutters or downpipes and all run-off is discharged directly to ground assisted by small infiltration strips beneath the eaves.

Cabins are set above the ground allowing surface water to continue its natural flow path. Through research and development carried out over numerous locations, including two National Parks, a mini piling system is used to create the foundations. No surface water is collected on site and the cabins have large overhanging eaves which allow rainwater to fall to the forest floor maintaining the balance of hydrology. This enables the continuation of a natural drainage process by maintaining uniform infiltration rather than a central point of discharge (e.g. soakaways). As the ground surface around the cabins remains natural and undeveloped, surface water is allowed to continue its natural runoff regime.

This low impact method has been used for many years at locations similar both in the proportion of the cabins and the environment in which they are set. Many of Forest Holidays locations are situated in high rainfall areas such as those in North Wales and in the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park in Scotland. This method of discharge across all of these forest locations has a proven track record.

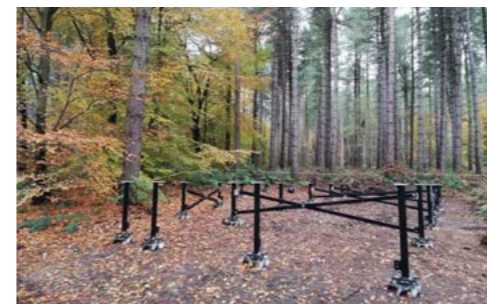
As part of the planning application package, a flood risk assessment and a foul drainage strategy will be submitted.

Flood risk

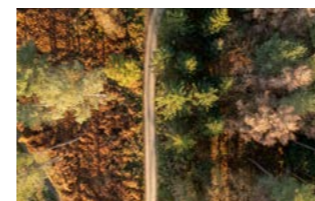
A detailed Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) has been carried out and identified that the site is situated within Flood Zone 1 according to the Environment Agency, which indicates a 'low' probability of flooding. The site is classified as having a 'very low' risk of surface water flooding, having an annual chance of flooding less than 0.1%.



No gutters so rainwater drains into the forest floor naturally



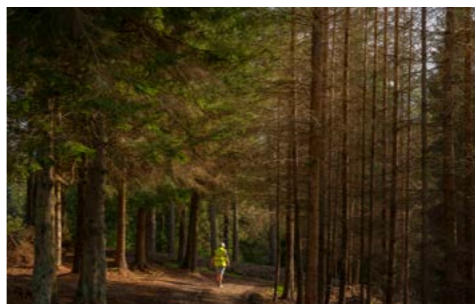
Low impact piling system for foundations, which mimic tree roots



New roads at locations



Delamere Forest - one year after opening to guests



64 cabins beneath the tree canopy - this image was taken 18 months after the location was created

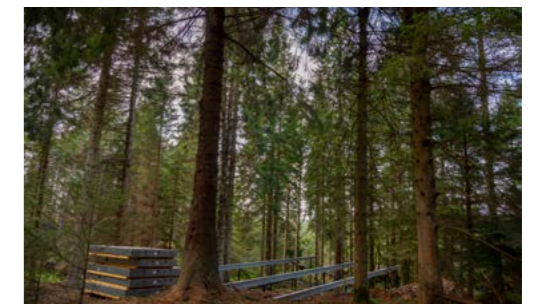
Materials

When choosing materials, Forest Holidays evaluate the environmental impact of each product using their sustainable procurement strategy. All the timber used is either PEFC or FSC accredited (this means it's sustainably sourced) and Forest Holidays is working with Grown in Britain to increase the amount of home grown timber used.

Cabin being erected within scaffolding



Low impact foundations completed ahead of floor installation



The cabins are designed to integrate into the woodland setting and any tracks, pathways and car parking spaces created by the proposals would be constructed with the same finish as the existing Forestry England tracks in the nation's forests using permeable materials.