



Possible Timings for a Civil Ceremony at 3pm

These timings will give you plenty of time to get ready in the morning and time to enjoy a good party in the evening!

- 9.30am** Suppliers are welcome to arrive to set up decorations and start preparing the venue.
- 12pm** You are welcome to arrive to finish getting ready in the Dodford Room, you may decide to have your hair and makeup done before arriving to Dodmoor to get dressed, you will then need to be fully ready to see the registrars at 2.45pm.
(It may be possible to arrange access to the Dodford Room from 11.30am by prior arrangement)
- 2pm** Your partner can arrive to the venue, have some photographs, greet guests and be ready to meet with the registrars at 2.30pm in the office of the main house.
- 2pm** We would expect guests to start to arrive, the bar would be open and they will be invited to take their seats for the ceremony at around 2.50pm.
- 3pm** The ceremony would normally take place in the Courtyard Barn but can be in the Catesby Barn if your guest numbers are below 58.
- 3.30pm** We would normally allow 90 minutes for drinks and photos, giving you enough time to mingle with the guests and have some wonderful photos around the grounds. This would take place in the courtyard (or lawn area in the summer) but could also be held in the same barn as the ceremony if needed. We have speakers in the barns and courtyard for your music or you could consider an acoustic set (there is power at the lawn for this!)
- 4.45pm** Guests would be invited to take their seats for the Wedding Breakfast, you could head off for some private photos with your photographer before being announced in to the room! We would allow 15-20 minutes depending on the number of people and if you have a receiving line we suggest you allow 30 minutes.
- 5pm** Your caterer would serve the Wedding Breakfast in the opposite barn to the one you were married in. We would not expect this to take more than 1 hr 45 minutes to two hours for a three course meal. You could consider having a dessert buffet in the Courtyard Barn with tea and coffee or having more substantial canapes, allowing two courses at the table reducing the time to around an hour and a half.
- 6.30pm/
7pm** Speeches could be at the tables after the meal, we have a cordless microphone you can use – again if you are worried about the evening set up, guests could move outside or to the Courtyard Barn for speeches. You may decide to have speeches before the food is served but always be aware of how long they are going to take as we would not want the food to ruin!

**7pm/
7.30pm** Guests could be invited to the Courtyard Barn or outside in the courtyard for tea and coffee served by your caterer. This allows the staff time to clear away the dining tables and for the DJ or Band to set up for the evening entertainment. The bar would also fully open as this would be the end of the no corkage period.

**7.30pm/
8pm** Evening guests could start to arrive and mingle with the day guests in the Courtyard Barn or courtyard. You may choose to entertain the guests with a live acoustic set or have a photobooth set up in the Courtyard Barn ready as guests move through after the meal.

8.30pm Guests could be invited back into the Catesby Barn for the first dance to kick off the evening, you could cut your wedding cake on the dance floor ahead of this. In the summer months, you may decide to prolong the time outside in the courtyard in the early evening before moving through for the first dance, while in the winter months, you could have a group sparkler arch instead.

If you have a band, you will need to check how long they take to set up (usually 60-90 minutes) and how long their sets are (often 2 x 1 hour or 3 x 40 minute), we just ask that live music finishes at 11pm but they are welcome to have a DJ set until the end of the evening.

You may decide to have a photobooth set up on the mezzanine area, this would need to be in place before the dancing starts and stay open for the majority of the evening so that it is not being cleared up during the party.

**8.45pm/
9pm** Evening food can be served in the courtyard, set up as a buffet in the Courtyard Barn or served from a van at the entrance to the courtyard. Evening food is usually available for 1-2 hours so you would expect the evening guests to go first as they will be hungry and the day guests will be hungry again around 9.30pm! We can have extra tables set up in the Courtyard Barn to allow informal seating for this.

**11.45pm/
12am** Last orders would be called at the bar and the bar and music would finish at midnight with taxis booked at 12.15am and guests to have left site by 12.30am. You would retire to the Honeymoon Suite and breakfast will be served to you there at 9am the next morning. We ask that you check out of the room by 10.30am the following morning please.

The venue is yours for the day and we are very happy to adjust timings to fit with your plans, we will discuss the specific timings for your day with you at your planning meeting but please contact us if you would like us to build a bespoke timeline for your wedding in advance of this.