

Haddenham Croft Cottage

What is it?

Haddenham Croft Cottage is a 3 bedroom cottage made from a building material called 'Wychert/witchert'.

How old it is?

It is thought to have been built originally between 1835 and 1851.

Where did it come from?

It came from Haddenham, Buckinghamshire. Its original address was no.8, The Croft, Haddenham, Buckinghamshire.

What is it built from?

The cottage is built from 'Wychert/witchert'. Witchert is a local word meaning 'white earth'. which is a type of building material made from decayed limestone and clay that is found in the Haddenham area. When this limestone is mixed with water and straw it forms a paste which dries hard enough to be used for the walls.

Why is it here at the museum?

The cottage was donated to the museum by its last owners, Douglas and Charmaine Kew in 1977 after they were required to raise the roof and lift the ceilings to comply with modern building regulations. This would have been virtually impossible and permission was given to demolish the building until the museum asked to have it. The foundations for the rebuilding the cottage at the museum were dug in 2007 and the building was completed in 2015 - as building of the cottage could only happen from Spring - Autumn it was a long project!



Home Learning

Imagine

We have found from the 1881 census that there were 9 people living in this small cottage! They were the Rose family:

Rowland - Father
Emma - Wife
Eva - daughter, 12
Rose - daughter, 10
Lucy - daughter, 8
Roger - son, 6
Charles - son, 5
Rupert - son, 3
Frank - son, 10 months.

Can you find out more about life in the 1880s and imagine what different members of the families jobs may have been?

Research

Can you find out the history of any other buildings made from witchert? Can you find out what a grumpling is?

Create

The three bedrooms in Haddenham Croft Cottage all represent different time periods. There is an 1837, 1910 and 1977 themed bedroom. Can you create a drawing/story of your family living in the cottage during these time periods?

Experiment

The 70s bedroom has some psychedelic wallpaper. Can you experiment with some colourful designs created using 'shaving cream marbling'? <https://artfulparent.com/shaving-cream-marbling-with-liquid-watercolors/>

