



Weddings

- A unique castle by the sea -





- Our History -



Built in the 1830s, Highcliffe Castle is the realised vision of the rather extravagant Lord Stuart de Rothesay. Created with entertainment in mind, the Castle has been home to a number of royal and notable guests over the years.

With its Medieval and Renaissance carved stone and Gothic revival features, our Grade 1 listed building is truly special. Having withstood two fires, Highcliffe Castle rises like a phoenix, majestically overlooking the Isle of Wight and Christchurch Bay from its cliff-top location.

Holding your wedding at Highcliffe Castle allows you to create your own unique story, which will be treasured for years to come.



- The Wintergarden -



Your ceremony takes place in the Wintergarden, which can seat up to 110 guests. The Wintergarden is a stunning room, filled with natural light and views overlooking the gardens and down to the coast.

For your ceremony, you may take full advantage of the baby grand piano and hire a pianist, or perhaps a string quartet to complement the fabulous acoustics of the room. Alternatively, simply upload your favourite playlist to your phone or tablet to be played through our Bluetooth sound bar.



- Drinks & Photographs -



After your ceremony, you and your guests can enjoy a drinks reception, which can be served on the lawn directly outside the Wintergarden, or in the Drawing Room.

You can choose to purchase the Castle drinks package, or provide your own fizz, beer and soft drinks for a corkage fee. We will store, chill and serve these for you after the ceremony.

Explore the Castle grounds to make the most of our beautiful photo opportunities.



- The Great Hall -



When it comes to planning your perfect romantic reception, Highcliffe Castle can offer you two unique choices.

They both reflect the timeless style you would expect from a Grade 1 listed castle but each has their own character and style.

You can dine in the majestic Great Hall, with its stunning 30 foot high stained glass Jesse Window creating a spectacular backdrop for your first meal as a married couple.

The Great Hall can seat up to 110 guests.



- State Dining Room -



Alternatively, your Wedding Breakfast can be served in the atmospheric State Dining Room featuring exposed brick work, and full length windows that allow you to take in the breath taking views of the Isle of Wight.

The State Dining Room can seat up to 80 guests.

You are of course welcome to invite additional evening guests. The Castle can accommodate up to 200 guests for your evening reception.

- Catering & Drinks -



Our caterers have been chosen for their amazing food, high quality customer service and their understanding of working within our Grade I listed building. We can offer guidance as to which caterer might best suit you, based on your taste and budget. You will then be asked to deal personally with your chosen caterer to allow for a bespoke service for your first meal as newly-weds.

The Castle Team will take care of all aspects of your refreshments from after ceremony drinks on the lawn to a fully staffed bar in the evening. You can choose between the drinks package where we will provide the drinks for the entire day, or the corkage option and you can provide your chosen drinks for after ceremony celebrations and your wedding breakfast.



- Evening Reception -



The Drawing Room is the primary space for your evening reception. Whether you choose a band or a DJ to entertain your guests, this truly is a space to dance the night away and have your first dance together as a married couple.

The Castle Bar provides a lively hub, linking your choice of Dining area to the Drawing Room. Guests can mingle and also remain in the dining area, which doubles up as a more relaxing and quieter space throughout your evening reception.

Fancy adding a little extra to your evening to really get the party started? Our Weddings Team can offer advice on options you might wish to consider including:

Photobooth | Casino | Sweet Cart | Magician | Sparklers

- Frequently Asked Questions -

How much is the deposit to secure our wedding day?

Ceremony only deposit is £500.00 and ceremony and reception deposit is £1000.00. Please note, this payment is non-refundable.

Do we need to contact the Registrars?

As soon as you have booked your wedding with us, please contact BCP Council Registrars to organise your ceremony.

When is our remaining balance due?

Your final balance is due six weeks before your wedding. Payment can be made via BACS or credit/debit card over the phone.

What staff will be available on the day to help our wedding run smoothly?

Your wedding day will be fully supervised by our Functions Manager and an Assistant. In addition there will be two Wedding Stewards inside the Wintergarden, before, during and after your ceremony. They will be able to help with any questions your wedding party may have or any special assistance you or your guests may require. Your after ceremony drinks will be served by our bar staff.

