

# Haddo House for schools

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The site of Haddo House has been continuously occupied by the same branch of the Gordon family since the 15th century. The current mansion was not built until 1732 when the 2nd Earl of Aberdeen pulled down the ruined castle of his ancestors to create a much more fashionable and commodious residence for himself and his descendants. Built to designs by William Adam - leading Scottish architect of the time - the house was in the fashionable Palladian revival style. This comprises a simple three-storeyed central block principally used for family accommodation, with outlying stable and kitchen wings reached by curving arcades. The design was soon out-dated and impractical and so throughout the 19th century a vigorous programme of modernisation and redecoration was undertaken. The result is a very elegant blend of crisp Georgian architecture and opulent Victorian interior design.

The House contains excellent examples of fine art, furniture, and objets, along with primary source material which provides insights into the lives and times of the generations of Gordons who have lived there. The formal gardens are little changed since they were designed for the 4th Earl of Aberdeen in the early 19th century, and contain many interesting features, geometric rose-beds, sundials, fountain, commemorative trees planted by visiting dignitaries (including Queen Victoria and Prince Albert) and pets' graves.

The 200 acres of the wider landscaped grounds now form the Haddo Country Park and are in the care of Aberdeenshire Council.

## ● education programme

Haddo House is an important primary resource that offers cross-curricular learning opportunities for key areas of the 5-14 Curriculum

### a site visit offers

- a guided tour of the House (areas, content and duration arranged to suit)
- a guided tour of the Gardens (areas, content and duration arranged to suit)
- use of areas or rooms for specific activities (e.g. sketching, music, drama)
- study days to combine any/all of the above activity types

### classroom resources

- illustrated guidebook (available on request)
- Children's Guide
- Conservation Study Box (available from September 2001)
- the *Haddo House Hall Arts Trust* caters for thousands of children annually at the pantomime and summer play and provides opportunities for Theatre-in-Education group work with secondary schools

## ● practical information

### planning your visit

- pre-booking is essential - visits to the Country Park should be arranged separately through Aberdeenshire Council Ranger Service, telephone (01651) 851489
- maximum class size: for House activities 30; for Garden activities 30 with a ratio of at least 1 responsible adult to every 10 children
- cost for school parties: children £1 - accompanying adults admitted free of charge
- Educational Membership of the National Trust for Scotland allows free entry to all NTS properties
- preparation: we recommend an in-depth discussion with the Property Manager to ensure your needs are met, and encourage a free preparatory visit by teachers

### during your visit

- please note: visiting teachers and accompanying adults are responsible for discipline
- on arrival: meeting points will depend on the topics to be studied
- picnic facilities: picnic areas available
- shop: please visit in small numbers to avoid overcrowding
- toilets: situated in the Stables courtyard - there are no public toilets within the House

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## ● for more information contact

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