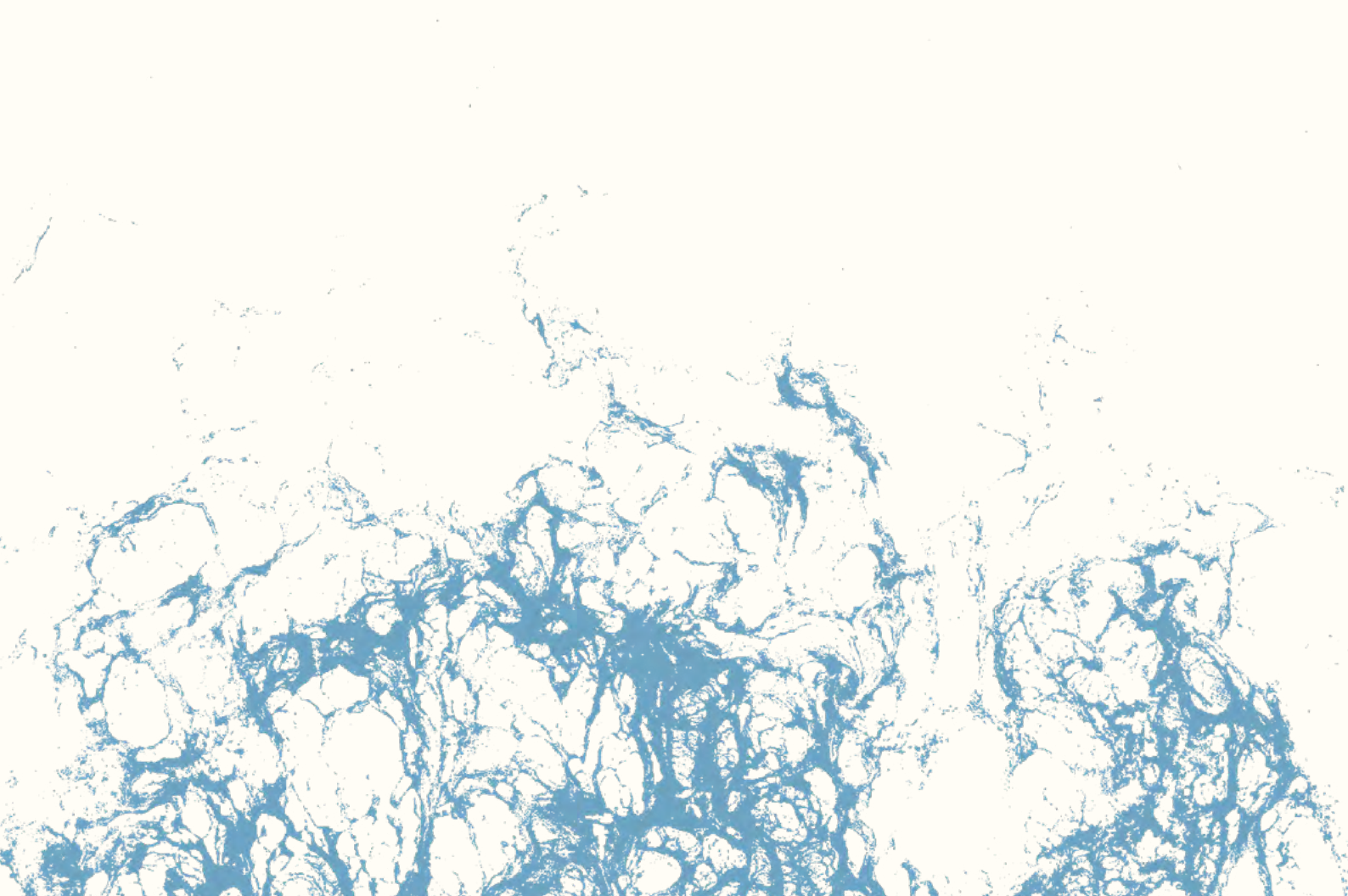


POLHAWN
FORT

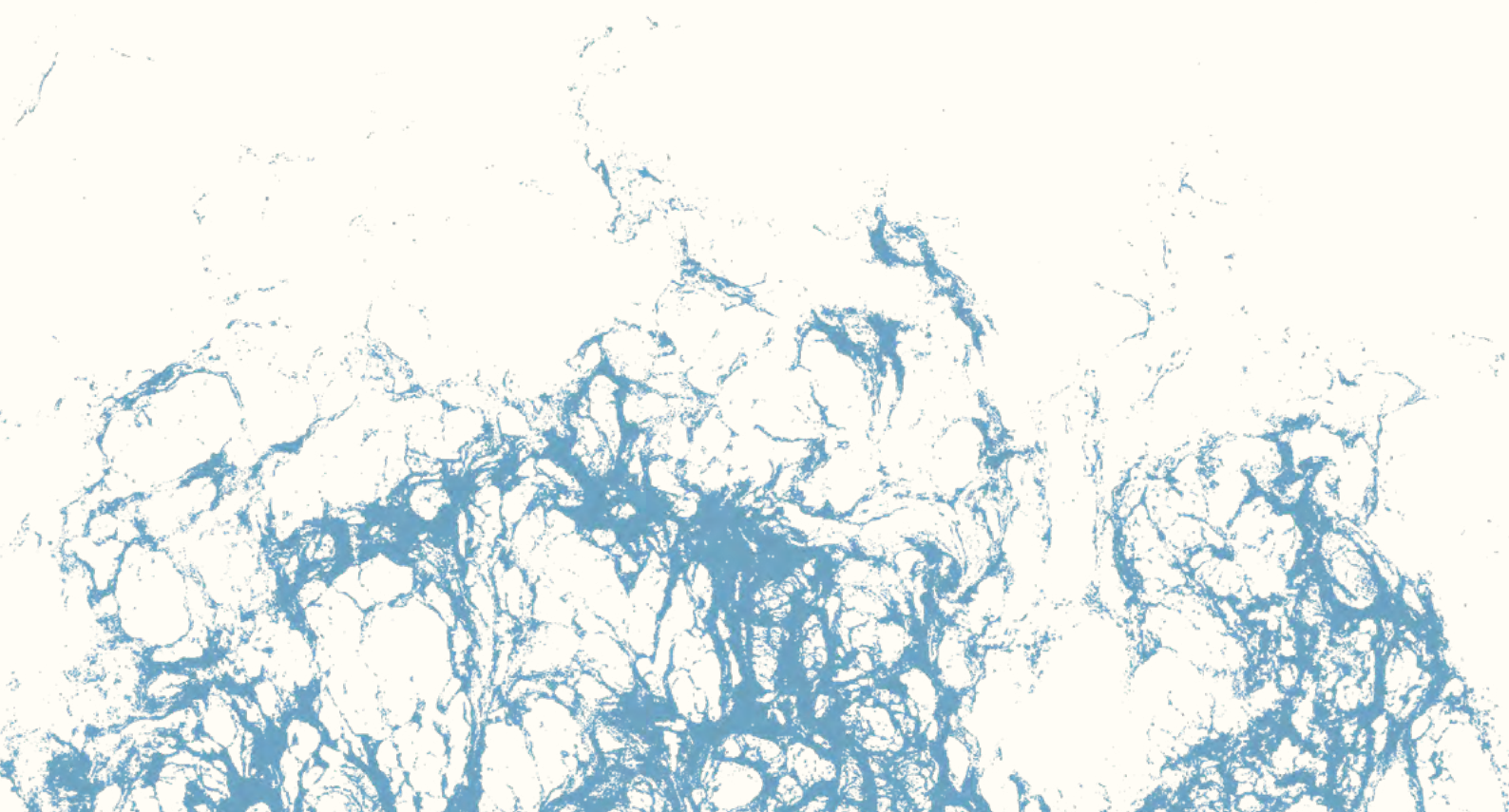
Where the land meets the sea

www.polhawnfort.com





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Nestling halfway down a Cornish clifftop overlooking the spectacular Whitsand Bay, Polhawn Fort is a historic hideaway for exclusive weddings and events.

A world of its own where breathtaking beauty meets welcoming warmth, we invite you to feel right at home. The Fort is yours to share with your loved ones. Immerse yourself fully for the week or stay for the weekend. Either way, the memories made will last a lifetime.

The History

Built in 1867, originally as a deterrent to Napoleon III, Polhawn Fort was designed with strength, security and longevity in mind. The threat of a hostile landing on Whitsand Bay was over before the build was complete, so the Fort has never seen battle. Since then, the building has been reimaged as a private home, guest house, hotel and wedding venue.

Our Approach

A family owned and managed venue, Polhawn Fort's approach is friendly and free-spirited. We believe weddings and events should be fun and a true expression of yourself. That's why we try to keep rules and restrictions to a minimum, allowing you to use the space as you wish.

Stay Here

Available for stays midweek or over the weekend, Polhawn Fort comfortably sleeps 16 guests within the exclusive hire agreement. Need extra beds? Let us know as we can often accommodate an additional eight guests on request.

Local Activities

While here, we invite you to do as much or as little as you like. Soak up the Cornish sun by day and star gaze by night. Go wild swimming in the ocean or enjoy a soothing soundbath by the bay. Take a leisurely hike along the South-West coastal path toward the ancient Rame Head, or meander through the Grade One gardens at Mount Edgcumbe Country Park. There's more than enough to fill a few days here and you'll find the very best of Cornwall within easy reach.



