



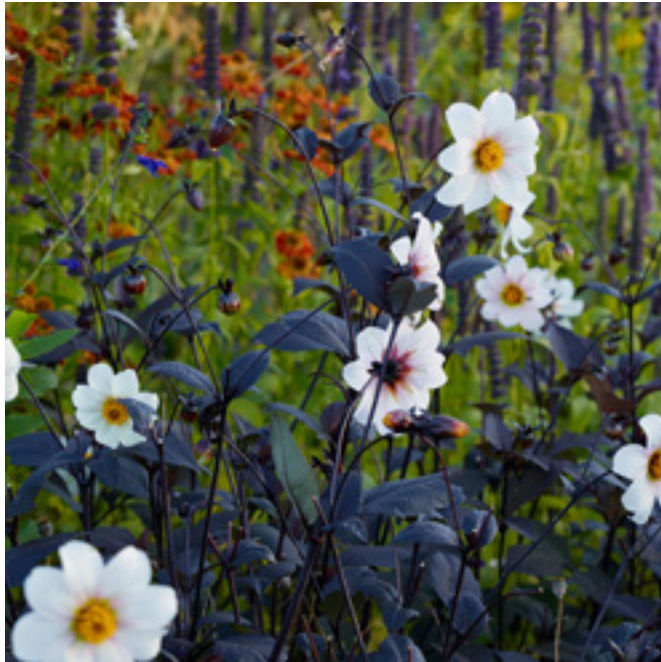
HELMINGHAM HALL  
GARDENS

# WEDDING GUIDE



*Your day, your way*









## WELCOME TO HELMINGHAM

Helmingham Hall is tucked away in the stunning Suffolk countryside, just eight miles from the riverside town of Woodbridge. The private home of the Tollemache family for over 500 years, this magnificent moated house features Grade 1 Listed gardens set among an ancient 400-acre deer park.

Whether you're looking for an intimate civil or church service or a grand garden ceremony for over 350 people, you have the flexibility to design your wedding exactly how you want it. Surrounded by history, wildlife and of course, glorious flowers, Helmingham Hall Gardens is a magical place to say 'I do.'

*"We fell in love with Helmingham Hall Gardens from the moment we first saw them."*

*Gemma & Lewis*







## FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS

Helmingham Hall Gardens are the vision of Lady 'Xa' Tollemache, a Chelsea-award winning horticulturalist who first stepped into the gardens over 40 years ago.

Since then, she has tamed the wild grounds into beautifully tended gardens that attract visitors from around the world. Helmingham's herbaceous borders, apple walk and rose gardens combine to create a romantic floral masterpiece.

We open the gardens for just a handful of weddings, making a celebration at Helmingham Hall Gardens very special.

Stroll among the wildflowers, sip drinks among the formal box-hedge Parterre, or enjoy quiet moments among the many bridges, seats and tunnels. When it comes to capturing your special day on camera, you'll be spoiled for choice at Helmingham.



*"We wanted something relaxed and fun, yet still special, with an element of tradition. We found all of this here at Helmingham Hall Gardens."*

*Mr & Mrs English*











## ON THE DAY

Pass through the gates of Helmingham Hall Gardens into a magical world, taking in grand trees, wild flowers and ancient woodland.

Whether you choose to arrive in a horse and carriage, a vintage bus, or even in the bucket of a JCB... whatever your choice of wedding transport, your arrival may well be the most memorable part of your day. Enjoy your last private moment, catching your breath at the wonderful moated redbrick mansion and deer park before crossing the moat to the gardens where your guests await.







## THE CEREMONY

From a civil or celebrant-led ceremony to a traditional church service – Helmingham Hall Gardens gives you complete flexibility. With a beautiful indoor venue, the stunning gardens plus a traditional church a stone’s throw away: a Helmingham Hall Gardens wedding offers lots of ways to say, ‘I do.’

## CIVIL CEREMONIES

### *The Great Hall* *Accommodates 70*

Newly licensed for weddings, the Great Hall is situated within Helmingham Hall itself. Cross the drawbridge to this Grade I Listed building to discover a traditional Tudor hall with original 16th century features.

Available for ceremonies only, it’s the ideal way to make your vows with close friends and family before having a larger wedding breakfast in a purpose-built marquee.

*“The venue was perfect and nothing was too much trouble - we had such a special day.”*

*Katie & Paul*



## Garden Ceremony

There’s no better way to enjoy the beauty of Helmingham Hall Gardens than by a ceremony held in the gardens themselves. The Parterre and Hybrid Musk Garden are on the west side of the house and are approached along a wide grass causeway which is flanked by large yew domes making the dreamiest of aisles. There is something really very magical about getting married under the Suffolk skies surrounded by natural beauty.

## Marquee Reception

Enjoy a sumptuous wedding breakfast in a luxury marquee – or how about a tipi for extra wow factor? Our selected partners will help you choose the right marquee and construct it for you, ensuring a relaxed build-up to your big day. Suited to any size wedding, with plenty of room for dancing, dining – even a fire pit or two – a marquee is the perfect way to go from elegant daytime reception to an upbeat festival vibe.











## RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES

St Mary's Church stands proudly on the edge of the estate, where it has existed since at least 1258. Inside, this beautiful church features magnificent memorials to members of the Tollemache family. Enjoy a stroll across the park following your ceremony as you and your guests take in the beauty and splendour that surrounds you.

Ideal for small to large religious ceremonies followed by use of the gardens for welcome drinks and photos, then a wedding breakfast and reception in a structure of your choice.

## CELEBRANT-LED CEREMONIES

Write your own vows, choose your own music, and create a ceremony that is unique and personal to you. Some of our most memorable ceremonies have been celebrant-led. Except for the use of St Mary's, you have the flexibility of the options previously described.







## DECORATING YOUR VENUE

This is often one of the most enjoyable parts of getting married, and we invite you to be as creative as you wish. Whether you go for a rustic feel or full-on glamour, our marquees are your perfect canvas.

Your chosen structure will be built at least two days in advance of your special day - our aim is to ensure that you feel relaxed, rather than rushed. Other than working with one of our marquee partners you are free to use whichever suppliers you wish. From catering, photographs and flowers to music, magicians and that all-important entertainment – have fun making the day your own.











## TIME TO RELAX

With the knot well and truly tied, it's time for your guests to relax and mingle within the gardens while you and your photographer explore the gardens to capture your special moment.

With four acres to explore, there's lots of space for your guests to play garden games or simply mingle and relax among the flowers. Helmingham Hall Gardens are the perfect spot for the little ones to let off a bit of steam – and our famous roaming deer are always a hit with children!

And, as you'd expect from the hosts of Suffolk Dog Day, your four-legged friend is very welcome to attend throughout your special event.









## THE WEDDING BREAKFAST

Forget staged and stiff: dining at Helmingham is relaxed, delicious, and served with care. From exciting three-course meals to street food – our catering partners take care of every taste.

Our chosen suppliers will work with you to deliver an unforgettable meal sourced from the finest, high quality produce.

## RELAXED EVENING DINING

As the sun sets, it's time to get even more adventurous with your food choices! Our catering partners offer a host of imaginative and crowd-pleasing options to keep your guests' energy levels going. From hog roasts and doughnut trucks to wood-fired pizza and Eastern style mezze – they are able to cater to your dietary requirements, including gluten free, coeliac and vegan.

### *Drinks Policy*

We take care of the welcome drinks, ensuring that your guests feel relaxed as they await your arrival. You are free to source your own wine for the wedding breakfast (great news for wine connoisseurs) and we don't charge corkage either! For the evening, we offer a well-stocked bar and friendly staff to keep the drinks flowing. How you wish to pay for the reception drinks is up to you. For example, you could opt for a 'free' bar and have us invoice you afterwards, put a certain amount behind the bar, or have a cash bar where guests purchase their own drinks.











## DANCE UNDER THE STARS

From a jazz quartet to a steel band or DJ, Helmingham Hall Gardens provide all the space you need to get the party started. Take to the dancefloor for your first dance, then spill out into the lawn to create a festival feel that your friends will talk about for years.

All we ask is that you hang up your wedding shoes by 11:30pm (that's if you haven't kicked them off already!). Of course, later licences are available for an additional fee.

With your perfect day at an end, rest your head among one of the nearby B&Bs, guest houses or hotels. Located just 8 miles from Woodbridge and 9 miles from Ipswich, there are hundreds of accommodation options within easy reach.







HELMINGHAM HALL GARDENS:  
AT A GLANCE

*Number of people at ceremony:* 70 to 350+

*Licence:* Civil, religious, and celebrant-led.

*Registrar/minister:* To be booked by couple.

*Child friendly:* Yes, under supervision as both the Hall and Gardens are surrounded by deep moats and there are also two lakes near the church.

*Disabled facilities:* Yes.

*Car parking:* Yes.

*Dog friendly:* Yes.

*Catering:* Preferred suppliers.

*Marquee:* Yes, through venue’s suppliers only.

*Accommodation:* No – extensive recommendations available.

*Drinks:* Welcome drinks provided on arrival at an additional cost, bring your own wine to the wedding breakfast, evening bar and bar staff provided by venue.

*Corkage charged:* No.

*Bar / bar staff available:* Yes.

*Music:* Your choice of DJ or live band – recommendations available.

*Late licence available:* Yes, for £100 fee + VAT.

*Located:* 8.9 miles from Woodbridge, 9.6 miles from Ipswich and 12.7 miles from Stowmarket. Trains from London Liverpool Street to Ipswich take around 1 hour 15 minutes.

PRICES

We offer flexible options to suit your size and style of wedding. For example:

CEREMONY ONLY:

- » Gardens: £800
- » Great Hall: £1200
- » Include two hours in the gardens afterwards for photographs and refreshments

Please note that you will need to book your registrar yourself. Helmingham Hall Gardens are covered by the Ipswich registry office and you can find full details on how to arrange a ceremony at the Suffolk County Council website.

CEREMONY & RECEPTION:

- » Gardens: £400 + grounds and garden hire for marquee wedding (£4000)
- » Great Hall: £800 + grounds and garden hire for marquee wedding (£4000)

RECEPTION ONLY:

- » Grounds and garden hire for marquee: £4000

All prices include VAT.

Photos by:  
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HELMINGHAM HALL  
GARDENS

Contact our events team  
for further information on  
creating your special day.

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