



ENGLISH HERITAGE

OUR PAST
YOUR FUTURE



Step into England's story

Your wedding day is everlasting. It's the start of the next chapter in your story.
It's a moment captured in time – through pictures that stand for a lifetime
and memories re-lived for years to come.

English Heritage's historic wedding venues share this unique sense of the everlasting.
From a castle rising above the sea to a country house built in the style of a French chateau,
and from the glamour of an art deco palace to the grandeur of a royal family home,
our venues give you a connection to the past and an inspiring setting for your future.

OUR PAST

Romance runs deep in our historic properties, centuries of courtship and long-term love have played out within their walls. You can hold your wedding in Queen Victoria and Prince Albert's private holiday retreat where they spent their summers, or in a castle in which a soldier wrote letters to his sweetheart during the First World War. And the locations in which these properties stand are every bit as inspiring as the stories that they tell – some are set in beautiful gardens or rolling parkland, and others offer sweeping views across the sea or the London skyline. It's these stories, and these historic scenes, that will make your wedding day all the richer. Whether you are sweeping up drives where royalty once arrived, lighting up rooms where candles once flickered and twirling in halls where Lord and Ladies once danced, you'll be setting the scene for a sparkling future.

YOUR FUTURE

You may be marrying in a historic setting but our team and accredited suppliers are experienced in delivering the very best in modern day service, supporting you from the moment you book until the last guest leaves. Your dedicated hospitality co-ordinator will work with you and recommend our many accredited caterers, florists, lighting and entertainment suppliers to ensure that your day runs smoothly. Our suppliers are carefully selected from the surrounding area for their high standards and excellent service. If you'd like to see a venue dressed for a wedding then come along to one of our wedding showcases. Email us at hospitality@english-heritage.org.uk to book your free place. Don't forget that all of our venues make a unique and inspiring setting for an engagement photoshoot.

With over 400 sites across the country, you'll be able to find the perfect backdrop for your photos.

Whether you make your vows on the lawns of a country house,
dance in the shadow of a castle or dine amid the glittering treasures
of a millionaire's art collection, your wedding day will be everlasting.



