



HADDO HOUSE
& COUNTRY PARK

Education pack

Information and
resources for teachers
and group leaders



Aberdeenshire
COUNCIL



HADDO ESTATE



the National Trust
for Scotland
a place for everyone



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Welcome to Haddo house and country park

Haddo is the perfect place to bring your school, nursery or group for a day out. We can provide everything from structured, curriculum-based lessons to a fun afternoon in the adventure playground.

There are several organisations based at Haddo, each providing their own education service covering different topics. Generally, outdoor education in the country park is led by the Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service and schools tours and activities in Haddo House are led by the National Trust for Scotland. There are also resources available for groups wishing to explore on their own.

This pack provides: general information about visiting Haddo with a group; details of the provision offered by the Ranger Service, the NTS and Visitor Services staff; general activity suggestions and resources, and details of three themed trails (History, Nature and Wildlife, Play) for self-guided groups.

We may be able to help with transport costs for school groups – please contact us to find out more about this.

Please look through the information below and then contact your chosen service directly. For any general enquiries or for a chat about your visit, please email haddo@visithaddo.com or call the Visitor Centre on 01651 851041.

GENERAL INFORMATION & FAQ

What is there to do at Haddo?

Simple answer- lots! Educational services for schools and groups are provided by Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service (natural history and outdoor education) and the National Trust for Scotland (history-themed sessions in and around Haddo House). Haddo staff can lead guided walks or give an introductory talk about the site. Alternatively, there are three self-guided trails, and activity packs are available to borrow from the Visitor Centre. For a non-educational, fun day out younger groups can come and feed the ducks and older children can visit the adventure playground.

Is there a charge for visiting Haddo?

Access to the park, activity packs and self-guided trails are free. The Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service is available free of charge for schools and educational groups. Tours of Haddo House and gardens are free to schools with a valid National Trust for Scotland schools membership. Non-member schools are charged per child and charges may vary depending on activities.



Do we need to book in advance?

Booking is not essential for self-led visits to the park, although we would recommend contacting us to make sure we are open and do not have other groups/events on the day. Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service, Haddo House & Garden tours, activity packs, outdoor classroom and the Pheasantry must all be booked in advance (we would recommend getting in touch at least a month before your visit).

Is there car/coach parking?

There is ample free car parking, including space for coaches, during school term-time. The car park can be very busy on weekends and during school holidays.

Are there toilets in the park?

Toilets, including accessible toilets, are usually available in the Stables Courtyard and the Pheasantry.

Is there a picnic area?

There are several picnic areas around the park for groups to have lunch. The main picnic areas are by the car park and by the Adventure Playground.

Can we buy food at Haddo?

There are two cafés (the NTS tearoom and Mrs Smith's) on site, and the NTS shop sells snacks, drinks and ice-cream. Weekday opening hours vary. Please contact us in advance for large orders and to check opening times.

Are there wet weather facilities?

Our indoor classroom in the Pheasantry building is available for schools and groups at no charge. The room must be booked in advance by contacting haddo@visithaddo.com or 01651 851041.

Are there any accessibility issues?

The majority of the park paths are surfaced and suitable for wheelchairs, but some outdoor activities may involve walking through long grass or over rough ground. The ground and first floor of Haddo House are fully accessible but there is no wheelchair access to the Chapel or second floor. There are disabled toilets at the Stables Courtyard and in the park. If your group has any accessibility needs then get in touch before your visit and we can provide any advice you might need.

Will there be other visitors/schools around?

Haddo is a public park and there will be other visitors using the site during your visit including cyclists, horse-riders and dog walkers. We expect all our visitors to act responsibly but we cannot guarantee, for example, that all dogs will be on a lead.



Teachers are responsible for the safety and behaviour of all pupils during their visit. We ask all visitors to make sure they leave the park, buildings and toilets as they found them. Please take all litter away with you or use the bins provided.

When are you open?

The country park is open 7 days a week all year. Opening hours for Haddo House, tearoom and shop vary through the year and full opening hours can be found at visithaddo.com. The house is usually available for pre-booked tours and school visits outside normal opening hours.

Do you have a risk assessment?

As for any school trip, you should follow your school and local authority procedures for educational visits. The relevant guidance and documentation is available from www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/schools/outdoor/ for Aberdeenshire schools and www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/AdventureAberdeen/scc_visits.asp for Aberdeen City schools. However, we do have a [general hazard mitigation guidance document](#) to help you with writing risk assessments.

Can I arrange a pre-trip visit?

You are welcome to visit to familiarise yourself with Haddo and to plan your visit. The Visitor Services staff will be happy to meet with you if they are available.

Who do I contact now?

