

NEWSLETTER 2026



HAY'S WOOD — RETREAT —

A QUICK THANK YOU,

Whether you have stayed with us before or are discovering Hay's Wood Retreat for the first time, we're really glad you're here.

Hay's Wood has always been about creating a place that feels calm, welcoming, and easy to settle into. A place where you can arrive, slow down, and enjoy being surrounded by woodland, lakes, and open space. Everything we do here is guided by that feeling.

So, thank you. Thank you to those who have visited, shared kind words, recommended us to others, and returned time and again. Your support allows us to care for the land, invest in the retreat, and continue shaping Hay's Wood in thoughtful ways. We hope you enjoy spending a little time with us through these pages.

Kindest Regards,

*THE HAY'S WOOD
RETREAT TEAM*



WHAT'S INSIDE?

In this edition, we're sharing what we've been up to at Hay's Wood, from new roads and more accessible lodges to welcoming some new (feathery and furry) residents to the site. We're also looking ahead to a few ideas we're excited about next, including sensory spaces, new ways to enjoy our hot tubs, and even a pizza oven at reception.

HIGHLIGHT

LOOKING BACK
AT 2025

WHAT'S
COMING TO
HAY'S WOOD
RETREAT

NEW SENSORY
LODGE

NEW ADD ON
COMING SOON -
HOT TUB
EXPERIENCE

PLANTING NEW
TREES

SAY HELLO TO
OUR ANIMALS

2025 - YOU WERE QUITE THE YEAR!

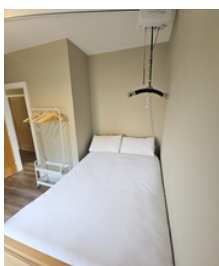


Built for Everyone to Feel at Home

We are really proud to have introduced our new accessible lodges in 2025, designed from the ground up to make time at Hay's Wood Retreat as comfortable, flexible, and enjoyable as possible.

These lodges include thoughtful features such as wide doorways throughout, step-free access, accessible outdoor picnic benches, and not one but two spacious wet rooms, giving guests and companions extra ease and independence during their stay.

Inside, the bedrooms are fitted with an accessible mobility bed with hoist support, alongside carefully planned layouts that allow for easy movement and shared living without compromise. We've opened one three-bedroom lodge, sleeping up to four guests, and two two-bedroom lodges, sleeping up to three, creating options for different group sizes while keeping the same focus on comfort and dignity. Like all of our accommodation, these lodges sit within the calm woodland setting of Hay's Wood Retreat, offering accessibility without losing the feeling of a relaxed retreat.



New Faces (and Feathers) on the Land

This year, Hay's Wood Retreat became home to a few new residents, and they've quickly settled into life among the woodland and open spaces. We welcomed two rhea, whose curious nature has already made them firm favourites, along with four alpacas, three pygmy goats, and three Dexter cows, all chosen for how well they fit into the landscape and the way we care for the land.

One particularly special arrival was Hector, our Highland bull, who brings a real sense of presence to the site and plays an important role in our grazing plans.



"Perfect lodges with the cutest animals!! Truly the most perfect lodges to spend a weekend away.

The wildlife and animals on sight made a lovely walk to enjoy and our highlight was the little goats who are extremely friendly." - TripAdvisor - October 2025

Many of these animals can be spotted during our popular Animal Encounters Walk, where guests can get up close and even feed them — with feed available to purchase from reception. Beyond the enjoyment they bring to guests, these animals help us manage the land naturally and thoughtfully, adding to the character of Hay's Wood Retreat in quiet, everyday ways. For many visitors, spotting them during a morning stroll or from the comfort of their lodge has become one of the small moments that makes a stay here truly memorable.

Snug in the Woodland

2025 also saw the launch of our new woodland lodges, carefully designed to blend seamlessly into their leafy surroundings.

Inside, they feature upgraded interiors that echo the comfort and style of our hot tub lodges, with warm, rustic touches and open-plan living that make them feel welcoming from the moment you step in. While they don't have patios or hot tubs, these lodges offer the same thoughtful design, quality finishes, and sense of space that guests have come to expect. Nestled among the trees, they provide a true woodland retreat experience, with privacy and calm all around.



To make getting to your lodge even more enjoyable, we also built brand-new bridges along the walking trails, allowing guests to cross the dyke safely and easily as they make their way to both woodland and lakeside lodges.

