



Ancient House Museum of Thetford Life is open:

April to September - Tuesday to Saturday - 10am-5pm

October to March - Tuesday to Saturday - 10am-4pm

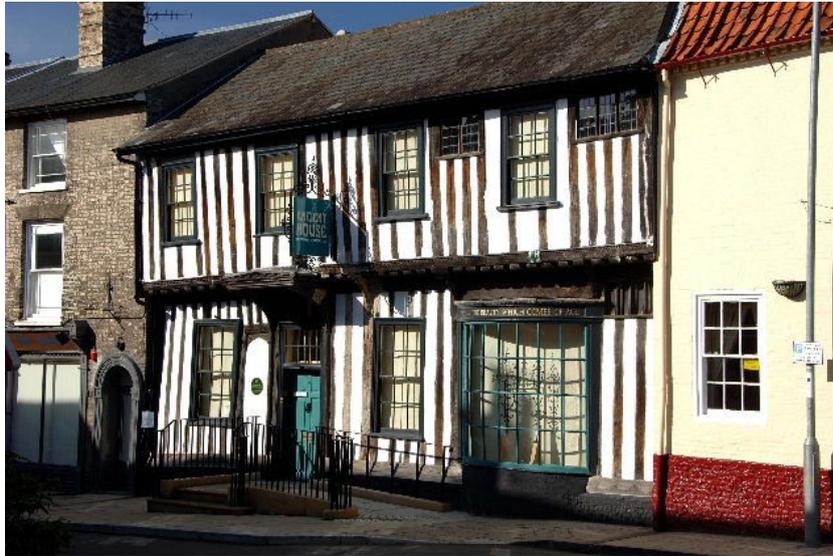
The museum is closed on Sunday and Monday

You are welcome to bring things to help enable your visit e.g. stimming toys, noise cancelling headphones, water (to be consumed in the reception, garden, and hall only) and registered assistance dogs.

Accompanying carers will be charged half price admission.

Arriving at the Museum

The museum is in a house that is over 500 years old. It has a different smell than modern buildings because of the materials used to build it. The house is made from timber, wattle and daub. Wattle and daub were building materials that were used to build Tudor homes. Wattle (thin pieces of woven willow or reeds) was covered in daub (a combination of wet clay, horse hair, chalk, animal dung, and straw) to make the walls. From outside it looks like this:



The front door is green.

Walk towards the door and it will
open automatically.

The door makes a whirring sound when it opens.

It opens inwards.

It will close automatically.

There is a doorbell on the door. Do not press this.



Walk through the front door into the entrance
corridor. The corridor is dark.

The walls are made from dark wooden panels
and light-coloured wattle and daub.

The floor is covered in stone tiles.

Walk to the room at the end of this corridor.

In this room you will see the reception desk.

Go to the reception desk to pay your admission fee.

A staff member will greet you.



Reception and Museum Shop

The reception room has large windows. When it is bright outside this room is light. When it is dark outside this room is dark.

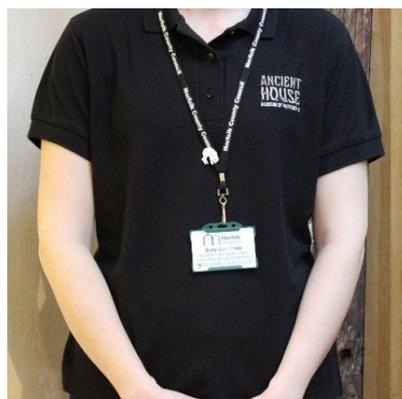
This is the reception desk. Pay your admission fee here.

You will be given a map of the museum and information about our Changing Display space.



Most museum staff wear black t-shirts like this one.

All museum staff will wear a Norfolk County Council ID badge like this one.



Museum Security:

- If a case is knocked there will be an alarm sound. We have alarms to protect the objects. The alarm will stop after 15 seconds. Remain calm.
- Do not open any doors labelled Staff Only.

Reception and Museum Shop

The Museum Shop is in the Reception room.

There are a lot of different things to buy in the shop.



In the reception room there is a visitor comments book. You can write in this book to tell us what you thought of your visit. You will need to use a pencil.



In the reception room there is a round piece of glass on the floor. This covers a well.

You can see into the well but it is dark. You can stand on the glass and look into the well.



In the reception room there is a door that leads to the garden.



Toilet Facilities

The toilets are at the back of the building. They are marked on your map.

There are two toilets. One is in a small room and one is in a larger room.

The lights in the toilets switch on automatically.

There are hand dryers and mirrors in both toilets. The hand dryers make a noise and warm air comes out if you put your hands underneath them.

In the smaller toilet room the hand dryer is near to the toilet. It is easy to accidentally activate the hand dryer.