You'll find details of what each service has to offer here at Haddo on the next two pages.

Please look through the information below and then contact your chosen service directly. For general enquiries, or just for a chat then please email haddo@visithaddo.com or call 01651 851041.

To help us to plan your visit, please have the following information to hand when you contact us:

- when you want to visit Haddo – ideally have a couple of possible dates in case your service/activity is already booked
- the size and age range of your group
- how long your visit will be
- if any of your group have any special needs/requirements/allergies that we need to consider when planning activities
- what you would like to achieve from your visit and any particular topics you want to cover
- full contact details for you or your group leader.



education services available at haddo

OUTDOOR LEARNING, WILDLIFE, ECOLOGY, COUNTRY PARK WALKS

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL RANGER SERVICE

email: formartine.ranger@aberdeenshire.gov.uk tel: 01358 726417

Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service provides free outdoor education for visiting schools and groups here at Haddo - increasing awareness, understanding, care and responsible use of Aberdeenshire's natural and cultural heritage. Ranger Service activities are usually based in the outdoor classroom and explore the whole of the country park.

Lessons and activities usually focus on exploring the natural history of Haddo - wildlife, ecology and outdoor play - and can be designed for any age from nursery to adult. The Ranger Service can also provide training for teachers who want to run outdoor learning sessions themselves.

The Ranger Service is available all year, but is in heavy demand in May and June. We would encourage teachers and group leaders to consider visiting at other times - the outdoors is here all year round!

HISTORY, ART, HOUSE & GARDEN TOURS

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND

email: haddo@nts.org.uk tel: 0844 493 2179

Haddo House is open for educational visits all year round. School programmes, including start and end times, will be tailored to your group - and can be designed to suit schools' requirements. Specific areas or rooms in the house can be used for pre-arranged activities e.g., sketching, music or drama. Half or full day sessions are available and your class will be toured either as a group or divided into smaller groups, according to the activity you choose.

Handling kits for pupils are available. All materials for the activities will be provided.

NTS staff will lead the school programme. Teachers remain responsible for their pupils and their behaviour. Maximum class size is usually 30, with a ratio of 1 teacher/adult to 10 pupils.



SELF-GUIDED TRAILS AND ACTIVITIES

email: haddo@visithaddo.com tel: 01651 851041

Three self-guided trails are included in this pack - 'Haddo History', 'Nature and Wildlife at Haddo' and 'Play'. Each trail includes a map, descriptions of the features at each stopping point, and suggestions for activities and 'talking points' to prompt discussion.

Activity boxes (with instruction sheets) for pond-dipping, animal tracking and mini-beast hunting are available to borrow from the Visitor Centre for small groups - these must be booked out in advance. Depending on staff availability someone may be able to help set up and run these activities. These activities work best for smaller groups of up to 10.

Maps of the park are available from the Visitor Centre.

GENERAL ACTIVITY IDEAS

The following activity ideas could be used with the themed trails, but will work well as stand-alone activities to structure your visit to the park.

Design-a-map - as you walk around, take notes of important landmarks, which way you turn at path junctions and how many steps you take along each path before you turn left or right. Use these notes to make your own map of Haddo - older classes can compare their maps to Google Earth for accuracy. Younger children could make a pictorial or story map of their journey.

Design your own Haddo trail - explore the park and identify some interesting spots, and then use them to design your own trail. You could have a theme as we have done, or you could design a trail that is wheelchair/pushchair-friendly, or a trail for dogs...

Journey sticks - bring along some twine or wool. Find a stick when you arrive at Haddo, and as you walk round the park, attach interesting finds (such as feathers, seeds or fallen leaves) to it as a record of your journey. Please don't pick flowers or pull leaves from plants or trees. See if you can use your journey stick as a prompt to tell someone else about your visit to Haddo.

MORE RESOURCES

The Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission have a fantastic Outdoor Learning Pack with activity ideas for all Curriculum for Excellence areas, together with practical guidance about planning and managing outdoor learning, and suggestions for further reading.

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/mediafile/100146207/Getting-outside-the-classroom-learning-pack.pdf>



Open Air Laboratories (OPAL) provide comprehensive curriculum-linked outdoor learning packs and lessons plans for schools, as well as ID guides and a range of Citizen Science surveys that you could get involved with. <https://www.opalexplornature.org/>

The Woodland Trust also have a range of Nature Detectives activities and worksheets which are ideal for younger children. www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives

The Wildlife Trust have a Discovery section on their website <http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/discovery> as well as a dedicated Wildlife Watch site <http://www.wildlifewatch.org.uk/> with various resources including spotting sheets and activity ideas to download.