Weddings

A breathtaking backdrop for wow-factor weddings

A wedding at Polhawn Fort is a moment in history. Secluded and serene, the setting overlooking a private cove is picture perfect, while the Napoleonic Fort plays host to celebrations both large and small. Soak up the ocean views over a glass of Champagne. Dine together outdoors under the stars or indoors within the Fort's walls. Reminisce on the relaxed roof terrace.

Owned by The Wicksteed family since 1988, Polhawn Fort has welcomed weddings for the past 29 years. It's what we do best. Throughout the seasons, our venue can be transformed to suit your style of occasion. Formal, laid-back or something in between, the space is yours to use as you wish.

Available for exclusive hire midweek or over the weekend, our venue's indoor and outdoor spaces are all yours for the time you are here. We offer you complete freedom to create a wedding that's personal to you.

Your Wedding Your Way

A wedding is a celebration of you and your life together. And we want you to cherish this moment in a place that feels personal. As a family-owned and run venue, we're able to make our own rules and that's why we have kept them to a bare minimum.

Other than a few restrictions that are beyond our control, you're free to use Polhawn Fort as your own. Whatever the vision for your wedding, we'll connect you with the people who can help make it happen.

The After Party

Once supper has been served, it's time for the evening after party. The Fort has a full alcohol and entertainment licence, allowing you to choose the suppliers that best suit your style of occasion.

Stock up your own bar with specially selected spirits, beers, ales and wines to serve to guests free of charge, without incurring corkage fees. Alternatively, bring in a bar supplier to run a paid bar fully stocked with your tipples of choice.

Dance the night away to the sounds of your preferred DJ or live band, or ask us for details of our favourite entertainment suppliers.

Winter Weddings

Built with 8-foot deep, granite walls, The Fort is designed to weather all seasons. Winter weddings here bring a new vibe, where cosy comfort and log fires become the order of the day. The wild coastal storms and pared-back nature are enjoyed from within.

Between the snow and rain, Cornwall's micro-climate provides plenty of sunshine year-round for brisk walks along the beach and outdoor photo opportunities.

Polhawn Fort is available for exclusive weddings throughout the year and offers seasonal reductions. Get in touch for details of our winter rates.



Summerhouse + Lawn



Capacity - Seated: 100

On a summer's day, there is nowhere more romantic to say your vows than our Summerhouse. Positioned cliffside between the Fort and the ocean with far-reaching views, the Summerhouse is fully licensed for outdoor wedding ceremonies.

Once the formalities are finished, our manicured lawns overlooking the secluded cove offer ample space for outdoor marquee receptions and dining al fresco. Our recommended suppliers know the Fort inside out and will be happy to arrange a site visit to talk through the plans for your wedding and suggest the most suitable options.

Fort's Halls



Capacity - Seated: up to 100 | Standing: up to 100

For indoor weddings, The Fort offers two inviting spaces for your special day. Larger parties can be hosted in the Grand Napoleonic Hall seating up to 120 guests, while the Ocean Room is ideal for small, intimate weddings of up to 30 guests.

The warm, earthy tones of the Fort's natural stone provide a blank canvas for your event. Style the space with elaborate floral displays or keep it understated and let the Fort's natural beauty become the backdrop.

The Terrace



Capacity - Seated: Options for 57, 64 and 80 guests | Standing: 100

Perfect for pre or post ceremony gatherings, The Terrace is a stretch-tent space on the roof of the Fort. Decorated with fairy lights and surrounded by lush vegetation, it's the ideal place to relax and reminisce.

Due to our coastal location and occasional strong winds, there may be times when The Terrace is unavailable. Guests will be notified 24 hours before your event should adverse weather conditions affect the use of the space.

Food at the Fort

When it comes to food at Polhawn Fort, the choice is fully yours. Whether you have five courses of fine dining or an informal al fresco BBQ in mind, you'll be in complete control of the catering you choose for your wedding.

We work with a handpicked collection of Cornwall's best caterers who, between them, can deliver every type of cuisine. Innovative menus to accommodate vegans, vegetarians, children and those with specific dietary needs are available, all cooked with the same passion and panache.

Seasonal, locally-sourced produce and superb service come as standard. No matter the style of event, you can be certain that you and your guests will enjoy a celebratory feast that matches the fabulous setting.

Our in-house team are on hand to talk you through the options available, the menus, seating configurations and a guide on costs. If you have your own preferred caterer in mind, that's no problem either. We welcome you to choose the suppliers that best suit your wedding style.





It's time to Sleep

The Fort can comfortably sleep 16 across 8 bedrooms, all with beautiful garden and sea views. Three suites (Ocean, Wave and Moon) are located on the ground floor with a further five bedrooms (Pebble, Shell, Ripple, Surf and Sand) on the lower floor.

