



# Howsham Hall

Venue Information



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# Welcome to Howsham

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Howsham Hall is a private 400 year-old, Grade 1 listed Hall with 12 fantastic en-suite bedrooms, set in an area of outstanding natural beauty. With 100 Acres of private grounds bordering the River Derwent, there's plenty of opportunity for for mindful strolling, historic walking tours or more adventurous activities such as kayaking and hover-crafting.

Historic York is 15 minutes away with Castle Howard 10 minutes away.

The whole Dine team wish you an enjoyable and memorable time at Howsham. Please do not hesitate to let us know if there is anything we can do to assist you during your stay with us.

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## Howsham Hall

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Howsham Hall, Howsham,  
Malton, York, YO60 7PB

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# History of Howsham Hall

## Family history

The Howsham estate was bought by one Thomas Bamburgh from Edward, Earl of Rutland in 1573. The estate included the ruins of Kirkham Priory and had been granted to the Earl's grandfather, Thomas, Earl of Rutland by King Edward VI in the mid 1500's. Before that time it was church land which was seized at the Reformation when all Abbeys and Pories were dissolved.

In 1593 Thomas Bamburgh was succeeded by his son William and it was he who built the house. His coat of arms appears in stone over the front door, divided with that of his wife, Mary Ford or Forthe. His side of the shield is surmounted by a knight's helm with an open visor. He was knighted in 1603 and created a baronet (hereditary knight) in 1619. The families of Sir Thomas's descendants repeatedly failed in the male line, so the surname of the owner changed. This has given rise to a story about there being a curse on the house because it was built on land which had been seized from the church. However, the line never failed entirely and the house remained in the hands of Sir William's descendants until the mid 1900s.

Sir William Bamburgh had two sons, Thomas and John, neither of whom lived to be adults and in 1631 the baronetcy became extinct. Thereupon the estate passed to a nephew, Thomas Wentworth, a member of a big and famous Yorkshire clan whose main branch owned the grand mansion of Wentworth Woodhouse, near Rotherham. The Howsham branch of the Wentworths stayed in charge until 1741 when the male line failed again on the death of Sir John Wentworth, 2nd baronet. This time Howsham passed sideways, to Sir John's half sister Catherine who had married Hugh Cholmley of Whitby. He died in 1755 and his son Nathaniel succeeded him. Nathaniel lived until 1791 and is an important figure in the history of the house and estate. On his death the property passed to his brother, then to his daughter, another Catherine whose husband Henry Hopkins Fane took the name Cholmley.





## History continued..

Sir George Strickland of Boynton in the East Riding of Yorkshire inherited in 1864. In 1909 Sir Charles Strickland left the estate to his daughter, Mrs Willoughby. Her husband, Colonel The Hon. Tatton Willoughby is named as the proprietor when Howsham was written up for Country Life magazine in some detail in 1935. The Willoughbys finally sold up in 1948 and the contents of the house were dispersed. It then changed hands at least twice before being rescued from the threat of demolition by the Knock family, who in 1958 turned it into a boys' preparatory school. The prep school closed in 2007 and the Hall was bought by the present owner. The rump of the estate, which now consists of about a hundred acres, is in the same hands as the Hall, but the stable block is separately owned.



## Phases of building The Jacobean phase (reign of James I 1603-25)

Window glass was expensive in the Jacobean period and the entrance front displays the owner's wealth by showing that he could afford plenty of it. The parapet is intended to remind visitors of the battlements of medieval castles and fortified manor houses, in keeping with the curious fascination which people in the Jacobean period had with the days when knights were bold and rescued damsels in distress.



The interior of the house has been very much altered. The only room to survive more or less intact from the Jacobean period is the old kitchen (now the billiard room). This is situated in a half basement in the north-west side of the house. It contains two great fireplaces for roasting meat. Below the hall is a store room with five great limestone pillars holding up the ceiling. Pillars of this kind are very unusual in the basement of a Jacobean house and it has been suggested that they are actually medieval, brought over from Kirkham Priory.



## The later Georgian phase c. 1770-80

Nathaniel Cholmley, whose long reign as squire of Howsham lasted from 1755-91 did much to remodel the house and bring it up to date. In the Hall he introduced the screen of columns and plasterwork in the latest classical style with a Roman Doric order. Similar columns were introduced into the window bay to mask the Jacobean stone mullions. The Drawing Room received similar treatment. It was probably the Saloon of the house by this time, smartly decorated as the main reception room. Both rooms were given fashionable marble chimney pieces made of white and coloured Italian marbles, as was the former Great Chamber upstairs which also had new plasterwork and wooden columns in the window bay.