Smoother Stays from the Start

In 2025, we added new internal roads across the retreat, making it easier and more comfortable for guests to get around. Whether you're heading to a lodge, walking the trails, or visiting the lakeside, the improved access helps everyone enjoy the retreat with ease — and adds another small touch of convenience to your time at Hay's Wood Retreat.

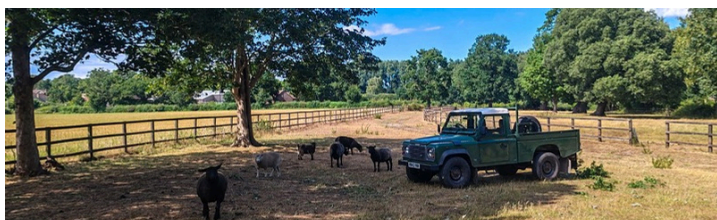


“Highly recommend this is as a lovely retreat for the whole family - we stayed in a lodge facing the large green area and great for young families watching little ones running around safely.” - TripAdvisor Sept 2025



Growing the Woodland

At Hay's Wood Retreat, caring for the woodland is at the heart of everything we do, and this year we've added even more life to the site with the planting of new trees just outside our accessible lodges. Among them are sturdy English oaks, delicate hawthorns, and graceful Betula carpinus, all chosen to enrich the woodland habitat and support local wildlife for years to come. These new additions not only enhance the natural beauty surrounding the lodges but also will one day provide future guests with dappled shade, seasonal colour, and a closer connection to the living landscape. Every tree is a small step in our ongoing commitment to conservation, helping to keep Hay's Wood a peaceful, thriving place for everyone to enjoy.



Local Favourites Under One Roof

In 2025, we were delighted to open our on-site shop, bringing a little bit of our local businesses closer to every guest. Beyond everyday essentials, it's become a place to showcase some of the fantastic local produce and treats we're proud to support. This year we've worked with a selection of Norfolk favourites — including Brick Pizza, Lakenham Ice Cream, H C Bearts of Stowbridge, Krusty Loaf Bakery, and Mitre Farm who supplied our Christmas Tree! Our shop offers visitors the chance to enjoy local flavours, pick up something special for their stay, or take a taste of Hay's Wood home with them. It's a space that celebrates the community around us, giving guests a chance to discover new favourites and enjoy the best of local craftsmanship alongside the tranquillity of the retreat.



More Fun for Little Feet

This year, we've added some exciting new features to the play area, especially for our youngest guests under five, giving them extra space to explore, climb, and enjoy the outdoors safely. And there's more to come — a new water feature, set to be completed in 2026, will bring another layer of fun and discovery for little adventurers. It's all part of making Hay's Wood a place where the whole family can enjoy playful, woodland moments together.



At Hay's Wood Retreat, every detail is cared for by a small but dedicated team of just 12 people. From managers and reception staff to housekeepers, groundskeepers, and maintenance, each member plays an important role in making the retreat feel welcoming, calm, and special.

We love what we do, and we love Hay's Wood itself — its woodland, wildlife, and sense of peace make it a place we're proud to care for every day. Our hope is that every guest experiences that same feeling of calm and enjoyment that makes the retreat so unique.

Whether it's a lodge prepared to perfection, a pathway cleared for a quiet walk, or a friendly face ready to help, everything our team does comes from that passion and pride. It's our way of sharing the joy of Hay's Wood with everyone who visits.



The Team Behind The Scenes



2026 - WE ALREADY CAN'T WAIT FOR WHAT'S IN STORE!



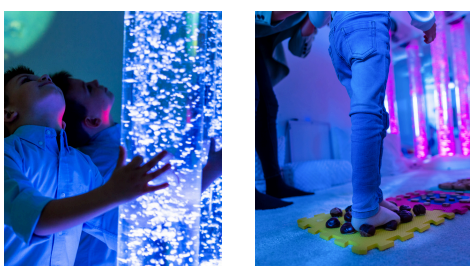
Brand New Sensory Lodge Incoming...

In 2026 we are hoping to be introducing our new sensory lodge, which will complete the set of four accessible lodges at Hay's Wood Retreat!

This lodge is being thoughtfully designed for guests with additional sensory needs, offering a calm, supportive environment that helps reduce overwhelm while still feeling like a special place to stay. Our focus is on creating spaces that feel soothing, predictable, and comfortable, without losing warmth or character.