In the larger toilet room the hand dryer is not near to the toilet so it is not easy to accidentally activate the hand dryer.

The toilets are cleaned with products that have a disinfectant smell.



Larger toilet room.
This toilet is the door on the left.



Small toilet room.
This toilet is the door on the right.

Exploring the Museum

Leave the reception room and walk back into the entrance corridor.

Walk towards the door and go into the room on your left-hand side.



In the museum there are black backpacks with 'Ancient House' written on them.

There are items in these backpacks that you can touch and use in the museum.



The Hall



The walls are covered in dark wooden panels and light-coloured wattle and daub.



The floor is covered in bricks.
On the floor there are metal plug covers.
Do not touch these.



In The Hall there are wooden shutters which cover the windows.
When the shutters are closed The Hall is dark.
When the shutters are open The Hall is light.



In The Hall there is a model of the house.
You can touch this.



The Hall

In The Hall there is a large fireplace.
This is made from bricks.

Inside the fireplace there is a heater. When the heater is switched on you will hear the noise of the fan and feel warm air blowing out.



In the fireplace there is a basket of toys .
You can touch these and play with them in the Hall.



There are paintings in The Hall.

Read the information on the paddles to find out more about them.



In The Hall there is a table which is laid out with a Tudor feast.

It is replica food.

You can gently touch this.



Changing Display Space

We use this room for temporary exhibitions.
You were given information about the Changing Display Space
when you received your map at the reception.

The walls in this room are covered in modern plaster.
The floor is made of light-coloured wood.
There are no windows in this room but there are lights.



**If you do not want to enter the Changing Display space:
Go back to the Reception and enter the Orientation Room through the door
at the right of the reception desk.**

Orientation Room

The walls in this room are covered in modern plaster and wood.
The floor is covered in stone tiles.



There is a large wooden panel on one wall.
There are four wooden chairs.
You can sit on the chairs.



There are glass cases on one wall.
One glass case has a mask inside.
This looks like a head but it is a mask.



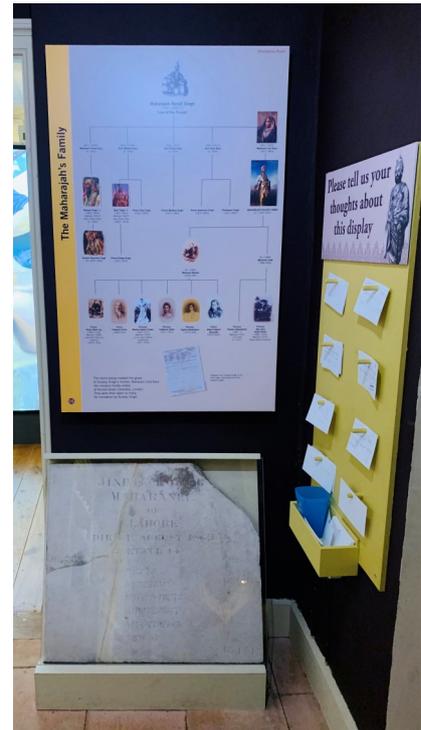
In this room there is a TV screen with four buttons.
When you press a button a short film will play with sound.



Orientation Room

In this room you will see Maharajah Duleep Singh's family tree.

There is a pegboard with pieces of paper.
You can write comments about the family tree
on this paper using a pencil.
You can put your paper on the pegboard.



At the end of this room, there are two doors.
One on the left and one on the right.



On one side there
is a door into the
1901 Kitchen.



On the other side there
is a door into the
Changing Display space.



The 1901 Kitchen

The walls are covered in plaster. The floor is covered in stone tiles.
This kitchen was used in the past by people who lived in the house.
Now it is an exhibition in the museum.



There are windows in this room and a door to the garden. When it is light outside this room is light. When it is dark outside this room is dark.



In the corner of the room there is a mannequin. This is a model figure dressed to look like a rabbit warrener. In this room you can find out what it was like to be a rabbit warrener.

Behind the mannequin there is a rabbit hanging on the wall. This is a real rabbit but it is not alive. It has been filled with wire and stuffed so that it appears lifelike. This method of preservation is called taxidermy.



The 1901 Kitchen

Open the dresser drawers to see more objects.



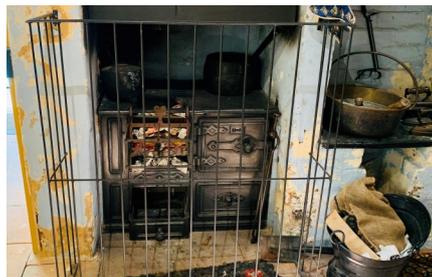
On the table there is cooking equipment and replica food.
You can touch all of this.



There is a working sink in this room.
Do not turn on the taps.



