

# The Museum of Zoology

The Museum houses one of the largest and most important natural history collections in the UK, with an extraordinarily rich history dating back to 1814.

The Museum today displays thousands of incredible specimens and offers visitors an insight into the wonders of animal life. The Museum is part of the University's Department of Zoology.

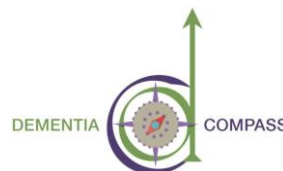
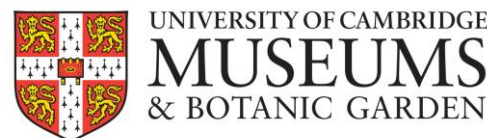
# Dementia Compass

This guide has been created through the Portals to the World programme, a partnership between the University of Cambridge Museums and Dementia Compass.

Dementia Compass is a social venture with over a decade of experience supporting individuals with Alzheimer's or other dementias and their families.

Dementia Compass builds and provides resources that reduce the impacts of dementia and to help people stay connected with who and what matters.

For more information visit the Dementia Compass Website:  
[www.dementiacompass.com](http://www.dementiacompass.com)  
Phone 07876 350 638  
Email [hello@dementiacompass.com](mailto:hello@dementiacompass.com)



## Why a museum walk?

Visiting a museum is a great opportunity to meet friends and have some gentle exercise as you explore the exhibits.



## How long will it take?

With time to stop and look the walk should take you approximately 40 minutes.



## How far is it?

It's approximately 200 steps.



## Are there places to sit?

Small foldaway, portable stools are available for use around the museum.



## What access support is there?

The museum can be accessed by a ramp or stairs at the front entrance.

There are public from street level and lifts inside the museum to reach most of the museum levels.

A wheelchair is available to borrow at the main entrance, this can be pre-booked by phone or email (see below).

Accessible toilets are located past the reception desk on the right.

Assistance dogs are welcome.

## Contact us

Email: [umzc@zoo.cam.ac.uk](mailto:umzc@zoo.cam.ac.uk)  
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# Museum Walk

# Cambridge Connections

*How the museum brings together local and global stories of nature, people and place.*



Charles Darwin's Beetle Box

A highlights tour that explores connections between the museum and the wider world.



## Discovery Room The bittern

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The Discovery Room is devoted to British birds and arranged by habitat. It highlights those currently at risk due to habitat loss and climate change, but also displays some conservation success stories.

One conservation success story is that of the bittern, a member of the heron family. A large, shy bird, the bittern lives in wetland reedbeds. Over the last twenty-five years, the bittern has recovered from an estimated 11 males across the UK to a 'booming' 228.

One area that has supported the recovery of the bittern is the National Trust's Wicken Fen, located north of Cambridge. Wicken Fen is one of the most important wetlands in Europe.

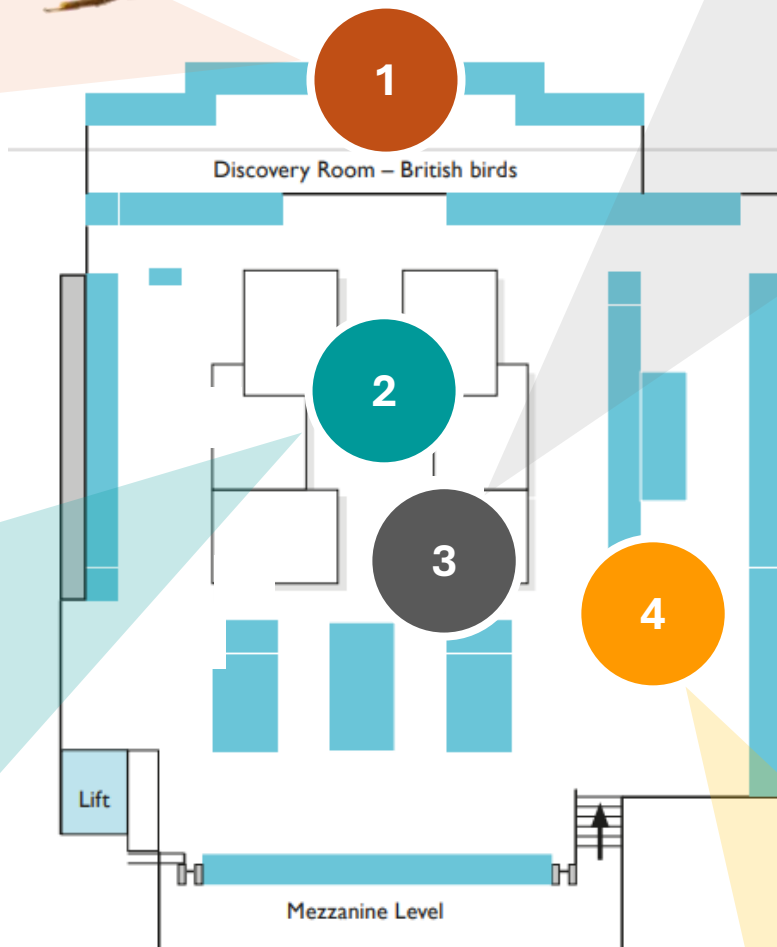
## The last burbot in Britain

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This fish was caught in Aldreth, Cambridgeshire in 1969, and is the last recorded sighting of a burbot in the UK.

Burbots are unusual in that it is a member of the cod family, but lives in freshwater instead of the sea. They used to be common in the UK, but loss of their freshwater habitat has led to their extinction in this country.

Could the burbot be a new species to be reintroduced here, like the beaver and common blue butterflies?



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## Charles Darwin's Beetle Collection

Almost 200 years ago, Charles Darwin was an enthusiastic beetle collector who spent much of his time as a Cambridge student collecting beetles instead of attending lectures.

Darwin's interests encouraged studies in natural science that led to his five-year voyage aboard the HMS Beagle. During his voyage, Darwin explored and continued to collect. He returned with rocks, minerals, fossils, animals, birds and plants. This museum holds one of the largest collections of Darwin's own specimens to support research and education.



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## Egg Laying Mammals Platypus and echidna

For almost 100 years, European scientists debated whether these strange looking animals could be mammals when they didn't have a live birth.

It wasn't until William Caldwell, a 25 year-old Cambridge graduate from Scotland, travelled to Australia to work with 150 Australian Aboriginals the mystery was solved – these mammals lay eggs.