Outdoor & Woodland Learning Scotland (OWL) also have a library of downloadable learning resources <http://www.owlscotland.org/home/>

THEMED TRAILS

Each of the themed trails outlined includes a route map, a brief description of each stopping point, 'activity ideas' and 'talking points'. The 'activity ideas' are starting points for you to develop and adapt to suit the ages and abilities of your groups, the time that you have available, and your curriculum objectives. The 'talking points' provide questions and prompts for discussion as you explore the park.

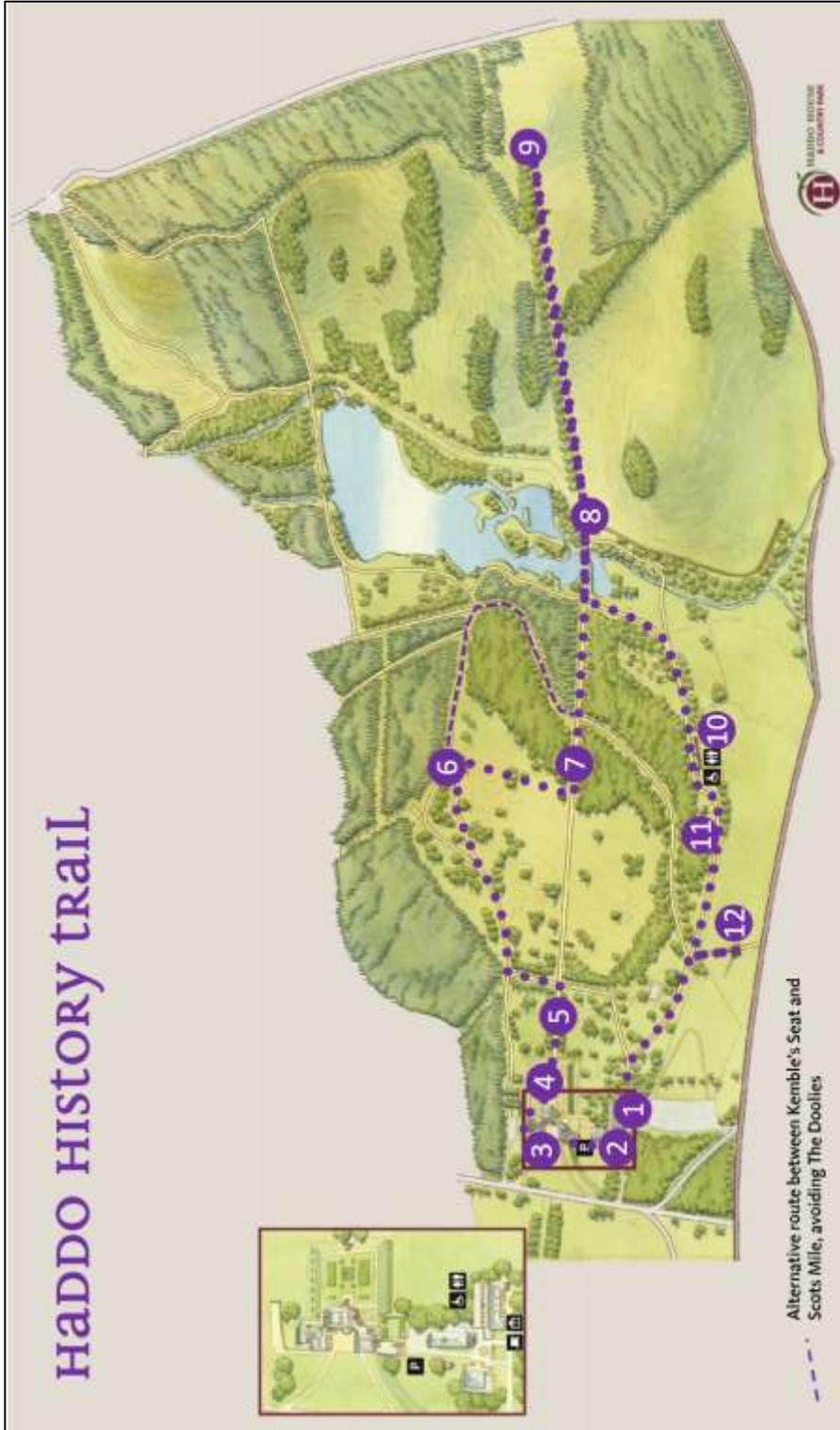
The trails are designed so that you can follow one of them in its entirety, choose elements of one trail that are appropriate to your group, or combine elements of two or all three of the trails to make your own route.

The trails all begin and end at the Visitor Centre.



