

TOWN HEAD LAKESIDE WEDDINGS

2024 BROCHURE



THE ESTATE

Town Head Estate, which hugs the southern tip of Lake Windermere, originally dates back to the 1400s. It was substantially remodelled in the 1800s when it was bought as a hunting lodge by the High Sheriff of Lancashire. It then remained in the same family for some 200 years before the Estate, like a great Sleeping Beauty and in need of restoration, was bought by the Cox family in 2019.

Like every good fairy tale, Town Head has played host to a colourful cast of characters over the years, who have found the tranquillity of the Lake and the beautiful parkland a welcome retreat. Author Arthur Ransome, who wrote the children's adventure story "Swallows and Amazons" fished here as a family guest whilst John Ruskin and Beatrix Potter were also regular visitors. In fact, Beatrix Potter bought a beautiful black pig from Town Head, which went on to feature as Pig-wig in the tale of Pigling Bland, and she presented the Estate's then owners with a carved ivory pig which remains in their collection to this day. Perhaps most intriguing is the story that, as a much photographed young royal, Princess Margaret visited Town Head on many occasions, where the absence of any public rights of way over the Estate enabled her to roam the grounds undisturbed with just one bodyguard and a gin and tonic for company.

In 2019, Town Head was bought by the current owners, with the aim of lovingly restoring it to its former glory in order to open the doors to offer you the most beautiful and unique wedding destination in the Lake District.





Beatrix Foter bought a black pig from this pig sty on he estate. The pig featured as a character called Pig-wig in the Tales of Pigling Bland.



Photograph: Ailsa Reev



• BEAUTIFUL UNSPOILT LOCATION

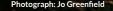
Nestled on the south-eastern shores of Lake Windermere within the world-renowned Lake District National Park, Town Head offers the most breathtaking location for your wedding day. Set in 130 acres of private grounds with half a mile of private lake shoreline, Town Head brings you a destination wedding venue that is as magical as it is unique. With glorious views over stunning parkland towards the Lake and fells beyond, the holiday hustle and bustle of the Lakes feels a thousand miles away. With luxury on-site accommodation for the happy couple and a further nine bedrooms for your guests, Town Head is a destination wedding venue like no other. Lake Windermere was recently voted the most romantic place in the UK, so why not enjoy an evening stroll along the shore, or pour yourself a drink and watch the sun go down from the Boat House.

With your wedding at Town Head, you will be staying in the heart of one of the most beautiful national parks in the world. Why not spend a few extra days and take time to go out walking or cycling. If watersports are more your thing, then you are able to organise kayaking or paddle boarding right from your doorstep.

Getting to Town Head couldn't be easier. We are just a 20 minute drive from Junction 36 of the M6. For those travelling by train, Oxenholme Station is a similar distance and about 2 hours 40 minutes from London. Newby Bridge is a mile away, providing a wealth of hotel accommodation. The popular tourist destination of Bowness-on-Windermere is also just a 15 minute drive along the scenic lake road with a host of independent shops, restaurants, cafes and guest accommodation.

Should your guests wish to drive to the venue, we have ample parking for up to 70 cars. Alternatively, there are local transport companies who are able to shuttle your guests to and from their hotels.

"There is only one happiness in life, to love and be loved." George Sands













THE WEDDING BARN

In Spring 2021, we opened the doors to our newly renovated Wedding Barn to provide what we consider to be the ultimate wedding venue. There really is no other venue like it in the Lakes.

Remaining true to the natural beauty of the building itself, our Wedding Barn is the perfect combination of traditional and modern. Exposed stone walls and beautiful oak beams are brought to life by modern twists in terms of LED lighting, an inbuilt speaker system and full underfloor heating.

As a traditional stone bank barn, it is built with access from either the lower or upper ground floor level. On the lower level is a super stylish bar and separate lounge with relaxed seating, perfect for catching up with friends and relatives. Access to the upper ground floor is either via open stairs from the bar, or direct from the rear of the Barn through the original timber barn doors. The upper ground floor comprises a beautiful open plan space, flooded with natural light, which can comfortably seat up to 120 guests for a ceremony and wedding breakfast.