ELTHAM PALACE & GARDENS GREENWICH, GREATER LONDON

CEREMONY: 200 | RECEPTION: 200

☎ 0208 294 2577 ✉ ElthamPalaceHospitality@english-heritage.org.uk

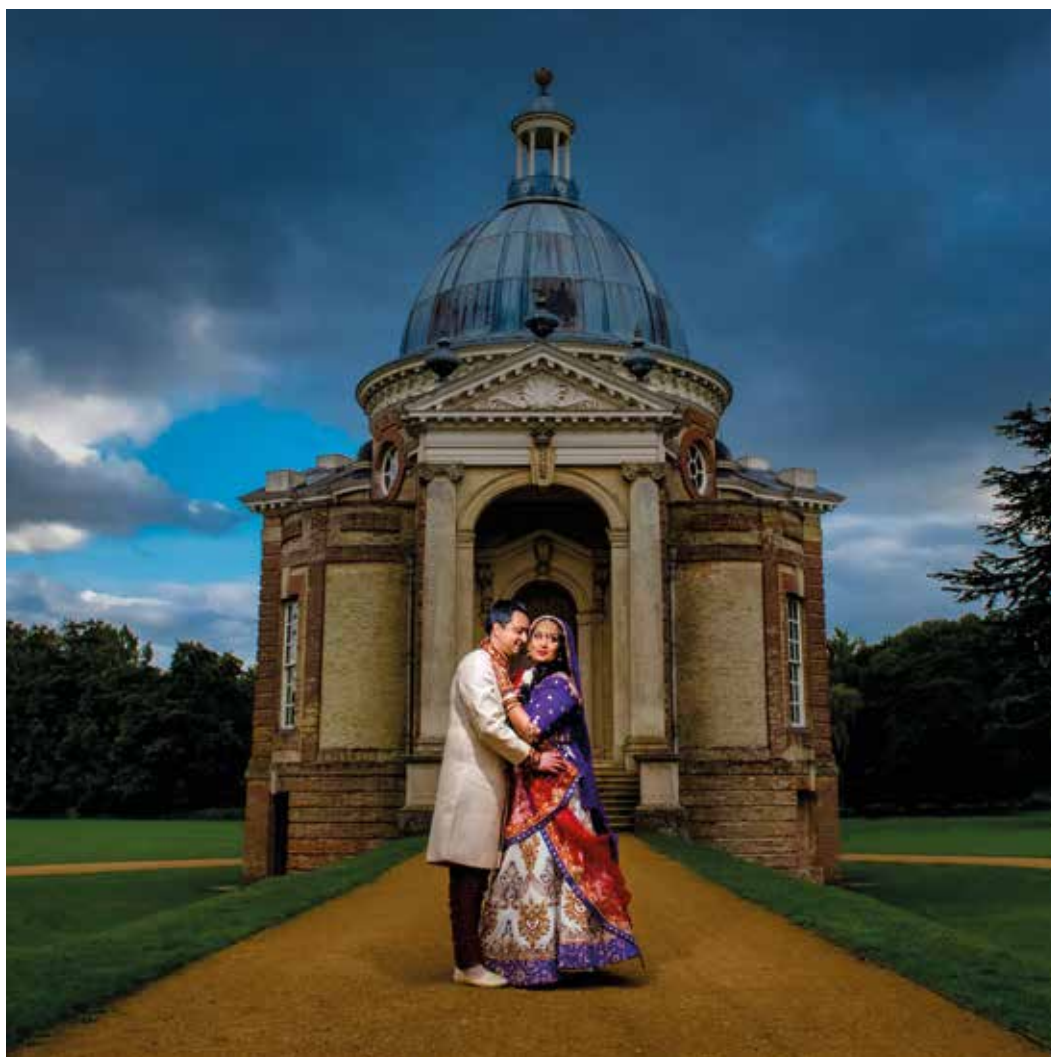
Invite your guests into the stylish world of the 1930s. You've a choice of luxurious Art Deco rooms in which to make your vows and celebrate, or you can use the medieval Great Hall which adjoins the main house as a contrasting setting. Surrounded by flower filled gardens, your celebrations can extend onto the terrace and lawns.

Eltham Palace and Gardens was the dazzling home of a millionaire couple, whose lifestyle encapsulated the glamour of high society living on the eve of the Second World War. Virginia Courtauld was vivacious and chic. Her husband, Stephen, was her opposite, cautious and reserved. But they shared a vision of a life in luxury and, in 1933, Eltham was the place they chose to create it.

Your wedding day will lead you and your guests over Eltham's ancient bridge into this remarkable world.

Emulate 1930s sophistication with a ceremony in the curved Entrance Hall. Whether you enter through the double doors, or down the curved staircase, you can stand together under the glass domed roof to make your vows. From here, lead your guests out for drinks on the terrace, where spring time wisteria tumbles over the pergola.

Or step into the drawing room to gather around the marble fireplace and grand piano. As the evening draws in, head into the medieval Great Hall where you can dine in splendour as royalty once did, then dance into the night as a backdrop of stars appears through the stained glass windows.



WREST PARK

CEREMONY: 170 | RECEPTION: 1000

☎ 01525 863704 ✉ WrestParkHospitality@english-heritage.org.uk

Inside and outside, this 19th-century mansion inspires romance. A series of richly decorated rooms sparkle with chandeliers and gilded plasterwork. French doors open onto a terrace, with a wide stone staircase leading down into a landscaped park dotted with statues, flower filled borders and a series of lakes. You and your guests can also enjoy these views from the Orangery or a marquee.

Written into Wrest Park's sweeping views, woodland avenues and waterside paths is the story of England's love affair with landscape. For over three centuries the de Grey family created grounds and gardens to appeal to the eye and the soul. From formal design, through the more natural style of Capability Brown, to layouts complementing the chateau-style home, each generation left its mark.

This amalgam of styles gives Wrest its unique charm.

This remarkable setting, where the outdoor scenery is as impressive as the indoor decor, ensures that you'll have an unforgettable wedding day.

You can sweep up the drive to the front door and enter into a soaring hall with a dramatic staircase. Where ladies once glided up and down the stairs with their petticoats swishing, you can pause for wedding photos.