A. Haddo History Trail

(approx. 2 miles, mostly on tarmac/surfaced trail with some short grass sections)



1 STABLES & COURTYARD This area was originally stables and carriage house (later used to keep the family cars). The Visitor Centre has information about the history of Haddo and the Gordon family as well as maps and guides to find your way around Haddo.

TALKING POINT: What were these buildings used for? Why are the doors so big? Look at the stone steps against the wall next to the Visitor Centre window - what do you think they were for?

2 HADDO HALL Also known as the Canadian Hall, this was built by the 7th Earl and his wife after their first tour of Canada in 1890. Inside, it is decorated with stuffed moose heads, skis and snowshoes. The Hall originally contained an indoor tennis and badminton court, a reading room and a library. It is now home to the Haddo House Choral and Operatic Society (which includes two youth choirs) and is still used regularly for music, opera and theatre productions. To your left as you face the Canadian Hall, you can also see the Peatyards (a meeting and exhibition space) and the old Game Larder.

TALKING POINT: What do you notice about the shape of the roof of the Canadian Hall? Why do you think it is like this? Can you think of any other buildings that are designed in a specific way to cope with the climate?

3 HADDO HOUSE AND CHAPEL The Haddo House you see today was largely built in the early 1700s, designed by William Adam and extensively altered by the 4th Earl in the 19th century. As you walk round the side of the house to the gardens, you'll pass the Chapel. It was consecrated in 1881, and is still used today for wedding ceremonies, by the Gordon family and by the local community.

ACTIVITY IDEAS and TALKING POINTS: The NTS shop sells a guide book with a full history of Haddo House and the Gordon family, and you can book themed tours of the house and/or gardens by contacting the National Trust for Scotland (details in information pack). Symmetry - why are buildings often designed to be symmetrical? How many lines of symmetry can you see when you look at the house from the front? Flags - is there a flag flying above the house today? What does the flag represent? Why do important buildings often have flag poles? Where else have you seen flags flying? Set in stone - the house and chapel are mainly built of granite. Why do you think this is? What are the advantages and disadvantages of building with granite rather than any other stone? Stained glass windows - why do



churches and chapels often have stained glass windows? What images can you see in these windows? Design (or even make) your own stained glass windows when you get back to school.

4 TERRACE GARDENS Enter the gardens through the gate beside the chapel. The gardens are now being restored to their 1800s design. The planting changes throughout the year and in autumn you might find rare, multi-coloured waxcap fungi on the lawn. Look out for the canon which is said to be from the Spanish Armada, and the statue of two Skye terriers which was commissioned by Ishbel (the wife of the 7th Earl). There are also two Giant Redwood trees, planted by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert when they visited Haddo in 1857.

ACTIVITY IDEAS: Tours of the gardens can be booked by contacting the NTS (details in information pack). Colour matching - in spring and summer, try to find a flower or plant in every colour of the rainbow (please do not pick or uproot the plants). Victorian art - bring paper and paint or coloured pencils to create a sketch or painting of the gardens. Historic trees - many of the garden trees were planted by the Earls of Aberdeen, or even visiting royalty, to mark special occasions. Try to find the commemorative markers by some of the trees. Which are the oldest trees you can find? Measuring and mapping - bring some rulers and measuring tapes and measure the flowerbeds and distances between them. Can you make a scale plan of a section of the garden? (Please take care not to walk in the flowerbeds or trample plants.)

5 PET GRAVES The small headstones in between the lime trees are memorials to the Gordon family pets.

6 KEMBLE'S SEAT can be hard to spot - look for a fallen tree on your left; the seat and its inscription is hidden in the rocky section behind the tree. This was the favourite spot of the 19th century actor John Kemble, a friend of the 4th Earl. The Latin inscription on the seat is translated as: *'This rude stone seat was the favourite resort of John-Philip Kemble who during the summer of 1817 frequently retired to it for the purpose of meditation.'*

ACTIVITY IDEA: Drama in the park - write or improvise a short speech or drama, perhaps about the life of an actor, an Earl, a servant, or even an animal living in the



park. Bring copies of any plays your students are currently studying and perform them outdoors.

TALKING POINTS: Why do you think Kemble favoured this spot? Why is the inscription on the seat in Latin? If you were going to choose a favourite spot in the park to sit and think, where would it be, and why?

A network of short grass paths near Kemble's Seat will take you across The Doolies to the Scots Mile. This is the route marked on the map. However, this area can be boggy so if it has been raining or your group have mobility difficulties, it may be advisable to continue along the path from Kemble's Seat, then turn right at the junction and follow the path past the red squirrel hide, picking up the trail again when you reach the Scots Mile.

