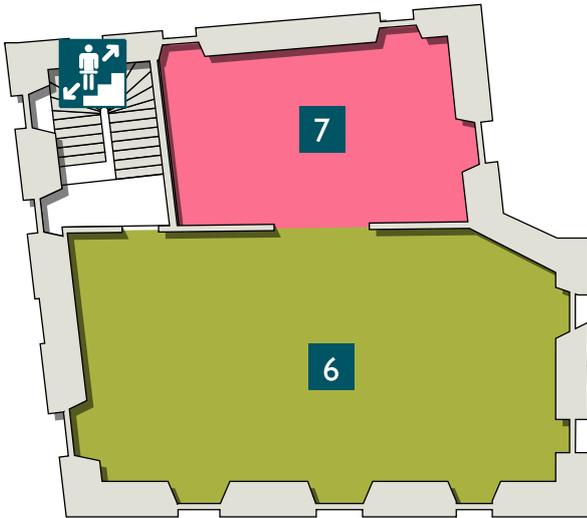


# Welcome

## UPPER FLOOR



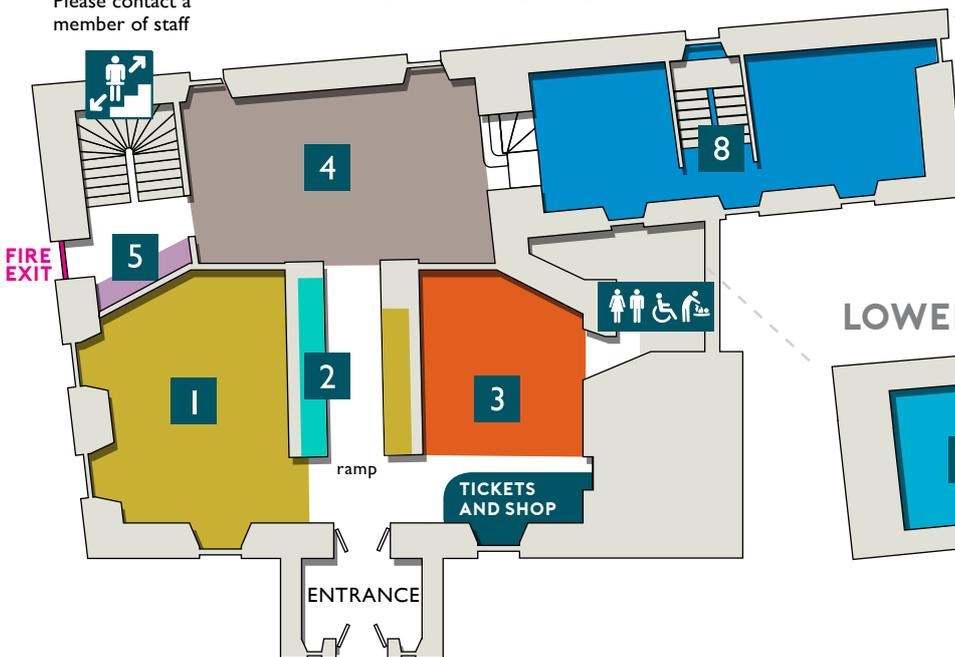
Stromness Museum was instituted in 1837 by the Orkney Natural History Society.

The building retains its character as a traditional Victorian museum. Over the years the museum has amassed unique and fascinating collections telling the story of Orcadians at home and abroad along with Orkney's Natural and Maritime History.

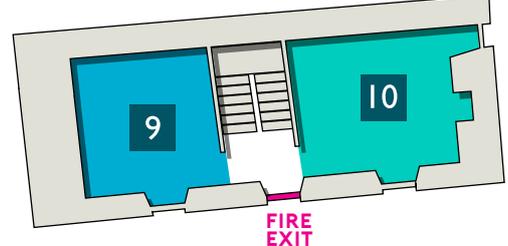
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## GROUND FLOOR



## LOWER FLOOR



**1** Social and Maritime History

**6** Natural History

**2** Temporary Exhibition 1

**7** Ethnography

**3** Wartime and Scapa Flow

**8** Seafaring

**4** Hudson Bay and Dr John Rae

**9** Whaling and Moravian Mission

**5** Dr William Balfour Baikie

**10** Temporary Exhibition 2

## MUSEUM ACCESSIBILITY

The Museum is arranged on three floors and has many steps and stairs.

Areas 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 are on the ground floor and include a slight ramp; areas 6 and 7 are up a flight of stairs. Area 8 is up a few steps; areas 9 and 10 are down a flight of stairs.

A ramp and stairlift give access to areas 4, 5, 6 and 7. The ground floor toilet has wheelchair access, and areas 9 and 10 can be accessed by arrangement with the custodian on duty.

## 1 Social and Maritime History

Explore the story of the Sea Haven and Merchant Town of Stromness, the Lighthouses of Orkney along with a collection of photo archives.

## 2 Temporary Exhibition (1)

Changing exhibitions that feature a variety of themes relevant to Orkney. This area also features shipwrecks and the tale of Jack Renton who survived eight years captive on the Solomon Islands before returning home to Stromness.

## 3 Wartime and Scapa Flow

Orkney played a major role as a naval base in two World Wars; this collection relates to our place in the wartime history of Great Britain. Floor cases in this area contain bird eggs plus butterfly and moth specimens. There is also a photo library with images from Orkney's past.

## 4 Hudson Bay and Dr John Rae

On display are many items relating to the Hudson Bay Company and life in North Canada which includes local family collections and trade goods. Learn the story of Arctic explorer, Dr John Rae discoverer of the North-West passage.

## 5 Dr William Balfour Baikie

A collection of objects from Baikie's travels, an Orcadian explorer and pioneer of the Niger.

## 6 Natural History

A rare example from the Victorian period is a magnificent display of birds which sit collectively with native mammals and specimens of Orkney sea life.

A prize exhibit in the fossil collection is 'Homosteus milleri' which contributed to Darwin's theory of evolution.

## 7 Ethnography

The museum founders' interest in Orkney antiquities grew over the years to encompass a variety of unusual artefacts brought home by Orcadians from around the world.

## 8 Seafaring

**Ship Dioramas:** See large ships built in miniature with these detailed scale models.

**Sail Traders:** Nautical tools, memorabilia and photo archives document the town's thriving shipping import and export past.

**Ship Paintings:** A beautiful collection of oil and watercolours.

## 9 Whaling and Moravian Mission

For over a century Arctic whalers called into Stromness for fresh provisions and crewmen the display includes harpoons, traverse boards and exquisite scrimshaw work.

The Moravian missionaries traded goods with the Inuit to support their work, mission ships were regular visitors to Stromness with many Orcadians serving as crew. On show is a selection of items relating to this time.

## 10 Temporary Exhibition (2)

Changing exhibitions that feature a variety of themes relevant to Orkney.

