



Thank you for booking Ardington House. We look forward to welcoming you to our wonderful Georgian manor house and hope that the guidance notes below will help you have a thoroughly enjoyable stay.

### **Check in/Checkout**

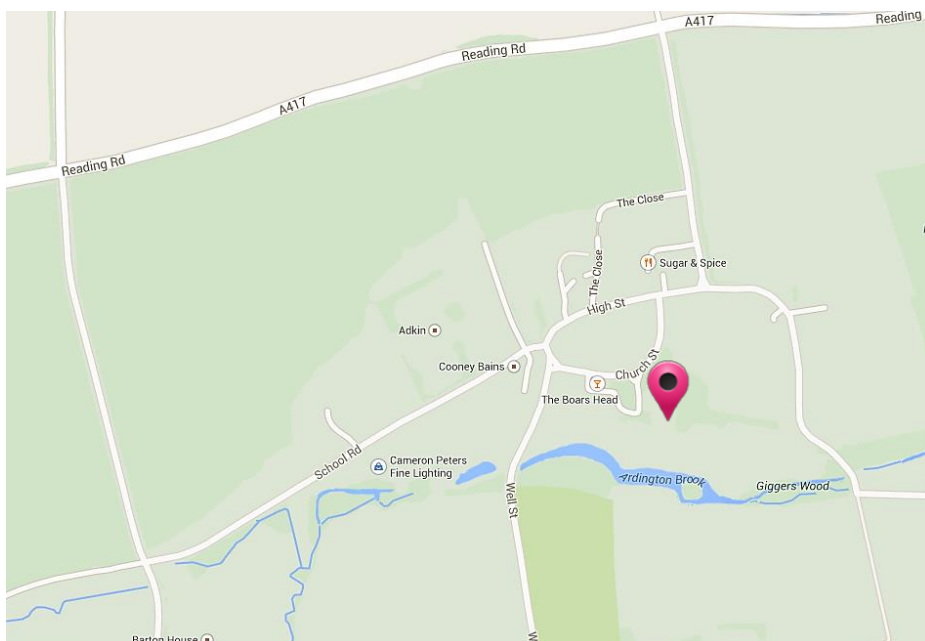
Prior to arrival, please email [info@ardingtonhouse.com](mailto:info@ardingtonhouse.com), so that we can arrange for you to be met by a member of the Ardington House staff, who will provide you with a set of keys for the house and assist you with any queries that you have. Please let us know in good time when you plan to arrive and please make sure that your arrival is during office hours.

Upon departure, we ask that bins are taken to the bin store and any used kitchen items have been washed up and put back.

Ensure that all doors are locked, all windows are closed and all lights are off, then leave via the kitchen door, lock the door and put the keys through the letter box. If you are leaving during office hours, please give the keys to our events manager Charlie Cross.

### **How to get there**

Ardington House is situated in the rural village of Ardington, near the market town of Wantage in Oxfordshire.



The address is Ardington House, Church Street, Ardington, Wantage, OX12 8QA, Oxon.

The nearest Town is Wantage, 2.5 miles away and just 5 minutes by car.

The nearest train station is Didcot Parkway which is a 15 minute drive from the House. Trains take 40 minutes from London Paddington to Didcot Parkway.

### **Internet**

Ardington House has wifi throughout but you may find that some areas may have better reception than others. The WIFI is an open network and therefore does not need a password.

### **Housekeeping**

The House will be ready when you arrive and we will provide towels for all the guests on the beds and soap in the bathrooms.

Please do not take the white bath towels down to the pool, we ask that you bring your own towels for the Swimming pool.

The house will be cleaned upon your departure but it is your responsibility to leave it tidy.

Smoking is not permitted anywhere inside the house. You will find ashtrays outside the front door and kitchen door and on the south veranda steps.

We would be grateful if you could avoid taking food and drink into the bedrooms to avoid spillages on the carpets. Glassware is not to be taken to the swimming pool area or onto the tennis court.

### **The Kitchen**

The kitchen is equipped with an AGA cooker, which will be on and ready on arrival. The AGA has 2 hot plates on top. The left hand one is the hotter of the two and the right hand one is the simmering plate. The AGA also has 3 ovens. Top right is the hottest (roasting), bottom right is the coolest (slow cooking) and the bottom left is the baking oven. There is also an adjoining module with 4 gas hobs and 2 electric ovens.