The Wedding Barn itself is set in the most stunning surroundings. What was once a farmyard has been

transformed into an elegant terrace with a grand staircase leading directly down into beautifully landscaped gardens complete with a Band Stand. In addition, what was once a traditional "long drop" outside WC has been given a new lease of life as a cocktail and gin bar. With decking overlooking the orchard, it can be incorporated into your celebrations however you wish. Perhaps a cocktail hour after your wedding breakfast to kick start the party!

The Wedding Barn has been sympathetically modernised to include lighting and inbuilt sound system to minimise the list of things you need to organise. We can provide traditional round tables or rustic trestles, together with oak cross-back chairs for both the ceremony and the Wedding Breakfast.

It also has full underfloor heating on both levels, powered by a renewable energy centre, so whatever the weather, you and your guests are able to relax in comfort.

We take our sustainability responsibilities very seriously, and as such we have removed all fossil fuel boilers from the estate, replacing them with a wood chip biomass boiler which is designed to run on timber grown here at Town Head. This way, our heating and hot water requirements can be operated in tandem with our forestry management plan and the responsible maintenance of our woodlands.













FOOD

We are delighted to confirm that Karen Rhodes Weddings and Events provide exclusive catering at Town Head (www.karenrhodes.co.uk). Using local ingredients produced here in the Lake District wherever possible, they offer an outstanding service, not only in terms of the quality of the food, but also the diversity of the menu and the professionalism of their team. Pricing is competitive and every menu is bespoke, meaning that you and your guests can enjoy a menu that is completely unique to you. If you prefer something a bit different, then why not choose their food van or pizza truck? Either (or both) can be a fantastic option for evening food. Wraparound catering, including drop off takeaway style meals, catered barbecues, or slap up breakfasts are also available should you wish to plan additional meals for you and your guests to enjoy in the days either side of your wedding.

Please note that the catering costs are not included in the prices at Town Head. This is something that you will arrange separately with Karen Rhodes Weddings and Events once you have booked your date with us. They will require a separate deposit to be paid to secure their services on the day (as you would expect from any other supplier) immediately after you have confirmed your booking with Town Head. However, we have installed a full catering kitchen in the wedding barn to ensure that additional costs are avoided wherever possible and that everything runs seamlessly on the day.

We take no commission from any of our suppliers, including Karen Rhodes. We work exclusively with Karen Rhodes purely because we have seen first-hand the magic that they bring to weddings at Town Head.

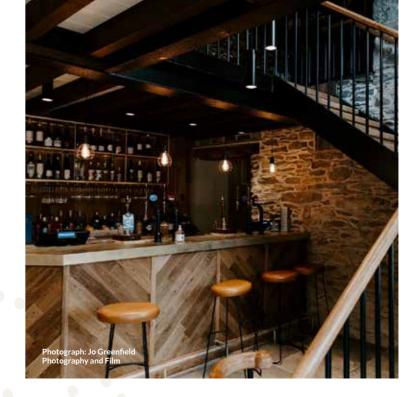


DRINKS

We have built not one, but two of the most beautifully stylish bars for you to enjoy. The main bar is located inside the Wedding Barn, stocking everything you would expect on your wedding day including draft beers, wines and spirits, in addition to an outside gin and cocktail bar with decking overlooking the orchard. We have an amazing wine list and we are happy to source any special requests wherever possible. We also offer a variety of drinks packages to suit all tastes and budgets.

However, people like what they like and so if you do prefer to bring your own wine or fizz then we are happy for you to do so, subject to reasonable limits and payment of a corkage charge (see FAQs).

Our team are happy to provide drinks from either of our two bars, or we will happily serve drinks to you and your guests at the Boat House, the Lake View Terrace, the Kitchen Gardens, the lake shore, or anywhere else you can think of to create the perfect experience for you both.



















OUTDOOR CEREMONIES

One of the many features that sets Town Head apart is the sheer number and variety of the most beautiful spaces for an outdoor ceremony, giving you the opportunity to plan a ceremony as unique as the two of you.

