

# Blueprint Planning Tool 4

## Venue Comparison Scorecard



Part of the Yorkshire Wedding  
Blueprint Planning Framework

# Section 1

## Why This Scorecard Matters

Most couples choose a venue early.

It feels like momentum.

It feels like progress.

It often feels emotional.

But a venue does more than provide a backdrop.

It determines:

- How your guest numbers feel in reality
- Whether your atmosphere intention is achievable
- How your budget proportions are affected
- How your suppliers are required to operate
- How flexible your timeline can be

Without structure, venue visits become impression-based.

One space feels grand.

Another feels intimate.

A third feels prestigious.

But those impressions are rarely measured against the foundations you have already defined.

This scorecard exists to prevent reactive decisions.

It allows you to compare venues objectively — not by removing emotion, but by anchoring it to:

- Your agreed guest range
- Your ranked priorities
- Your protected financial allocations
- Your non-negotiables

When evaluated through that lens, venue choices become clearer.

Not louder.

Clearer.

## **A note about the length of this scorecard tool:**

You may have already noticed that this scorecard is pretty detailed.  
That is intentional.

Venue decisions influence far more than aesthetics.  
They affect accessibility, supplier flexibility, guest experience, financial structure and the practical flow of your entire day.

A thorough evaluation prevents subtle compromises that only become visible later.

## Section 2

### The Yorkshire Venue Landscape

Yorkshire offers one of the most diverse wedding venue landscapes in the country.

From stately homes and historic castles to rural barns, coastal hotels, contemporary city spaces, traditional hotel function suites, and community-based venues, the range is unusually broad.

Some venues offer **exclusive use**, meaning the entire property is reserved for one wedding. This can apply to many venue types, including country houses, barns, and boutique hotels.

This diversity is one of Yorkshire's strengths.

It is also the reason structured comparison matters.

The venues listed below are illustrative only.

They are included to demonstrate the range of settings available across Yorkshire.

Their inclusion does not imply recommendation.

There are many more venues across North, West and South Yorkshire than can reasonably be listed here. This overview is not exhaustive. It is intended to highlight the breadth of choice rather than provide a directory.

### Historic Estates & Country Houses

Yorkshire is home to some of the most architecturally significant wedding venues in the UK.

Examples include:

- Castle Howard
- Allerton Castle
- Wentworth Woodhouse
- Goldsborough Hall
- Ripley Castle

These venues typically offer scale, formal gardens and architectural impact, often at higher investment levels.

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## **Barns & Rural Conversions**

Across North, West and South Yorkshire, converted barns and estate venues provide character-rich alternatives.

Examples include:

- The Tithe Barn Bolton Abbey
- Danby Castle Barn
- Whirlow Brook Hall

These venues often combine atmosphere with countryside setting, though logistics and weather contingency require careful review.

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## **Contemporary & Urban Venues**

Leeds, York, Sheffield and surrounding towns offer modern and industrial spaces with strong evening energy.

Examples include:

- The Faversham
- The Engine Shed
- Cutlers' Hall

These venues often provide accessibility, central accommodation and practical transport links.

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## **Coastal & Distinctive Settings**

Yorkshire's coastline and moorland regions offer unique alternatives.

Examples include:

- The Spa Scarborough
- Raven Hall Hotel

Such venues offer character and views but may require careful guest travel planning.

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## **Traditional Hotels Function Suites**

Typical examples in the Harrogate area include:

- The Majestic Hotel
- The Crown Hotel
- Rudding Park
- The Old Swan
- DoubleTree by Hilton

## **Community & Civic Venues**

Not every Yorkshire wedding takes place in a castle or barn.

Community and civic spaces offer flexible, accessible and often cost-effective options.

Examples include:

- The Sun Pavilion
- Local village halls across North, West and South Yorkshire

These venues often allow greater supplier flexibility and budget control, though they may require more styling and coordination.

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Yorkshire's range means there is no "standard" wedding venue.

Whether you are considering a grand estate, a rural barn, a city venue, a coastal hotel or a community space, this scorecard helps you evaluate each option against your own foundations.

## Section 3

### How to Use This Scorecard

This scorecard is designed to be completed once per venue.

If you are viewing multiple venues, print additional copies or duplicate the file.

You may wish to take this scorecard with you to each viewing.

Not to complete in full – but to quietly guide what you notice.

It acts as a prompt.

It reminds you what to observe:

How the space feels at your agreed guest numbers.

Whether your priorities are genuinely supported.

Whether the atmosphere aligns with your original intention.

During the visit, remain present.

Observe freely.

Ask questions naturally.

Take brief notes if helpful.

Do not attempt to complete the structured evaluation while you are being shown around.

Instead, complete it as soon as possible after each visit – ideally on the same day.

Memory softens quickly.

Impressions blur.

Details fade.

Move through each category calmly.

Avoid comparing venues while completing an individual scorecard.

Evaluate each venue independently first.

Only after you have completed a scorecard for every option should you compare them side by side.