Fine mahogany doors with ormolu (gilt bronze) handles and decorative mounts divide the Hall from the Drawing Room and Dining Room. The Drawing Room has retained its original Georgian pier glass (mirror between two windows) and a plaster surround indicates where a painting once hung above the fireplace. The pier glass is surrounded by a wooden fillet, carved and gilt with a pair of gryphons at the top flanking an urn. All this was in the latest and smartest taste, derived from ancient Roman wall paintings which had been found in the Golden house of Nero in Rome and at Pompeii and Herculaneum in southern Italy. The mirror itself is made of three sheets of glass, it being impossible at the time to make a single sheet on this scale. Its age is indicated by the fact that the mercury silvering on the back has begun to fail.



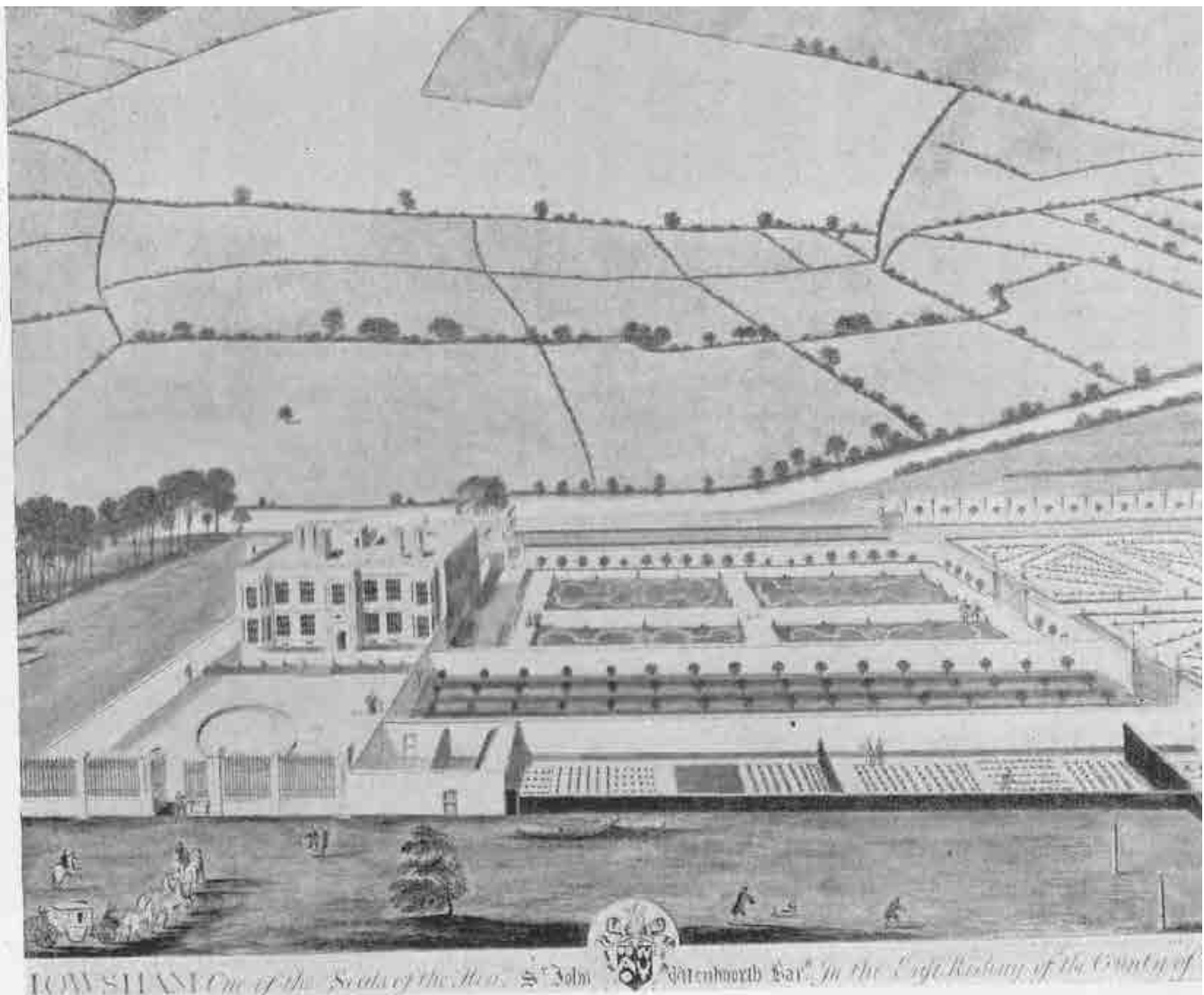
Mary Ellen Best (1809-1891) *The Saloon at Howsham Hall, 1830s*