The most enchanting and unique backdrops await you around every corner, whether you prefer the lake, the gardens, the grounds or the terrace . Unfortunately the only thing we can't guarantee is the weather, although we will always give you the option of the barn as a back up plan.

Access to the various spaces is straightforward. However, we will always have our trusty golf buggy on standby should you or your guests need some assistance getting around the estate. It's also handy for whisking you and your photographer away at the last minute with shoes intact for those beautiful golden hour photos at the lake!



The Orchard

The Orchard is the beautiful lawned garden area located immediately in front of the main Barn. You can make your grand entrance from either the Bridal Cottage, or from the main staircase leading down from the terrace. With the Wedding Barn as a backdrop, and surrounded by flowers and trees, the Orchard is the perfect location for an English garden party wedding.



The Lake View Terrace & Croquet Lawn

This is a stunning location for a ceremony, comprising a large area that is part lawn and part stone flags, with unspoiled views over the parkland down to Lake Windermere. Walking from the Barn to the Croquet Lawn treats your guests to the best views at Town Head, taking in the stunning kitchen gardens, and the traditional Victorian glass house. The elevated position means that the views over the park and the lake itself are absolutely unrivalled, especially at sunset as the terrace faces directly West.



The Lake Shore

For those wanting to get married as close as they possibly can to the Lake, we have a licensed area just along the shore from the Boat House. There are few backdrops more beautiful than the lake itself, and a wedding here really is unforgettable. The Lake Shore is an easy walk either from the carpark or through the Kitchen Gardens.



The Park

Part of the Town Head Estate comprises 30 acres of unspoiled parkland running right along the shores of the lake. Set back slightly further from the lake shore, but keeping all the lake views, is a wide flat area that is perfect for ceremonies. This area gives you the option of creating your own ceremony space in the great outdoors, although you may be visited by the odd sheep or donkey who wander freely in the park.



Photográpin: Katrina Bartam



The Tree Circle

This is a special area with a distinctly woodland feel. It comprises a circle of ancient trees, situated in the parkland next to the Lake Windermere, and benefitting once again from beautiful views across the park and over the lake. This is perfect for those would prefer a more informal earthy location for a wedding, where guests can be seated in the round with the happy couple taking centre stage. This location has seen some wonderful non traditional ceremonies and you really can let your imagination run wild.

