



WICKHAM HOUSE



Weddings at Wickham

Events at Wickham House, Wickham, Newbury, Berks, RG20 8HD VAT No: 893 4765 70



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Wickham House combines timeless elegance with the laid-back charm of Berkshire's rural countryside. A stunning location for luxury marquee and tent weddings, Wickham offers a blank canvas to design a completely bespoke wedding with the spectacular backdrop of our family home. Whether you are planning an opulent affair or a celebration with a bohemian twist, Wickham House is the idyllic location.

The Planning Process

To ensure your wedding is planned with absolute precision, we work solely and exclusively with wedding planners. A planner will help you design your dream wedding, transforming your vision into a seamlessly executed celebration and will coordinate every last detail of the occasion. While we don't list any preferred planners on our website, we have close relationships with many of the best throughout the UK and would be very happy to advise. They are all different in style and it is important to choose the right planner for you.

The Ceremony

Unique to Wickham House, we offer three different yet equally enchanting options for the ceremony.

The Church: A stone's throw from the house, our charming little village church is surprisingly spacious, comfortably accommodating up to 200 guests. Should you not be able to worship at the church once a month for six months prior to the wedding day to fulfil the qualifying connection, there is the option to host a registry office ceremony followed by a Blessing in the church. Our wonderful vicar makes this virtually indistinguishable from the marriage service <http://www.wickhamhouse.com/church/>





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Walled Garden: The Walled Garden is one of the highlights of Wickham and attracts attention from garden enthusiasts throughout Europe. The garden provides a spectacular yet intimate setting for a wedding ceremony and the Pagoda (shown below) is licensed for Civil Ceremonies with up to 200 guests, seated on the sunken lawn and the summer house terrace behind. www.wickhamhouse.com/the-walled-garden/



The Barn: The Barn offers a wet weather option for a Civil Ceremony and has been licensed in its own right. It accommodates 125 guests seated theatre style (see website for pictures of it set up in this way). For larger parties, the space can be extended by a small marquee to cover the terrace directly outside the sliding doors.

www.wickhamhouse.com/the-barn





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The Drinks Reception

After the ceremony and buzzing with excitement, you will want to move seamlessly onto your drinks reception where, for the first time as husband and wife, you will be surrounded by friends and family.

Here we have various possibilities:



You could hold the reception on our drawing room terrace, spilling out onto the front lawn with the large tiered fountain, looking over to the marquee site and the downs beyond – this would be the only option for parties of over 150 guests.

Alternatively you could hold it in our Walled Garden, accessed through quaint wrought iron gates, using the Pavilion as the kitchen and serving base. At an extra charge you could create a wet weather option with an open sided marquee stretch over the. For a maximum of 150 guests.



Lastly, if your guests number c100, there is the option to host the reception in the Dining and Drawing Rooms within the Main House; you and your guests would arrive at the front door of the house, and make your way through the hall to these two stunning rooms, one filled with period paintings, and the other with modern art. Both of these rooms open out onto old York stone terraces, an idyllic setting on a glorious day





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The Marquee Site

Spectacularly positioned in the most scenic part of the grounds, the marquee site is situated 50m in front of the main façade of the house, with beautiful views across the neighbouring hills. To allow your guests to move freely between the marquee site and our front drawing-room terrace, we offer the option for you to build a bridge or terrace across the ha-ha (the ditch that divides the marquee site from the front lawn). The drawing room terrace and the neighbouring parterre with fountain provides an idyllic location for your drinks reception prior to the wedding breakfast (weather permitting) and would bring your guests into close proximity to the house, allowing them to enjoy its amazing period façade with all the wonderful gargoyles that circumvent it.



Your Marquee

We believe that every wedding should be a unique reflection of your personal preferences as a couple. Wickham House doesn't provide a permanent marquee structure and therefore you are free to choose the type of marquee most suited to your day.

We have partnered with only the finest and most reliable marquee companies. We have also chosen a variety of different styles and alternatives to suit every taste and budget. Take a look at the divine Indian tents by Raj Tents, the Bamboo tents by Ascot Structures, the Orangery and Grand Pavilion by LPM Bohemia, the stretch tents by Ten by Fifteen, and the Tipis and Sailcloth traditional tents by Creative Structures. We really have something for everyone and every style of wedding. We can help you anticipate the price of whichever one tickles your fancy.