There is a microwave and a coal BBQ is available on the terrace in the garden, please bring or add coal to your shopping order.

There is a large, double fridge/freezer in the kitchen for your use, please leave this empty upon departure.

There are two pull out drawer dishwashers, there is a press open drawer which takes dishwasher gel (not tablets) you may find some gel under the sink which you are welcome to use. There is also another dishwasher in the utility room behind the kitchen which takes tablets which are not provided.

### **Provisions**

Keith, runs the Grocer Chef which is the highly popular village shop/café would be available to stock the House fridge with fresh, local produce prior to your arrival. It may also be arranged that Keith does a daily delivery for you of fresh produce, all to be booked in advance by contacting him on either 01235 833237 or on [brewbakers@yahoo.com](mailto:brewbakers@yahoo.com). The Grocer Chef is a pleasant 2 minute walk from the House, positioned at the top of church Street.

### **Laundry**

Fresh linen, a bath and hand towel for each guest along with toilet paper will be provided for on arrival. There is no need to strip the beds upon departure. If you would like any sort of maid services or turnarounds during your stay we can help to put you in touch with some local cleaning agencies.

### **Fires**

You will find a full basket of logs beside each working fire in the house being in the snug, drawing room and music room. If you use the open fires, please ensure that fireguards are placed in front of the fire whenever you leave the room.

It is advisable to open the window slightly in the snug if the log burner is on as it can be a little smoky.

### **Bins**

The Vale of White Horse District Council operates a very strict recycling policy. We would be very grateful if you could help us by also adhering to this. You will find the recycling / rubbish lists on the wall by the bins in the kitchen. These explain what goes where. The recycling can be thrown away in clear plastic bags which are kept in the drawer just above the bins in the kitchen. Recycling goes in the green bins and ordinary rubbish in the black bins in black bin bags. There are two containers in the rubbish pull-out in the kitchen to help with the recycling sorting. Thank you very much for your help with this.

**Please remove all kitchen and catering rubbish in the refuse bags provided in the shelf in the kitchen bin cupboard. The external refuse collection point is 50m to the left as you exit the kitchen door, on the right-hand side of the stable block, here you will find a padlock and the code is 007.**

There are large containers for general waste and recycling, care should be taken not to allow any waste to be left in the surrounding area.

Guests must securely bag all rubbish and dispose of it in the outside collection bins before departure. As the property must be handed over in a clean and tidy state any bags of refuse that our staff need to take to the external bin area will be charged at £10 per bag. To avoid rodent and insect infestation please make sure that foodstuffs are properly disposed of at all times.

### **Security**

Please try to keep the front door of the house shut and bolted from the inside when you are not using it and make sure all the doors of the house are locked if you go out or if you are on the other side of the house. If you are in the garden, please try to make sure the doors at the front of the house are kept locked.

Ardington House is occasionally open to the public so, although it will be closed to the public during your stay, you may find that the odd rambler wanders in to the grounds to have a peek. Feel free to politely let them know the house is now closed to the public and is being used privately. You are welcome to close the front gates during your stay, which is the best means of preventing people from wandering in.

### **Emergency contact**

**If you need to contact us during the weekend, please call Edward Baring on 07595 191 712.** During weekday office hours (9am – 5pm), please call Charlie Cross on 01235 821 566. If you cannot get through to either of the above, please try Jane and Nigel Baring on 01235 833 463, who are also resident in the village. For non-urgent queries, please email [info@ardingtonhouse.com](mailto:info@ardingtonhouse.com) and we will respond as soon as possible.

The local doctor's surgery is Church Street Practice, Mably Way, Wantage OX12 9BN Tel: 01235 770 245. The nearest minor injuries unit is in Abingdon and the nearest large A&E hospital is the John Radcliffe in Oxford.

### **Resident staff**

Our housekeeping couple, Dragos & Lidia, live in a flat at the top of the house, which is marked as being private. If you see them working around the house during your stay, please do feel free to ask them any questions that you have. They do not work weekends so you will generally not see them

around the house after 5pm on a Friday, although you may see them coming and going down the back stairs.

The estate office, in the basement of the house, is generally staffed Monday – Friday from 9am until 5pm by our events manager Charlie Cross. She is available to answer queries during office hours and to check you in at the beginning of your stay.

