

ASHRIDGE
HOUSE

WEDDINGS

A perfect setting for your perfect day



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Welcome to Ashridge House

Many congratulations on your engagement. Planning a wedding is a hugely exciting time with many decisions to be made to bring your perfect day to life. We understand that choosing the right venue is high on the list of priorities for many couples, so we are absolutely thrilled to be considered. We hope that this brochure gives you a flavour of what Ashridge House can offer and is the start of an amazing journey that sees us working together to plan the wedding of your dreams. We look forward to welcoming you soon so you can see for yourself just how special Ashridge House really is.

An idyllic setting

Majestically nestled in National Trust woodland in Hertfordshire's rolling Chiltern Hills, and surrounded by 190 acres of stunning gardens, Ashridge House is the proverbial jewel in the Estate's crown.

The grandeur of our Grade 1 listed country mansion is undeniable, but the house also has a softer, more playful side than its turreted façade might lead you to believe. Built as a family home between 1808 and 1814, the personalities and eccentricities of its various owners can be seen at every turn and will be sure to delight your guests.

Whatever the season, your photographer will be spoilt for choice by the endless settings in which to capture the memories you will treasure for many years to come. You can be assured that every last detail will be attended to, allowing you to relax and enjoy the breath taking venue on the biggest day of your lives.





History around every corner

Our spectacular neo-Gothic country house has a fascinating history spanning 730 years. It has been a monastery, a family home, a wartime hospital, a finishing school and a world-renowned business school.

In 1283 a Benedictine monastery was built on the site; it thrived as a place of pilgrimage until the Dissolution, when it became one of King Henry VIII's favourite hunting lodges and a residence for his children. At one time, Prince Edward, Princess Mary and Princess Elizabeth were all at the house together—quite the gathering of future kings and queens of England. The formidable Egerton family took ownership in 1604, retaining it until after the First World War. Ashridge then became The Bonar Law College, counting Winston Churchill among its board members, before becoming the Ashridge Management College in 1959.

When the doors of the new house opened in 1814, the owners quickly got to work cementing their reputation as perfect hosts by throwing lavish parties. British and foreign royalty, prime ministers and the most famous writers and artists of the day were all entertained here. Our staff continue to keep the tradition of service alive, so you can rest assured that everyone in your wedding party will feel well looked after.







Rooms built to impress

Our magnificent interconnecting function rooms provide the most elegant of settings for your special day, and many are licensed for civil ceremonies. From palatial Italianate style, to art deco and impressive neo gothic, you're sure to find the perfect space for your ceremony.

It isn't just our function rooms that will leave you lost for words. The formal gardens are equally worthy of mention, especially in the summer months when they are in full bloom. Having photos taken beside the imposing oak tree planted by Princess Victoria when she was just four years old is a fun way of capturing some of the estate's history, and guests of all ages love playing giant Jenga and croquet on the South Lawn on a sunny afternoon.





Grounds & gardens

During the summer months the beautiful terrace, landscaped gardens and sweeping lawns provide the perfect location for outdoor ceremonies and drinks receptions. Even in the chillier months, the wonderful colours as the trees shed their leaves provide a stunning backdrop for photos.

Humphry Repton, the greatest landscape gardener of his day, was commissioned to design the formal gardens. His 'Red Book for Ashridge' was presented in 1813 and showed 15 different styles of garden including a lawn, rosary, flower garden, grotto and monks' garden. Though slightly modified, these pleasure grounds, finally completed by Sir Jeffry Wyatville in 1823, retained the spirit of Repton's original design and remain intact today as the finest surviving example of his work.

When the estate passed to the Earl Brownlow in 1849, it was Lady Marian Alford who made the next significant developments. She created the Italian Garden and extended south into the parkland, creating an arboretum, Wellingtonia Avenue, Rhododendron Walk, a formal moat and a skating pond, as well as a fernery on the site. All remain to this day and have regularly been used as settings for feature films.