From here choose between a number of ground floor rooms for your ceremony and celebrations. The suite of formal rooms open onto each other, so you can move smoothly from drinks to dinner to dancing. Out in the garden you can gather inside the glass-roofed Orangery for a ceremony bathed in sunshine or supper under starlight. A marquee on the lawn offers you an ideal opportunity to celebrate right in the heart of Wrest's unique landscape.



OSBORNE EAST COWES, ISLE OF WIGHT

CEREMONY: 120 | RECEPTION: 2500

☎ 0198 320 3055 ✉ OsborneHospitality@english-heritage.org.uk

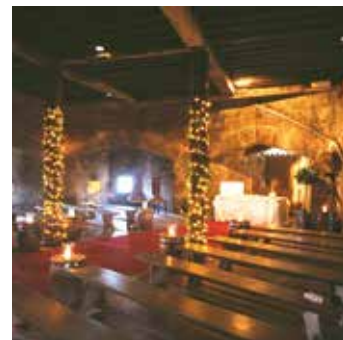
Celebrate your marriage in the family home that Queen Victoria built with her beloved Albert. It's a setting that is both grand and welcoming. Hold your ceremony in rooms bursting with colour and regal splendour, or down in the wood-fringed private beach. A marquee over-looking the sea is a memorable setting in which to hold your reception and celebrations.

On October 10, 1839 Queen Victoria stood at the top of the stairs at Windsor. Walking up to meet her was Prince Albert. It was only the second time that they had laid eyes on each other. Five days later, they were engaged. Albert wrote that 'Heaven has sent me an angel whose brightness shall illuminate my life.' And she did. For the next 22 years - until the moment he died. Even then her love for him lived on through 40 years of widowhood.

Osborne, on the Isle of Wight, nurtured this royal romance. It was here, sheltered from the public, that the couple made a home together. This island palace has seen royal weddings,

romances and parties grace its rooms and gardens for over 160 years. Step into its grounds and you and your guests will be writing another chapter in the story of this unique home.

Emulate Queen Victoria herself and draw up for your wedding in a horse and carriage. Choose to hold your ceremony in one of the lavishly decorated rooms or outside on the beach or in the gardens. You can raise a toast surrounded by priceless artwork, or for a more relaxed feel, enjoy drinks on the terrace and dinner in a marquee on the lawn.



PENDENNIS CASTLE FALMOUTH, CORNWALL

CEREMONY: 120 | RECEPTION: 1500

☎ 01326 310 106 / 01326 310 100 ✉ PendennisHospitality@english-heritage.org.uk

In this picturesque coastal Tudor castle you and your guests can enjoy views across a shimmering bay to distant ships passing on the horizon. Make your vows in the 450-year-old keep, toast your future on the headland lawns and entertain your guests in the banqueting rooms within a former Royal Artillery Barracks.

Built for defence, Pendennis also saw wartime romance. After the First World War broke out the castle became home to Territorial Army volunteers. Here, on this grassed capped headland, they readied for battle.

One of these men was Tommy Glasson, a 25-year-old teacher. In a black and white photo he looks out seriously from under his cap, moustache neatly trimmed, eyes in a steady gaze. Yet Tommy had a fun side too, revealed in letters to his friend Gertrude Brooks. He tells her about football games played at the barracks and jokes about their shared love of Cornish pasties. He didn't survive the war, but her feelings for him did.

Gertie later told her niece that 'nobody could take the place of the one I lost.' The letters that she kept take us back to a time when feelings were written by hand, and safely treasured in envelopes.

The castle and its grounds are still a site that inspires romance – either in an intimate ceremony in the keep or looking out to the horizon where the blues of sky and sea merge into one. With the choice to celebrate in the converted Royal Artillery Barracks overlooking the sea, or in a marquee on the lawn, you've every chance to make the most of the history rising around you and the views unfolding before you.



KENWOOD HAMPSTEAD, LONDON

CEREMONY: 100 | RECEPTION: 480

☎ 020 8348 1286 ✉ KenwoodHouseHospitality@english-heritage.org.uk

Set in the rolling hills of Hampstead Heath, Kenwood is a London venue that feels like it's in the heart of the countryside. Green lawns and landscaped gardens spread out from the chalk white house. The 18th-century interiors, which include an orangery, give you a choice of rooms that are both romantic and elegant.