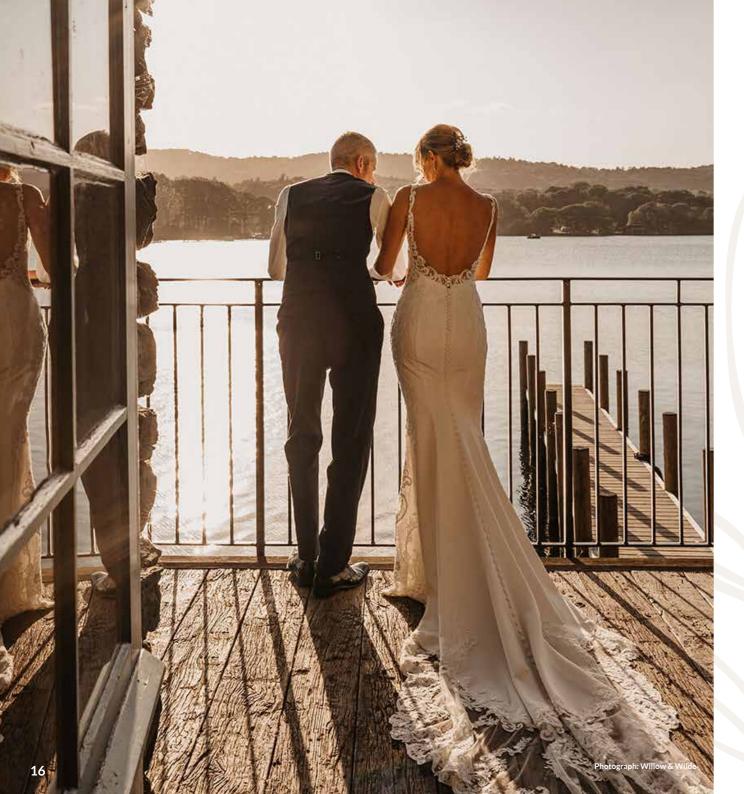
The Kitchen Gardens

The Kitchen Gardens are one of the most stunning features of Town Head. They have been completely remodelled and relandscaped to provide a mixture of formal flower gardens and modern sculpture made of slate and stone. They are also host to a beautiful viewing platform under a huge wrought iron archway with climbing roses, which provides the most breathtaking views over Lake Windermere. Ceremonies for smaller numbers are possible in the upper section using the archway as a focal point. Further down there is a larger gravelled area at the foot of a stone staircase, next to the traditional Victorian Glasshouse. This gives a second option for larger numbers. This area can also be used as a location for a drinks reception with a wonderful garden party feel.

The Beach

This is the pebble beach next to the Boat House. An utterly beautiful location for a ceremony, limited in capacity only by the estate fencing around the Boat House area. This is a pebble beach and so not ideal for heels or formal seating, but for views you will find nowhere more magical.





THE BOAT HOUSE

Town Head is host to a beautiful Victorian boathouse on the lake shore with its shingle beach and a gorgeous day room above.

Both the Boat House and the lake shore are licensed to hold weddings and civil ceremonies. The Boat House itself would seat up to 30 comfortably for a ceremony, whereas guest numbers outside on the Lake shore are essentially unlimited.

You are welcome to use both the Boat House and the jetty for your photos at no additional charge.















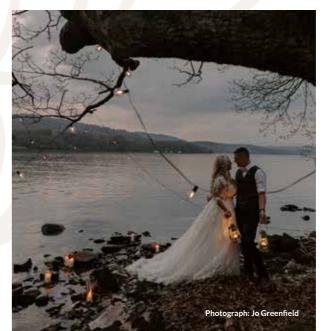
OUR WEDDING BUGGY

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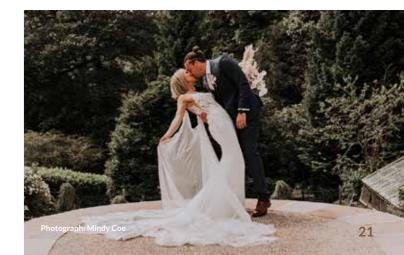














THE Bridal Cottage

We are delighted to introduce our newly renovated and gorgeously stylish Bridal Cottage. This luxury self-catering accommodation was once the housekeeper's cottage, and we have given it a complete makeover to create the most beautiful open plan space.

A cosy log burner, sumptuous wallpaper, elaborate chandeliers and a freestanding copper bath in the bedroom have all been chosen with the sole purpose of making your stay at Town Head absolutely luxurious and utterly unique. There is even direct access from the bedroom to your very own hot tub hidden away in a wooded clearing overlooking the Barn and orchard. Surround sound speakers and romantic festoon lighting make it the perfect place to relax and look forward to the day ahead!

The Bridal Cottage has its own private entrance and courtyard. However, it also has the benefit of being connected directly to the Bridal Preparation and Beauty Suite for the all-important morning of the wedding preparations.











BRIDAL PREPARATION AND BEAUTY SUITE

Town Head is proud to present our gorgeous Bridal Preparation and Beauty Suite. The morning of the wedding should be all about you, and so we have designed a space dedicated purely to you and your A-Team for your all-important preparations. Plenty of light and space, beauty stations, huge mirrors, comfy sofas and not forgetting the chiller for the champagne! It has its own entrance, so as soon as you are ready, it is just a short stroll to the Wedding Barn, or alternatively through the beautiful gardens down to the Lake. The Bridal Preparation Suite can be accessed internally from both the Bridal Cottage and also from the East Wing, where there are three additional guest bedrooms for your VIPs.











GUEST ACCOMMODATION

As a destination venue we understand that you and your guests may be travelling from all over the country and even from overseas. In addition to the Bridal Cottage we are pleased to offer newly renovated luxury accommodation for an additional 20 overnight guests on the Estate.