## History of Howsham Hall continued..

All this is thought to be the work of John Carr of York, the leading architect in the north of England at the time who had teams of craftsmen available to carry out his designs. A letter is recorded which refers to Mr & Mrs Cholmley leaving the house while Carr did work on it which appears not to have been specified. The décor of the staircase landing matches that of the Hall and Drawing Room, so if these rooms are Carr's work, then this is likely to be his too. In that case he, or a joiner working to his instructions could also have been responsible for the staircase.

Nathaniel Cholmley's other main work in the house was to remodel the service area, replacing the old buildings with a compact courtyard, built of brick. At the north-east corner is a double-height room which appears to have served as a chapel (now the evening reception area). Above this there is a gallery with a separate entrance. This would have been used by the family while the servants sat below. Prayers would have been said daily in the house at this date and all members of the family and staff who were present at the time would have been expected to attend.

Outside, Nathaniel Cholmley had the grounds altered in the new style promoted by Lancelot 'Capability' Brown and Humphrey Repton which was designed to make them look like a perfect natural landscape of the imagination, brought to life. The formal gardens of the early Georgian period (pictured below) were removed in the process. The style – which had the great advantage of cheap and easy maintenance – has been retained.



View of House & Gardens in 1718

## Folly in the Orchard

This stands about 70 metres to the west of the Hall in the Orchard. The Historic England listing particulars describe it as a late 18th century building. The roof, if it ever had one, has collapsed and it now stands as a picturesque ruin. The ruinous state may have been deliberately contrived in the 1800s when gentlemen liked to have ruins in their grounds to emphasise the antiquity of their houses and conjure up pleasant thoughts of days of yore.

## Howsham Mill



Howsham Mill is situated about half a mile downstream of the Hall, on a small island in the river, through which a leat has been cut to channel the water which drives the wheel.

There are several graffiti dates cut in the stonework on the west side, the oldest of which is 1757 which can be found on the left-hand side of the window to the right of the entrance on the west front. This fits the style of the architecture and points to Nathaniel Cholmley as the patron. John Carr might have been the architect, but it should be noted that the style resembles that of the illustrations in Batty Langley's *Gothic Architecture, improved by Rules and Proportions*, published in 1747, a pattern book which was designed to enable people to design buildings themselves, without an architect's help.

The mill is apparently built on an ancient site where grinding took place long before it was constructed. In recent times it lay derelict before being taken over in 2004 by the Renewable Heritage Trust which has now restored it and uses it to generate green electricity. Howsham Hall is now powered for electricity by the mill!

# History behind the Bedroom Names

All our rooms are named after notable places within the Howardian Hills, an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty between the North York Moors National Park, the Yorkshire Wolds and the Vale of York. It covers 204 sq km (79 sq miles) of the North Yorkshire Countryside and is a patchwork of arable and pasture fields, scenic villages and historic country houses.



## Howsham

There was no name more suited to our stunning Bridal Suite; the jewel in the crown of Howsham Hall.

With sweeping views from the bay windows across the landscaped grounds to the South-East of the house, this suite is flooded with natural light all day.

## Howard

Named after Castle Howard, a stately home and private residence of the Carlisle branch of the Howard family for over 300 years. Castle Howard is not a true castle, but is named so as it was erected on the site of a former military castle. The house dates from 1699 and took over 100 years to complete. It is Grade 1 listed and one of the Treasure Houses of England.



## Kirkham

The ruins of Kirkham Priory are situated on the banks of the river Derwent at Kirkham, North Yorkshire. The priory was founded in the 1120s and was surrendered in 1539 during the Dissolution of the Monasteries. The ruins are now Grade 1 listed and in the care of English Heritage.



## Nunnington

Nunnington Hall is a country house located in the village of Nunnington. The first Nunnington Hall was mentioned in the thirteenth century and has had many different owners. The building we see today is a combination of seventeenth and eighteenth-century work. The house is now in the care of the National Trust.