The aim is not to “score” a winner.

The aim is to understand alignment.

## **A Photographer's Perspective**

When comparing venues, couples often focus on cost, capacity, and catering. These are important, but from a photography perspective a few additional factors can make a significant difference to the final images you will treasure for years to come.

After photographing many weddings across Yorkshire, certain venue features consistently make a noticeable difference to the final images.

Look carefully at:

### **Natural light**

Venues with large windows, glass doors, or outdoor ceremony spaces tend to produce brighter, more flattering images.

### **Outdoor portrait locations**

Gardens, tree-lined paths, courtyards, or nearby scenic areas create opportunities for beautiful portraits without travelling far from the reception.

### **Indoor backup options**

Yorkshire weather is unpredictable. A venue with attractive indoor spaces ensures you can still capture meaningful images if it rains.

### **Space and layout**

Venues with generous space allow photographers to work discreetly without disrupting the ceremony or reception.

When evaluating venues, it is worth considering not only how the venue will feel on the day, but also **how it will appear in your wedding photographs for decades to come.**

# Section 4

## Foundations Anchor Panel

Before evaluating any venue, reconfirm the foundations you have already agreed.

Your decisions should not shift to fit a space.

The space should be assessed against your decisions.

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### Your Agreed Guest Range

Ideal range: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Absolute maximum: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Your Top Three Priorities

1. \_\_\_\_\_
  2. \_\_\_\_\_
  3. \_\_\_\_\_
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### Your Primary Financial Protection

(From the Budget Allocation Planner)

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### Your Non-Negotiables

Must happen:

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Must not happen:

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Read these quietly before completing each venue evaluation.

If a venue requires you to adjust these foundations, note that clearly in the sections that follow.

Alignment is intentional.

Drift is usually subtle.

# Section 5

## Capacity & Atmosphere Alignment

<b>Capacity &amp; Guest Comfort. For each venue consider:</b>	<b>Venue 1</b>	<b>Venue 2</b>	<b>Venue 3</b>
Does the space feel balanced at your agreed guest numbers?			
Would it require increasing numbers to feel full?			
Would it feel crowded at your ideal range?			
Do the venue staff appear experienced in coordinating weddings of your size?			
Is there natural flow between ceremony, drinks and dining areas?			
<b>Alignment Assessment (tick one per venue):</b>			
Strongly aligned			
Mostly aligned			
Some compromise			
Significant compromise			

Notes:

<b>Based on the experience you described in your Foundations Exercise, for each venue consider:</b>	<b>Venue 1</b>	<b>Venue 2</b>	<b>Venue 3</b>
Does this venue naturally support that atmosphere?			
Does it enhance or dilute your intention?			
Would minimal styling achieve your vision, or would significant transformation be required?			
<b>Alignment Assessment (tick one per venue):</b>			
Strongly aligned			
Mostly aligned			
Some compromise			
Significant compromise			

Notes:

## Section 6

### Priority Protection & Financial Alignment

#### Priority Protection

<b>For each venue, assess whether your top three priorities are genuinely supported. Ask:</b>	<b>Venue 1</b>	<b>Venue 2</b>	<b>Venue 3</b>
Does this venue enhance your highest-ranked priority?			
Would choosing this venue require compromising any of your top three?			
Does the venue naturally reinforce what matters most to you?			
<b>Alignment Assessment (tick one per venue):</b>			
Strongly aligned			
Mostly aligned			
Some compromise			
Significant compromise			

Notes:

#### Financial Alignment

<b>Using your Budget Allocation Planner that you completed in Tool 3 as reference:</b>	<b>Venue 1</b>	<b>Venue 2</b>	<b>Venue 3</b>
Does this venue sit comfortably within your intended proportion for venue and catering?			
Would selecting this venue compress other protected areas?			
Would any financial stretch feel justified and intentional?			
<b>Alignment Assessment (tick one per venue):</b>			
Comfortably aligned			
Slight stretch			
Noticeable stretch			
Significant distortion			
<b>Estimated Venue + Catering Total:</b> £ _____			

Notes:

## Section 7

### Operational Practicality & Non-Negotiables

#### Operational Practicality

<b>Guest Accessibility &amp; Comfort. Note the following factors:</b>	<b>Venue 1</b>	<b>Venue 2</b>	<b>Venue 3</b>
Step-free access throughout key areas			
Lift access where required			
Distance between ceremony, drinks and dining spaces			
Seating comfort for elderly guests			
Parking capacity and proximity			
Clear signage and ease of navigation			
<b>Alignment Assessment (tick one per venue):</b>			
Strongly supportive			
Generally workable			
Some operational compromise			
Significant operational limitation			

Notes:

<b>Children &amp; Family Practicality</b>	<b>Venue 1</b>	<b>Venue 2</b>	<b>Venue 3</b>
Is there secure outdoor space where children can move freely?			
Is the area safely enclosed?			
Are there quiet spaces if children need rest?			
Are baby changing facilities available and accessible?			
Is the layout manageable for parents with pushchairs?			
<b>Alignment Assessment (tick one per venue):</b>			
Strongly supportive			
Generally workable			
Some compromise			
Not well suited for children			