Your special moments



Dance the night away



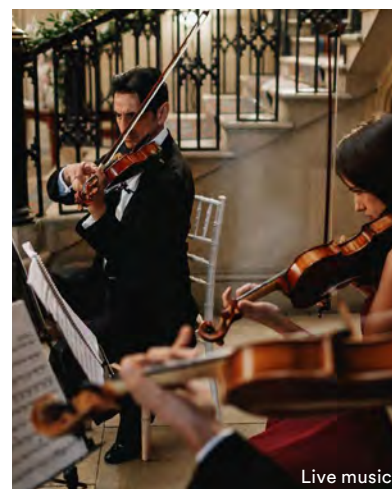
Chapel on the grounds



Dine like royalty



Dine like royalty



Live music



A grand entrance



Host among history



Garden festivities

In house convenience

Acres

Dine in style the night before your big day at our enchanting restaurant, lovingly restored at the site of the original dining hall. The specialty menu has been expertly curated by our resident Head Chef, Paul Patterson. His cuisine reflects the rich history of Ashridge House with dishes inspired by locally grown heritage foods, served up with a modern flourish.

The Bakehouse

Serving fresh sourdough, fine pastries sourced from Culture Bakery, and fresh espresso daily from 9am-5pm, The Bakehouse is our own local artisanal café nestled in the entry of Ashridge House. Pop in for brunch the morning after the wedding and take your treats to the sunny courtyard to relax and reminisce about the night before.

The Storehouse

Stock up on gorgeous gifts, tasty treats and meaningful memorabilia from your special stay at Ashridge House. The store selection features our own Ashridge Gin as well as Ashridge Honey, artisan condiments & oils, and a carefully curated choice of fine wines.