Our spacious bedrooms feature vaulted ceilings, super king or twin beds with ultra-comfortable Vispring mattresses and 100% Egyptian cotton linen. Most rooms have ensuite bathrooms too stocked with organic, Cornish toiletries.

All bedrooms at Polhawn Fort come with tea and coffee facilities.

An additional 8 guests can be accommodated on request.



Events

Special occasions are worthy of a special event space. Polhawn Fort is just the place to celebrate in style, alongside those who mean the most to you.

Whether you're planning a large-scale birthday party, an intimate anniversary dinner, a corporate ceremony or a relaxing wellness retreat, our Fort offers a welcoming space away from the outside world. For more solemn occasions such as funeral wakes, Polhawn Fort is a discreet destination to say your final farewell.

Private Parties

If there's a place to escape to and celebrate the good times, it's Polhawn Fort. A sensational setting that's steeped in history, our venue is fully set up for hosting parties of every kind.



Retreats

When it comes to retreat locations, it's hard to find a more picturesque setting than Polhawn Fort. Secluded and soul-enriching, a few days spent here will work wonders on your wellbeing.

Hired exclusively for yoga, pilates and mindfulness retreats, we provide the space for wellness specialists to create a tailor-made escape. A variety of indoor and outdoor spaces are available for dry hire, alongside accommodation for up to 24 guests.

The background of the page is a classic marbled paper pattern, featuring intricate, organic shapes in shades of brown, tan, and cream. A large, dark blue oval is centered on the page, serving as a backdrop for the title. The title 'Homestays' is written in a white, elegant serif font, positioned horizontally across the middle of the blue oval.

Homestays

Recharge and rekindle away from the hustle of home.

Once here, you'll find it hard to leave. A place where relaxation is par for the course, you'll find home-from-home comforts and a location that calls for blissful days on the beach.

Our wedding couples and guests often choose to extend their stay with us, to enjoy more time with loved ones and experience all that Cornwall has to offer. A laid-back 'afterparty' of sorts.

For select dates in the year we also open the doors to other guests too, for self-catered homestays. Contact our team for further information.



Meet the Team

Polhawn Fort has been hosting weddings and events for the past 29 years.

Our experienced team has an abundance of skills and knowledge in event management, so you can rest assured your celebration will run like clockwork.

John & Teresa Wicksteed



John and Teresa have owned Polhawn Fort since 1988, initially as a weekend retreat while living in London. John split his time between London and Cornwall to renovate it, eventually relocating permanently to Cornwall to continue the work and raise their family. In 1995, they transformed their home into a wedding venue and have hosted events ever since. Teresa, a Fine Art graduate, displays her abstract paintings throughout the Fort. She recently graduated in Sound Healing and hosts sound baths and healing sessions at Polhawn and locally.



Rose Wicksteed

Daughter of John & Teresa, Rose spent her childhood running around the grounds of Polhawn and swimming in the sea. A multi award-winning Casting Director by profession and teacher of holistic modalities, Rose is based between the UK and Greece. Rose consults on the marketing, brand direction and interior design of Polhawn Fort, as it enters a new era of growth.



Bernard Wicksteed

Bernard was raised in Cornwall, living next to the Fort with his sister Rose and parents John & Teresa. After his studies he moved to London to pursue a career in animation and visual effects. For the past 14 years, he has been working on high-end visual effects animation for film and television, often leading and managing teams. After years of working with and observing his parents running the Fort, he now splits his time between his VFX career and consulting for Polhawn Fort.



James, General Manager

James joined Polhawn Fort in 2002 to assist with the maintenance of the venue and has since risen up the ranks to become General Manager. Since 2022, James has been responsible for the daily operations of all weddings and events, alongside managing larger scale maintenance projects.



Ruth, Client Visit Manager

Ruth has worked at Polhawn Fort since 1998 and is often the first point of contact for wedding clients and registrars. Ruth's day-to-day activities include managing viewing days at the Fort, meeting prospective couples and overseeing all sales enquiries.



Kyran, Operations Manager

Kyran joined the Polhawn family in 2012 straight out of Sixth Form to become an assistant to the maintenance team. When Kyran is not on the tools, he keeps himself busy with meeting registrars, hosting tours and assisting couples with their wedding day preparations.



Nicky, Head Gardener

Nicky is our green-fingered gardener and has been maintaining the grounds at Polhawn Fort since 2016. Her passion for planting has proved invaluable throughout the years, providing creative input into the development of new garden areas for clients to enjoy throughout the seasons.



Book your visit

If there is a place that should be seen in person, it's this one.

We'd love to show you around our Fort and share ideas for your event.

Our doors are open for visitors: **Friday and Monday - 13.30-15.00**

We're located by car

45 minutes from Plymouth

90 minutes from Bristol

4 hours from London

For couples with confirmed dates, please call the office to arrange a time for re-visits.

Contact the team who will be happy to help!

