Weddings at the Ancient Technology Centre
Introducing Dorset’s most enchanting wedding venue...

Deep in the heart of the rolling hills surrounding the Saxon village of Cranborne, lies Dorset’s most enchanting wedding venue; the Ancient Technology Centre (ATC).

Enter a world beyond your wildest imagining, where the mystical places you once believed existed only in myth, transform vividly into life.

Weaving through this secluded clearing, complete with its own Earthouse, Iron Age dwellings and Viking Longhouse, are some of the greatest storyscapes of all time; echoes of Rivendell, The Shire, Rohan, Westeros, Kattegat, Camelot and many more are all conjured here.

Now, we invite you to step into your own legend, and allow us to create you the wedding of your dreams, as you turn the page into the next chapter of your own love story...
The site

The Ancient Technology Centre has a number of magical buildings that are included in the hire of the site.

The Earthouse

- Our majestic, awe-inspiring Earthen Round House is set into the side of grassy knoll in the middle of the clearing
- Colossal roof supported by 21 mighty oak pillars
- Tiered seating for up to 250 people
- Optional central fire pit
- Chalk floor – rugs and skins can be hired as an optional extra

The Viking Longhouse

- Traditional Viking Longhouse
- Oak doors
- Rune carvings
- Central fire pit
- Themed toilet block of fully functioning cubicle toilets
- Houses functional modern kitchen at the back of the building

Saxon Grubenhaus

- Fantastic extra space for pop-up bar, chill out space, or play crèche for young guests
Our Wedding Services

The Ancient Technology Centre is a breathtaking wedding venue, but is also a functioning educational site with its own unique ways of working. With this in mind, our dedicated Wedding Planner and Preferred Celebrant are on hand to help you make the most of this magical setting, from advising on logistics and styling to recommending the very best suppliers who are familiar with the venue’s ways of working.

About our Wedding Planner
Sam Savage, South Coast Weddings

With more than a decade of experience working in the wedding industry, Sam is a passionate wedding planner with a wealth of expertise, and is known for magicking even the wildest ideas into reality.

Sam is proud to have exemplary relationships with the very best local wedding suppliers, and also runs the astoundingly successful annual Dorset Wedding Awards. Sam has been fully inducted to the ATC’s ways of working, and knows just which suppliers will suit you best in order to create you the wedding day of a lifetime at this one-of-a-kind venue.

About our Wedding Celebrant
and Public Ceremonialist – Ellie Brooks of Wildflower Ceremonies

As the first and only accredited Sacred Celebrant (IPHM) residing in Dorset, Ellie is the Ancient Technology Centre’s specialist ceremonialist and preferred wedding celebrant.

Since the dawn of time, the peoples of Earth have celebrated rites of passage with ceremony. With a fierce passion for the ceremonial traditions passed down by our ancestors, Ellie is fully trained to perform authentic wedding ceremonies and Handfastings, and can advise on wedding ceremony traditions that go back thousands of years.

As a professional storyteller, poet and writer, Ellie is also able to create you your own stunning wedding ceremony completely from scratch, telling your love story in the way that is most meaningful for you.
What is a Handfasting ceremony?

The Handfasting wedding ceremony would have been very familiar to our ancestors, and this traditional ceremony reaches so far back in time and has been so widely spread, we have no date for when they actually began.

During a Handfasting wedding ceremony, a couple’s hands are joined in loving union, and a Handfasting cord, or ribbon, is tied gently around their hands, so we know it’s very likely the term to ‘tie the knot’ stems from the Handfasting ceremony.

We also know that in the British Isles, the ancient Celts used this rite of passage for joining couples in union until around the 17th Century, when common marriage laws were enforced across the UK.

Today, we are seeing a great return to the joy of Handfasting as to-be-weds begin to reclaim their cultural roots, their connections to nature, and their birthright to celebrate their union in way that is meaningful for them, making the ATC the perfect setting for this stunning ceremony.

Together, Sam and Ellie make the perfect team to guide you through the process of planning your wedding at the ATC from start to glorious finish . . . they also excel at making and drinking tea!
Wedding Packages

**Bronze standard: One day wedding package**
- Exclusive use of ATC site from 9am – 12 midnight
- ATC Wedding Planner Sam Savage to coordinate your suppliers and provide on the day event management
- ATC specialist celebrant to plan and perform your wedding ceremony or blessing

**Prices starting from £3,531 (ex. vat)**

**Silver standard: One day wedding package with overnight stay – includes:**
- Exclusive use of ATC site with access to aforementioned buildings
- One day event hire with overnight stay
- Arrive first day in the morning 8am - depart next day at 12noon
- ATC Wedding Planner Sam Savage to coordinate your suppliers and provide on the day event management
- ATC specialist celebrant to plan and perform your wedding ceremony or blessing
- Sleep up to 20 people in the Viking Longhouse on Saturday night

**Prices starting from £3,698 (ex. vat)**

**Gold standard full weekend wedding package – includes:**
- Exclusive use of ATC site with access to aforementioned buildings
- Arrive Friday evening 5pm - depart Sunday 2pm
- ATC Wedding Planner Sam Savage to coordinate your suppliers and provide full weekend event management
- ATC specialist celebrant to plan and perform your wedding ceremony or blessing
- Sleep up to 20 people in the Viking Longhouse on Friday and Saturday night

**Prices starting from £5,198 (ex. vat)**

**Platinum standard weekend package – includes:**
- Exclusive use of ATC site with access to aforementioned buildings
- Arrive Friday evening 5pm - depart Sunday 2pm
- ATC specialist celebrant to plan and perform your wedding ceremony or blessing
- Sleep up to 20 people in the Viking Longhouse on Friday and Saturday night
- ATC Wedding Planner Sam Savage to provide full wedding planning service, including supplier liaison and bookings, full guidance through the wedding planning process, full weekend coordination and support

**Prices starting from £6,698 (ex. vat)**

**DIY Wedding options**
- You may already have a vision for your special day and know exactly how you will make it a reality, in which case, our DIY wedding option may be for you, and Sam will be able to advise on how best we can meet your individual requirements.
Sam and Ellie will be delighted to advise you on the following optional extras:

- **Marquees** – while our buildings can comfortably seat up to 250 guests, we know in some cases, you may want to have a marquee as well
- **Décor** – Sam is an expert in theming and décor and will be happy to help you make your wedding vision a reality
- **Catering** – from hog roasts to vegan buffets
- **Photographers** – the ATC is a very special site and having a photographer that is familiar with the lighting choices and layout can make the world of difference to your photos
- **Flowers** – Sam can advise on a florist that knows just how to complement this enchanting venue, especially if you have a particular theme in mind
- **Wedding bands and music** to compliment your day with the perfect music, from ceremony music to evening bands guaranteed to get your guests on the dance floor
- **Pop up bars** – the very best in bars who are familiar with the site and how it works
- **Campfire complements** such as storytelling, s’more station, musicians and more
- **Pre-wedding ceremonies** for the spiritually minded
- **On-site child care** for guests with children
- **Glamping and camping** for guests who wish to stay on site
- **Hands on ATC activities** for stags and hens – from archery to wild cooking, blacksmithing and fire lighting . . . and much more!

Please email sam@southcoastweddings.co.uk or call 07766 244362 to contact Sam for your free, no obligation ‘meet and greet’ consultation to find out more.