All rooms include linen, towels, hairdryers and organic toiletries provided by Pure Lakes skincare.

Farm Cottage (sleeps 6)

A three bedroom self catering cottage with two ensuite double bedrooms, and a third bedroom with its own separate bathroom. Inbuilt sound system, underfloor heating, electric log burner and Hot Tub are all included.

Barn Cottage (sleeps 6-8)

A three 3 bedroom self catering cottage, including two double bedrooms with ensuite shower rooms and one family room (to sleep a family of four) with a double bed, double sofa bed, ensuite bathroom with shower and bath. Inbuilt sound system, underfloor heating, television, log burner and Hot Tub are all included.

Both Barn Cottage and Farm Cottage are newly renovated and individually styled to give a luxuriously fresh modern country feel.







The East Wing of Town Head House (sleeps 6) Two first floor luxury bedrooms with large ensuite bathrooms, and one ground floor mobility-friendly bedroom with separate shower room. Kitchenette facilities are located

within the Bridal Preparation and Beauty Suite.

As part of the main Town Head House, the East Wing embraces a modern Georgian style with opulent bathrooms and traditional panelling.

All accommodation is booked for a minimum of two nights, although we are happy for you to extend your stay if you wish.

We are able to supply a cot bed and highchairs on request.

Finally, for your more adventurous guests we have built a luxury shower and toilet block within the paddock to facilitate camping or glamping as required. Please see our FAQs for more details.





SUPPLIERS

Karen Rhodes supplies exclusive catering at Town Head. We can recommend suppliers for all aspects of your celebration, from stylists to florists to photographers and everything in between. Please contact us if you would like more details. We take no commission from any of our suppliers, and we are happy for you to engage any suppliers of your choosing. We simply ask that they have the appropriate indemnity insurance and that they reassure us that they will work sympathetically with the historic listed buildings and parkland that make up Town Head Estate.





FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need to hire tables and chairs?

No you don't. We have a choice of round tables or rustic trestles, with oak cross backed chairs. We also have a cable drum which looks beautiful as a cake table, and a restored sewing table for the registrars. The lounge and bar area are fully furnished, and we have beautiful outdoor seating for the terrace too. All our furniture is included in your venue hire. However, if you have a specific style in mind you are welcome to hire your own from elsewhere.

Do you do small weddings?

Define small. It makes not a jot of difference to us whether there are two of you or 120, as the price for the venue is to block book the whole thing with all accommodation included. So if you want to have the place to yourself, or pack it to the rafters, it's your call. The price will be the same and the two nights are yours to enjoy. However, if you're feeling spontaneous and are looking to book within the next 6 months, then speak to us and we'll be happy to bespoke a package to suit you – day hire, one night, whatever takes your fancy. If we have the availability, then we'll come up with something.

Why is there an additional charge for holding an event at the Boat House?

Because it's the only part of the venue that is shared with the owners. We, like our lovely guests, love playing in the lake, by the lake, on the lake, etc. The beautiful Boat House is one of the reasons we fell in love with TH, and we fully expect people to feel the same and to want to enjoy it too. We would never dream of gate-crashing your party down there, so if you are planning a proper event at the Boat House in addition to your wedding celebrations, then the extra charge is simply the value we put on leaving you in peace and finding something else to do.

What about glasses and crockery?

All on-site accommodation comes complete with fully equipped kitchen facilities. For your wedding celebration in the Wedding Barn, we will provide all glassware, wine coolers and water jugs, but you should speak to Karen Rhodes Catering about everything else, such as crockery, linen, a knife to cut the cake etc.

Do you have a licensed bar?

Yes we do. The bar is fully licensed, opening at a time to suit you on your wedding day (no earlier than 11am) and closing at midnight. We are also happy to open the bar the night before the wedding for you and your guests by prior arrangement.

Can the bar be open the night before the wedding?

Yes it can. Who doesn't want a drink the night before the wedding?! We would just ask that you give us at least 1 month notice so that we can arrange appropriate staffing

Can I bring my own alcohol? Do you charge corkage?