## Slingsby

The village of Slingsby was first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. It is part of the Hovingham manor, which was sold to the fourth Earl of Carlisle, owner of Castle Howard, in 1751 and whose family still hold the title today.

## Newburgh

Newburgh Priory was originally an Augustinian priory. It was founded in 1145 and became a family home following the dissolution of the priory in 1538. It passed to George Wombwell, 3rd Baronet and is now the home of the 7th Baronet and his family. The house is opened to the public on specific days of the year.



## Hovingham

Hovingham Hall is a country house in the village of Hovingham. It has been the seat of the Worsley family and the childhood home of the Duchess of Kent. It was built in the 18th century on a site the Worsleys have occupied since the 16th century. The house and gardens are open to the public for a limited time each year but is closed on Sundays.

# History behind the Bedrooms continued..

## Helmsley

Helmsley Castle is a medieval castle situated in the market town of Helmsley.

During the English Civil War the castle was besieged by Sir Thomas Fairfax in 1644. It was held for the king for 3 months before it was surrendered to Parliament. During this time much of the walls, gates, and the east tower were destroyed. Thomas Brown inherited the castle in 1711, however he commissioned the building of a new country house and left the castle to decay. Although still owned by the Feversham family of Duncombe Park, the castle is now in the care of English Heritage.



## Malton

Malton is a market town in North Yorkshire. In the 11th century a wooden Norman castle, Malton Castle, was built in what is now Castle Garden. In 1569 a new house was built on the castle site and in 1602 the house was rebuilt to a grander scale. The house was subsequently demolished in 1674. The Old Lodge Hotel is the remaining fragment of the original Jacobean house and its size hints at the grandeur of the complete structure.

## Welburn

Welburn is a village in Ryedale, North Yorkshire, on the bank of the river Derwent. It is a small village with one pub, the Crown and Cushion, and is one of the few remaining villages with a red telephone box located near the centre of the village.

Castle Howard railway station was a minor railway serving Welburn and the stately home at Castle Howard. On the York to Scarborough Line it was opened in 1845. The station was often used by the aristocracy, notably Queen Victoria when she visited Castle Howard in 1850. It closed to passenger traffic in 1930. A road was built from the station to the stately home, and became a public road in the early 1900s.





## Derwent

The Derwent is a river in Yorkshire in the north of England. It flows from Fylingdales Moor in the North York Moors National Park, then southwards as far as its confluence with the River Hertford, then westwards through the Vale of Pickering, south through Kirkham Gorge and the Vale of York, joining the River Ouse at Barmby on the Marsh.

## Pickering

Pickering is an ancient market town in the Ryedale district of North Yorkshire. According to legend the town was founded by King Peredurus around 270 BC. The legend has it that the king lost his ring and accused a young maiden of stealing it, but later that day the ring was found in a pike caught in the river. The king was so happy to find his ring he married the maiden; the name Pike-ring changed over the years to Pickering.



# Local Walks & Attractions

We will be delighted to advise you on local walking routes.

If you just fancy a breath of fresh air, we recommend a brief walk to our Folly in the Orchard and Howsham Mill.

## York Attractions

The National Railway Museum York  
nrm.org.uk  
0844 815 3139

York Castle Museum  
yorkcastlemuseum.org.uk  
01904 687687

Yorkshire Museum  
yorkshireremuseum.org.uk  
01904 687687

York Minster  
yorkminster.org  
01904 557200

Merchant Adventurers Hall  
merchantshallyork.org  
01904 654818

Clifford's Tower  
english-heritage.org.uk  
0370 3331181

JORVIK Viking Centre  
jorvikvikingcentre.co.uk  
01904 615505

York Dungeon  
thedungeons.com  
01904 632599

York Art Gallery  
yorkartgallery.org.uk  
01904 687687

York Chocolate Story  
yorkschocholatestory.com  
01904 527765

City Cruises York  
citycruisesyork.com  
01904 628324

Treasurer's House  
nationaltrust.org.uk  
01904 624247



# Bedroom Information

## Room Information

We hope you enjoy your stay at Howsham Hall and find everything you need to make your stay comfortable.

In your room you will find tea and coffee making facilities, complimentary luxury toiletries, fluffy dressing gowns, bottled water and a USB charging point for your use.