7 SCOTS MILE This long avenue is the backbone of the park, and is a Scots mile long from the start of the avenue behind the house to the urn at the top of the hill. A Scots mile is slightly longer than a standard mile (at 1,973 and a half yards, compared to 1,760 yards for a standard mile) and is based on the length of the Royal Mile in Edinburgh.

ACTIVITY IDEA: Measuring the world - think about how measurements differed between countries and how science has standardised measurements. Measure a section of the Scots Mile or the length of a bench using each child's 'foot' and see how different the results are.

The designed landscape of the park was created by the 4th Earl of Aberdeen and his designer James Giles and is mostly arranged either side of the Scots Mile. The lake is artificial and all the trees you see have been deliberately planted as part of the landscape design, made to create walks and dramatic views from the house and the top of the hill. In the 17th and 18th centuries, gardens and parks tended to follow formal classical designs, but the Romantic writers and poets of the late 18th and early 19th centuries changed the way the natural world was viewed. Their influence meant that parks and gardens were designed to look more natural, with different types of tree dotted here and there, with no apparent order and plenty of open space in between.

ACTIVITY IDEA: Building a designed landscape - fill a large, shallow tray with sand, rocks and soil (we can provide these on request). Dig lakes, rivers, paths and add



branches or twigs to show tree planting. Try pouring water over your landscape to make it 'rain'. Does the water run where you want it to? Have you made beautiful lakes or just a bog?

TALKING POINT: Do you prefer the more natural-looking parkland, or the formal terrace gardens? Why?

8 GOLDEN GATES These ornamental gates are not an entrance to the park, but are designed to be seen from the house. The crests show the coats of arms of the Gordon family, the Order of the Thistle and the coats of arms of the 4th Earl's two wives. Each coat of arms design is based on part of each family's history.

ACTIVITY IDEAS: Symbols and signs - look carefully at the gates... what symbols and signs can you identify? What do you think they represent? Design a family coat of arms - think of symbols, signs or logos that are important to your family, or base it on stories from your family history.

9 MEMORIAL URN & DEER STATUES The urn was erected in memory of the 4th Earl's wife and children, who died from tuberculosis (or 'consumption' as it was known at the time) and was positioned here so as to be visible from the house. There is a Latin inscription on the urn, meaning 'Never forgotten'. The deer statues show two Fallow Deer, a type of deer common in England but rarely seen in Scotland. It is thought that there were fallow deer in the park but perhaps the statues were made from a template or a picture rather than being designed by a local craftsman. Note that one deer is looking up, while the other is looking down.

ACTIVITY IDEA: Looking back in time - on a clear day, look at the views from near the top of the Scots Mile. What can you see? Talk about, or perhaps sketch, what the landscape might have looked like 100/200/500/1000 years ago.

TALKING POINT: How might the Earl's second wife have felt about this memorial?

10 PHEASANTRY As its name suggests, this building was built to rear pheasants. The flat lawn would have provided an area for the pheasants to exercise. It was later converted into cottages for estate workers (though with walls only one brick thick, it would have been very cold in winter, and water would have had to be drawn from the nearby well). The building may have been based on an English design as



this type of fancy brickwork is extremely rare in north east Scotland. The Pheasantry, which is a listed building, now contains a Scout hut, toilets and education rooms for the park. The Pheasantry rooms (including tables, chairs, power and basic IT equipment) are available for groups to use for activities or for lunch – please contact us at the Visitor Centre for more details.

ACTIVITY IDEA: Spotting shapes - stand at the front of the Pheasantry and see how many different shapes you can see in the design of the building. Why do you think these shapes were used? The north wind doth blow - look at the wind vane on the top of the Pheasantry... can you work out which way the wind is blowing? Where else have you seen wind vanes like this one and why are they in these positions?

11 CARPENTER'S COTTAGE This building is very typical of the stone-built workers' cottages on the estate, with a little attached garden.

ACTIVITY IDEA: Victorian life - how do you think the lives of the estate workers who lived in this cottage were different to those of the Earls living in the main house? Which do you think you would have preferred, and why?

12 WATERLOO MONUMENT A memorial to Lt Colonel Alexander Gordon (the brother of the 4th Earl) who was killed at Waterloo. There is also a memorial to him on the battle site at Waterloo. You can walk up to the monument to read the inscriptions and there are two boards with information about the monument and the battle.

TALKING POINT: The Waterloo Monument has been stabilised, rather than restored to look as it would have done originally. Other features in the park, for example the Golden Gates, the monumental urn and the deer statues have been restored. How should features like this be looked after?



b. haddo Nature and wildlife trail

(approx. 2 miles, mostly on tarmac/surfaced trail, grass path along deer park side of lake)



Your experience of the Nature and Wildlife Trail will be very different depending on when you do it - but there will always be interesting things to see, hear and perhaps smell, whatever time of year you are here. Why not do the same trail at different times of year and compare?

