

Welcome to Old Downton Lodge

Pippa, Willem and our Team wish you a warm welcome. We pride ourselves in providing a relaxing break in the heart of the Herefordshire countryside. We hope that everything you need will be in your room, but if there is anything we can do to make your stay with us even more enjoyable please ask a member of staff.

Guest Information

Restaurant

Breakfast is served between 8.30am and 9.30am

Lunch can be prebooked for parties of 8 or more

Afternoon Tea is served from 3pm to 5pm

Dinner is available from 6pm till 8.30pm Monday to Sunday with a choice of A la Carte or 6 course tasting menu.

Bookings for all reservations require a 24-hour notice period, and please make us aware of any dietary restrictions.

If you have not booked a table and wish to do so, please ask at Reception as it is sometimes possible to arrange a table last minute.

Guests can check in from 3pm and check out is at 11am.

Bills can be settled after breakfast at the bar

We accept all major credit/debit cards including American Express.

We operate a no smoking and no vaping policy at Old Downton Lodge.

Housekeeping

Mid-stay cleans will be completed daily, please do let us know if you would prefer us not to service your room and contact a member of the staff if you require extra towels, an iron and ironing board, toiletries, teas, coffees or fresh milk. Etc

Television

All Television are smart TV's with Freeview channels.

Wi-Fi

Network: OldDowntonLodge Guest wifi

There is no password – just log in.

Walks

We have some great circular walks from our doorstep. All are available online but if you wish to have a copy do ask and we will print one off for you. We also have detailed OS maps centred on the Lodge if you would like to find your own routes available for guests to borrow.

History of Old Downton

About 20,000 years ago during the last ice age a glacial lake was formed at Wigmore as a result of the ice sheets blocking the course of the river Teme. When the ice began to melt some 10,000 years ago the flood waters formed The Downton Gorge. Now Downton Gorge is one of the few remaining relict fragments of the ancient Royal Chase of Bringewood, which covered a large area in this part of the Welsh Borders during medieval times. It is the setting for Malcolm Saville's book *The Secret of the Gorge*. The Herefordshire Way runs through a small part of the gorge and the ancient woodland and in front of Downton Castle, the rest can be accessed by prior arrangement with Natural England.

The first written record of a settlement here is found in the Domesday Book, 1087, which shows that Anglo-Saxon farmers had been living here in the time of King Edward the Confessor (died 1066). There were two manors held by Ælmar and Ulfketel. At that time the village had already acquired its name. The name 'Downton' is a modernized form of the Old English 'Dunetune' (dun 'hill' + tun 'settlement, enclosure') and it describes the position of the settlement — the village on the slope of a hill. We don't know when 'on-the-Rock' was added to the village name. ('The Rock' refers to the sheer cliff face by Bow Bridge)

After the Norman Conquest, Downton was one of the manors held from the Crown by Ralph de Mortimer. In 1067, a year after the Conquest, Burrington (and also Elton) was still held by Edric the Wild, who refused to submit to the Normans but joined with the Welsh kings and engaged with them in border raids and other acts of resistance. Undoubtedly, the farming families of Downton

were caught up in this activity on one side or the other. William Fitz Osborn built Wigmore Castle to hold the area for the new Norman landowners and at around this time a defensive motte was also built at Downton (about 100 metres north of Old Downton House). This motte (also called The Tump and Castle Mound) is a scheduled ancient monument. It is built of stone rubble, has a base diameter of 23 metres and is about 3.5 metres high. It is thought to have had a stone octagonal tower on top, and there are signs of a bailey and outer enclosures, with a stream being dammed along one side to provide a moat.

The siting of the church nearby may be significant, as the sites chosen for churches were often near to earlier sacred sites. Little is known about the medieval village of Downton, but evidence of house platforms and ridge and furrow patterns in the fields at Old Downton suggest it was quite extensive. Exactly when and how the medieval village was deserted is not known but it is likely that outbreaks of the Black Death in the fourteenth century contributed to the village's decline. The precise date of the Tudor buildings at Old Downton is not known, but we do know that in 1591 Queen Elizabeth I, at the request of Lord Essex, made a grant of lands to Sir Gelling Meyrick and that the Manor of Downton was included in this grant. The Tudor manor house and gardens may have been built at this time and enhanced by later occupants. Sir Gelling Meyrick was executed in 1601 and his lands reverted to the Crown. Soon after they were reconveyed to George Hopton of Hopton Castle. By this time the iron works at Bringewood Forge had been established and this would have led to a new area of settlement around the Forge. In 1618 George Hopton conveyed to Richard More the Manor and Lordship of Downton.

The Old Church of St. Giles can be found at the back of Glebe Cottage, a Norman church built in the twelfth century – probably on the site of an earlier Anglo-Saxon church, it is a scheduled ancient monument. It was in the Old English style of architecture, having a belfry with one bell, a central aisle, porch, chancel and rood screen. It remained in use until the middle of the nineteenth century. The bell was moved to the new church in the 1860s. The church fell into ruin over the next hundred years, until all that remained were roofless walls and the tombstones in the graveyard. In the 1990s stabilisation work was carried out.