Notes:

<b>Venue Safety and Other Standards. Are these factors present at the venue:</b>	<b>Venue 1</b>	<b>Venue 2</b>	<b>Venue 3</b>
Clearly visible fire safety measures			
Emergency exits clearly marked and unobstructed			
Secure entrances and exits			
Adequate lighting in outdoor areas			
General sense of safety and oversight			
Staff presence and professionalism			
<b>Alignment Assessment (tick one per venue):</b>			
Strongly reassuring			
Generally acceptable			
Minor concerns			
Significant concerns			

Notes:

## Location & Guest Travel Practicality

Location & Guest Travel Practicality	Venue 1	Venue 2	Venue 3
Proximity to suitable local hotels			
Availability of accommodation at different price points			
Ease of taxi and late-night transport availability			
Is the venue remote or difficult to reach after dark?			
Travel time between ceremony location and reception (if separate)			
Risk of guests needing to drive between locations			
Availability of on-site accommodation (No. of rooms)?			
<b>Alignment Assessment (tick one per venue):</b>			
Strongly supportive			
Generally workable			
Some inconvenience			
Significant inconvenience			

Notes:

## Supplier & Policy Restrictions

<b>Supplier &amp; Policy Restrictions:</b>	<b>Venue 1</b>	<b>Venue 2</b>	<b>Venue 3</b>
Freedom to choose external suppliers			
Compulsory supplier lists			
Corkage policies			
Minimum spend thresholds			
Setup time restrictions			
Noise curfews			
Décor restrictions (candles, confetti, installations)			
<b>Alignment Assessment (tick one per venue):</b>			
Highly flexible			
Generally workable			
Moderately restrictive			
Highly restrictive			

Notes:

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## Operational Flow & Contingency

<b>Operational Flow &amp; Contingency:</b>	<b>Venue 1</b>	<b>Venue 2</b>	<b>Venue 3</b>
Clear wet-weather backup			
Transition flow between spaces			
Evening changeover logistics			
Power supply reliability			
Backup planning procedures			
<b>Alignment Assessment (tick one per venue):</b>			
Strongly supportive			
Generally workable			
Some compromise			
Significant limitation			

Notes:

# Non-Negotiables

This is based on what you have already decided “what must happen” and “what must not happen” when you completed planning tool 1.

<b>Non-Negotiable Fit (tick one per venue):</b>	<b>Venue 1</b>	<b>Venue 2</b>	<b>Venue 3</b>
Fully aligned			
Minor concern			
Noticeable conflict			
Direct conflict			

Notes:

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# Section 8

## Emotional Response

### Immediate Emotional Reaction

<b>After leaving the venue, without analysing details, what was your instinctive response?</b>	<b>Venue 1</b>	<b>Venue 2</b>	<b>Venue 3</b>
<b>Indicate one of these instinctive responses for each venue:</b>			
Confident and excited			
Excited but uncertain			
Relieved it is over			
Pressured			
Unsure			

Notes:

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### Confidence Level

<b>How confident did you feel about this venue once you reviewed it against your foundations?</b>	<b>Venue 1</b>	<b>Venue 2</b>	<b>Venue 3</b>
<b>Indicate one of these confidence levels for each venue:</b>			
Very confident			
Mostly confident			
Some hesitation			
Significant hesitation			

Notes:

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## Subtle Signals

<b>Consider quietly:</b>	<b>Venue 1</b>	<b>Venue 2</b>	<b>Venue 3</b>
Did you begin adjusting your priorities to make the venue fit?			
Did you feel you needed to decide quickly?			
Did anything feel slightly "off" but difficult to explain?			

**If so, record your answers clearly:**

# Section 9

## Comparative Decision Summary

Complete this summary only after you have finished a scorecard for every venue.

Do not complete it early.

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### Step Back

Review each completed scorecard calmly.

Without adding new information, reflect on what is already written.

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### Comparative Clarity

Which venue aligns most closely with your top three priorities?

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Which venue sits most comfortably within your allocated proportion from Tool 3?

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Which venue introduces the fewest operational compromises?

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## Emotional Confirmation Test

Answer each of the following independently, without overthinking.

1. If your current first-choice venue became unavailable tomorrow, how disappointed would you feel?

Very disappointed

Somewhat disappointed

Relieved

Uncertain

Why?

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2. If one of these venues were removed from your shortlist tomorrow, which removal would feel most significant?
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Why?

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3. Which venue would you regret not choosing?
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Why?

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If your answers consistently point toward the same venue, your decision is likely aligned.

If they differ, pause.

Revisit the relevant sections before committing.

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## **Final Decision Pause**

Before paying any deposit, confirm:

We are not adjusting our foundations to fit the venue.

We are not compressing protected priorities.

We are not ignoring operational concerns.

A venue should support your plan.

It should not reshape it.