As you follow the trail, keep your eyes and ears open. Listen carefully to the sounds that the birds make - how many different ones can you hear? Keep an eye on the ground too - can you spot any animal tracks in the mud (or snow?) or any poo? Make a note of the birds that you see, and look out for interesting plants and fungi.

Remember that some plants and fungi can be poisonous, so don't touch them unless you are sure that you know what they are. Don't forget to wash your hands thoroughly after you have touched plants, feathers and other objects you find on your trail, especially before you eat your lunch.

1. **THE VETERAN BEECH** Beech trees were introduced to Scotland from England in the 18th century when landowners were trying to improve their farmland and also make it more attractive. This is thought to be the oldest living beech tree in Aberdeenshire, and is one of the oldest trees in the park.

ACTIVITY IDEAS: How old is this tree? There are quite a few tree stumps around the park... see if you can count their growth rings and estimate how old the tree was when it was cut down. For living trees, we can't count the growth rings, but we can measure the girth of the trunk and work out an estimate of its age. For trees in open space, divide the girth of the trunk (in centimetres) by 1.25, and for trees in woodland, by 2.5 - this will give you an approximate age in years. The trunk of the Veteran Beech is 656cm. Can you find any older trees in the park? Trees and leaves - leaves come in lots of different shapes and sizes and can help us to identify what species a tree is. How many different types of leaf can you find in the park? Borrow a tree and leaf guide from us, or download one from OPAL or The Woodland Trust - how many species can you identify? In autumn and winter, look at bark on the trees (and perhaps do some bark rubbings to compare them), or see if you can find a perfect leaf skeleton.

TALKING POINT: The tree is fenced off primarily to protect visitors to the park in case heavy branches fall from the tree. However, many old trees such as the Fortingall Yew in Perthshire (thought to be the oldest tree in Europe) are fenced off to protect the tree. Many trees are also subject to Tree Protection Orders so that



they can't be felled when development work is undertaken. Do you think it is important to protect old trees? Why or why not?

As you walk into the woods, look at the layers of the woodland. How much light are the trees letting through? What is growing on the ground? Does this vary depending on the tree species?

2 OUTDOOR CLASSROOM The fenced area on the left is our dedicated outdoor classroom with activity space and campfire site. You are welcome to use this area for various activities, but please book in advance as it is often used by the Ranger Service.

ACTIVITY IDEAS: Secret dens - in small groups, use logs and branches to make a den, hide inside and see if your classmates can find you. Build a bridge - there is a very wet and muddy area in the corner of the outdoor classroom... can you use natural materials to make a raft or bridge to cross it without getting your feet wet? Blindfold and barefoot - blindfold a friend and guide them through a small area of the outdoor classroom. Describe what you can see and encourage them to touch the trees and other objects they pass. Can they follow the same route when their blindfold is removed? If you're feeling brave, you could take your shoes and socks off too, and notice the different textures as you walk. Water-loving? Can you see any changes in the plants from one part of the outdoor classroom to another? Are there different plant species in the wet and boggy areas?

3 RED SQUIRREL HIDE This is the best spot in the park to see red squirrels, although you may have to be patient! Numbers of native red squirrels in the UK have declined since the introduction of the grey squirrel from North America in the 19th century, but are doing well in many parts of northern Scotland, and Haddo is an excellent place to see them. They live in the park all year round, but are often easier to spot in winter.

ACTIVITY IDEAS: Squirrel feeding - bring along some suitable food (nuts, seeds, apples...) and fill the boxes. The squirrels will usually appear around 10-15 minutes later. Watch their behaviour - notice how they get into the feeders, how they eat, what they do with their tails, how they use the ropes and the trees... Not for birds - look at the design of the squirrel feeders: why are they made like this and why can't a bird use them? Can you think of a better design for a feeder? Squirrel signs - look around the feeders for cones that have been stripped by the squirrels. Look in the



trees for large twiggy 'nests' which may be squirrel dreys. Squirrel life - what do the squirrels mostly feed on at Haddo? Can you think what might be a danger to them? Find a squirrel life-cycle chart and work out what the squirrels will be doing when you visit.

***TALKING POINT:** A number of organisations are working to protect native red squirrels, and in some cases, this includes trying to eradicate grey squirrels. Do you think this is a good idea? Many of the rhododendrons that are found across Scotland are non-native and were introduced from Asia - have a look at the rhododendrons round the park... Why do you think they can be problematic? Should we try to control non-native plant and animal species?*

4 LAKESIDE BIRD HIDE The best place to watch the wildfowl and water birds on the main lake. We have more than twenty species of water bird at Haddo during the year. We have small numbers of binoculars and bird identification guides available to borrow on request.

