

A large, ornate brick house with a conservatory and a gravel driveway. The house features a prominent bay window and a conservatory with a glass roof. The driveway is made of light-colored gravel and is bordered by green lawns. The sky is blue with white clouds.

EH

EXQUISITE
HOME

A MAGNIFICENT LANDMARK PROPERTY BY ROYAL APPOINTMENT

Built on the grand scale in 1862 by royal appointment as the official residence of the Sheriff of Cambridgeshire, this incredible and historic house is simply breathtaking with four reception rooms, a cloakroom, two bathrooms and seven bedrooms. It retains all its original features including stained glass windows, servants' bell system, fireplaces, coal range, window shutters and panelled ceilings. Opposite the church in the Cambridgeshire village of Wimblington, it occupies a spreading three acre plot. To the rear is the original part of the house, built in the seventeenth century. There is generous parking space on the gravelled drive and a vast lawn dotted with mature trees. In spite of its age and many period features, it is not listed, making it much more straightforward to change both interior and exterior if desired.

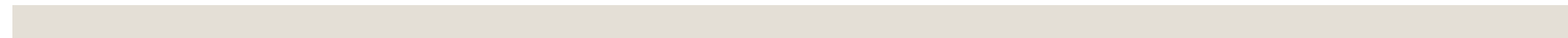


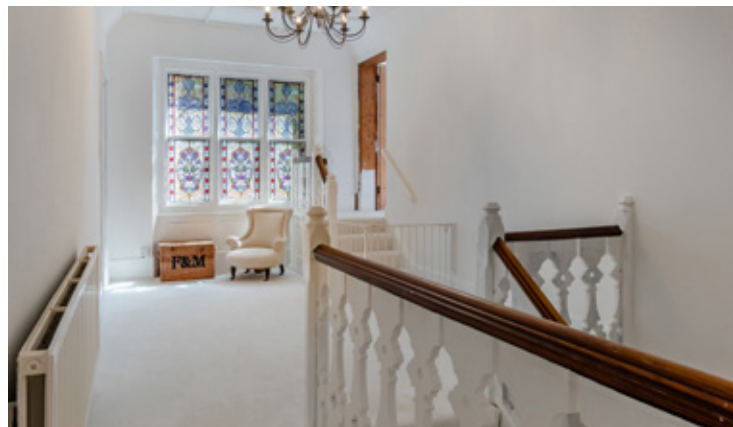


The front porch is surrounded by luxuriant green foliage and has the original Victorian encaustic floor tiles. The gothic arched door opens into the hallway with wooden floorboards and original window shutters, plus a decorative carved timber archway and the most beautiful stained glass windows through which the sunlight streams. The staircase rises to the first floor and the original panelled ceilings add greatly to the charm of this part of the house. There is a useful cloakroom leading off the hallway, ideal for visitors, papered with extremely attractive designer wallpaper. The stately drawing room has a stone fireplace with open fire, a large bow window and has been decorated in Versace wallpaper, very much in keeping with the style of the property. Cosy in winter and light and inviting in summer, this is the ideal space for entertaining. The second principal reception room is the sitting room which also benefits from a stone fireplace with open fire, panelled ceiling and bow window. Next door is the good sized playroom with two arched Gothic style windows, pull up shutters and a feature fireplace. If desired, this could serve as a further reception room or a home office. A pantry with plumbing divides the play room from the dual aspect kitchen/breakfast room with its original red and black quarry floor tiles, wooden cabinets and tiled worktops. There is an integrated double electric/steam oven with warming drawer by Miele and an induction hob with 4/5 rings. The original servants' staircase rises from here to the first floor, a useful feature in a house of this size. Next door is the rear kitchen/utility room, also with original quarry floor tiles and, fascinatingly, a rare example of an authentic Victorian coal range. Once the centre of every kitchen, these are now virtually impossible to find, but once upon a time, all the cooking would have been done on its black-leaded surfaces. There is also plumbing for a washing machine and tumble dryer. The laundry room leads off, with plenty of space for folding clothes, drying pulleys and the like. The house's ground floor is completed by the magnificent orangery with skylight and doors leading out on to the garden.

The staircase with its attractive carved spindles rises to the first floor landing, a generous space illuminated by light streaming through the original stained glass windows. As one would expect from such a grand house built in the mid Victorian period, there are plenty of rooms on this level and each one has been decorated to a very high standard by the owners. The principal bedroom suite is simply astonishing, with its large double bedroom with bow window and panelling, window shutters, original Victorian wallpaper as chosen by the Queen when the house was first built, a fitted dressing room and stunning en suite bathroom with a 28-jet jacuzzi bath with multicoloured lights, his and hers basins, chrome towel heater and a shower room under construction. Sleek and elegant, it is fitted out in marble throughout and also benefits from oil wet sourced underfloor heating. The second bedroom, currently used as a child's room, has beautiful Versace wallpaper and electric blackout blinds, plus a feature fireplace. It is currently having an en suite shower room added. The third bedroom is a double with feature fireplace, the fourth and fifth bedrooms are small doubles and would make excellent home offices or nurseries, as would the sixth. The seventh bedroom has a fitted cupboard and a dressing room, bedroom six could be converted into an en suite bathroom, making this the perfect guest suite. The family bathroom has a bath with shower over, a feature fireplace and is currently being converted into a walk in shower room.