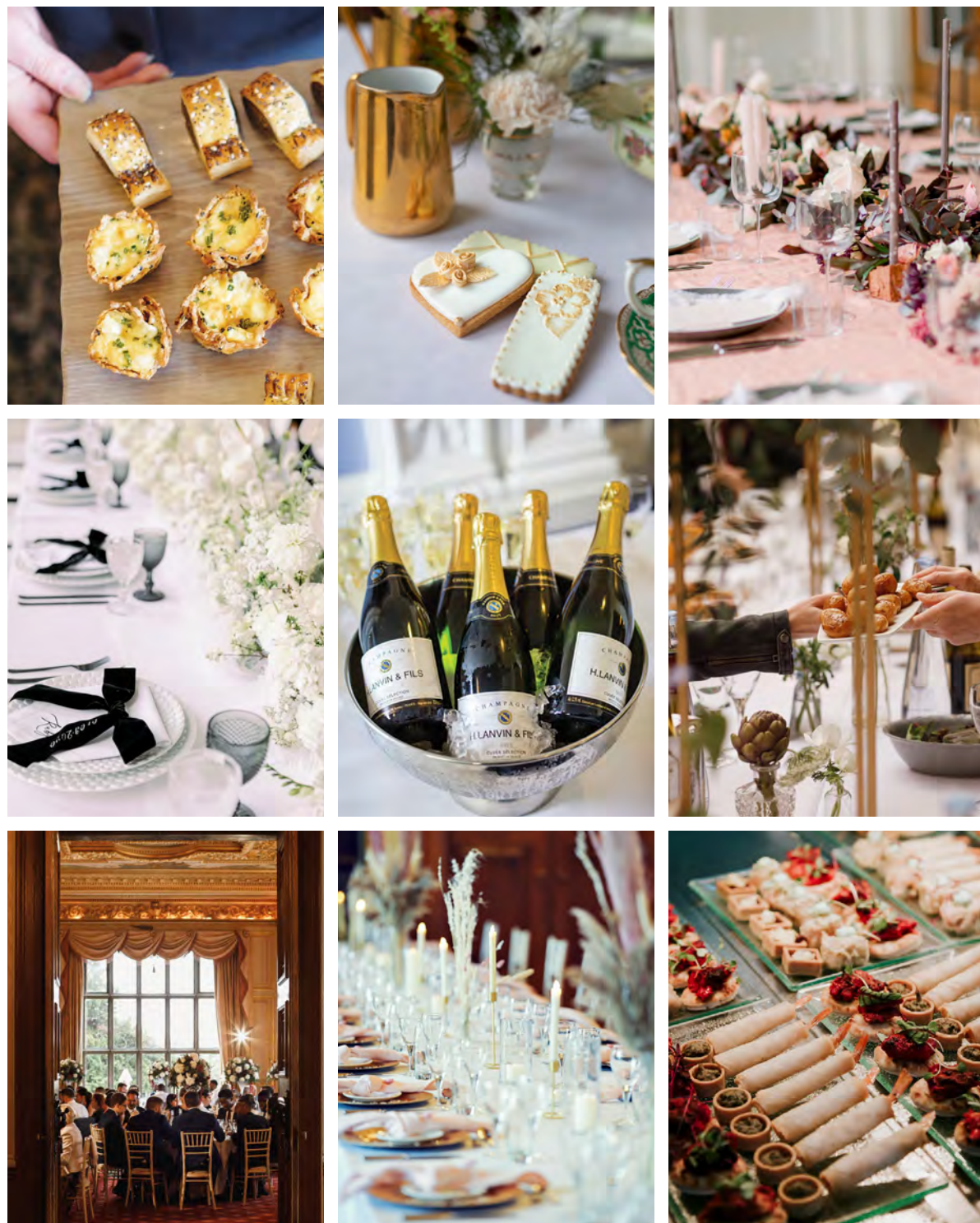


A meal to remember

Our passion for fine dining has earned us an unrivalled reputation for using the very finest produce to create innovative and sumptuous wedding menus.

Our talented team of creative chefs have carefully designed a selection of delicious wedding breakfast menus. All of our menus include a vegetarian option and we can cater for any special dietary requirements. Children's menus are also available. Local farms have supplied the Ashridge kitchens with seasonal produce for centuries, and we take care to source all our ingredients from sustainable suppliers.

If you would like to invite additional guests to your evening reception, we can provide Twilight Bites featuring a selection of street food stands. Choose from Best of British, Burger and Dog Stand, Mediterranean, or Asian Street Food for your guests.



Sample menu options



*Dorset crab cake, spiced king prawn, yuzu emulsion, mango and papaya salad
English heritage tomato tart, confit shallot, burrata, radish salad, picked cress (v)
Pressing of ham hock and confit corn-fed chicken, celeriac remoulade, toasted sourdough*



*Roast rack of English lamb, confit Shepherd's pie, market vegetables, rosemary and Port jus
Roast sirloin of beef, braised shin cottage pie, seasonal greens, Madeira essence
Wild mushroom, spinach, artichoke and quinoa pithivier (v)
Grilled fillet of wild sea-bass, brown shrimp, spinach, cocotte potatoes, lobster bisque emulsion*



*A Trio of Ashridge Classics – Chocolate and passion fruit dome, lemon meringue pie
and homemade raspberry sorbet, raspberry compote
Tonka bean crème brûlée with lavender orange scented biscotti
Warm sticky toffee pudding, and vanilla-pod ice cream*

*We are committed to cooking with seasonal produce from sustainable suppliers, so our menus can change.
Please contact your Wedding Coordinator for a full list of our current menu choices.*

Exceptional service

We understand that no two weddings are the same, so we have developed an extremely flexible approach to wedding coordination.

All of our wedding packages can be tailored to suit each couple's individual needs and preferences. We've had owls deliver the wedding rings, cakes cut with axes and a Toy Story inspired nerf gun competition take place in the Old Library, so we are certainly no strangers to bringing unique requests to life.

One of our highly experienced Wedding Coordinators will look after all of your venue requirements, and will be with you every step of the way to make sure your dream wedding becomes a reality. Your Coordinator will also be there on the day to ensure that everything runs like clockwork, so that you can relax and enjoy what will certainly be one of the most memorable days of your life.



Relax & unwind

Make your wedding a destination. Host a rehearsal dinner for special guests the night before the wedding and save travel time by staying on site, all while spending a couple nights nestled among beautiful countryside views.

