



A transformative vision for the UK's leading computing museum

Creating an inclusive cultural destination and skills hub that celebrates our digital heritage while inspiring future generations.

Preserving the past; inspiring the future

Who we are

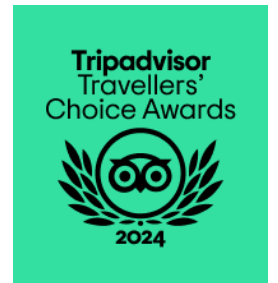
The Centre for Computing History is a Cambridge-based educational charity and Accredited independent museum. We tell the story of the history of computing, including the Cambridge Phenomenon and its global impact, through preservation of 40k+ artefacts, including our interactive handling collection, plus hands-on exhibitions, events and Learning Programme.

Our Theory of Change

Technology can feel alien, leaving skills, economic and cultural gaps. By combining heritage with hands-on learning and interactive workshops, the Centre demystifies technology, builds public confidence, strengthens the skills pipeline and fosters a more inclusive digital culture. Understanding the rapid rate of innovation over the past 80 years empowers people to consider the future of technology and the part they could play in shaping this future.

Our Evolution

- 2005 Founded by three friends to save vital computing heritage going to landfill
- 2009 Registered as a UK charity
- 2013 Relocated to an old car showroom in Cambridge as a proof-of-concept museum
- 2015 Achieved Accredited Museum status
- 2024 22k visitors pa (25% repeat visitors) including 8k children (3k on school visits)
- 2025 Proven track record, now looking to expand and inspire many more people of all ages



Where we are now

- 22k visitors p.a., including 3k students on 100 school visits
- 12 staff, 50 regular volunteers, plus employee volunteers
- 100+ events, including coding competitions, family workshops, corporate entertainment, tech anniversaries and festivals
- 46k social followers giving national and international visibility
- Estimated £425k annual local economic contribution
- Proven economic model with multiple income streams and strong corporate backing
- Collaborative partnerships across Cambridge and beyond
- Tripadvisor Traveller's Choice Awards 2024/25 - top 10% of attractions worldwide



Why we need a new home

We must move into a larger, climate-controlled, accessible home. Our current 17,000 sq ft site is full, constraining school and casual visitor numbers, and exposing a nationally significant collection to environmental risk.

Why North Cambridge?

- Transport connectivity (rail/bus/A14)
- Placemaking anchor and Section 106 cultural asset
- ESG alignment: repair culture, skills pipeline, inclusivity
- Consistent footfall from families, schools, local community



Our vision for a new space

Phase 1 building space of c. 30–35k sq ft

Phase 2 option to expand building to 45–50k sq ft, contingent on performance.

This would match our ambitions for:

- Modular, versatile gallery space to accommodate evolving exhibitions and interactive computing exhibits
- A dedicated, fully accessible learning space
- Fit-for-purpose storage areas, ensuring the preservation of our nationally important computing heritage collection
- Open storage area showing active conservation work plus a 'reading room', bringing our archives to life
- Events space with professional AV set-up
- Visible street frontage
- Cafe facilities (or access to) plus outdoor areas for children to let off steam
- Improved loading and parking plus loading and parking

What this space would deliver

- Interactive galleries spanning Cambridge's contribution to the evolution of computing: from Babbage to Arm and beyond
- Multi-media experiences exploring multiple aspects of computing history
- Street-visible Repair Bar and Makerspace area, forum space for community projects; inviting community engagement
- Skills development: programmes for schools, professional CPD, families and adult learners
- Professional space to host talks, workshops and small technology-themed performances
- Opportunity to expand existing income streams and develop new products, particularly around corporate event hosting
- Space to develop new grant-funded projects, expanding the breadth of stories we can tell about the information age
- Bespoke area showcasing the Cambridge Phenomenon, inspiring visitors ranging from corporates to local young people
- Expansion of volunteer engagement including a 'Men's Shed' volunteering project to tackle male loneliness

Economic and community value

- Cultural anchor: this distinctive destination builds identity and enhances placemaking
- ESG goals met: community venue for public engagement, skills development, repair culture, responsible technology use
- Consistent footfall: 25% repeat admissions, we serve all ages, school visits bring vibrancy during weekdays
- Opportunity for collaborative event programming, creating a cohesive community experience

What we are ideally looking for

- Minimum 30,000 sq ft plot plus parking
- Access to safe outside space for children
- Section 106 land transfer for community benefit or long lease/peppercorn rent approach
- Fit-out assistance and coordination on public realm and signposting
- Shared programming opportunities

**Let's work together to create
a world-class attraction for Cambridge**



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