There is a working oven in this room.
It is called a 'range'.
It is sometimes used by staff during events.
Do not touch this.



Next to the range there is a door.
This door leads to the toilets on the right side
and another garden door on the left side.



The Garden

The garden is surrounded on all sides by walls and fences.

There is a car park behind the garden. You can't see this but you can hear car noises.

There is a restaurant next door. You can't see it but you can smell cooking smells.

There are flats above the restaurant. You can't see them but you can hear people talking and going in and out of doors.

In the garden you can see and smell plants and flowers.

Do not pick the plants or flowers.



At the back of the garden there is a stone coffin.

The coffin is empty.

Do not try to open the lid.

Do not sit on it.



There is a working garden tap.

Do not turn on the taps.



In the garden there is a glass door.

This leads into the Museum Reception.

Go through this door to continue your visit.



Continue Exploring the Museum

Leave the reception room and walk back into the entrance corridor.



On the right-hand side there is a staircase.
Go up the stairs.



The Staircase

The wooden stairs are old. They are uneven and creak when you walk on them.

The walls of the staircase are covered in dark wooden panels and light-coloured wattle and daub.

There is a window at the top of the stairs and there are lights. If it is bright outside the staircase will be light. If it is dark the staircase will be dark.



There are open wooden panels at the side of the staircase. You can see into the Collectors' Room.



Halfway up the stairs there is a landing. Here you will see an open display of 'crime and punishment' objects. Do not touch these.



Upstairs

At the top of the staircase there are two small sets of stairs.



The stairs on the right lead to the attic.
This is not open to the public.
Do not go up there.



The stairs straight ahead take you to the History Highlights room.
Go up these stairs.



History Highlights

The walls in this room are covered in dark wooden panels and light-coloured wattle and daub.

The windows are covered by light-coloured fabric blinds.

There are small lights on the ceiling.

The floor is uneven and it is covered in light-coloured carpet.

The carpet is scratchy to touch.

You can hear music playing in the next room.



As you enter the room there is a tall green tube.

This is a game you can play by spinning the pieces to change the characters' outfits.

When you spin the pieces the game makes a quiet whooshing sound.



History Highlights

In the middle of the room there is a bench.
On the bench there is a slot filled with books.
You can read these.



In this room there is a
table with flint on top and a
large piece of flint
underneath.
You can touch these.



History Highlights

In this room there is a table with a replica Viking helmet. This is next to a mirror. You can try this on.



On this table there are fabric flaps. Lift these up to see modern objects. There is a comb, an ice skating boot, coins, and a torch. You can touch these.



There is another table with a metal handset. Lift the handset and press the button to listen to a recording of a man and a woman talking about moving to Thetford in the 1960s.



To leave this room go through the door next to the tall green tube game.

This takes you to the Ancient Householders Room.



Ancient Household

The walls in this room are covered in dark wooden panels and light-coloured wattle and daub.

Some of the windows are covered by light-coloured fabric blinds. Some are not covered.

There are small lights on the ceiling.

The floor is uneven and it is covered in light-coloured carpet.

The carpet is scratchy to touch.

You can hear music playing in this room.



Next to the door there is a small window in the wall. You can look into this and see original building materials.



There is a door with signs that say: 'Curators Office' and 'Study Room'. This room is not open to the public. Do not go into this room.



History Highlights

In the middle of the room there is a bench. It feels warm to touch. You can sit on this.



At the end of the bench there is a unit with handles on top of it. Lift the handles to see pests that lived in the house in the past.



Under these handles there are insects and a stuffed mouse and a stuffed rat. They are real but they are not alive. The mouse and the rat have been filled with wire and stuffed so that they appear lifelike. This method of preservation is called taxidermy.

History Highlights

In the room there are 4 cut-outs of people.
These show people who used to live in the house before it became a museum.
Next to each cut-out there is a box of props and dressing-up items.
You can touch these and try the clothes on in this room.



In this room there is a full-length mirror.
There are dressing-up clothes next to this.
You can touch these and try them on in this room.



In this room there is a fireplace.

Inside the fireplace there is a heater. When the heater is switched on you will hear the noise of the fan and feel warm air blowing out.

There are metal objects in the fireplace and in front of it.
Do not touch these.



History Highlights

In this room there are items on open display on the floor.
Do not touch these.

There is a metal bell.
Do not touch this.



A box of tools.
Do not touch this.



And a chair.
Do not touch this.



To leave this room go out of
the door and back down the
stairs.
At the bottom of the stairs,
turn right and go into the
entrance corridor.
Go into this room on the
right-hand side.



The Collectors' Room

There is a step up into this room.

The walls are covered in dark wooden panels and light-coloured wattle and daub.

The floor is covered in brown wood.

The window is covered by linen blinds.