You also have access to fresh milk, juice and bottled water in your landing fridge. Please find this fridge located on the communal landing outside your room. Here you will also find complimentary sweet treats. Please help yourself to whatever you need.

We also have the following items available on request:

- Smart TV with HDMI inputs
- Iron & Ironing Board
- Child Proofing Kit

## Breakfast

Continental breakfast will be served between 8.30am-9.30am in the Morning Room during your stay.

## Check Out

You must vacate the venue by 10.30am on your departure day. Please do take care to check your room thoroughly and remove any personal belongings as we cannot retain these after your departure.

## Wi-Fi

You are welcome to use our Guest Wi-fi network. Simply select the 'HowshamGuest' network – there is no password required.

## Smoking

Please note that smoking is not permitted in the bedrooms. A cleaning charge of £200 per room will be applied to the host's account if smoking occurs.

## Bar

The bar will be open on the day of the event and whereas we accept both cash and cards (not American Express), we would advise you to bring some cash as there can be network challenges in century old buildings!

Please note drinking your own alcohol on the day of the event is not permitted, if you do consume your own alcohol the house team will confiscate the items, the bar may ultimately be closed and a supplementary corkage charge will be applied to the host's account.

On the day prior to the event your host will have arranged the hospitality and will doubtless relay this information to you. Any alcohol you bring on-site will be locked away on the event day and returned on your departure.

# Bedroom Information continued..

## Emergency Contact

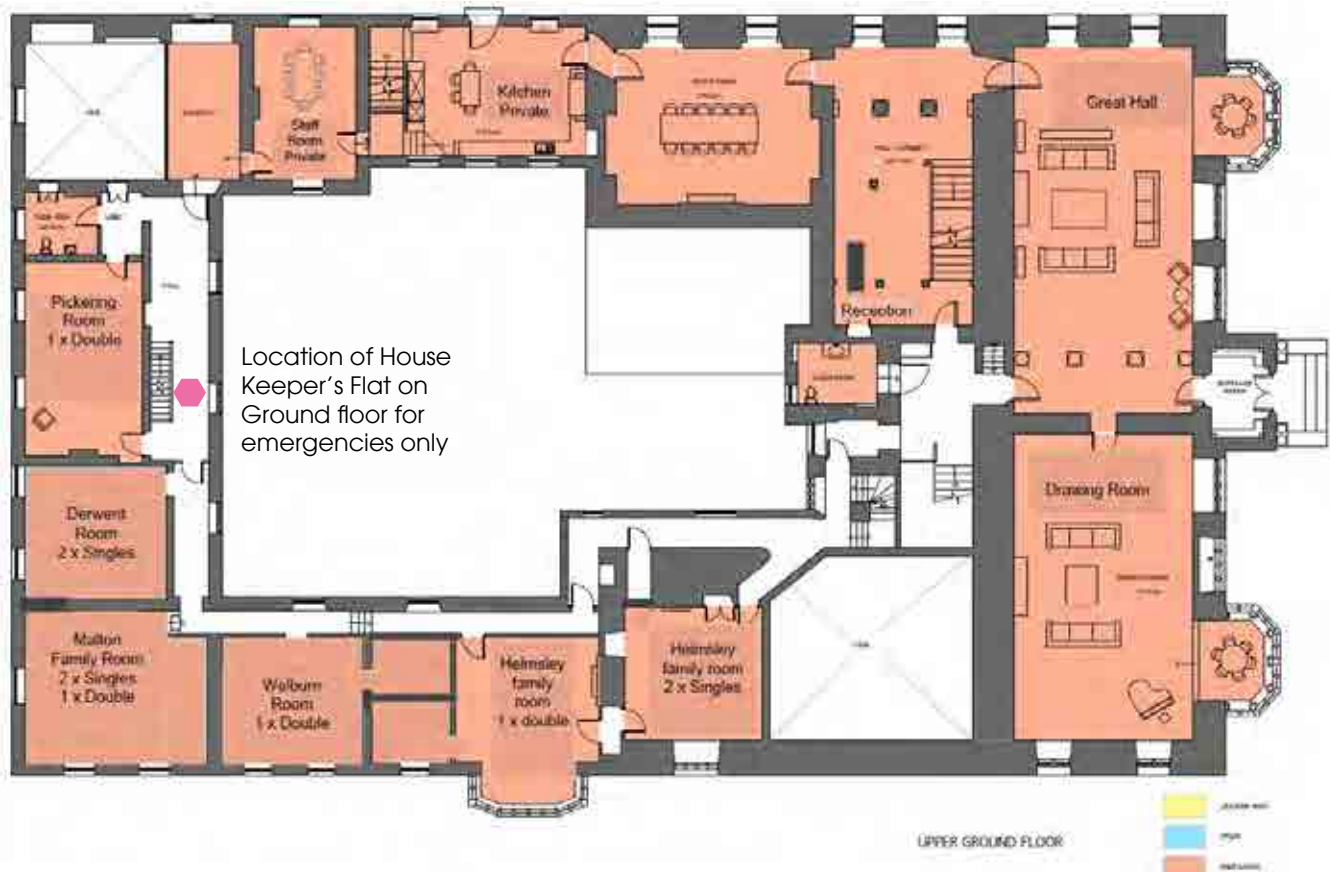
Should a non-fire emergency arise during your stay please call the Resident Housekeeper on 07831115591. If you are unable to raise anyone on this number, use the radios on the nearest landing on Channel 1. Alternatively, the location of the Housekeeper's flat is shown on the plans further on in this document.