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Once you have chosen a marquee company from our list of preferred suppliers, the marquee will be designed on a bespoke basis in line with your vision and budget.



Bridal Preparation

The morning of the wedding is a special part of the day, shared with your closest family and friends. We provide a choice of two beautiful locations for the bride to change in. Our two guest rooms in the main house are stunning and offer the perfect backdrop for 'getting ready' photography. We invite our brides and their entourage using either of these rooms to use our large family kitchen whenever you need some friendly moral support or just a cuppa!





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If the bridal party is likely to be quite large or if children are involved, we offer the use of our Barn - a private venue in its own right – for you to change in. You may also have use of the Barn for the whole day for your family to have as a base. This is a wonderful oasis for older family members, who may need to put their feet up at the mid point of the celebrations.



The Barn is amazing (see the website) and has the ambience of a luxurious ski chalet. Situated about 30m from the house, it has a large changing area upstairs complete with dressing table and cheval mirrors and downstairs a shower room, a sitting room area with open log fire, a bar and a kitchen where you can help yourself to refreshments of a caffeine or alcoholic nature!

Alternatively, you may prefer to book the luxurious bridal suite at nearby five-star hotel, The Vineyard and arrive at the church by vehicle.



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Rehearsal Dinner

An optional extra, The Barn is also available to hire for a **rehearsal dinner** or intimate family dinner the night before the big event. We can provide you with a choice of menus ranging from something quite simple and homely to something exceptional. The Barn has a piano, an awesome music system and a large TV and has been described by many as the best small party space you could imagine. We (particularly our grown-up kids) love it.



Formal Photography

Included in the venue hire is the use of the Walled Garden or the Main House for your family photographs. The Walled Garden is a photographer's paradise, with a myriad of locations for you to immortalise this special day. If you prefer a more formal backdrop, you are welcome to use the Dining Room, the Library and the Staircase of the house, and obviously the House becomes essential if the weather isn't great. The Dining Room (with its Adam ceiling and 19C oil paintings) provides the perfect setting for formal family photos. The Library with its incredible gothic alcove built (in 1865) entirely of stone, is an awesome spot for the bride to be photographed alone.



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Accommodation On Site

Glamping

Want something special and unique at your wedding? Creating a bell tent village for your guests means they don't have to pay for taxis and hotels and more importantly, they don't have to leave the party before it is getting started. We can fit 29 beautiful tents at the end of the Oak Avenue, a picturesque setting to wake up to.

The stunning bell tents contain real beds, cotton duvets, pillows & blankets so you'll get the best night sleep possible. We have included toilets and showers in the village to create you the best possible stay. You can add in a yurt for a chill-out tent, and also a pamper tent equipped with dressing tables and hairdryers if you really feel like pushing the boat out.

Prices start from £137 per head including breakfast. Guests can buy their own individual tents or why not offer them to your guests as a wedding gift ?





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Music & Entertainment

Wedding parties at Wickham House are like no other. With a license that allows live music until midnight and recorded music until 3.00AM, your party can continue into the early hours of the morning. To keep the distant neighbours on side, one of the stipulations of our premises license is that we have to submit a Noise Management Plan at least one week prior to the event. This is something that your Planner will be familiar with and will ensure is complied with. Fireworks are also an option but special dispensation needs to be applied for well in advance.

Accommodation

As Wickham House is our family home, unfortunately we are unable to accommodate guests overnight within the house. However, we have an excellent choice of accommodation very nearby. The Vineyard is a 5 star boutique hotel less than five minutes' drive away, with a 4-star sister hotel a further 10 minutes away. You can enjoy a small discount there as guests of Wickham House.



There is also a range of upmarket pubs within 15 minutes' drive that have rooms very much to our taste – small but charming and all recently renovated. Most of these can be viewed on our website <http://www.wickhamhouse.com/accommodation/> Please do ask us for our list.

