



ADEN
COUNTRY PARK

**TRAILS AT
ADEN COUNTRY PARK**

WELCOME

Often referred to as “the jewel in the Buchan crown”, Aden Country Park is a 230 acre country park in the heart of Buchan, Aberdeenshire. Aden (pronounced Aa-den), meaning bonnie burn or brae, offers a warm welcome, beautiful surroundings, and a wide range of opportunities for recreation and relaxation.

Alongside the many park facilities and features, Aden has a network of paths which are ideal for walking, jogging, cycling, or somewhere to exercise your four-legged friend. Whatever your interest, we love it when our visitors fully explore the more remote areas of the park.

The **Trails at Aden** leaflet has been designed to both encourage and help people to navigate the park’s many trails, providing opportunities to engage in Aden’s built, natural, and archaeological heritage, and the story of farming in the North East of Scotland.

The five different trails supported by this leaflet include the **Aden Archaeology Trail, Aden Estate Trail, Agricultural Heritage Trail, Aden Nature Trail** and the **Aden Tree Trail**.

The Agricultural Heritage Trail, Aden Nature Trail, and the Aden Tree Trail are all guided with physical metal or wooden posts. The Aden Archaeology Trail, and Aden Estate Trail are self-guided, with interpretation panels at each point of interest.

As shown on the enclosed maps, each trail varies in length. Most of the trails are either short to medium in length, making them suitable for people of all ages and abilities, however, please do check the relevant map first before you set off.



For further information please scan the QR code or visit the Aden Country Park website at:

<https://adencountrypark.org.uk/visitor-information/things-to-do/walks-tours-trails>



A photograph of two hikers walking away on a dirt trail through a dense forest. The hiker in the foreground is wearing a red backpack, a blue plaid shirt, and khaki shorts. The hiker behind is wearing a green shirt and khaki pants. Both are using trekking poles. The background is filled with green foliage and trees.

ADEN ARCHAEOLOGY TRAIL

With the support from local schools, groups, students, and volunteers, a series of community-based archaeological research, excavation, and evaluation has been undertaken in Aden Country Park. These archaeological investigations have not only helped to identify previously unknown sites of archaeological interest, but also expand the story of life in Aden over thousands of years.

The Aden Archaeology Trail will guide visitors to the fascinating T-Shaped Post Reformation Chapel & Rectangular Manse Remains, the Neolithic Site, onto the Aden Mansion House, finishing at the two Late 19th & Early 20th Century Trench related sites.

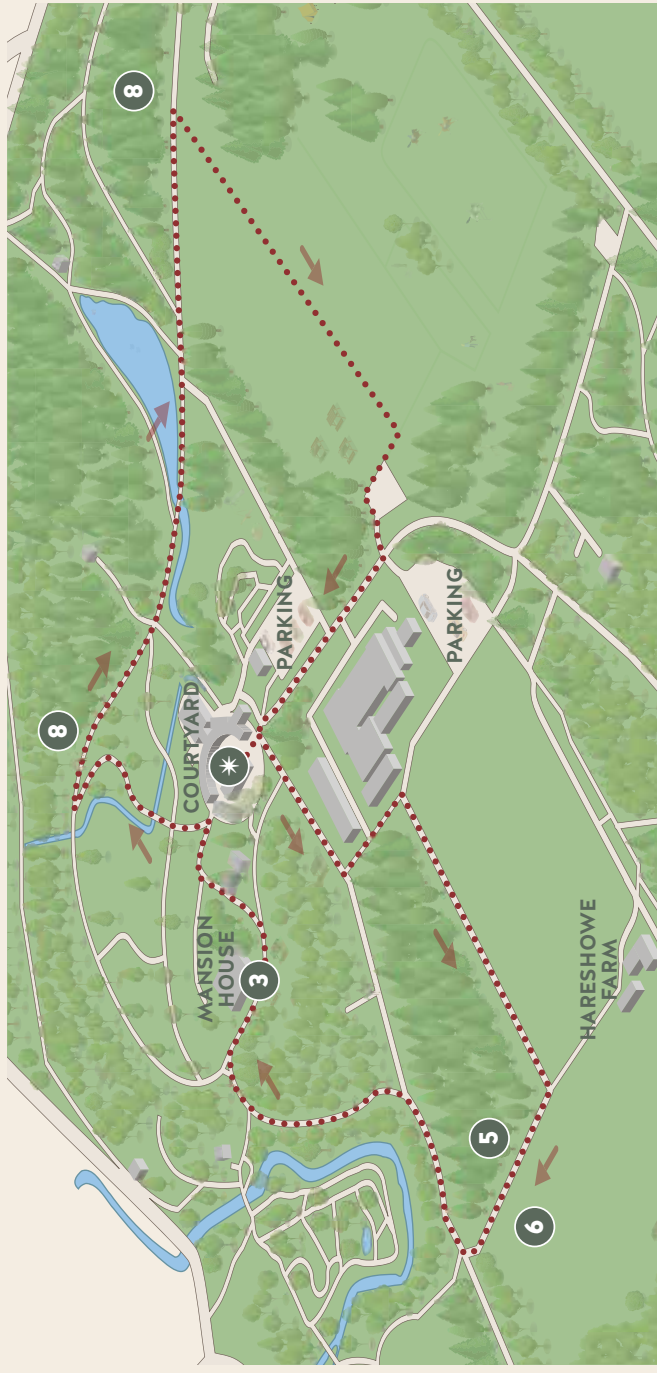
The Aden Archaeology Trail is a self-guided trail which provides a fascinating insight into five significant sites of archaeological interest in Aden Country Park. Once you arrive at each site, you will find an interpretation panel which provides further insights, and QR codes for further reading. We hope you enjoy the trail.