After your first dance, the Functions Manager will hand over to a Front of House Manager who, along with an Assistant, will be available for any support you or your guests require until the end of the day.

What parking facilities do you have at Highcliffe Castle for our wedding day?

On the day, we have a designated parking steward who will direct your guests to the designated wedding bay. Here 30 parking permits will be handed out allowing free parking in the bay only.

Do you have a projector and screen we can use for speeches?

We do have a projection screen available in the Dining Room and a white wall in the Great Hall as well as a projector. If you would like to use these for your speeches please let the Weddings Team know at least a month before the wedding. There will be no extra charge for this. However, we do ask you to bring your own laptop and HDMI cable.

What heating and air conditioning systems do you have at the Castle?

Wintergarden - we are able to provide some electrical heaters as well as some floor fans. However, if you wish you may contract external suppliers to provide any extras you require, which would require an electrical PAT test certificate. The Great Hall and The Dining Room - both rooms have underfloor heating which is turned on later in the year. Floor fans are available during the spring/summer time. Drawing Room - floor fans can be provided during the spring/summer time.

Do you have highchairs?

We have five highchairs available at the Castle for your guests to use during the wedding breakfast. Just indicate on your seating plan where they are required and we will ensure they are available on the day.

Are we allowed dogs as part of our wedding?

Yes! It's really special when your pets play a part in your wedding day. We just ask that someone in your wedding party is nominated to care for them whilst on site.

Do you allow Fireworks/Chinese Lanterns/Sparklers?

We are located in a wooded area which means we are prohibited from allowing any fireworks or Chinese lanterns to be used. However, as an alternative, we recommend purchasing sparklers which can be used in our grounds. We would ask you to provide two buckets for your sparklers. One filled with sand for the sparkler collection and one empty bucket to store 'ready to go' sparklers. We would also ask you to provide your own lighters.

Do you allow confetti/petals at Highcliffe Castle?

Artificial petals or larger confetti can be used in the Wintergarden only. Unfortunately we cannot allow confetti to be thrown in the Castle grounds or on the Wintergarden steps. A nice alternative for outdoor shots is the use of bubbles.

When will you organise our final details meeting to discuss our wedding with you?

If you are just having your ceremony with us, the Weddings Team will send you a final details form to complete and return to us. For receptions, approximately two months before your wedding at the Castle, we will arrange your final details meeting. We will ask you to bring all the necessary information about your suppliers (contact details, a list of decorations, certificates etc) so we have everything we need to know about your special day. During this meeting, we will book you in for a rehearsal and deliveries needed before your wedding. This meeting can be held in person at the Castle or alternatively via Zoom or Microsoft Teams.

Will we have a rehearsal for our ceremony at the Castle?

We advise all couples to attend a rehearsal at the Castle which is typically held on the Thursday evening before your wedding day. If you don't get a chance to book this during your final details meeting, please give us a ring on 01202 093377. If you are unable to make a rehearsal please read this FAQs section carefully as it will contain all of the information you need.

Who needs to attend our rehearsal?

We recommend bringing the key members of your wedding party with you to practice walking in and the timings to the music.

How and when do we deliver our decorations and/or drinks to you?

We will be booking you in for a delivery of your decorations and/or drinks during your final details meeting. Deliveries are normally booked in a day or two before your wedding day. We would ask you to box everything up and label boxes based on your table numbers (all place cards, favours etc for a specific table to be placed into one box).

When do we collect our items after our wedding day?

After your ceremony and reception, you may wish to collect any remaining drinks as well as your decorations. There are a few things that must be collected at the end of your wedding night - your cards, gifts and any remaining cake. The rest can be collected within two working days after your wedding. We would ask you to arrange your pick up time and date with one of the team members by contacting us on 01202 093377 if this hasn't been done at your final details meeting.



To arrange an appointment:

Phone: 01202 093377

Email: weddings@highcliffecastle.co.uk

Rothsay Drive, Highcliffe, Dorset, BH23 4LE

  @highcliffecastleweddings



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