



Everything About Planning Your Wedding

The Venue

Q: Do you have more than one wedding on the same day?

A: When you book your wedding with us at Woodhill Hall you have exclusive use of the entire hall and 100 acre estate. We are not a frenetic 24 hour wedding venue. Your stay at the Hall is for 2 unrushed nights. The first evening is self-catering and at your leisure. On the day of your wedding and up to the wedding ceremony, we offer self-catering. Then from the beginning of your wedding ceremony to the closing of the bar at the end of the night, we fully cater for all your food & beverage needs including a full English breakfast on the following day. When our bar closes on the night of your wedding, you can once again continue the party with your house guests on a self-catering basis.

Q: What are the minimum numbers required to hire Woodhill Hall?

A: At Woodhill Hall we do not impose minimum numbers for weddings or a pre-spend amount.

Q: What is the maximum number of guests Woodhill Hall can cater a wedding breakfast for?

A: We can cater for up to 120 guests for a wedding breakfast in our tepee.

Q: What is the maximum number of guests Woodhill Hall can hold for an evening reception?

A: We can hold up to 180 guests.

Q: Where do you permit photos to be taken?

A: Woodhill Hall and grounds are exclusively yours, so you can have photographs taken anywhere. Many couples choose the front of our Orangery, our wonderful terrace or gardens to encompass the amazing views but we also have secluded areas such as our folly and woodland driveway for more unusual photographic images. Weather permitting, we can also drive you to the bottom of our field so that you can have photos taken by the River Rede.

Q: Do you have a list of recommended suppliers?

A: Yes, we have a document called 'People We Like To Work With' which is available to download from our website.

Q: What size coach/bus can you fit down the drive?

A: A standard 57 seater coach can come up the drive and also has room to turn. However, luxury type coaches would have to reverse up the drive to drop off and pick up your guests.

Q: Do you have disabled access?

A: We have access for those in wheelchairs into the hall, drawing room, dining room and rose room. The Rose Room has twin beds and an en-suite wet room and disabled toilet. We also have a very discrete fold up ramp for access into the Orangery and tepee.

Ceremony

Q: Can we get married outdoors?

A: *Yes, you can in good weather. Many couples choose to get married on our Orangery terrace. A decision can be made in consultation with you on the morning of the wedding.*

Q: Do you provide a Master of Ceremonies?

A: *Yes we do, this is a member of our team who will ensure that all timings are adhered to and will announce the speeches. Our team will direct your guests through each stage of your wedding day. We gently invite guests to be where they need to be. We don't do shouting of orders.*

Q: Can we play our own music during the ceremony and wedding breakfast?

A: *Yes. You can have live music (string quartet, acoustic guitar singer, pianist etc.) or you can create your playlists to be played out through a PA that you hire or via our docking station.*

Q: How many tracks can we play as our ceremony music?

A: *We suggest you provide four songs. The first is for walking down the aisle, then one or two to be played whilst signing the register and one more as you leave your guests to proceed to your drinks reception. Always have a copy if you're bringing a CD or another MP3 player just in case!*

Q: How many guests can we invite to our wedding ceremony?

A: *Our spacious Orangery holds up to 100 guests. And this is the same whether your ceremony is held indoors or outdoors.*

Q: Do you allow confetti to be thrown in the grounds at Woodhill Hall?

A: *Yes, we allow confetti to be thrown within the Orangery. Please ensure all confetti is 100% natural petal and biodegradable.*

Q: Do we need to book the Registrar direct? What time do couples usually get married? Do you have their contact details?

A: *Prior to you completing your booking form, please check in the first instance that there is a Registrar available to marry you. You can marry whatever time you would like but most couples choose to marry between 1 and 3pm. Please contact the Northumberland Registrars based in Alnwick on 01665 602870.*

Q: Can Woodhill Hall hold a date for us, and if so how long for?

A: *We can hold a date for 3-4 working days for you in order for you to contact the Registrar or local church.*

Q: How much do the Registrars charge?

A: *You need to contact Northumberland County Council and pay an initial £35.00 non-refundable booking fee, then the remaining ceremony fees range from £350.00-£470.00 dependant on the day of the week. You can contact the Northumberland Registrars on 01665 602870.*

Food and Drink

Q: Do you hold any tasting events to help us make our catering and drink choices?