We have a fully stocked bar and a really good wine list. Our prices are competitive and we're happy to discuss drinks packages to suit you. We are also happy to try and source anything specific that you would like that isn't on our wine list.

That said, wine and fizz are personal choices and people like what they like. Therefore, you are able to bring your own wine and fizz for the drinks reception and/or the wedding breakfast, subject to a corkage charge of £10 per bottle of wine, £15 per bottle of prosecco and £25 per bottle of champagne.

Quantities are limited to two glasses of fizz per person for the drinks reception, one glass of fizz per person for the toast and half a bottle of wine per person for the wedding breakfast. We will run the Town Head bar alongside throughout the day.

We do not permit guests to bring their own spirits.

What will there be in the Wedding Barn in terms of lights, decorations etc?

We've taken a LOT of advice on this to make sure we get it absolutely right. If we cover the Barn in fairy lights, and fairy lights are not your thing, then we've cramped your style before you've even started decorating. So, we're going subtle. We've lit the walls, we've lit the beams, and we'll leave the fun stuff to you. That said, we have installed RGB lights in the ceiling so you can actually light the ceiling any colour you wish (including white), or have it scrolling through the colour wheel for the full party effect. There are lots of power points hidden away up in the beams where you can't see them, and a wire running around the walls to attach decorations to, but other than that we'll leave it to you to create your perfect backdrop. The Barn is beautiful left just as it is, but you may well have some amazing ideas to really make the space your own.

How do I play music in the Barn?

Via our speakers!! We have installed a full speaker system in the Barn, all you need to do is download your playlist onto Spotify (or similar) and share it with our team, and we'll do the rest.

Do you have a sound limiter?

Yes we do, although it's set to very reasonable limits. We are conscious that we are situated in a national park, and we want to be mindful of our neighbours and our surroundings. Noise travels, and we want everyone to be able to enjoy themselves safe in the knowledge we're not disturbing anyone else.

Can I use my own suppliers?

Apart from catering, which is provided exclusively by Karen Rhodes Catering, yes, absolutely. We can recommend some great suppliers for all kinds of other things, but we won't restrict you to using the ones that we like. We take no commission from any suppliers, and we are happy for you to engage any suppliers of your choosing. We would however ask that you check any suppliers that you want to use with us first so that we can make sure they are fully insured, and will work sympathetically with the historic listed buildings and parkland that make up Town Head Estate. In addition, if a previous couple has had a bad experience, then we would encourage you to choose someone else as poor service would not only spoil your experience, it would reflect badly on us as a venue.

Can we dress the venue the day before the wedding?

Yes. Check in for accommodation is from 3pm, and we are happy to make the Wedding Barn available

from then for you and your team to begin decorating. Suppliers are welcome to speak to us directly to tell us what they need and if we can help, we will. Our only stipulations that any decorations at height, such as lighting, MUST be installed by a professional. You don't want to be falling off a stepladder the day before the wedding.

Do you have restrictions on live music? What time can we play music until?

We permit live entertainment in the Wedding Barn until 12 midnight (indoors only after 11pm). However, we do have to be more careful outside and especially down by the lake as sound does travel across the water. As such, live music is not permitted outside after 7pm, and no music (live or recorded) is permitted down by the lake in the evenings to avoid disturbing our neighbours on the opposite shore. Reduced noise levels will be required down there in respect of both recorded and live music during the day.

Will there be any other weddings taking place on the Estate at the same time?

Absolutely not. Your wedding is your day. The price reflects the fact that you will have exclusivity of the venue. Our family lives on site but the wedding facilities are yours to use. There are no footpaths through any part of the Estate, so you are guaranteed privacy.

Are you licensed to hold weddings and civil ceremonies?

Yes we are. Our licensed areas include the Wedding Barn and the Boat House, in addition to various outdoor areas (see below).

Can we get married outside?

Yes you can. Outdoor ceremonies are permitted under UK law providing the venue is licensed and has nominated specific areas that fall within that license. See our Outdoor Ceremony Locations for outdoor areas that currently fall under our wedding license.

Do you allow same sex couples?

