



**THIS  
PEACEFUL  
LITTLE  
COUNTRY  
PARK ON  
THE BANKS**

**OF THE RIVER UGIE HAS  
PROBABLY ALWAYS  
BEEN SHELTERED AND  
WOODED.**

**THE SOUNDS OF  
BIRDSONG, TRICKLING  
WATER AND WIND  
THROUGH THE  
BRANCHES HAVE BEEN  
CONSTANT THROUGH  
ITS LONG HISTORY.**

**BY LOOKING AROUND  
FOR CLUES WE CAN  
PIECE TOGETHER SOME  
OF THE STORY OF THE  
ESTATE.**

Aberdeenshire Farming Museum and Hareshowe Farm are run by Aberdeenshire Council's Museums Service.

Aden Farming Museum is located in the former Aden Estate farm steading which is a restored historic building. The ground floor is fully accessible to all visitors. The upper floor has limited access for those with mobility restrictions.

Hareshowe Farm steading and Hareshowe farmhouse are both small traditional buildings and visitor numbers may need to be limited at particularly busy times. A member of staff is on hand to provide visitors with short, guided tours. Please be aware that due to historic nature of the buildings, some areas of Hareshowe may not be accessible to visitors with mobility restrictions.

The museums are open seasonally. For details of opening hours, events or general visitor information please contact

**Aberdeenshire Museums**

Station Road, Mintlaw AB42 5EE

Telephone: 01771 622807

Email: [museums@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:museums@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)

Visit: [www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/museums](http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/museums)

*The Aberdeenshire Farming Collection is one of Scotland's Recognised Collections of National Significance.*



**AN INTRODUCTION TO  
ADEN**

*Aden or Alden, meaning a "bonny brae"*



The name Aden, or Alden as it once was, may mean “bonny brae” and Deer originates in a Gaelic word, *doire*, meaning “thicket”.

There have been two monasteries nearby. The earliest was a Celtic community, which produced the beautiful and famous ‘Book of Deer’ in the 10th Century. Then a later one was founded in the 13th Century by the Cisterian Monks of Kinloss near Forres in Moray. The remains of this can be seen today in Old Deer.



The presence of these monasteries tells us that the land was probably good, workable and productive. They would have brought new agricultural techniques, land improvement and wealth to the area.

Nearby, the towns and villages grew up around the estate. Old Deer is probably the oldest settlement— a farming community and market town. Mintlaw grew around a coaching stop, and Mintlaw Station was unknown until the arrival of the railway in the 19th Century.



Aden itself was once a busy and productive farming estate, like many others in the area. In comparison with the large sporting estates of Highland Scotland, it is modest in size. But in its heyday it was well run, efficient and profitable, and provided employment for many local people right up until the early years of the 20th Century.



However the estate later befell hard times. Global events like the World Wars, worldwide depression and financial crashes led to many lowland estates being portioned off and sold. Aden itself changed hands and suffered neglect before it was bought by the local authority in the 1970s.



Now a bustling country park, complete with museum, cafe, shops, playpark and much more, there are still many clues to the history of the estate. Why not visit the old ‘Big House’ and see if you can imagine the lives of the people who lived there. Can you picture the grand ladies taking tea in the garden, or the busy kitchen maids preparing the next meal?