Near the church is a well, fed by a clear spring, which overflows to form a pool beside what seems to be an old drover's road running through Old Downton to Bow Bridge. The old well possibly provided a watering place for the animals on their way to Ludlow Market. The well is enclosed by stone walls dating from medieval times. Three ancient sunken tracks or holloways meet at this point and it is thought that the well may be much older than the medieval village of

Downton and may have been a sacred well. Little is known about the medieval village of Downton, but evidence of house platforms and furrow patterns in the fields at Old Downton suggest it was quite extensive. Exactly when and how the medieval village was deserted is not known

Downton Castle is an 18th century country house at Downton on the Rock. The estate was acquired by Richard Knight (1659-1749) a wealthy ironmaster of Madeley, Shropshire, and in due course passed to his grandson Richard Payne-Knight, who created the new house in a Gothic style. Upon his death the house was passed to his brother, Thomas Andrew Knight, an expert on apple breeding and a founder member of the Royal Horticultural Society. The last descendant of Thomas Andrew Knight to own the house was Denis Lennox, who sold it in 1979 to Bryanston Limited, the present owners.

ACTION IN CASE OF

FIRE

Guests are requested to familiarise themselves with emergency exits and fire alarm points on arrival.

If you discover a fire

Immediately operate the nearest fire alarm point.

Call the fire brigade:-

- Dial 999 to call the fire brigade.
- Give the operator your phone number 01568 771 826 and ask for FIRE.
- When the fire brigade answer give the call clearly - "Fire at Old Downton Lodge, Downton on the Rock, Ludlow SY8 2HU".
- What 3 Words [ashes.appendix.retrieve](#)s

If you hear the fire alarm

Leave the building and courtyard using the nearest exit closing all doors behind you.

Report to the staff member in charge of the assembly point situated in the lower car park, where a roll call will be taken.

Do not panic.

Do not stop to collect personal belongings.

Never re-enter the building until authorised to do so.

Do not take risks.

Breakfast Menu

Breakfast Served Between 8.30am-9.30am

Drinks

Fruit Juice- Orange, Apple Juice or Tomato Juice

Locally Roasted Hundred House Coffee - Espresso, Cappuccino

Hot Chocolate

Teas- Breakfast Tea, Earl Grey and Blue Flower, Peppermint
Spiced Citrus, Red Berries, Chamomile

From the Buffet

Homemade Granola or Muesli

Greek Yoghurt with:

Honey, Apricots, Prunes, Fresh Fruit Salad, Golden Raisins

Smaller Plates

Porridge, Local Honey, Walnuts

Smoked Salmon, Scrambled Egg on Toast

Scrambled, Boiled, Fried or Poached Eggs on Toast

Toast, Homemade Jam, Marmalade

Pancakes, Orchard Fruit Compote, Greek Yoghurt, Hazelnuts

Roasted Red Pepper & Tomato on Sourdough, Red Pesto (vegan)

Larger Plates

Eggs Royale

Bread2Bake English Muffin, Poached Eggs, Smoked Salmon and Hollandaise

Omelettes

Any From: Ham, Cheese, Smoked Salmon, Mushroom, Tomato

Eggs Benedict

Bread2Bake English Muffin, Poached Eggs, Ham and Hollandaise

Creamy Devilled Mushroom

Hash Browns, Wenlock Edge Bacon, Fried Egg

Full English Breakfast

Wenlock Edge Bacon, Sausage or Vegetarian Sausage, Black Pudding,
Grilled Tomato, Field Mushroom, Local Free-Range Egg

Telephone System

Internal Calls Only

For Reception or in an emergency

Reception or a member of staff

500

Owners

210/211

If you are unable to raise anyone please dial from your mobile

07977 475 881

To call another room

Dial '20' followed by the room number for example to contact room 6 dial
206

To receive an alarm call

Please ask a member of staff.

Useful numbers

Medical Emergencies

You should use the NHS **111** service if you urgently need medical help or advice but it's not a life-threatening situation. Call **111** if you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency.

Emergency Services

999

If your condition can't wait 1hr, this is likely to be an emergency, e.g. choking, chest pain, blackout, blood loss. Please dial 999.

Taxis

Elliot's Direct Travel (Downton Based)	07972 552 896 or 01584 856 664
Wolfcar	01584 856 690
P J Taxi	01229 219 137 or 07564 858 878
Annette's Taxis	01584 878787
Ludlow Taxis	01584 876666
Tracy's Taxis	07852 204406 or 01584 890820
Swan Cabs (Tenbury based)	01584 810310
Ashford Cars	07968 890 696

Pubs and Restaurants

The Lion (Leintwardine SY7 0JZ)	01547 540 203
The Sun Inn (Leintwardine SY7 0LP)	01547 540 705
The Riverside (Aymestrey HR6 9ST) for Lunch/Pub	01568 708 440
The Fish House (Ludlow SY8 1AB) For Lunch	01584 879 790
The CSON'S Cafe (Ludlow SY8 1EG) For Lunch	01584 879 872
The Oak (Wigmore HR6 9UJ) for Lunch/Pub	01568 770 424
The French Pantry (Ludlow SY8 1RL) Lunch/Dinner/Bistro	01584 879133
Native (Tenbury Wells WR158RT)	01885 410321