Our 11 stylish Brownlow Lodges are the perfect place for the extended wedding party to stay. Champagne and luxury handmade chocolates are placed in the marriers' room to add the finishing romantic touches. Should your guests want to stay over after dancing the night away, we have an additional 179 ensuite bedrooms. We also offer a fantastic breakfast so you can get the next day off to a good start.

Our onsite leisure facilities provide the perfect excuse for you and your guests to escape from all the stress and hard work that has gone into planning your big day. Relax in our swimming pool and enjoy our jacuzzi, steam room and sauna. If you need energising, hit the gym, use our jogging trail and rent bikes for our cycle paths, or play a game of tennis.



Personalised packages

We take great pride in our ability to build your dream wedding. Please speak to your Wedding Coordinator about how we can tailor our wedding packages to suit your individual requirements.

Rates include:

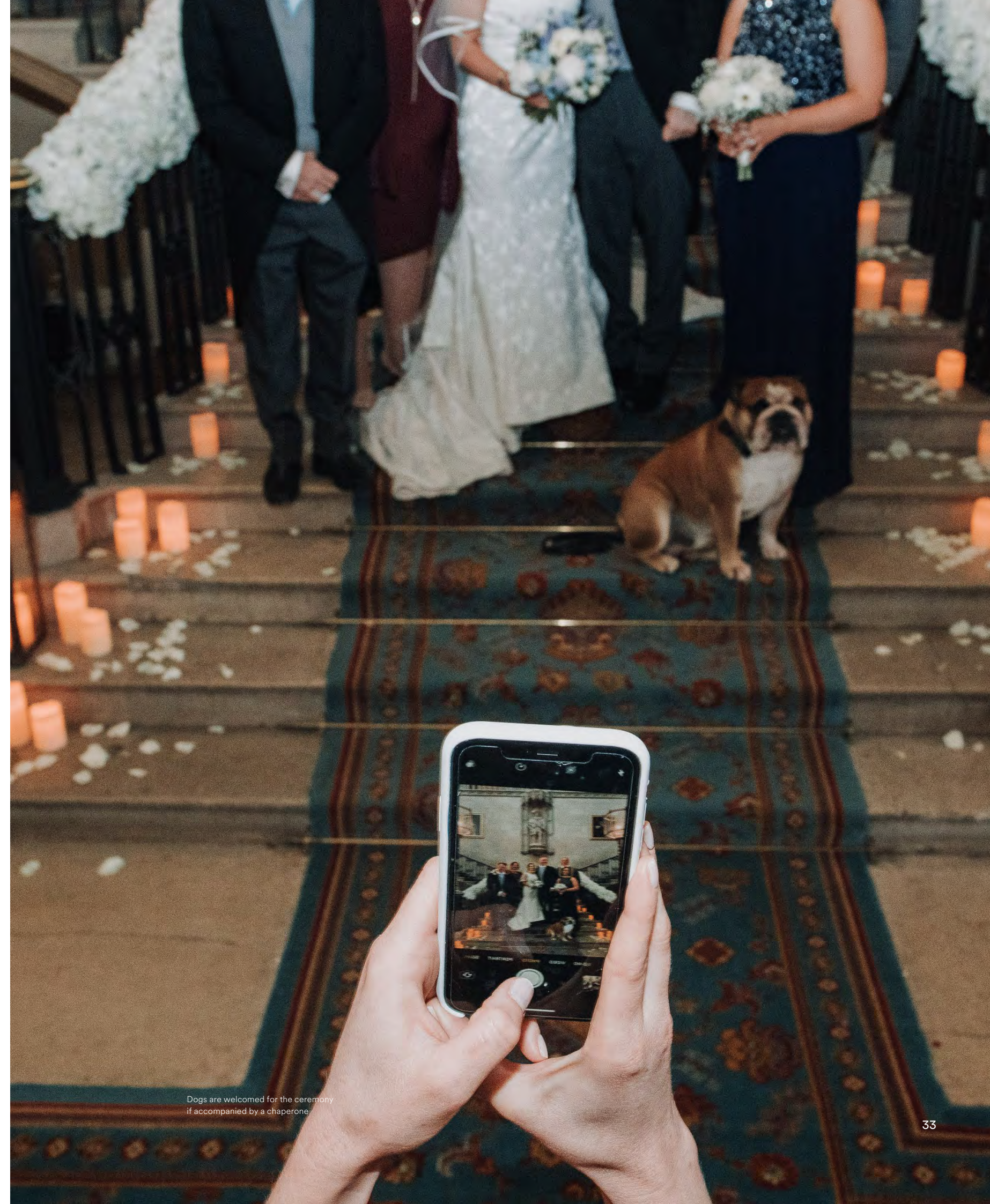
- Exclusive use of four spaces of your choosing within the historic house and grounds, as well as two additional dressing rooms
- Two glasses of Prosecco per guest for welcome drinks and toasts
- Three-course wedding menu followed by tea, coffee and petit fours
- Half a bottle of house wine per guest
- Unlimited still and sparkling mineral water
- Tables & chiavari chairs
- Table setting complete with crockery, glassware, and white linens
- A ornate easel to display your table plan with accompanying number stands
- Cake stand and knife
- Wooden dance floor
- Complimentary stay in a Brownlow Lodge for the couple on their wedding night
- Dedicated Wedding Coordinator
- Three-course wedding menu tasting for the couple
- Access to the Ashridge gym for the couple for three months



