

WEDDING FAQs (See below for answers)

MEASUREMENTS

1. How big is the downstairs of the Haybarn?
2. How long is the handrail around the balcony upstairs?
3. How big is the registrar's table?
4. How big are the trestle tables for the meal?

DRINKS

1. Who runs the bar at the event?
2. Does the bar take credit or debit cards?
3. How many bottles of table wine should we plan for?
4. How many bottles of champagne should we plan for?
5. What about other mixed drinks like bucks fizz?
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8. Is the corkage the same for table wine and champagne?
9. What happens if we want a barrel of ale but don't have 70+ guests?
10. Who provides tea and coffee?
11. Can we serve drinks and canapés before the ceremony?
12. What should we do to prevent people drinking too much?

YOUR BOOKING

1. When is the balance due on the hire of the Haybarn?
2. What if we need to cancel our booking for some reason?
3. Can we just hire the Haybarn without taking the accommodation?

WHAT IS AVAILABLE AT BEECHENHILL?

1. Can we borrow tablecloths and napkins from Beechenhill?
2. Does Beechenhill provide glasses, crockery and cutlery?
3. Can we borrow a projector or screen and a microphone for speeches?
4. Is wifi available in the barn?
5. Are sheets, towels etc. provided in the self-catering cottages?
6. Does Beechenhill have a knife with which to cut the wedding cake?
7. Is the piano regularly tuned?
8. Who is responsible for putting the tables up in the barn?

ORGANISATION

1. What are the major things I need to organize for my wedding day?
2. Apart from what is on the Wedding Booking Form, what other information might Beechenhill need on the day?
3. What information do I need to give the coach company?
4. We have guests coming with wheelchairs and pushchairs; will they be able to get upstairs?
5. My photographer/band hasn't been to the farm, can they come to have a look?
6. Will Beechenhill press play on our I-pod during the ceremony for us?
7. Will Beechenhill organise someone to cut up our wedding cake for us?
8. Can we have games inside the barn?

9. **What happens if the weather is not good?**
10. **Can we have a marquee outside in case it rains?**
11. **Can we have the ceremony outside?**
12. **Can we eat outside?**
13. **We really wanted candles as part of our table decoration, are there alternatives?**
14. **Although fire is not allowed inside, could we have candles outside?**
15. **What decoration is permitted outside?**
16. **If we want to free up parking spaces on the farm, can we park our cars at another B&B?**
17. **What do I need to tell the band about the venue?**

NEARBY FACILITIES

1. **Will takeaways deliver to the farm?**
2. **We want to go out to a local pub/restaurant for a meal during the weekend. Where would you recommend?**
3. **Is it easy to get taxis to and from the farm?**
4. **Can our friends camp on the farm?**

WEDDING FAQs

MEASUREMENTS

1. **How big is the downstairs of the Haybarn?**
The room downstairs is 6m x 20m.
2. **How long is the handrail around the balcony upstairs?**
The handrail is 18m long.
3. **How big is the registrar's table?**
66cm x 110cm
4. **How big are the trestle tables for the meal?**
Please ask to see the table plan relevant to the number of guests you plan to have at your event. The lengths of the tables are on the table plans. All tables are 0.65m wide.

DRINKS

1. **Who runs the bar at the event?**
Beechenhill Events stocks and runs the bar at all weddings and parties. We have a great range of local beer, local organic lager and organic fair trade wine alongside interesting virgin cocktails and the usual spirits.
2. **Does the bar take credit or debit cards?**
No, please inform your guests that it is a cash bar.
3. **How many bottles of table wine should we plan for?**

The guideline we suggest following is 4 glasses per bottle and 1½ glasses per adult. In our experience most people stick to either red or white wine. Therefore:

- For 70 adult guests we would suggest between 14 and 16 bottles of each.
- For 50 adult guests we would suggest 11 or 12 bottles of each.

4. How many bottles of champagne should we plan for?

The guideline we suggest following is 6 glasses per bottle and 1½ glasses per adult for reception drinks (but for toasts allow only 1 glass per person). Therefore:

- For 70 adult guests we would suggest between 16 and 18 bottles for the reception drinks and if having another serving for speeches, 12 bottles for toasts.
- For 50 adult guests we would suggest between 12 and 14 bottles for the reception drinks and if having another serving for speeches, 8 or 9 bottles of each.

5. What about other mixed drinks like bucks fizz?

Please have a look at our drinks guidelines on the website

<http://www.beechenhill.co.uk/assets/food/how%20many%20bottles%20to%20buy%2011.pdf>

6. We are interested in having the house wine, can we try it?

You can pick up a bottle of each when you visit to take away and try. We will charge you cost price for these 2 bottles.