Our garden staff Nino and Carolyn may be working in the garden during weekdays and you may also see Rose and Peter, who look after the stables.

### **Home cinema, TV and music**

There is a home cinema screen in the children's playroom. You will find some papers in the playroom with instructions on how to use it.

Please bring along a CD player or iPod docking station if you require use of music.

Please keep music low after 11:30pm and do not play loud music outside after this time. The house is not far from the village and the noise travels, so please do not play any music that can be heard beyond the garden of the house.

### **Outdoor activities**

Croquet set – You will find this in the Study

Tennis court – Please bring your own rackets and balls.

Fishing – We are permitted to offer you to fly fish for trout at the river in amongst the grounds no more than 2 rods at any one time and please bring these with you. Note that this is for fly fishing only during the season which is April – October.

Swimming pool – The pool is covered to keep it warmer and stop birds and other animals getting in. Please remove this cover and roll it away if you'd like to swim and please replace it afterwards.

Trampoline – This is behind the large Wellingtonia tree on the north lawn.

Bicycles – You will find some bikes available for you to use in the bike shed. This is to the right of the stables and garage in a wooden enclosure. The code for the padlock is 007. The bins are also kept in this area.

Feeding the animals – You are welcome to feed the ducks and swans. They are quite tame. Please don't feed the horses. It's not good for them and one of them is quite partial to nibbling fingers.

There is a local archery company who can provide a fun archery session on the Front lawn for a group of people of around 8 this would cost in the region of £170. Details are [www.tri-archery.co.uk](http://www.tri-archery.co.uk) or contact David Stagg on 07527 142 418.

### **Children**

Please ensure to supervise children at all times in the gardens, especially on the trampoline, near the lake & by the swimming pool. Note that we do not have cots in the House for babies so it is advisable to bring along a travel cot.

### **Dogs**

Dogs are NOT allowed in the main part of the house or on the carpeted floors. Please keep dogs in the boot-room and kitchen area only.

In the village:



*The Boars Head Pub*

A stone's throw away from the house at the end of the drive. Great for a relaxed evening with friends or a lunch on the terrace. Busy at weekends, so definitely worth booking in advance, especially for larger groups. Tel: 01235 835466 or via email to [info@tbhardington.co.uk](mailto:info@tbhardington.co.uk).

*The Village shop / Grocer Chef*

The family-run village shop & cafe is at the top of Church Street. They provide delicious homemade food, eat in or takeaway ranging from full english breakfast, sandwiches and baked potatoes to curry and shepherds pie. They also do a mean line in homemade cakes. The shop is very useful for last minute general household items, pet food, newspapers, postcards and it has an ever-useful cashpoint machine. Opening Hours are Monday – Saturday 7:00 – 16:00.

*Walks/Bicycle rides* - You'll find a number of lovely public footpaths around the village. One path follows the south bank of the river in front of Ardington House and others will take you all the way up to the downs. The downs are about a 45 minute walk from Ardington or a shorter bike ride. There is also the millennium forest to explore in Ardington village and a great children's playground near the village shop. The church is right next door to the pub.

Further afield:

Oxford, which is only about 20 minutes away by car, is known worldwide as the home of Oxford University, the oldest university in the English-speaking world. Its beautiful architecture demonstrates examples of every English period since the arrival of the Saxons, including the mid-18<sup>th</sup> Century Radcliffe Camera. Oxford is known as the 'city of dreaming spires' and has many colleges, museums, theatres and other attractions worth visiting.

Other local attractions:

<u>Horse Riding School</u>	01235 851016	10 minutes by car
<u>Millets Farm Centre</u>	Family day out	10 minutes by car
<u>Cotswold Wildlife Park</u>	Animal Attraction	40 minutes by car
<u>Ashmolean Museum</u>	Museum of Art and Archaeology	25 minutes by car
<u>The White horse Hill</u>	National trust attraction	25 minutes by car
<u>Oxford University</u>	Museum of natural History	25 minutes by car
<u>Botanic Gardens</u>	Oldest botanical garden in Britain	25 minutes by car
<u>Cheltenham Racecourse</u>	Horse Racing Events	80 minutes by car
<u>Silverstone</u>	Motor Racing Events	60 minutes by car
<u>The Oxford gun company</u>	Clay Pigeon Shooting	45 minutes by car

**Places to eat**

For a gastropub lunch or dinner not too far afield (about 3.5 miles away along public footpaths), we highly recommend the Eyston Arms in East Hendred. There is a lovely country pub atmosphere with log fires and scrubbed pine tables. A high end gastropub menu. It is a good walk or short cycle ride away.

