



Haddo House

Teacher's information



The site of Haddo House has been continuously occupied by the same branch of the Gordon family since the fifteenth century. The current mansion was built in 1732, when the second Earl of Aberdeen pulled down the ruined castle of his ancestors to create a more fashionable and commodious residence for himself and his descendants.

Built to designs by William Adam, the leading Scottish architect of the time, Haddo is an example of 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. This design soon became outdated and impractical, and throughout the nineteenth century a vigorous programme of modernisation and redecoration was undertaken. The result is an elegant blend of crisp Georgian architecture and opulent Victorian interior design.

Haddo contains excellent examples of fine art and furniture, along with primary source material that provides insight 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 fourth Earl of Aberdeen in the early nineteenth century, and contain many interesting features, including geometric rose-beds, sundials, a fountain and graves of family pets. Commemorative trees planted by visiting dignitaries (including Queen Victoria and Prince Albert) also stand in the gardens.

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

The school programme offers many opportunities for cross-curricular work and engaging with the Curriculum for Excellence

- Tours of the house can be designed to suit schools' requirements, and specific areas or rooms in the house can be used for pre-arranged activities e.g., sketching, music or drama.
- Guided tours of the garden can be tailored to particular needs.
- Full study days are also available, including a combination of any/all of the above activities.
- Handling kits for pupils are available
- Haddo House Hall caters for hundreds of children annually and provides opportunities for Theatre-in-Education group work with secondary schools – contact Haddo for more details

Planning your class visit:

- To book: Pre-booking is essential – please contact Haddo to book.
- To get the most from your visit, please discuss your needs with the property manager when booking
- Book well in advance to avoid disappointment
- Haddo is open for educational visits all the year round.
- School programmes, including start and end times, will be tailored to your group – and can be confirmed when you book

For more information, visit www.ntslearning.org.uk

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Planning your class visit (continued):

- Maximum class size: 30, with a ratio of 1 teacher/adult to 10 pupils
- Access: The ground and first floor of the house are fully accessible for those with mobility impairment. We regret that there is no access to the first floor chapel and second floor of the house. Please contact Haddo for further information on access and additional support. You can also check the Haddo webpage on the NTS website: www.nts.org.uk.
- Toilets: Available in the house and the stables courtyard, including adapted toilets.
- Refreshments: There is a tearoom at the property, which pupils are welcome to use
- Pupils can eat snacks/packed lunches in the picnic areas when the weather is fine. The hall is also available for eating lunches – this must be confirmed at time of booking
- The site has been risk assessed. Teachers are expected to prepare their own RA for the visit

Charges:

- There is no charge for schools with NTS educational membership
- Non-member schools are welcome but there is a charge of £2 per pupil – accompanying adults are admitted free
- Membership: to apply for membership, go the NTS Learn website – or contact Haddo
- Class teachers are encouraged to make a free preparatory visit to the site

During your class visit:

- NTS staff will lead the school programme
- Your class will be toured either as a group or divided into smaller groups, according to the activity you have chosen. This will be confirmed at time of booking
- Teachers are responsible for their pupils, and for their behaviour
- Pupils do not need to bring materials for the school programme
- Teachers and pupils are welcome to take photos in the house and the country park
- There is space for pupils to leave coats/bags inside the house
- On arrival: Your school will be advised where/who to report to at time of booking

Getting to Haddo

- Haddo House sits off the B999 near Tarves, at Raxton crossroads, 19 miles north of Aberdeen, 4 miles north of Pitmedden and 10 miles north-west of Ellon
- All car parking is in the main country park car park. Pupils with mobility impairment may be dropped off in front of the house. Buses may also come to the front of the house in bad weather

For more information and a booking form contact:

The Property Manager
Haddo House, Methlick, Ellon, Aberdeenshire AB 41 7EQ
Tel: 0844 493 2179 Email: haddo@nts.org.uk

PLEASE NOTE:

Visits to the country park should also be arranged through the property manager. Please contact Haddo using the details above.