There are small lights on the ceiling.

There are open wooden panels in one wall. Through these panels you can see the stairs.



In this room there are cabinets with objects inside.

There are drawers in the cabinets.

Open the drawers to see more objects.



In this room there are two large sculptures on a shelf. They look like heads but they are made of stone.

Below these sculptures there is a large stone coffin with a smaller stone coffin inside it.

The coffins are empty.

Do not touch them.



The Collectors' Room

In this room there are cases which contain birds and fish. They are real but they are not alive.



On the floor in the corner there is a trapdoor. Do not open this.



You have now seen all of the exhibition rooms in the museum. To leave the museum, go out of the Collectors' Room door and turn right.

Leaving the Museum

When you have finished your visit,
return to the entrance corridor.
Walk towards the entrance/exit door.



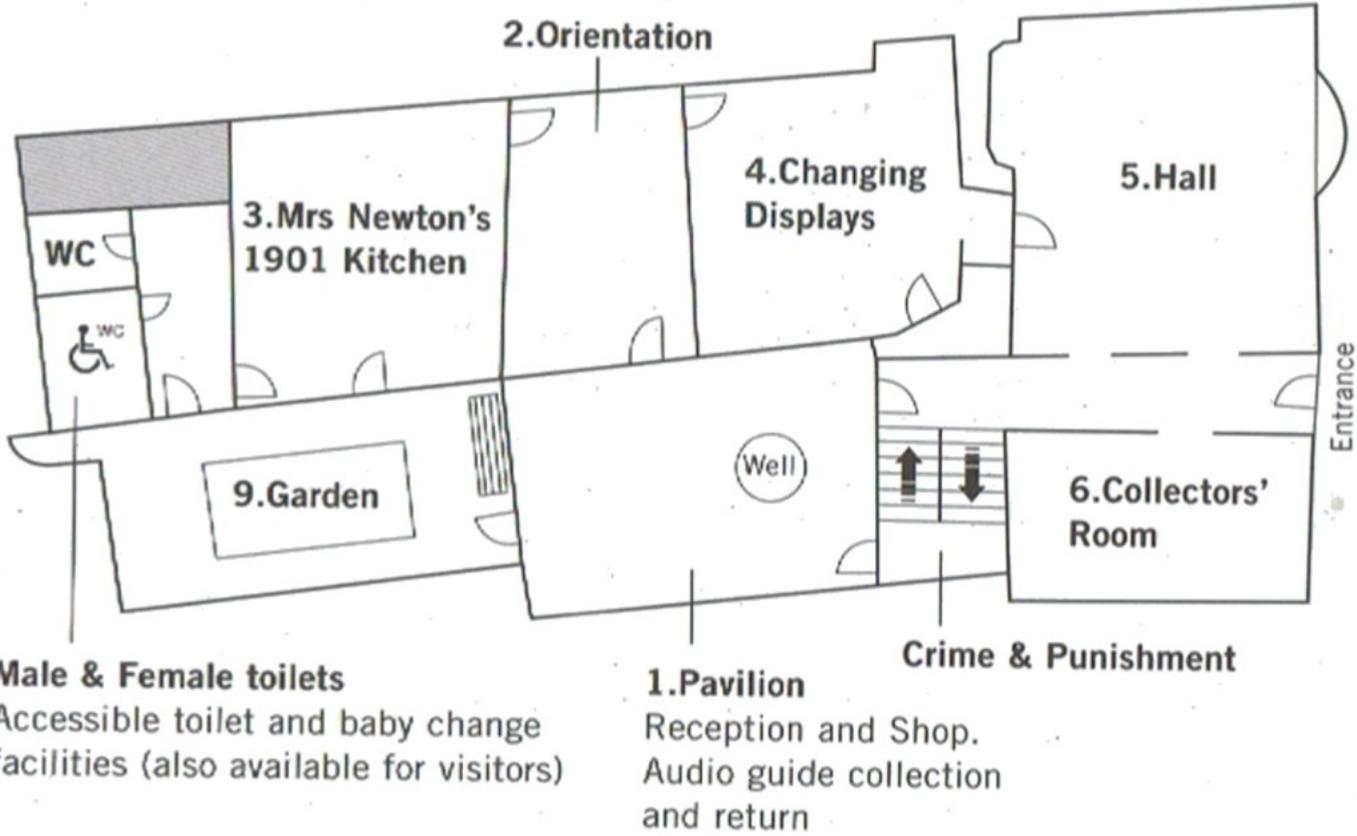
There is a large silver button on the wall on the right-hand side of the door.
It says 'Press to open'.
Press this button and the door will
open inwards.
The door makes a whirring sound when it opens.
It will close automatically.



Thank you for your visit!

Museum Floorplan

Ground Floor



First Floor