7. What happens to the table wine after the meal?

Once the meal is finished, any unused table wine will be put aside and kept safe for you to take away with you, or to drink the following day.

8. Is the corkage the same for table wine and champagne?

Yes, unlike many other venues, we charge the same corkage for table wine and champagne.

9. What happens if we want a barrel of ale but don't have 70+ guests?

Real ale (unlike lager) will not keep beyond a week and we are not able to use it at any other event so it must be used in one weekend. We suggest that, if you have a smaller number of wedding guests, we supply bottles of real ale at the bar. If you would prefer to have a 72 pint barrel of real ale on tap rather than bottles available at the bar, you are very welcome to ask us to provide one. We will ask you to agree before we order it, to buy any leftover ale the next day to take away with you or to drink in your cottages.

10. Who provides tea and coffee?

Beechenhill is very well equipped to provide tea and coffee for you before or after the meal. Please see the relevant year's price list for per head per serving prices. There are companies that can provide vintage china for you if you want a proper 'tea-party', see the *helpful people* section of our website for more information.

11. Can we serve drinks and canapés before the ceremony?

Due to strict rules about rooms where ceremonies are held, the Registrar Service stipulate that no food or drink can be served in the Haybarn for an hour before the ceremony. It is a good idea to have your guests arriving about half an hour before the ceremony. In time to

get settled, have a look around then seated for your ceremony, then you can give them reception drinks and food straight after the wedding.

12. What should we do to prevent people drinking too much?

At a couple of recent weddings we have encountered unfortunate problems with one or two guests who have become very drunk, aggressive and abusive on the free alcohol available at the reception and wedding feast. This has caused some problems for us, and potentially embarrassment and difficulties for the wedding couple and family.

As you know, we are a small family business and don't employ bouncers. However, we have managed the situations and have strategies in place, but can't guarantee that a situation won't get out of control without your help:

- We have found this helpful link: <http://voices.yahoo.com/how-not-over-serve-alcohol-wedding-some-209624.html>
- Please don't over supply free alcohol as we can't then control consumption.
- Offer free drinks for a limited time only.
- Please supply plenty of food- nibbles, canapés or whatever with the drinks.
- Ensure that guests can see the 'plan for the day' this helps people pace themselves.
- Please designate a named responsible person to whom we can refer if we notice anyone becoming too intoxicated.

These are some of the things we do to try and prevent over drinking:

- We always put plenty of fresh iced water on the tables and keep them filled.
- We have a fun range of Virgin Cocktails (without alcohol) at the bar.
- We always have fresh tea and coffee available behind the bar.
- If guests appear to have had too much to drink, we politely refuse to serve them alcohol, we suggest that they take a rest and give them free coffee, suggesting that they come back later.

Ideas from other weddings that have reduced uncontrolled drinking:

- Best men and ushers organising the day and keeping an eye on heavy drinkers
- Distinct organised activities; quizzes, garden competitions/games with score keeping and prizes or periods of entertainment, table magician etc

We want your special day to be the best day ever! I am sure these problems won't happen at your wedding, especially if we are all well prepared.

YOUR BOOKING

1. When is the balance due on the hire of the Haybarn?

The balance is due 4 months before your wedding weekend.

2. What if we need to cancel our booking for some reason?

Firstly, we strongly recommend taking out cancellation insurance. If you wish to cancel the booking for any reason, more than 8 months before the booking, you should advise us at Beechenhill Farm immediately by telephone or email, followed by a letter of confirmation. We will use our best endeavours to obtain a replacement booking and, if such replacement is obtained, will then refund any money paid less a handling charge of £100. If it is cancelled between 8 and 4 months before, we will keep your deposit. If the booking is cancelled less

than 4 months before the booked date then we shall be entitled to retain all payments already made and to recover, if not already paid, the balance of the hiring charge.

3. Can we just hire the Haybarn without taking the accommodation?

For a party or wedding we ask you to book all the accommodation, including the B&B, for the weekend as you wouldn't want strangers wandering into your party, equally we don't want our existing guests to be disturbed by a lively party. If you want a lunchtime event (starting after 11am and finishing before 4pm) please e-mail on stay@beechenhill.co.uk or call 01335 310274 to discuss this possibility.

WHAT IS AVAILABLE AT BEECHENHILL?

1. Can we borrow tablecloths and napkins from Beechenhill?

No, we will provide tablecloths for the registrar's table and the cake trolley, but we do not provide or hire out any napkins or tablecloths for the trestle tables. Please contact your caterer for information about linen hire.