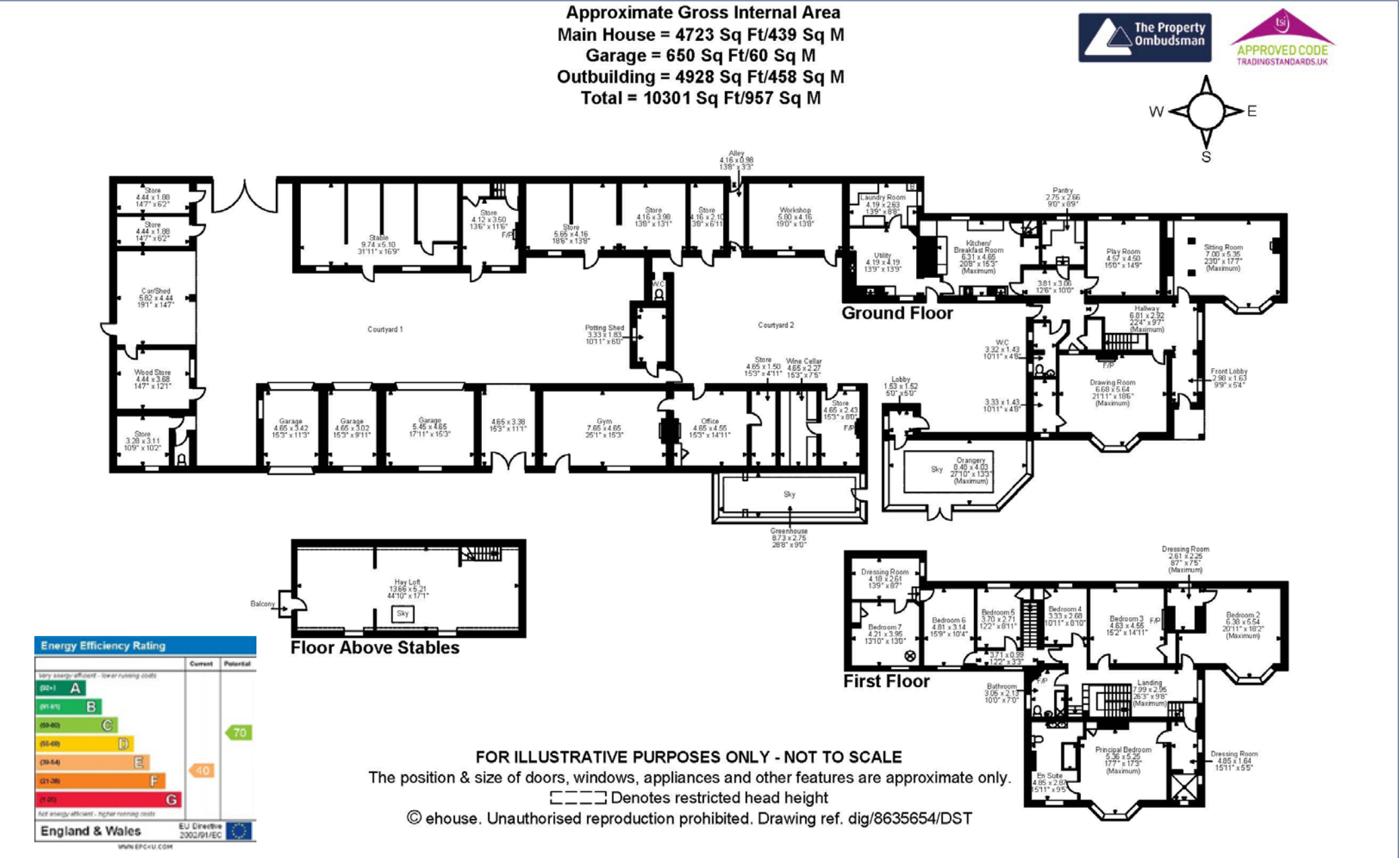


LOCATION

This exceptional family home is so much more than a house. When it was originally constructed, a courtyard with accommodation around three sides was added to it, accessed via a typically grand triple height archway, built for access by horse drawn vehicles. The present owners have put power into these outbuildings and they are currently set up for a multiplicity of uses including stabling, workshops, storage, a gym, woodshed, garages and a wine cellar. There is also an original Victorian greenhouse. The hayloft with stairs to a first floor with skylight and balcony could easily be converted into a two storey annexe. There is a triple garage with power, light and electric doors, a thatched croquet house with a croquet lawn and a bonfire pit. The possibilities are endless and for anyone who loves a project, this is the ideal property. The south facing rear garden is delightful with a royal mulberry tree occupying pride of place in the centre of the lawn. The librarian at Windsor Castle presented this to the original owners as a wedding anniversary present. In addition, tobacco trees, two magnolias, fragrant rose bushes and plenty of shrubs and perennials make this an absolutely charming garden, perfect for children. To the rear of the house is a field, which used to be part of the estate. The owners have a covenant upon it so that it cannot be built upon.

Wimlington itself is well served with amenities with a pub, primary school, village shop and Post Office, a garden centre, two sports pitches and a children's playground. Nearby March is a ten minute drive away. The village is on the A141 and trains run from March station to Stansted, Cambridge, Ipswich, Peterborough and Birmingham, opening up good transport links for anyone who has to commute.

Majestic, elegant, spacious and completely unique, this magnificent house and estate is a true one off.



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