Inside, the lodge will include carefully considered sensory features such as adjustable lighting, soft colour palettes, and tactile elements, allowing guests to tailor the environment to suit their individual needs — making it a place where guests can truly settle in and feel at home.

We'd love to involve our guests in shaping this space, so if there are features, ideas, or small details that would make a sensory lodge especially welcoming or helpful, we invite you to share your thoughts with us.



The Mobile Spa Experience

We're also looking ahead to a new way to unwind at Hay's Wood Retreat, with plans for The Mobile Spa Experience — a private spa space that comes directly to you. Available to hire for guests staying in our classic or woodland lodges, this moveable spa will arrive on a dedicated frame and park up right alongside your lodge, transforming your stay with minimal effort and maximum relaxation.

With its own roof for year-round comfort, it's designed to feel tucked away and personal, whatever the season.



"Thank you Hays wood for a wonderful break - we are hoping to return in the summer and spend more time in this lovely place."
TripAdvisor December 2025

The idea is simple: your own spa, on your schedule. Step outside your lodge and into a calm, spa-style space featuring a hot tub, a sauna, and — subject to final plans — a refreshing plunge pool. Whether it's a slow morning soak, a quiet afternoon session, or a relaxed evening under the sky, The Mobile Spa Experience gives you the freedom to enjoy moments of indulgence without changing the layout or feel of your lodge.

We're hoping it'll be a flexible, thoughtful addition that allows guests to tailor their stay, bringing an extra layer of comfort and calm while preserving the spacious, unhurried atmosphere that defines Hay's Wood Retreat.

The Pitter Patter of Tiny Hooves

Spring may bring even more life to Hay's Wood Retreat, as we're hoping to welcome some fluffy little additions to our Hay's Wood family!

Yes, we may have some special arrivals at Hay's Wood Retreat in the months ahead, as there's a chance our Highland Cows could be expecting. Guests have already loved meeting Hector and the rest of the herd, and the thought of tiny calves exploring the woodland is certainly something to look forward to. While we'll have to wait and see, the possibility of new life on the site adds a sense of excitement and wonder, and we hope our visitors will enjoy the magic of watching the herd grow.



A Slice of Local Flavour

We're bringing a little extra flavour to Hay's Wood Retreat with a new pizza oven in the reception building's coffee lounge.

Guests will be able to buy their favourite Brick Pizza and cook it themselves on the oven, creating a fun, interactive dining experience right on site. It's the perfect way to enjoy a relaxed evening with family or friends, bringing everyone together over delicious food in a social and hands-on way. Whether you're a seasoned pizza pro or trying it for the first time, this addition adds another playful, memorable element to your stay at Hay's Wood Retreat.



“Pretty hard to fault. Just returned from a wonderful stay here. Where do I start? Great setting. Check in was very quick. Lodge was very light and spacious. Perfect.” – TripAdvisor January 2026



A Stay for the Whole Family

At Hay's Wood Retreat, we know that pets are part of the family, which is why we've designed some of our lodges to be pet-friendly. This year, we're taking things a step further by adapting these lodges with gates and fencing, giving dogs the freedom to enjoy the patio safely without the risk of wandering off.

Whether it's a morning coffee while your furry friend stretches out in the sun, or an evening relaxing with your dog by your side, these improvements mean everyone can enjoy the calm, open space of the retreat. It's all about making stays more comfortable, safe, and enjoyable — for you and your four-legged companions alike.



Adventure Awaits

We are always looking for ways to make outdoor fun even more exciting, and our woodland adventure areas are set for some further developments.

The Adventurer's Glen will see new features for guests to explore, offering more opportunities for climbing, discovering, and enjoying the woodland in creative ways. Meanwhile, the woodland play area will be enhanced with a new water play feature, bringing an extra splash of excitement for little adventurers!

These additions are all designed to encourage curiosity, imagination, and active play, giving families even more reasons to enjoy the outdoors and make lasting memories at Hay's Wood Retreat.



Stay Connected, Your Way

We know that even when you're enjoying the calm of Hay's Wood, staying connected is important — which is why we're upgrading our Wi-Fi across the retreat. Guests can soon enjoy much faster, more reliable connections throughout the park, whether you're catching up on emails, streaming your favourite show, or sharing your woodland adventures online. It's just another way we're making stays more convenient and enjoyable, without taking away from the peaceful, natural atmosphere that makes Hay's Wood so special.