

Wedderburn Barns

We realise that wedding planning is usually a new, and often intimidating, experience when you first get engaged. We hope this Q&A-style information sheet gives some useful details about Wedderburn. We are always very happy to answer your queries and help with your planning as well though so please get in touch at any time!

General questions

How do we arrange to look around Wedderburn?

Please email or call us to make an appointment. We tend to be very flexible on weekdays. Weekend visits are dependent on events taking place. Over spring summer and autumn it is likely that it will not be possible to schedule a visit on a Saturday. If it is not possible to visit at a weekend we are happy to schedule visits on weekday evenings when possible and when daylight permits.

Does the castle have to be booked with the barns?

No. We host great parties at the barns that do not involve use of the castle. However if you would like to use the castle for a drinks reception for up to 150, a ceremony for up to 86 or accommodation for up to 26 this is all possible.

What additional costs should we consider?

When booking the barns we ask that you also book Grooms and Keepers Cottages as these are attached to the barns – almost all parties are very keen to do this! Beyond this there are very few additional costs beyond the usual items you would need for any wedding eg catering, drinks, outfits, band or DJ, flowers, cost of celebrant or minister, marriage license etc.

We ask that you use one of our approved caterers. We also have a list of recommended suppliers who have worked regularly at Wedderburn that we provide as part of our booking confirmation pack – but for most elements other than catering and fireworks we are happy for you to choose your own suppliers. If you would like alternative suggestions we are always happy to advise.

We provide trestle tables but we ask that you hire your own chairs via your caterer or a cater hire company so that you can have the style you wish. If you would like round tables we also advise that you hire these from your caterer or a cater hire company and recommend 5ft rounds as being the best fit in the space.

How do we make a booking?

Please ask us to send a booking form. To secure your choice of date please return the booking form – preferably by email but by post if this is more convenient. We would also ask that you send a deposit of 20% of the total cost of your rental.

Is there heating at the barns?

We have an oil-powered heating system as well as three 15-kw electric heaters and separate heating system in the toilets. This keeps the barns at a comfortable temperature. However your guests should be made aware that they are going to a barn rather than a domestic residence and advised to dress accordingly.

Who will be our point of contact?

We like to give you one point of contact. Cat, one of the Wedderburn owners, will help throughout your event planning. A member of our events team will look after your party throughout your wedding day. All of our events managers have worked at Wedderburn for a long time and are very experienced.

Accommodation

Is it possible to hire individual bedrooms at the castle?

Unfortunately, no. The castle is not licensed as a hotel so we cannot let out individual rooms. The castle must be rented as an entire property.

It is usual to request a contribution from guests invited to stay at the castle. This can range from a nominal amount – eg cost of a local B&B – to a much larger sum.

What is the total capacity of the estate cottages?

There is space for 16 guests in total if using the four cottages in the grounds at Wedderburn.

Some couples also choose to book Old Linthill, which is a large house that sleeps up to 10 guests. This property is located around 20 mins from Wedderburn.

How do we book the estate cottages?

The cottages are run by Blue Sky Cottages. We can send you booking forms and handle booking requests. However please note that payments for cottages should not be made to the Wedderburn Castle and Barns bank account. Please refer to the individual cottage booking forms for bank details – some cottage payments should be made to different bank accounts to others and some cottage owners take card payments, while others do not.

We can also arrange changes of linen during your stay, cots and high chairs.

Are there hotels and B&Bs in the area?

Yes. We have put together a list of recommended hotels and B&Bs which we will send to you with our initial information pack. These lean towards small hotels, inns and B&Bs rather than large hotels, but many are very good. There are other places to stay in the area, but if they are not on our list, they are generally not there for a reason. Some places do slip through the net though – particularly if they are new. If in doubt, ask us and we will give an honest opinion!

Food and Drink

How does the catering work?

We have a panel of great caterers. We believe that amongst them there is a caterer for every budget and one that provides every style of catering. We ask that you use one of our approved caterers to provide catering throughout your event and also your bar. If you have a particular style of catering eg formal banquet, hog roast, barbecue, vegetarian etc that you would like please let us know and we can advise on which company might be best suited.

Can I bring my own choice of caterers?

We really prefer that you do not. Our caterers are all experienced in using the venue and know where everything is and how it works. They understand the level of staffing required to make an event a success, as well as the practicalities of working there. If there is a special reason that you want or need to use another caterer then please talk to us about it. We would then need to make sure that your caterer has suitable insurance and that they are willing to follow the catering guidelines for operating at the barns. A significant kitchen fee would also be payable.

How does the bar work?

The bar is overseen by your caterer. All drinks should be served by your caterer and the cash bar provided by your caterer. If your caterer is not able to provide a cash bar we would ask that you use our approved mobile bar supplier. Please ask us for additional details.

Can I bring my own drink?

Yes! Most people getting married at the barns prefer to bring their own fizz for the reception and wine for dinner. Some caterers allow you to provide your own drink throughout, although parties often move onto a cash bar after dinner. Many of our caterers will also provide fizz and wine on a wholesale basis or provide a drinks package if you would prefer.

Do you charge corkage?

We do not charge corkage when using our approved caterers. However your caterers will generally charge corkage or a drinks service charge if you choose to bring your own drink.

Am I allowed to bring in my own bar company?

Generally not, as it can make life difficult for our approved caterers to work alongside another company. Please speak to us first if you are thinking of bringing in another bar company at any point during the day.

Transport

Where is the nearest airport

Edinburgh airport is the closest airport and this is located 1hr 15- 1hr 30 mins away depending on traffic. Newcastle airport is around 1hr 30 mins. It is worth noting that if coming from London it is often easiest to get a train to Berwick-upon-Tweed and then hire a car or take a taxi. There is a good car hire company in Berwick that will drop off cars at the station.

Where is the nearest station?

Berwick-upon-Tweed station is around 20 mins drive from Wedderburn. It is on the East Coast mainline and trains from London and Edinburgh are generally every hour. There are also cross country trains from the West of the country.

Are there taxis in the local area?

Yes, and some good local mini-bus and private hire companies. Mini-buses and private hire options should be booked in advance and we also strongly advise booking taxis in advance and asking your guests to do the same.