See it come to life. Scan the code for images and videos of recent weddings at Ashridge House

Optional extras:

- Additional function rooms on an exclusive hire basis
- Refreshments prior to the ceremony
- Canapés
- Twilight Bites
- Bar extension after midnight
- Enhanced menu and drinks options
- Chair covers and sashes
- Toastmaster
- Firework display
- Private dinner and/or lunch for guests before or after the wedding
- Additional guests to attend the wedding menu tasting



Dogs are welcomed for the ceremony if accompanied by a chaperone.

What people say

“The wedding experience at Ashridge was like nothing we have seen before. We had zero issues and the whole day ran as a dream. So much attention to detail. The day felt so stress free and relaxing. Everyone seemed willing to go above and beyond.”

- Johnathon & Jemma, May 2022

“Ashridge is a fabulous wedding venue, their team are very experienced and work with you to deliver the day that you want to have, and you can trust the team to deliver the wedding of your dreams. Our guests were completely blown away with the venue, food and whole ambience of the day.”

- Sue & Rupert, May 2022


“All the food was exceptional. Particularly the steak and the coating on the top – which guests are still talking about. The vegetarian options [...] were described by guests as ‘the best vegetarian’ options they’ve ever had at a wedding.”

- Erica & Andrew, April 2022



Best Wedding Venue in Hertfordshire



A full-page photograph of a wedding couple standing on a path at night, watching a spectacular fireworks display. The fireworks are bright blue and white, exploding in several large, starburst patterns against a dark sky. The couple, a man in a white shirt and dark trousers and a woman in a white wedding dress, are seen from behind, embracing. The scene is set in a park-like area with large trees and manicured hedges. In the foreground, there are small, lit-up stone pillars or markers along the path. The overall mood is romantic and celebratory.

Come and see for yourself

If you would like to arrange an appointment to view and tour Ashridge House to discuss your requirements in more detail, please contact our wedding team at 01442 841027 or events@ashridge.hult.edu.

Find us

Ashridge House is located in the Hertfordshire countryside just four miles from Berkhamsted and 35 miles north-west of London. Ample parking is available free of charge.



By rail

Berkhamsted Station
Approx. 4 miles (6km) from
Ashridge House

Trains from London Euston
take 40 minutes

Trains from Birmingham New Street
take 90 minutes



By car

Central London
Approx. 34 miles (56km)

Oxford
Approx. 42 miles (68km)

Birmingham
Approx. 92 miles (148km)



By air

Luton Airport
Approx. 30 mins by car

Heathrow Airport
Approx. 60 mins by car

Stansted Airport
Approx. 75 mins by car

Gatwick Airport
Approx. 90 mins by car

With special thanks to the following photographers for allowing us to use their work:

Ami Louisa
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