2. Does Beechenhill provide glasses, crockery and cutlery?

Yes, we have a wide range of glasses in the bar and plenty of champagne flutes for reception drinks and toasts. We provide crockery and cutlery including soup tureens, serving dishes, plates, knives, forks, serving spoons etc... For anything else or anything out of the ordinary please speak to your chosen caterer.

3. Can we borrow a projector or screen and a microphone for speeches?

Yes, we have a projector and screen both of which can be set up and tested on the Friday with your laptop, ready for the Saturday event. We also have a microphone which we suggest that people making speeches do use as voices don't carry particularly well when the room is full.

4. Is wifi available in the barn?

Yes.

5. Are sheets, towels etc. provided in the self-catering cottages?

Yes, along with some basics like washing up liquid, toilet paper etc. and small amounts of tea, coffee, salt, sugar and milk.

6. Does Beechenhill have a knife with which to cut the wedding cake?

Yes you can borrow our very pretty knife for the cake cutting.

7. Is the piano regularly tuned?

Yes.

8. Who is responsible for putting the tables up in the barn?

Beechenhill will put the tables in your chosen arrangement for you, this usually happens on the Thursday or Friday morning before your event. The decoration and setting of the tables is then up to you and your caterers. The caterers will sometimes put out tablecloths and set the tables for you so you can decorate them as you wish.

ORGANISATION

1. What are the major things I need to organize for my wedding day?

- Registrar Contact the registrar to book the date and time you want for your ceremony. Their phone number is: 0300 1118001.
- Caterer Contact the caterer to book the date and to discuss the costs and type of food you want for your day. <http://www.beechenhill.co.uk/events2.asp?ID=34>
- Band Decide on the kind of music you want for your reception, listen to some bands and create your I-pod playlists. Contact and book the band you choose.
- Decoration Decide on your theme or colour scheme if you are having one, then think about decorating the Haybarn. Local and ethical florists can be found on our website.
- Coaches Book Warringtons Coaches of Ilam (01335 350204) for your day, then later on give them the information about where your guests are staying and what time you want your guests to arrive at the farm.
- Ceremony Think about the readings and music you want at your ceremony.
- Cake Start shopping around for the best prices, cakes, local suppliers or think about how to do it differently.
- Ilam Hall If you want your guests to have the option to park at Ilam Hall National Trust (1 mile away from the venue), give Ilam Hall a ring to check this is ok on: 01335 350503.

2. Apart from what is on the Wedding Booking Form, what other information might Beechenhill need on the day?

- Table plan
- Parking plan
- Schedule for the day

3. What information do I need to give the coach company?

- a) Book with Warringtons, giving them the date and time the guests should be at Beechenhill, and when you want them taken away (11.45p.m is quite a good time).
- b) Send out a note with the invites, letting people know that there is no parking at the farm, (except for disabled access and named individuals) but the coach service is available. Give the guests a way of letting you know where they will be staying or where they want picking up. E.g. rsvp slip. It is useful to get the guest's e-mail addresses and mobile phone numbers too.
- c) When you have final numbers liaise with the bus company, giving them details of where people need picking up from and how many guests are at each location. Give the coach company the mobile phone numbers of the guests too, in case someone is not where they say they are going to be.
- d) Receive the pick-up times from the bus company and let guests know (e-mail is convenient for this bit) what time they will need to be ready/in a certain pick-up place.

4. We have guests coming with wheelchairs and pushchairs; will they be able to get upstairs?

Yes, the access ramp goes all the way around from the front of the farm to the fire-escape upstairs at the back of the barn. It is lit at night with security lights and can be used by wheelchairs and pushchairs.

5. My photographer/band hasn't been to the farm, can they come to have a look?

They can come to look as long as it is arranged with us. Give us a call or e-mail to arrange it, and give us their name and mobile phone number so we can contact them if we need to.

6. Will Beechenhill press play on our I-pod during the ceremony for us?

No I'm afraid not! After several timing failures on our part, we now ask you to choose one of your wedding party who can sit at the back of the congregation and start the music for you. We have a long lead which reaches from upstairs down to the sound system in the bar so your guest won't miss anything.

7. Will Beechenhill organise someone to cut up our wedding cake for us?

No I'm afraid not, we are usually too busy at that time in the day and it can take quite a while. We recommend that you choose someone helpful from your party who will cut up your cake for you after you have ceremonially cut it, ready for your guests to eat. Alternatively discuss it with your caterer to see if they don't mind doing it.

