

An overview of our environmental sustainability strategy for cabin design

BREEAM ratings

When we develop our new locations and cabins, the decision-making process is informed and influenced by the guidelines set out in the environmental categories of BREEAM (Building Research Establishment's Environmental Assessment Method.)

BREEAM is the foremost sustainability rating scheme for the built environment and it sets out and assesses sustainability performance against best practices. Forest Holidays are the first self-catering holiday company of our type to have applied for a bespoke BREEAM scheme with BRE.

Management

We encourage sustainable management practices throughout a project (design, construction, commissioning, handover and aftercare) and we ensure these are considered and implemented from the initial stages. We have an in-house BREEAM advisory professional, involved during the various stages of our projects, acting as a sustainability champion.

Health and wellbeing

We research solutions to maximise the comfort, health and wellbeing of our teams and guests. It is well documented that woodland environments benefit physical and mental health. Our cabin design allows for abundant natural light and forest views through their large windows, connecting our guests with the natural environment throughout their stay.

Energy

Our aim is to maximise energy efficiency through the design of our buildings (highly insulated envelope and passive design). The vast majority of our cabins are heated by efficient Air Source Heat Pump technology or renewable sources: wood pellet and Bio LPG. Each cabin has underfloor heating, which is highly efficient and has a low operating temperature.

On our future projects, we will continue to use and install highly efficient appliances and will improve our monitoring systems to allow even better energy management. We are committed to reduce energy use and are always evaluating new technologies to do so.

Transport

At all our locations, we either provide cycle facilities or work in partnership with cycle providers to encourage guests to leave their car parked during their stay. Where possible we provide minibus services for our teams and/or a shuttle for guests to the closest transport hub or town. All new locations will have central electric car charging facilities for guests.

Water

We use highly efficient brassware and water-using appliances to minimise water consumption and we monitor consumption to ensure it can be managed and any leaks detected.

Materials

We have a sustainable procurement strategy in place that considers the lifecycle impact of materials, ways to optimise their use and their durability and resilience. All the timber we use is either PEFC or FSC accredited (sustainably sourced timber), and as a company we are PEFC accredited.

Furthermore, we are working with Grown in Britain on a long-term project to increase the amount of British timber we use.

Waste

For our cabins and other building construction, we use modular and pre-fabrication methods to reduce waste. Within our design, we provide recycling facilities for each cabin as well as central recycling.

Land use and ecology

We are strongly committed to protecting and enhancing the forest and we are committed to managing our locations following best practice advice by foresters and ecologists. We enhance habitats to improve biodiversity and we have ongoing ecology monitoring on location to help inform our woodland and landscape management.

Pollution

We are constantly improving the specification of our appliances as well as designing to encourage sustainable behaviours. We have developed a lighting strategy, where we design our new locations to have no external upward lighting; we only provide the minimum lighting required for the

location to operate, to preserve dark skies and protect the habitat for nocturnal wildlife.

