



CHILTERN

OPEN AIR

MUSEUM

*Where buildings come
alive through history*

Lighting in the past

Location:

- Northolt Barn

Practical Notes:

- Candle Making and Roman Lamp Making are undercover activities.
- The Roman Lamp Making activity involves handling wet clay; if this poses a difficulty for any member of your group (for example, individuals with severe eczema) we can provide vinyl gloves.
- There are photo opportunities throughout this activity.
- All candles or Roman lamps made by your group members can be taken home or back to school as keepsakes by your group members.
- Please note that a box (a flat cardboard box or supermarket vegetable tray) will be required to carry the lamps back home or to school after your visit.

Purpose and content of the activity session:

- During this session the importance of fire and light in a pre-industrial culture will be discussed.
- The Museum Interpreter will demonstrate one of the fire-making techniques used before the invention of matches.
- Your group members will have the opportunity to learn about different means and materials used for lighting, using modern reconstructions and artefacts.
- After a brief demonstration of the basic technique by the Museum Interpreter, your group members will make either a beeswax candle or a model of a Roman Lamp from air-hardening clay, which they will be able to take away with them.
- The lamps can also be painted with water-based paints when they are dry, at home or school.
- This session is particularly suitable for Key Stage 1 and 2 History.

- It also incorporates cross-curricular elements of technology, materials and construction. It would therefore be appropriate for science or Design and Technology at Key Stage 1 and 2.

The explanation will vary in emphasis having regard to the age, ability and current or recent schoolwork (e.g.. Houses and Homes or Materials) or interest if known beforehand.

Background Information on the building:

Northolt Barn originally came from Smiths Farm at Northolt, Middlesex. It was rebuilt at the Museum in 1998.

The Barn consists of a wooden framework of oak and elm, of a construction style called post and truss. The framework is clad in elm boards and sits on a brick plinth. The roof is made up of clay tiles.

As there is no evidence of a rear doorway opposite the entrance the barn was most likely to be used for storing hay. This is supported by evidence that large areas around Northolt were used for producing hay, probably to feed horses stabled in London, during the 16th and 17th Centuries. The barn probably dates from around this time, as is suggested by the date 1595 carved into the inside face of the left-hand doorpost.

Access Statement:

Northolt Barn: The path around the wildlife pond can become quite muddy during heavy rains; therefore we recommend that all visitors use the pathway along the side of the building at these times.

Candle making:

- Some dyspraxic and CP children have motor control problems that may reflect in the finished result, but this activity is accessible to all.
- Hypoallergenic gloves are available if required.

Roman Lamp Making:

- Some dyspraxic and CP children have motor control problems that may reflect in the finished result, but this activity is accessible to all.
- Hypoallergenic gloves are available if required.
- Some prior thumb pot making experience, whether in clay or another modelling material, would be useful for all groups.