

# The Green House, Bournemouth



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It has dubbed itself the "greenest hotel in Britain" but it doesn't skimp on quality

Opened in April 2010 following a major fire and a £2-million refurbishment, The Green House makes great play of its ability marry high and luxury with environmentally sustainable principles. Billing itself as the "greenest hotel in Britain," the 37-room Grade-II listed Victorian building does much more than recycle waste and ask guests to reuse their towels. The furniture has all been made locally from either reclaimed or Forest Stewardship Council approved material. Carpets are all made of organically dyed wool and produced in Dorset, while the paints and wall coverings used throughout the hotel have the highest eco-credentials.

Heating and power is provided through the use of solar panels and a high-efficiency Combined Heat and Power unit, which at times of low demand exports the excess generation back to the National Grid. Having implemented over 400 schemes to become an eco-sustainable business with minimal carbon footprint, the hotel is on track to become the first building in Britain to be rated excellent on the BREEM scale. (Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method which has become the global standard for assessing the environmental sustainability of new non-domestic buildings).

Only four miles from Bournemouth International airport, the hotel has easy access to the rail network and is a pleasant 15-minute stroll along the beach to the centre of Bournemouth and the BIC conference centre. The Green House provides an excellent base for the business traveller and represents a breath of fresh air in the local hotel market.

### The room

Rooms are high ceilings and spacious with comfortable large double beds, bedecked in the most sumptuous linen, providing an excellent night's sleep. Decor is modern and simplistic relying on natural tones and materials which presents in a warm and enticing manner.

En-suite bathrooms are of a good size with power showers, hand-made stone sinks and Liberty & Green natural beauty products provided. All rooms are equipped with large flat-screen TVs, ceiling-lights and -lamps (which take some getting used to), while the beds double up for playing music stored on iPod / iPhone etc. are a nice touch.

Unlabeled cotton dressing gowns and slippers are provided. There is a free to use safe for storing valuables, but no minibar, which means a trolley down the hallway to collect milk should you want to make tea in the room.

### A place to meet

The flexible conference space can be accessed via the hotel lobby or through separate exterior doors, not least up to six delegates can be divided to form smaller meeting rooms that each accommodate parties of up to 40.

Each conference room are fitted out with full audio visual equipment and digital hub, have adjacent bathroom facilities, lift and wheelchair access, and a fitted induction loop system.

The bar is comfortable, quiet and private enough for an informal office meeting during the day though does get busy during evening dinner service.

### Technology credentials

Wi-Fi is available for £3 per day, although all rooms are fitted with a free to use Ethernet connection (cables are available at reception).

The hotel does not provide guest terminals for occasional internet usage, so do pack a laptop.

### Food and winedred

The hotel prides itself on the quality of dining on offer, with the menu changing on a daily basis to reflect the availability of the locally sourced produce the kitchen relies on.

70% per cent of ingredients are produced within a 30-mile radius, with the remainder coming from sustainable and Fairtrade accredited suppliers.

Breakfast is included in the room rate and includes local yoghurts, a range of fresh and prepared fruits, cereals and pastries. You can also choose a cooked full English, eggs any style or various fish options.

The Green House offers a fine dining experience. The three-course menu for either lunch or dinner is good value at £25, but the nine-course tasting menu at £45, available only in the evening, is certain to impress any corporate guest or client.

House wine is £12/bottle but, with an excellent sommelier and well stocked cellar, good advice is on hand, especially if you want a few different glasses to accompany the tastier menu.

The bar is comfortable and has a good range of beers, wines and spirits. Coffee and hot and cold snacks are also available.

### In the know

For an alternative dining destination, the front desk recommends the Vine+Bush restaurant at Pier Approach, Bournemouth (01 0202 587 86). With a reputation for good seafood and a beach-front location, the venue is certainly suitable for dining and dining clients. Lunch/dinner from £20/head, house wine £12/bottle.

### Business class

The hotel's proximity to air and rail transport hubs and easy access to Bournemouth's business district and international conference facilities make it a suitable base for any business trip. If you're looking to reduce the environmental impact of your business travel without compromising on quality then The Green House ticks the boxes.

### Business fares

Although the rooms are beautifully appointed, having a stunning refurbished east-view bath in the room at the expense of a dressing table (somewhere pleasant to sit and work could wear a bit thin. This is not the case in most rooms, so worth checking when booking.

### The bottom line

Weekday rates: Small double £120, double £135, large double £165, master double £200

Weekend rates: Small double £135, double £165, large double £175, master double £220

(Breakfast is included and prices shown are mid-season rates for 2013)

### Room service

Breakfast in bed is available on request at no extra charge. Dry cleaning and laundry service: Two piece suit (before and after), £10.80. Ties, £2.85. Shirts, £3.50.

### Need to know

The Green House, 4 Crowe Road, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH3 3AN. Tel: 01202 498 900. [info@thegreenhousehotel.com](mailto:info@thegreenhousehotel.com). Check in 3pm, check out 11am.

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