Parking

We can park 260 cars in good weather. Although we protect the entrance and exit to the field, it may be necessary to put tracking down in the body of the field if the weather has been consistently bad. This will incur a small extra expense for you, but I am afraid it is essential for any grass-based parking in this country. We will lay on a tractor to tow any car that gets into trouble.....



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Preferred suppliers

We have a fabulous list of preferred suppliers that have been very carefully chosen and we ask you to work within this list for the marquees and caterers and as far as you can for the other services. They are all highly rated by the most prestigious wedding planners and each of them knows our venue well. There is a range of styles and a range of price points included in each category of supplier, but in every case we know they can deliver a flawless service coupled with a great attitude at a fair price.

Many people ask if they can bring their own wine. As a venue we do not charge corkage, however this is at the discretion of your chosen caterer. Do bear in mind that the caterer will rely on their mark-up on wine to cover the associated costs of serving wine: storage and refrigeration on site, service of wine at table, disposal of bottles etc. If you provide your own wine, you are likely to have to buy it at retail price rather than trade price and yet still have to pay corkage to your caterer to cover these services. So may be a false economy.

The Cost

Venue Hire

The venue hire price depends on the day of the week and month. Premium months are June to August, High Season is May & September, Mid Season is October & April and Low Season is November & March.

What does this include?

- use of the marquee site for your event
- use of the house for a small drinks reception (max 100)
- use of the walled garden on the day of the event for a civil ceremony and a drinks reception
- use of the front terrace and front lawn of the house (around fountain) for a drinks reception
- use of the barn for a civil ceremony
- use of the barn on the day for you to change and have as a base for your close friends and family
- use of the house for photographs
- donation to the church, but not the costs of the service

Saturday Pricing Examples

Low Season	Mid Season	High Season	Premium
£4,600	£7,360	£9,200	£11,500

Excludes:

- use of the barn for your rehearsal dinner on the night before - £1,000 inc VAT
- marquee hire - see next page
- Set up/strike days are an additional cost of £675-£900.



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The Marquee

There are many types of marquee and the cost increases the more elaborate the design. We have a range of marquee suppliers who all offer something different.

The top of the range marquees cost around £21,500 for 100 people. However we have a very good options for 100 people at around £8,000 inc vat, which increases to £10,500 for 150, circa £15,000 for 200 and £21,500 for 300 - all inc vat. All these prices include flooring, catering tent, loos, basic lighting, tables & chairs, dance floors, stages etc.

It is worth noting that these are purely guidelines and marquee costings and designs are something that we can discuss more in detail further down the line.

Reception Marquee

If required, a simple stretch tent reception marquee can be erected inside the Walled Garden or on the terrace at the front of the house. This would be around an additional £3,700 inc vat.





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Small mid-week weddings (Mon to Thurs)

We also offer 2 much cheaper alternative for those who are intending to invite 60 guests or less.

- In the **SUMMER** (June to September only) we can hold very charming and flower filled weddings in the **Walled Garden**. We extend the size of the Pavilion with a very pretty, Indian-lined marquee, but you will still need to erect a small marquee over the sunken lawn, where the civil ceremony and dinner would be held. This marquee can range in price from £2100 to c£4000 (+ vat) depending on the style of the marquee.

Venue hire Weekend: £4,200 inc vat

Venue hire Weekday: £3,000 inc vat

- In the **WINTER** and shoulder months (October to May) we can hold cool and cosy weddings in the **Barn**. The Barn can hold 48 for a sit down meal. Drinks beforehand could be held either in a small marquee adjoining the Barn, (cost £2,500 inc vat), or in the dining room of the house (£1,500 inc vat).

Venue hire: £3,000 inc vat

Venue hire Weekday: £2,500 inc vat

A Final Note

To minimise the impact of weddings on the grounds, we only host 7-8 large marquee events per year. All such events are at least three weeks apart to allow ample time for complex/extravagant set-ups. The upshot of this policy is that you won't find that half of your guests have already been here for another wedding. It is and will remain elusive and exclusive.

Wickham is sheer heaven on a beautiful day in any season. We do hope that what you read here appeals to you and we look forward to discussing plans with you in more detail.



Philippa & James D'Arcy, Jan 2017