***ACTIVITY IDEAS:** Easy birdwatching - how many different types of ducks and geese can you see on the lake? How many of each type can you spot? Look at the groups of ducks and geese - are they in large groups or small ones? Do they stick together with others of the same species, or are they mixing together? How can you tell the different species apart? Are they different colours or patterns?*

5 WILDFLOWER MEADOW This is a lovely example of an old-fashioned flower meadow and has not been ploughed for over 200 years. From spring onwards, you can find many different species of wildflower including northern marsh orchids, devil's bit scabious and meadowsweet. The wildflowers here attract many butterflies, moths, bees and other pollinating insects.

***ACTIVITY IDEAS:** Colour-changing - see how many different colours of flower you can find in the meadow (please do not pick the orchids and only pick one of any other flower). Minibeast hunting - take a minibeast kit (available to borrow from the Visitor Centre) and see how many different insects you can find in the meadow. Vegetation survey - pick a 1m square section of meadow and count the number of different plants. Do this across the whole meadow to see if it differs. If it does change, why do you think that is?*



6 DAM WALL The dry, well-drained, artificial dam wall is another superb place to see wild flowers. This is also the best location for butterflies, damselflies and dragonflies in the summer.

ACTIVITY IDEAS: Butterfly survey - pick a spot and stand in it for a specific amount of time, counting how many butterfly species (and how many of each species you see during your survey. If your group is here all day, you could survey in the morning and again in the afternoon and compare results. Flower survey - count the number of different flowers in 1m square here. Are there different flowers here compared to the meadow? Why do you think there might be different flowers in different areas? Is the soil here different to the meadow, and why?

7 CASCADES BRIDGE & FISH PASS The fish pass here was built in 2014 to help spawning salmon travel up the Kelly Burn and there is an interpretation board near the bridge explaining how it works.

ACTIVITY IDEA: Salmon life cycle - find out about the salmon life cycle. You could write a poem or a story about the salmon's journey. At specific times of the year we may be rearing salmon in a tank in the Visitor Centre as part of the River Ythan Trust Salmon in the Classroom project. Perhaps think about a salmon rearing tank for your classroom...

8 SCOTS MILE BRIDGE The ducks and geese here are usually very tame and will come to be fed. It's a great place to see different species close up, or just to play pooh sticks off the bridge! You're welcome to bring food to feed the ducks, but please give them grain, bird food or green vegetables such as lettuce, rather than bread which is not good for the ducks or for the water in the lake. You can also buy duck food from Mrs Smith's or the NTS shop.

ACTIVITY IDEAS: Feed the ducks - and then watch them as they are feeding. Do they all behave in the same way? Do they eat different things? Do they fight over food? Easy birdwatching - this is a great place to look at different species of ducks and geese without needing binoculars. Collecting feathers - there are often feathers on the ground in this area... collect a few and compare them. What shape are they? What do they feel like? Why do birds have several different types of feathers?