8. Can we have games inside the barn?

You can definitely have pub games like giant connect 4 and giant jenga in the barn during the evening (both of which we have and can lend you if you want). Some people have also set up garden games outside if the weather is nice.

9. What happens if the weather is not good?

The way we manage it is to have one table downstairs (next to the bar) unset, with welcome drinks on it, and pushed away from the bar. This then leaves space for milling about a bit downstairs while the 'Beechenhill fairies' get to work upstairs putting away the ceremony folding chairs and setting up the chill out area with sofas. This process only takes about 10 minutes. Then upstairs (which can comfortably accommodate about 80 people) becomes a useable space to relax and chat and take photos etc. It is advisable to have a couple of wet weather back up activities prepared like music, games or a quiz just in case it is difficult to use the outside.

10. Can we have a marquee outside in case it rains?

Our planning permission does not allow any outside structures unfortunately. We have never needed a marquee or gazebo outside as the inside of the Haybarn can be used very effectively during wet weather.

11. Can we have the ceremony outside?

The wedding licence that we hold is specific to the Haybarn as a building, if you are having a legal ceremony conducted by a registrar, the ceremony will have to take place in the barn. If you wish to have a humanist or other non-registrar lead ceremony, you are very welcome to use the garden or other areas for the wedding. You may be able to do both, just speak to the registrars to check what they think.

12. Can we eat outside?

Our planning permission does not allow food to be served outside I'm afraid. During an informal meal, people can wander in and out of the barn if they wish.

13. We really wanted candles as part of our table decoration, are there alternatives?

We have seen some very effective LED tea-lights and other LED based lighting which you are very welcome to use in candle holders or vases. An internet search is probably the best way of sourcing these types of decorations.

14. Although fire is not allowed inside, could we have candles outside?

Yes, you are welcome to have lanterns or jam jars containing candles or tea-lights outside. Just remember that you need to nominate someone who will light them all when it gets dark.

15. What decoration is permitted outside?

Minimal decoration is permitted outside. You can string bunting up in the farm yard or have candles/trees/flower arrangements outside. We prefer not to have large flags or balloons outside as they don't really fit with the venue. Also... have you seen the view!?

16. If we want to free up parking spaces on the farm, can we park our cars at another B&B?

You are welcome to contact local accommodation providers to ask them if they don't mind a few more cars parked in their yard. Please remember that it is the owner's home so try not to cause them inconvenience.

17. What do I need to tell the band about the venue?

- Each band works differently. We suggest making sure your band have seen the venue before they come, as it is an unusual space for them to use. Make sure they don't have to bring masses of equipment as we don't have a huge space or the facilities for a stadium set up. Get an idea of how long they will need to set up and sound check so you allow enough time between the meal and the evening dancing!
- It is always a good idea to decide whether you are going to include your band in any of your food calculations, also whether you will pay their bar tab. If not, make sure they know what to expect so you don't have to worry about it on the day. Some couples who don't allow the band unlimited drinks, make sure they have at least one each or allow unlimited soft drinks.

NEARBY FACILITIES

1. Will takeaways deliver to the farm?

Unfortunately we are a bit far away from takeaways so they don't deliver to the farm, but if you give them notice, most takeaway shops and some local pubs can do big orders of takeaway food which you can pick up.

2. We want to go out to a local pub/restaurant for a meal during the weekend. Where would you recommend?

There are several fantastic pubs in the area. Some like The George (<http://www.thegeorgeatalstonefield.com/>) a highly rated gastro-pub will take smaller parties if you book in advance. Others like The Coach and Horses in Fenny Bentley (01335 350246) a larger eatery will take much larger parties. We would suggest that you book in advance wherever you decide to go.

3. Is it easy to get taxis to and from the farm?

It is really difficult to get taxis to and from the farm, especially if you haven't booked one well in advance. We suggest making this clear to any of your guests who don't wish to use the bus service if you provide one. There are two taxi firms which can be booked in advance for those people who know they would prefer to leave earlier than the bus:

- Ashbourne Taxis: 01335 345810
- Warslow Taxis: 01298 84931

4. Can our friends camp on the farm?

We are not an equipped campsite so it would not be the most comfortable stay. There are two campsites locally that we can recommend: Thorpe Mill (01335 350361) and Hulme End <http://www.hulme-end-campsite.co.uk> . If there are only a couple of tents that must be on the farm, you must confirm with the farmer the best location so that animals are not disturbed. Your guests could use the toilets in the barn. The fee is a bottle of red wine for the farmer per tent.