## Instructions for Using the Nespresso Machine

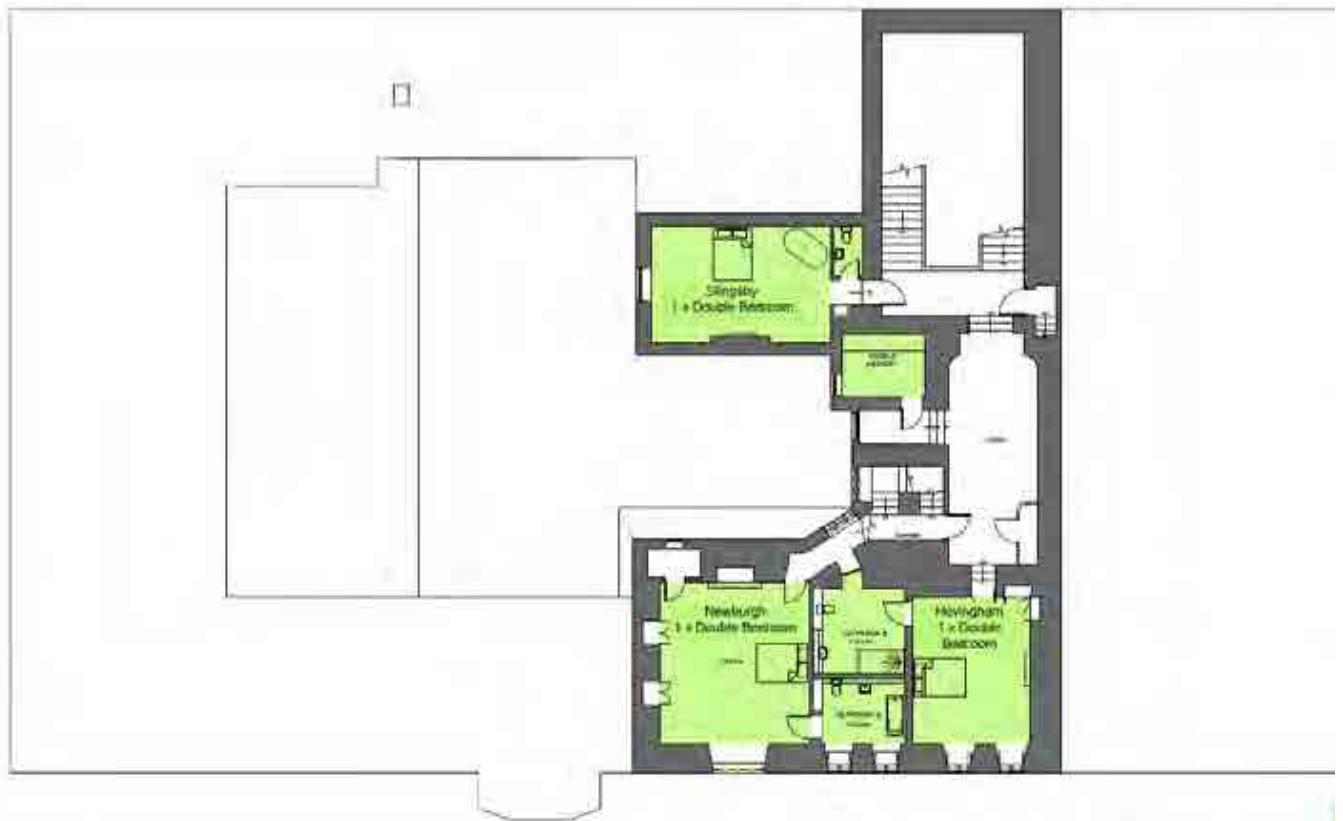
- Rinse then fill the water tank.
- Press the Espresso or Lungo button to activate the machine.
- Blinking Lights: heating up (25 sec.). Steady Lights: ready
- Lift the lever completely and insert a Nespresso capsule.  
(or place a cup with your selected tea bag underneath when making tea)
- Close the lever and place a cup under the coffee outlet.
- Press the Espresso (40 ml) or the Lungo (110 ml) button to start. Preparation will stop automatically. To stop the coffee flow or top up your coffee, press again.
- Remove the cup. Lift and close the lever to eject the capsule into the used capsule container.