A: *We hold tasting events on Thursday evenings where we invite couples who are marrying at Woodhill Hall to sample our delicious food prepared by our catering team. It is an opportunity to sample your potential food for your wedding. Tastings are limited to a maximum number of 6 guests. The cost of this currently £35 per guest and includes a glass of wine. Please contact us to arrange a date and time for your tasting.*

Q: How much time should we allow for our wedding breakfast?

A: Wedding breakfasts usually take around 1½ hours excluding speeches. A lot of couples opt for the speeches to be heard before the meal or during the drinks reception.

Q: We would love a BBQ but what if it rains?

A: If it rains we will still cook the food under a canopy outside but can bring the food inside for your guests.

Q: Do you allow outside catering?

A: No. We have our own catering team who provide excellent catering to suit your needs.

Q: Do we have to cater for precise numbers of evening guests?

A: Yes, all your evening guests need to be catered for to avoid any embarrassment.

Q: What happens if some of our guests have dietary requirements?

A: We will ask you to provide us with exact details of any guest special dietary requirements at your final planning meeting which will usually take place 2 months prior to your wedding day.

Q: Can we have a drinks reception outside?

A: Yes of course you can. You can hold this anywhere within the grounds.

Q: Do you have a cake knife and cake stand that we can use?

A: We have an antique Syrian sword as a cake knife and a choice of either square or round silver cake stand, both 14", which are included in your hire. We also can supply a rustic crate that can be used as a cake stand. This is inscribed with the words 'I Do Woodhill Hall'.

Q: What time will the bar close on our wedding night?

A: We have a music and alcohol license in the Main Hall until 2am. The music license in the tepee ends at midnight.

Q: Do you take card payments in the bar?

A: No, we do not take card payments. Please ensure that your guests are made aware of this prior to arrival.

Q: Can we bring our own food & drink the night before the wedding?

A: Yes you can. We have a fully equipped kitchen that you can use during your stay.

Q: Some of our guests are staying in Otterburn and Bellingham. Can they join us for breakfast on the morning after?

A: Yes, we will ask that you include this information in your Final Timeline document. Please ask us for a price for additional guests. Breakfast is served at 10am in our Dining Room.

Room Decoration and Set Up

Q: Do we need to hire crockery, glassware and table linen?

A: All crockery, cutlery, glassware and white table linen are included.

Q: Do you have any props we can use?

A: We are the only venue in the North of England that has their very own beach hut Prop Shop. We have bought and have been given items from weddings which you are more than welcome to use free of charge. If you are looking for anything from a vintage pair of ladders to log slices for table centre then we have it!

Q: What number of tables can you have in the Orangery?

A: We have a combination of 5ft and 6ft round tables. With a maximum of 7 tables in total. 6ft tables can seat a maximum of 12 guests and 5ft table a maximum of 11 guests. We also have rustic farmhouse tables that can be used either clothed or naked!

Q: What is the maximum number of guests that can dine in the tepees?

A: We can dine up to 120 guests in the tepee using all round tables.

Q: Can we have live music in the tepees?

A: Yes you can. Live music in the tepees is licensed to midnight.

Q: How long does the turnaround in The Orangery from the ceremony to the wedding breakfast take and where do guests mingle during this period?

A: The room turnaround usually takes around 1 to 1½ hours. While The Orangery is being turned around we invite guests into the Hall, onto the garden terraces or our courtyard for reception drinks, this is also a great opportunity to take photographs.

Q: Do you supply high chairs?

A: Yes, we have 4 high chairs.

Q: Do you allow candles in the Hall, tepee & grounds?

A: Yes, providing they are in fire resistant containers.

Q: Do you have an outdoor fire pit or BBQ?

A: Yes, we have our very own BBQ lodge so regardless of the weather you can BBQ or sit around the fire.

Q: Can we snuggle up next to an open fire?

A: We have beautiful decorative fireplaces in our dining and drawing room in the main hall, which can both be used. We will supply the coal and wood needed for these fires. We also have a wood burning stove in the Love Shack that can be used.

Q: Do you provide table number stands?

A: Yes, we have table number stands available from our Prop Shop.