There are also other pubs in the area such as The Wheatsheaf in East Hendred which does good food and has a traditional pub atmosphere and The Plough also in East Hendred for more traditional lower cost pub grub.

*Recommended restaurants - good for special occasions or something a little different.*

<u>The Sweet Olive</u>	Aston Tirrold	01235 851272
<u>Beetle &amp; Wedge</u>	Moulsford-on-Thames	01491 651381
<u>Yummy Thai</u>	Wantage	01235 768222
Peking Dynasty (Chinese)	Wantage	01235 771338
<u>Elaichi (Indian)</u>	Wantage	01235 772660

### **Takeaways**

Dominos Pizza, Wantage	01235 772777
Peking Chef, Chinese, Wantage	01235 764501
Hanney Spice, Indian, Wantage	01235 869007
Yummy Thai, Wantage	01235 768222

### **Food and other shopping**

For online food shopping, Ocado, Waitrose, Tesco and ASDA have all delivered to Ardington House before. You will need to be there to sign for delivery. Wantage also has a Waitrose, a large Sainsburys, a great local butcher and a nice Deli. There is also a farmer's market on Wednesdays and Saturdays in the town square. Wantage also has a Boots pharmacy, a Barclays Bank and a TSB Bank, as well as several other small shops around the town square.

### **Taxis**

Priors Taxis - 01235 812345  
Harold's Taxis – 01235 512 345  
Stuart's Taxis – 01235 770 608 (minibus service)

### **Massage / beauty treatments**

Local therapist Hannah Wood does home visits and can do massages as well as a variety of beauty treatments including facials, manicures, pedicures and nails. You will need to book this in advance as Hannah gets very booked up. [www.hannah-wood.co.uk](http://www.hannah-wood.co.uk), mobile: 07734 249963, email: [enquiries@hannah-wood.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@hannah-wood.co.uk)

### **Recommended Services for Dinner Parties:**

#### **Catering**

Fingers & Forks                      [www.fingersandforks.co.uk](http://www.fingersandforks.co.uk)                      01235 835198  
*Local, established, bespoke caterers for all types of occasions, staff also available*

Creative Catering                      [www.creative-caterer.co.uk](http://www.creative-caterer.co.uk)                      07743368373  
*Local, family business with over 16 years catering experience, staff also available*

Mick Doughty                      [mick\\_doughty40@yahoo.com](mailto:mick_doughty40@yahoo.com)                      07757316752  
*Highly experienced top quality restaurant trained freelance chef*

Ross & Ross Food                      [www.rossandrossfood.co.uk](http://www.rossandrossfood.co.uk)                      01608 645503  
*Local, bespoke caterers focusing on fresh, seasonal ingredients from in and around the Cotswolds, staff available*


Many Hands                      [russell@tcdbusiness.co.uk](mailto:russell@tcdbusiness.co.uk)                      07765774075  
*Experienced Agency Staff Hire for food & beverage service*

## Fresh Flowers

Flowers by Kirsty (based in the village) [www.flowersbykirsty.com](http://www.flowersbykirsty.com)