In the 18th-century Kenwood was home to William Murray, 1st Earl of Mansfield, once England's most powerful judge. As the Lord Chief Justice he had a long list of distinguished figures to entertain. The house he bought in 1754 was a relatively simple villa. The house it became was a grand design. Carriages would sweep down the gravel drive, unloading statesmen, artists and even royalty in front of the house. Passing under a full-height pedimented portico they would step into the entrance hall and begin a weekend of fine dining, music and engaging conversation.

Holding your wedding day here you'll feel ensconced in greenery. With a ceremony in the Orangery, your guests can overlook the clipped lawns that stretch down towards two lakes.

Continue your celebrations with dinner in the Old Kitchen. Once humming with the work of the cook and kitchen maids, you can now dine surrounded by the old wooden dressers and the cast-iron open range. Or, if you want to make the most of the grounds, a marquee out in the Flower Garden creates a memorable setting.



RANGERS HOUSE BLACKHEATH, LONDON

CEREMONY: 80 | RECEPTION: 100

☎ 0208 294 2577 ✉ RangersHouseHospitality@english-heritage.org.uk

On the fringes of Greenwich Park, this red brick 18th-century villa has over 700 pieces of Renaissance art. Filled with antique furnishings and paintings, the wood floored gallery is a remarkable space in which to say 'I do'. There are further rooms to celebrate indoors or you can make use of the walled garden where a marquee adds another 'room' to the house.

Built by an Admiral, lived in by royalty and now home to the art collection of a 19th-century diamond magnate, Ranger's House is no stranger to glittering events.

In the mid 18th-century, this redbrick villa on the fringe of Greenwich Park passed to Philip, 4th Earl of Chesterfield. A diplomat and a politician, he was one of the foremost men of his age, well-known for his love of art. In order to display his paintings, Chesterfield set about building a gallery, which became the centrepiece of the house.

In 1815 the house became the official home of the park's ranger. It was the 'grace and favour' home for a succession of members of the royal family and distinguished Crown servants.

Within elegant panelled interiors this treasure trove provides a glittering backdrop for intimate occasions. Make your vows in the lovely gallery surrounded by chandeliers, statues and high bay windows flooding the room with light. The charming walled garden provides a private space where the wedding party can toast to the future either within a marquee or in the garden itself in fine weather.



OLD WARDOUR CASTLE NR TISBURY, WILTSHIRE

CEREMONY: 60

☎ 0132 631 0100 ✉ OldWardourHospitality@english-heritage.org.uk

Time-worn ruins wrapped in green woodland, Old Wardour Castle is steeped in charm. You can marry inside the medieval castle remains surrounded by stone arches and an ancient stairway, or in an 18th-century pavilion beside a lake. Make the most of the rolling landscape with a drinks reception and wedding photos out on the lawn.

Old Wardour Castle was built in an age when great lords lived in luxury and laid on lavish hospitality. Inside this remarkable six-sided castle its original owner, Lord Lovell, did just that. Visitors arrived through Wiltshire downland to find the castle tucked beside a hill and a picture of grandeur. As they rode closer, their horses threading through orchards and gardens, the castle turrets grew higher in front of them.

Inside, arched stone openings from the inner courtyard led them into the castle. Meals were brought into the great hall by a procession of waiters, as the windows, stretching two storeys high, flooded the room with light.

Lords and ladies continued to dine in the castle for another 250 years until Civil War fighting left it ruined. But today these ruins once again offer a spectacular setting for entertaining guests. The towering façade with its soaring windows and a single turret still rising from the wall, the arched doorways and the open fireplaces all set the stage for an unforgettable wedding day.

You can also hold your celebrations in the 18th-century lakeside pavilion or out on the lawns. Surrounded by wooded tumbling hillside and romanticised grounds with alcove seats and even a grotto, the scenery offers a unique backdrop for your ceremony and celebrations.

Thank you for your support.
By choosing one of our historic sites for
your wedding day, you're playing a vital role
in keeping the story of England alive.

For details of English Heritage venues available to hire, please visit

 www.english-heritage.org.uk/weddings  hospitality@english-heritage.org.uk

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