# Howsham Hall Layout & Room Locations

## Ground Floor & Courtyard Bedrooms



# First Floor



# Top Floor



FIRST FLOOR

# Safety Information

Howsham Hall borders the River Derwent along occasionally steep banks. This represents a hazard for children or guests who require supervision. Please make it clear to your guests and family that children must be attended in the grounds at all times. There are two throwing lines in the grounds bordering the river.

Only residential guests are permitted to visit the upper floors. All children staying overnight at Howsham must be supervised at all times when on the upper floors as the staircase and surrounding banister and areas are of an historic nature and therefore not up to modern safety standards.

## Fire Emergency Plan - Residential Guests

**Please read this and satisfy yourself that you understand it.**

Please do not hesitate to contact us to review any of the points in the document. Please inform us if you or any of your guests require a personal evacuation plan.

Howsham Hall does not have staff on duty overnight other than the Resident Housekeeper who is available in emergencies only. You and your guests must therefore be sufficiently familiar with the Fire Emergency plan and escape routes to be able to evacuate the building unaided should the fire alarm sound. Escape Route plans are available in each bedroom.

In order to minimise the risk of a fire event:

- Please do not light fires, candles or any naked flame in any other room.
- Smoking is not permitted inside the house, including bedrooms.
- Any electrical appliances which you bring with you should be unplugged whilst not in use
- Please familiarise yourself with your nearest exit

Before you retire to bed, please ensure:

- That you do not leave the fire burning unattended
- That you close all internal doors
- You ensure that fire doors are unobstructed
- You leave corridor lights on
- That external doors are locked but not bolted



# FIRE ACTION PLAN

Action on discovering a fire      RAISE THE ALARM CALL 999

Evacuation of the premises      SIMULTANEOUS EVACUATION

## EVACUATE EVERYONE

Assembly      MEET AT DESIGNATED MEETING POINT  
FRONT LAWN IN FRONT OF MAIN ENTRANCE

### In the event of a fire

Whoever identifies a fire will raise the alarm immediately by activating the nearest call point before leaving the building by the nearest safe exit. This person or a Manager or Supervisor will contact the emergency services and a Manager or Supervisor will ensure that the building is being evacuated and the alarm is sounding.

On leaving the building all persons/ staff and visitors or guests should proceed immediately to the assembly point. Under no circumstances should guests attempt to collect personal belongings, or to re-enter the building after the evacuation.

The responsible person, so far as possible, should prevent people re-entering the building while the alarm is sounding or before express permission has been given to re-enter the building by the fire & rescue service.

The designated evacuation routes for visitors will be via the nearest safe fire exit and then to a place of assembly as indicated in the Fire Action Plan.

The Manager or Supervisor will circulate the outside of the building assisting clients to make their way to the assembly point and conduct a roll call. Once all guests have exited the building, the Manager or Supervisor will close all accessible doors and windows to prevent the spread of fire, providing this does not put themselves or others at risk.

If any person is missing from the roll call, the emergency services will be informed immediately.

Continued on next page...



## Fighting Fires

Fire-fighting equipment, in the form of portable fire extinguishers, is provided throughout the building. This equipment may only be used under the following circumstances:

- The alarm has been raised and the evacuation has begun
- The fire is small (no bigger than a waste paper bin) and self-contained
- It is apparent what class of fire it is
- The appropriate fire extinguisher is available
- The person intending to use the extinguisher is not in any immediate danger and will not endanger anyone else by its use
- They are competent and confident in its use

Should the fire not be extinguished by the use of one extinguisher no further attempt should be made to extinguish the fire & the person should leave the building by the nearest safe exit.