7966 666 036

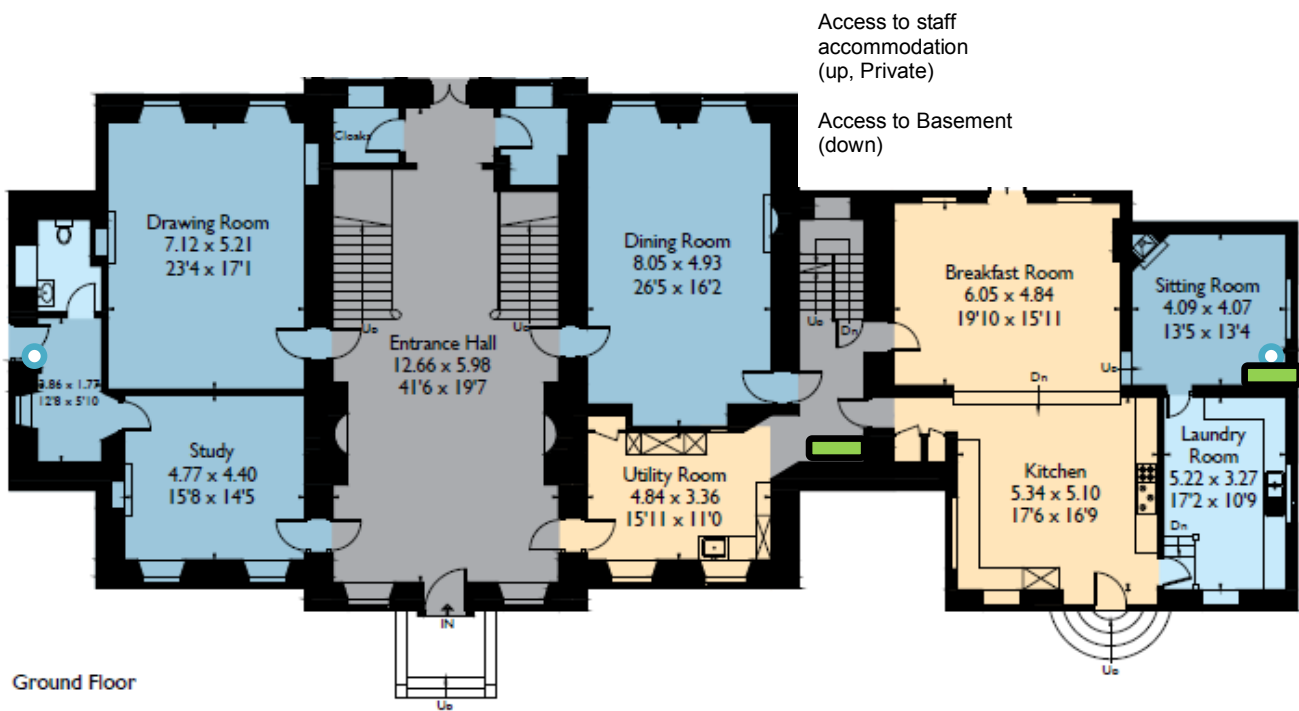
### Floor Plans

 This indicates light switches for all of the external lights

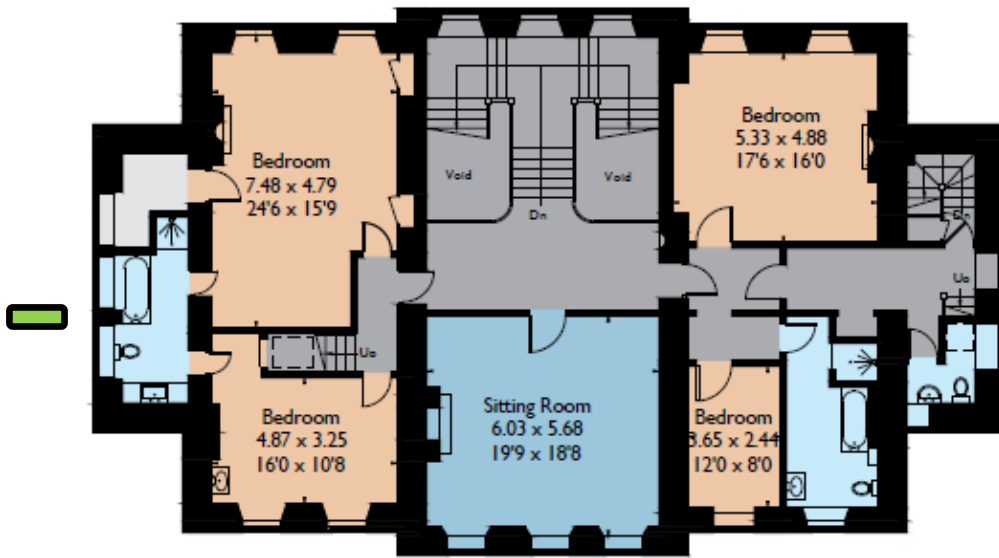
 This indicates the electric fuse boards for the House.

