

TREAD LIGHTLY AT WESTBROOK COURT



Our approach to sustainability, stewardship and responsible tourism

Preserve what matters. Repair what we can. Reuse what already exists. Support the people around us. And tread a little more lightly along the way.

Westbrook Court Country House is a 17th-century Herefordshire extended farmhouse with guest accommodation in a converted stable block, set within three private acres near Hay-on-Wye. We don't claim to be carbon neutral, off-grid or a perfectly sustainable tourism business. We are an old country house accommodating larger groups, and running and heating a property of this age and scale inevitably has an environmental impact.

Our approach is practical: **preserve what already exists, repair rather than routinely replace, buy thoughtfully, reduce unnecessary waste, care for the land around us and make sure tourism at Westbrook Court benefits the wider place we call home.**

Preserve. Repair. Reuse.

Perhaps the most sustainable thing about Westbrook Court is that much of it already existed. Rather than replacing the character of our 17th-century farmhouse, we have restored and adapted it for another chapter of its life.

Westbrook near Hay on Wye, HR3 5SY

Call or Text Us 07966535674 **Email Us** stay@westbrookcourt.co.uk

VAT Registration Number: 391 2121 24

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Preserve. Repair. Reuse.

Our interiors deliberately mix old and new. Antique and vintage furniture, collected objects and repurposed pieces sit alongside contemporary design. Wherever practical, we repair, recover, repaint, reupholster and reuse rather than automatically replacing something because it is no longer new.

We work with local tradespeople and craftspeople and experienced local conservation contractors wherever practical and believe good materials, skilled workmanship and things made to last are preferable to a constant cycle of replacement.

**For us, sustainability and good design are often the same thing:
buy less, choose well and keep it for longer.**

Reducing everyday waste

We recycle, use refillable or bulk products where practical, choose lower-impact cleaning products where they perform effectively and try to reduce unnecessary single-use items and packaging. Guests have considerable control over what they consume during a self-catering stay, and we encourage sensible use of heating, lighting, water and other resources without turning a holiday into a list of rules.

We don't present recycling or refillable toiletries as transformational environmental achievements. They are simply things a responsible business should now be doing.

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Our young woodland

Our Herefordshire landscape is part of the stay

Westbrook Court sits within the Golden Valley of Herefordshire, where we encourage guests to experience the local landscape rather than simply look at it. Ancient public footpaths lead directly from the property towards Hardwick Church, Little Mountain and Merbach, while our concierge connects guests with walking, canoeing, foraging, nature journalling and other outdoor experiences.

Our three acres are deliberately not manicured into formal parkland. Alongside grassland, hedgerows, mature trees and a small orchard, we have planted a young woodland of approximately 500 trees, creating new habitat and a landscape that will become richer with time.

Guests can wander the fields and woodland, watch birds, forage, explore with children, practise yoga, sit beneath a tree — or simply enjoy doing very little.

A memorable day here doesn't necessarily require getting back into the car.

A woodland allowed to evolve

A meandering woodland walk now leads guests through the young trees, with simple pause points designed for stopping, sitting and noticing the landscape. We accept the nettles, insects, fallen leaves and imperfections that come with allowing nature some freedom.

Our responsibility is to steward it rather than sanitise it.

Our next ambition is a small programme of woodland art using natural, found, reclaimed or biodegradable materials. Pieces will respond to the landscape rather than dominate it — and, where appropriate, weather and eventually return to the earth.



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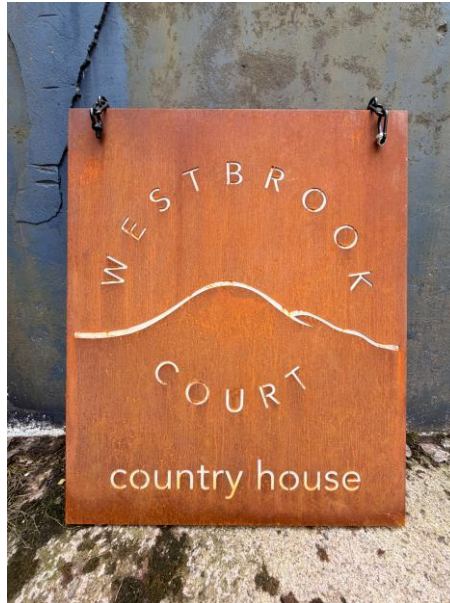
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Keep visitor spending local to support our local community and economy



Environmental responsibility is only part of sustainable tourism. A visitor economy should also benefit the community in which it operates. Westbrook Court brings groups of up to 21 adults into rural Herefordshire for several days at a time. We want as much of the economic benefit of those stays as reasonably possible to remain here.

Rather than trying to provide every experience ourselves, we actively introduce guests to local chefs, caterers, guides, makers, therapists, activity providers, independent shops, pubs, restaurants and food and drink businesses. Our pre-arrival concierge service is deliberately built around these relationships.

Westbrook Court provides the place to stay. Herefordshire provides much of the experience.

Stay longer. Travel less.

Westbrook Court is designed for groups to gather under one roof rather than travel repeatedly between separate accommodation, dining and activity venues. Guests can cook and eat together, bring in a local chef, spend a day around the house and grounds, walk directly from the door and enjoy activities on site. There is also a regular daytime bus route connecting the area with Hay-on-Wye, Brecon and Hereford.

We don't pretend this eliminates the impact of travelling here, particularly for groups arriving by car. Instead, our aim is to make it possible for guests to arrive, slow down and spend more of their stay in one place.

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What we are still working on

Sustainability isn't something we regard as finished, and we would rather acknowledge the gaps than make claims we cannot substantiate. Westbrook Court is a large historic property. It requires energy to heat and operate. Many guests travel here by car. Some improvements that are straightforward in a new-build property are considerably more complicated in a centuries-old building.

Our priorities are practical: **continue improving energy and resource efficiency; develop the woodland and biodiversity of our three acres; increase repair, reuse and responsible sourcing; strengthen relationships with local suppliers; encourage walking and lower-impact experiences; and make responsible choices part of everyday business decisions.**

SMALL FOOTSTEPS. LONG VIEW.

Westbrook Court has already stood here for centuries. Our job isn't to make it permanently new. It is to look after the building and land well enough that they continue to have a useful, beautiful life - and to ensure the people who visit us leave some economic benefit behind in the community that welcomed them.

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