Even where the fire is apparently extinguished, the person should then leave the building by the nearest safe exit and await the arrival of the fire and rescue service.

## Attendance by the fire & rescue service

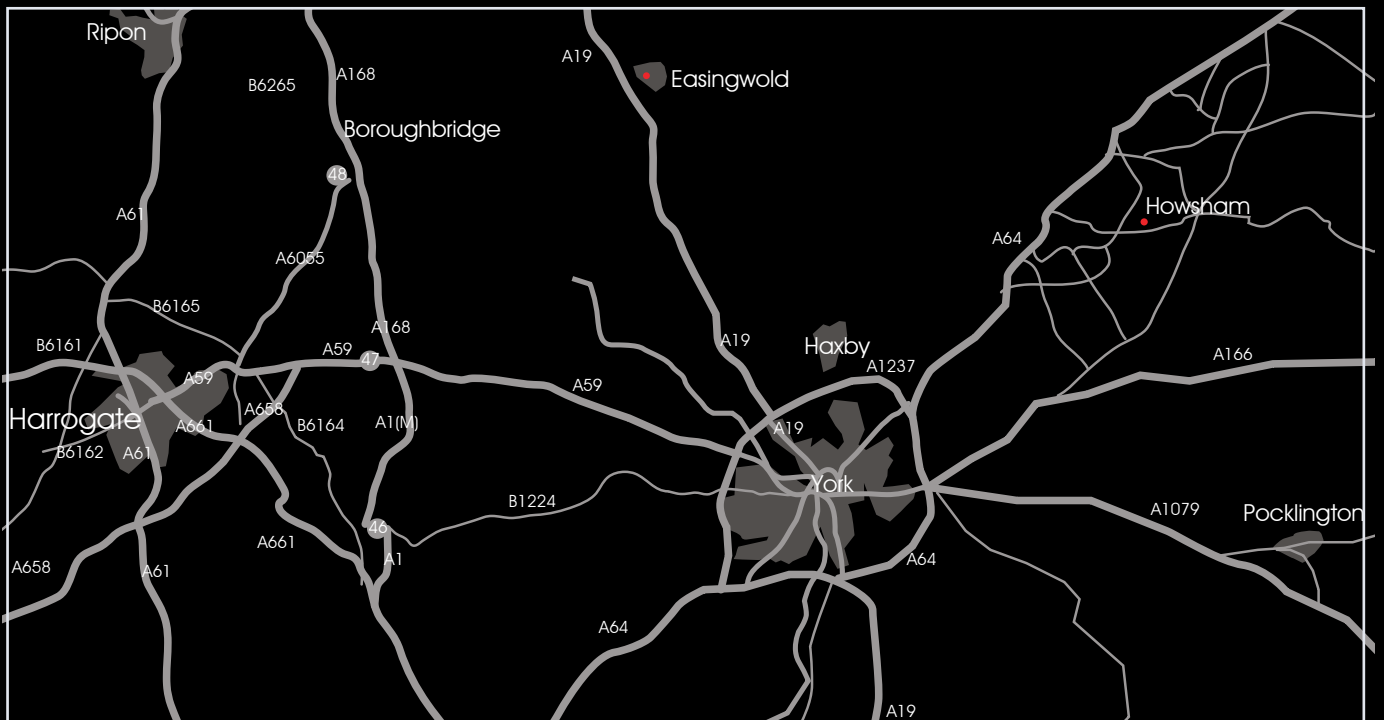
Free access for the fire and rescue service should be maintained to the site.

The Manager or supervisor is responsible for meeting the fire and rescue service and providing them with whatever assistance and information they may require.

On arrival the fire and rescue service should be informed of:

- The success of the evacuation and the numbers and possible locations of any persons who have not attended roll call,
- The location and nature of the fire if known and the location and quantities of any potentially hazardous substances such as dry cleaning solvents, bottled gasses or fireworks.

In the event of an emergency,  
please contact our Resident House Keeper,  
**07831115591**  
or see the location of the  
Resident House Keeper's Accommodation  
on the Ground Floor Plan



These plans are for guidance only and must not be relied upon as a statement of fact.

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