### FLOOR PLANS

#### GROUND FLOOR & KITCHEN



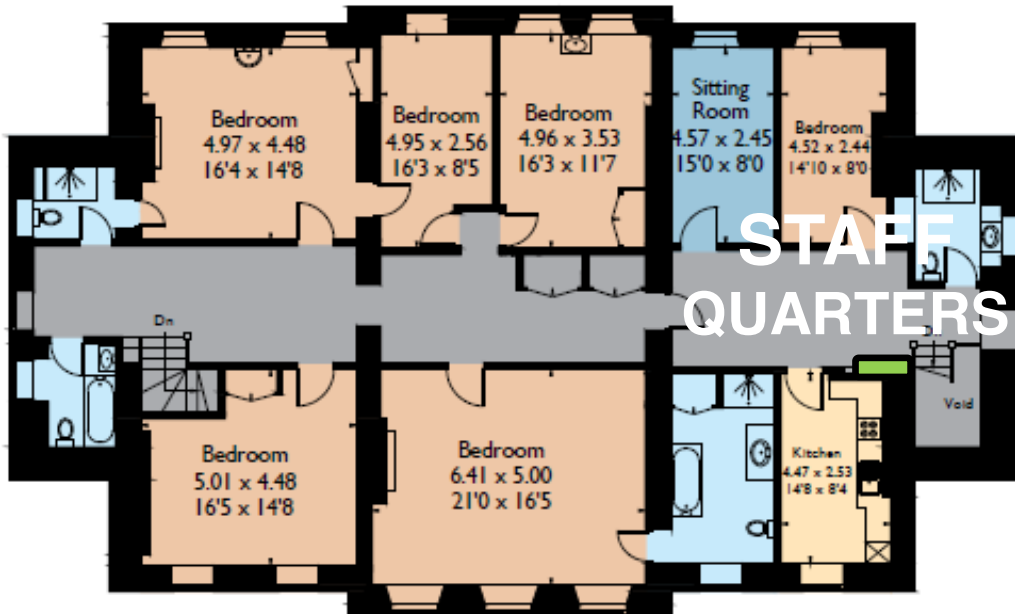
**FIRST FLOOR - Access from Main Hall**



First Floor

**SECOND FLOOR**

**Access from first floor**



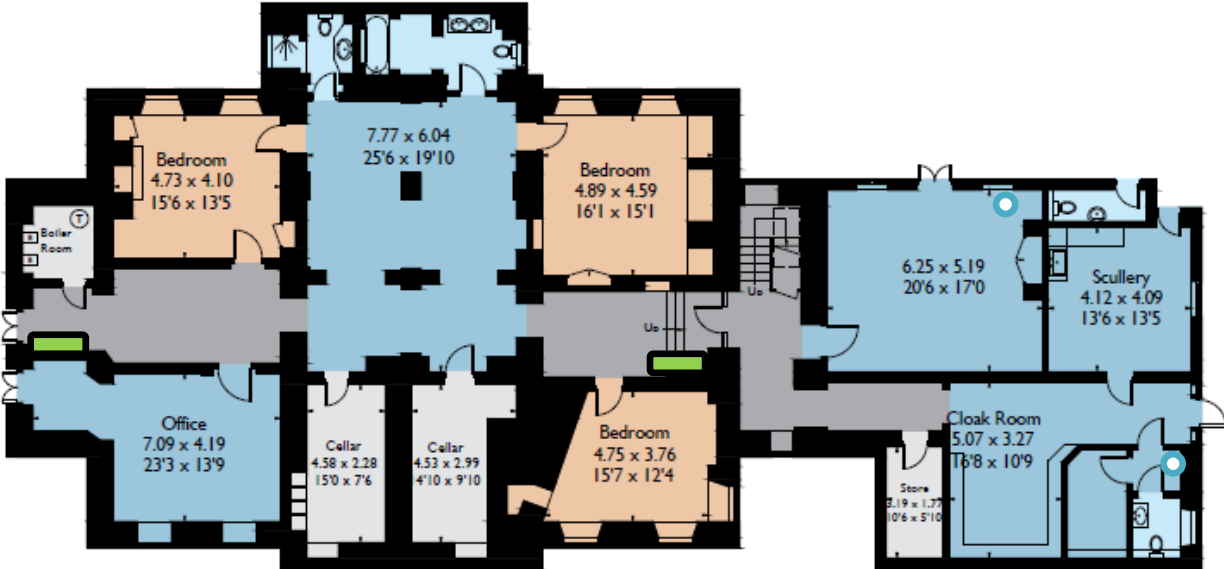
**STAFF  
QUARTERS**

Second Floor

**BASEMENT**



External access or access from Kitchen lobby



Lower Ground Floor