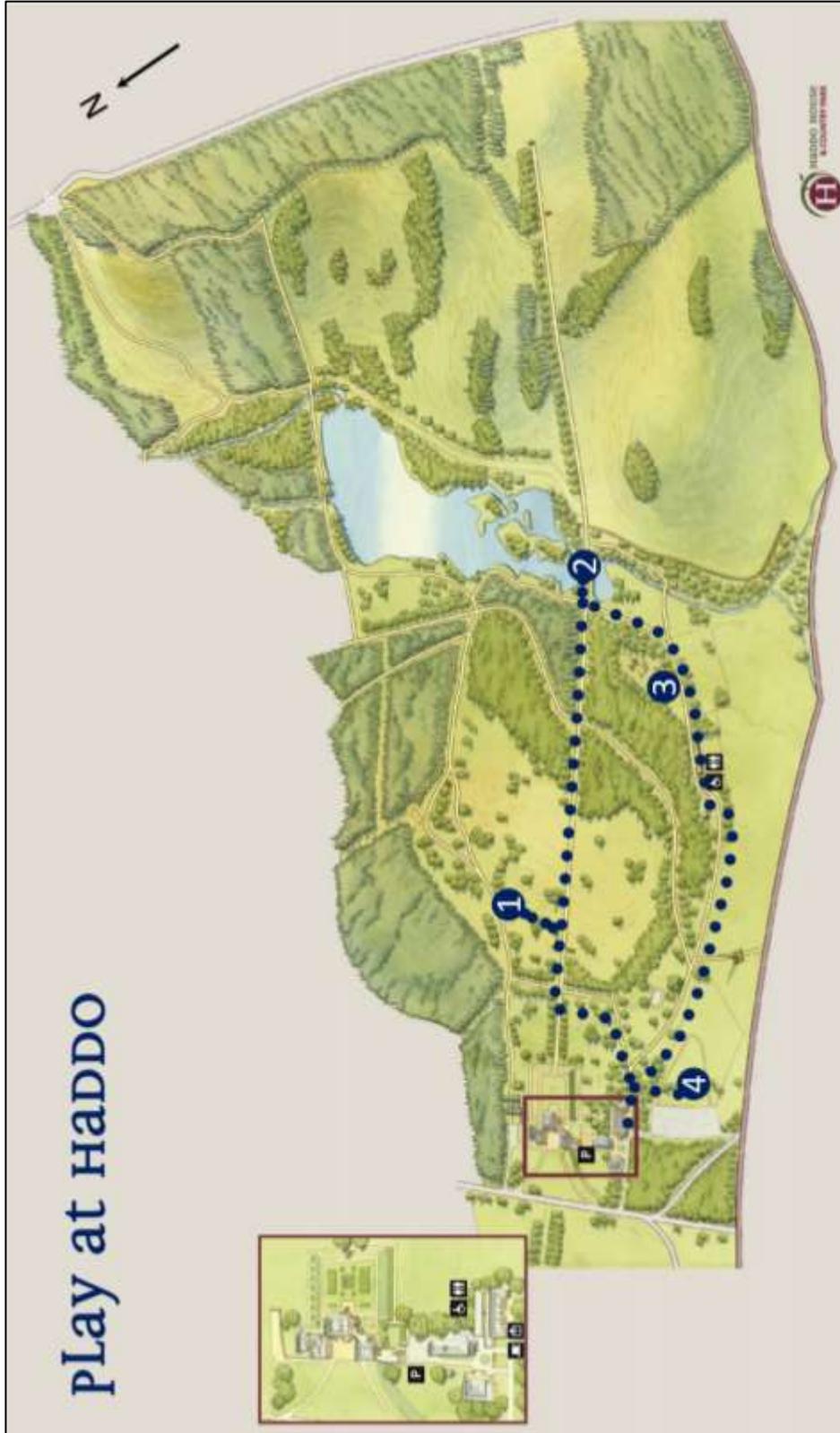
9 **KELLY BURN** This runs through three artificial lakes before joining the River Ythan. It's home to lots of species of fish and water invertebrates.

ACTIVITY IDEAS: Fast-flowing - measure how fast the burn is flowing by dropping a twig from the bridge and seeing how far it travels in 10 seconds. Do the same at the Scots Mile Bridge, the dam and/or the Cascades bridge. Look at the shape of the burn bed and try and work out why one part of the same burn might be flowing faster than another. Mud and sand - look at the bottom of the burn and see how pebbly or sandy it is. You could even carefully collect a small amount of the mud or sand using a pond net or similar. Why are different areas of the stream bed different? How would this affect the wildlife that lives in the river? River dipping - borrow a pond dipping kit and 'dip' the Kelly Burn.

10 **WILD FLOWER MEADOW** Another wildflower meadow with very different species than the lakeside meadow. This meadow is great to use for surveys without the walk to the lake, or as a comparison site.



c. Play at Haddo



1. **THE DOOLIES** This area has a playground, picnic tables and a large grassed area.
2. **SCOTS MILE BRIDGE** The ducks and geese here are usually very tame and will come to be fed. You're welcome to bring food to feed the ducks, but please give them grain, bird food or green vegetables such as lettuce, rather than bread which is not good for the ducks or for the water in the lake. Alternatively, you can buy duck food from Mrs Smith's or the NTS shop. This is also a good place for a game of pooh sticks from the bridge.
3. **ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND** There is plenty to explore here, with slides, ropes, scrambles and a 40m zip wire. There are also picnic tables in this area.
4. **NEAR THE WATERLOO MONUMENT** This area between the car park and the Waterloo Monument is a large grassed area with picnic tables. Please note that this area is used as an overflow car park when there is a big event or when the park is particularly busy.

There are several large grassed areas in the park - why not bring a ball, frisbee or skipping ropes along, or set up a mini obstacle course? Or play Hide and Seek or I Spy... Or try a Scavenger Hunt... The possibilities are endless!

We hope that the information and resources in this pack will help you to plan a safe and enjoyable visit to Haddo, but please do not hesitate to contact us if we can provide further assistance.

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