We are still surprised we even get asked this question. Yes, of course we do.

Do you organise the Registrar?

No we don't. It is up to you to speak to the Registration services (or visit the website at https://www. westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk/).

Is the venue and accommodation family friendly?

Yes it is. We love children and grannies alike. There is plenty of space to run around and children will love the lakeside location. Barn Cottage includes a family suite on the upper level which has a king sized bed, additional sofa bed and en suite with a bath rather than just a shower, which makes it perfect for a family with children. The Wedding Barn is fully accessible for pushchairs, and there is a baby change station in the toilets on the lower ground floor level in the Barn.

Is the venue accessible to wheelchairs?

Yes. The Wedding Barn is fully accessible for wheelchairs. As it is built on a slope, access is at ground level from both the lower and upper floors, although wheelchair users may require some assistance up the slope. Please let us know if this is the case. There are disabled toilets on both levels. We have one ground floor mobility friendly bedroom with separate fully accessible bathroom within the East Wing. Wheelchair users can also access the Bridal Preparation and Beauty Suite.

Do you provide toilets?

The Wedding Barn has two toilet blocks, one on either level. Both include disabled toilets. We also have toilets in the shower block which is a short walk uphill from the Boat House.

Do you allow camping?

Yes we do. We have a shower and toilet block near the car park and campers are welcome to pitch in the paddock up to a maximum of 12 tents. We can't allow camping in the parkland unfortunately due to the presence of livestock throughout the year. We can recommend suppliers for bell tents should you wish.

Do you allow dogs?

Yes, for the daytime in the Barn and grounds, provided they are under control. Not in any of the other internal areas though, including all accommodation and the beauty room. Your dog may be the smallest and best behaved dog on the planet, but our next guests may have an allergy, so we do need to be absolutely strict on this policy. We can however recommend some excellent kennels nearby.

How much is the deposit?

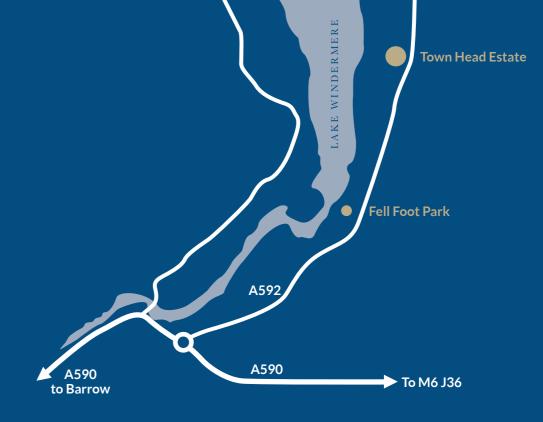
We ask for 30% of the total amount to secure your date. The balance is payable (along with a damage deposit of £1,500) 12 weeks before your wedding.

What if it rains?

It is the Lake District after all, and despite the sun always shining on the righteous, there is always the possibility of a shower or two. But don't panic. We have a 6x15m all-weather clear roofed clear sided marquee which sits neatly over the terrace, providing some shade on the sunniest of days when we can remove the sides completely, and shelter when it's tipping it down. It's easily big enough for your drinks reception. It has beautiful outdoor furniture, cushions, blankets, chandeliers and heating when required. The weather will do what it will do, but it shouldn't be the thing that you worry about.

What if we need to change the date?

We understand that for various reasons your plans may need to change, so please talk to us. Your deposit is nonrefundable but if something has happened that means you need to change your date for genuine reasons, then we will do our best to find you a new date.



DIRECTIONS

From J36 of the M6, take the A590 signposted 'Barrow A590'. Stay on the A590 and follow signs for Newby Bridge. At the roundabout take the 2nd exit signposted 'Bowness and Fell Foot Park'. Continue on along the A592, you will pass Fell Foot Park on your left. Approximately 500 yards after this you will see the first (private) entrance for Town Head. Please ignore this and continue past a white cottage on the left to the next main guest entrance, with a large blue Town Head sign welcoming you to the Estate.



TOWN HEAD LAKESIDE WEDDINGS

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CONTACT

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