Q: Can we bring our own decorations?

A: You can decorate the Orangery with bunting, balloons or whatever you would like. We would suggest that if your ceremony room decorating is to take longer than one hour for one person, then you should consider engaging the services of an events dressing company.

Q: Do we come in and set up ourselves or is this a service you provide?

A: We will do the wedding breakfast set up for you, including setting the tables and laying out your place cards and favours.

Q: How can we add something totally unique and fun to our dream day?

A: We have our quirky Prop Shop at your disposal. Our Wedding Co-Ordinators have substantial experience of advising on creating weddings with a wow.

Accommodation

Q: What time can we check into Woodhill Hall?

A: *Guests can check in from 4pm on the Friday, unless we can accommodate an earlier arrival. In which case you can start the party early. On a Sunday, check in is from 6pm and on a Tuesday check in is from 6pm.*

Q: How many bedrooms are there at Woodhill Hall?

A: *We have a total of 16 bedrooms and can sleep up to 36 guests.*

Q: Do you provide towels?

A: *Yes, we supply all guests with towels.*

Q: Do you have an iron and ironing board?

A: *Yes, this is located in the guest kitchen.*

Q: We will need further accommodation, where would you recommend our guests stay nearby?

A: *We have a document called 'Places For Your Other Guests To Stay' which is a list of recommended alternative local accommodation providers available to download from our website. We have several B&B's and Hotels within a couple of miles of Woodhill Hall.*

Q: What time is check out?

A: *Check out is 12 noon.*

Q: Do you provide travel cots?

A: *We have one travel cot available for very young children. Please ask us for our Room Allocation document which outlines each room capacity.*

Q: Where do our guests park?

A: *We have 3 car parks. We ask for house guests to utilise the back carpark for ease of bringing in luggage and belongings. We usually direct daytime guests to our front carpark which is located to the right of the Hall. There is room for 50 cars on site. We have a car parking attendant who will ensure that your guests park in the correct areas.*

Q: Do you have a local taxi service?

A: *Yes, we use Ron Ingledew at Tarsset Valley Taxis who runs a taxi plus a 7 & 8 seater minibus - tel: 07711 400 152. His rates are very reasonable compared to other taxi services in the outlying areas. Please ring Ron a month prior to your wedding and get your guests to do so also, to avoid disappointment.*

Entertainment

Q: Do you allow Chinese lanterns?

A: *Due to our beautiful rural location we unfortunately cannot allow these as we risk upsetting our neighbouring livestock!*

Q: Do you have a PA system?

A: *We do not provide a PA system but can recommend people that do.*

Q: What are your noise restrictions?

A: *All venues have to adhere to the local authorities noise regulations or risk losing their license as well as upsetting neighbours. As per our noise management plan the acceptable level is 98dB(A). It is the responsibility of the DJ or band to monitor noise levels.*

Q: Do you have party and disco lights?

A: *We do not have disco lights at Woodhill Hall, however you are more than welcome to bring your own providing these are PAT tested. We also have a fabulous lighting system in the Orangery which you can use.*

Payment

Q: What are the payment terms?

A: *We will usually be able to hold your date of choice for 3 working days in order for you to speak to the Registrar. When you are ready to confirm your booking, please download our booking form from our website, complete the details as far as possible and then email it to us at info@woodhillhall.co.uk . We will then issue you with an invoice for £500.00 non-refundable deposit to secure the date. Payments are then made in two equal instalments for the hire of the Hall. A payment schedule will be issued to you, with your final payment for the hire of the Hall being 8 weeks before the wedding.*

Q: When do I pay for catering?

A: *One month before your wedding once you have your final numbers. We ask all couples to complete our Final Timeline document at this time and this is the information that we work from for planning of staffing and food & beverage ordering and in developing your catering invoice.*

Q: When do I pay the corkage/drinks package charge?

A: *This is paid along with your catering invoice*

Four Legged Friends

Q: Do you allow dogs?

A: *We allow a maximum of 2 well behaved dogs at Woodhill Hall. The dogs must not be left unsupervised and be able to sleep in a crate. During your wedding breakfast (subject to availability) we are able to look after your four legged friends within the owners' home on site and take them for a walk.*