For further information please scan the QR code or visit the Aden Country Park website at:

<https://adencountrypark.org.uk/history-heritage/archaeology>

ADEN ARCHAEOLOGY TRAIL



APPROXIMATE DISTANCE:
1.6m / 2.6km

THE POINTS OF INTEREST ON THIS TRAIL CORRESPOND WITH NUMBERS ON THE ADEN MAP LEAFLET AND INTERPRETATION PANELS AT THESE LOCATIONS

5 T-SHAPED POST REFORMATION CHAPEL & RECTANGULAR MANSE REMAINS (ACCESS TO SITE VIA GATE)



Post 1500s (post-reformation) chapel and rectangular manse building (image by Jan Dunbar)

3 ADEN MANSION HOUSE



Aden Mansion House during the 2019 archaeological dig

6 NEOLITHIC SITE



Rectangular manse room interior showing minister preparing a sermon (image by Jan Dunbar)

8 LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY TRENCHES (2013 SITE)



Archaeological feature during the 2013 investigation

6 NEOLITHIC SITE



Neolithic mortuary enclosure (image by Jan Dunbar)

8 LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH CENTURY TRENCHES (2017 SITE)



Longside Primary P6 pupils at the 2017 archaeological dig

ADEN ESTATE TRAIL

Aden Country Park's present-day appearance dates predominately from the ownership of the Russell family, who made a range of farming and estate improvements during their tenure, from 1758 through to 1937.

During this period the Aden Mansion House was redesigned in the neo-classical style by Aberdeen architect John Smith. Estate improvements continued with the construction of the unique semi-circular farm steading buildings, gate lodges, laundry, gasworks, and ice house. The grounds were also redesigned, specimen trees planted, and hothouses created.

The Aden Estate Trail is a self-guided trail which has been designed to provide an intriguing insight into what life would have been like on the Aden Estate. On arriving at each feature, you will find an interpretation panel which provides further details, and QR codes for further reading. We hope you enjoy the trail.

For further information please scan the QR code or visit the Aden Country Park website at:



<https://adencountrypark.org.uk/history-heritage/estate-landscape/>



<https://adencountrypark.org.uk/history-heritage/park-history/>

ADEN ESTATE TRAIL

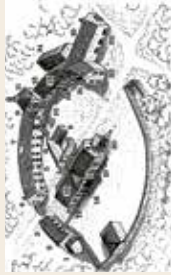


APPROXIMATE DISTANCE:
2.5m / 4km

THE POINTS OF INTEREST ON THIS TRAIL CORRESPOND WITH NUMBERS ON THE ADEN MAP LEAFLET AND INTERPRETATION PANELS AT THESE LOCATIONS

0 MILES 1/4 MILES
0 KILOMETRES 1/4 KILOMETRES

1 FARMSTEAD BUILDINGS



Unique semi-circular farmstead buildings

25 OLD LAUNDRY BUILDING



Derelict laundry building prior to renovation

2 GASWORKS



First Edition OS map showing Gasometer
(copyright National Library of Scotland)

3 ADEN MANSION HOUSE



Aden Mansion House in its heyday

4 ICE HOUSE



The construction of an ice house improved family life

12 VICTORIAN ARBORETUM



Bridge to the Victorian Arboretum

33 SOUTH / TWIN LODGES



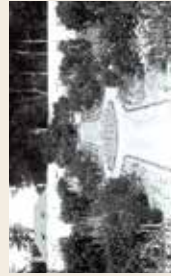
One of the Twin Lodges being stabilised

31 FORESTER'S COTTAGE



Estate workers who helped run the Aden Estate

27 WALLED GARDEN



Thriving walled garden divided into quarters

11 LAKE & MILL POND



Early photo of the Aden Lake c1900

32 NORTH / GOLDIES LODGE



North Lodge, known as Goldie's Lodge



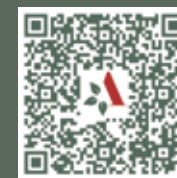
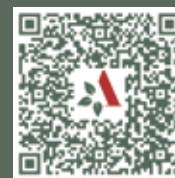
AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE TRAIL

Long famed for high quality Aberdeen-Angus cattle, the North East contains a quarter of Scotland's arable land and consequently farming is an essential feature of rural life.

The Agricultural Heritage Trail is a guided trail which focuses on farming life in the North East of Scotland. The trail ties in a visit to Hareshowe Farm and is marked with Corten steel posts incorporating images from the James Morrison Photographic Collection. Morrison's work provides a remarkable record of daily farming life in rural Aberdeenshire and these prints are taken from a group of over 600 glass plate negatives created between 1890 and 1915.

The Agricultural Heritage Trail has been designed to provide an intriguing insight into rural farming life in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. At each feature you will find an interpretation panel, coupled with QR codes for further reading. We hope you enjoy the trail.

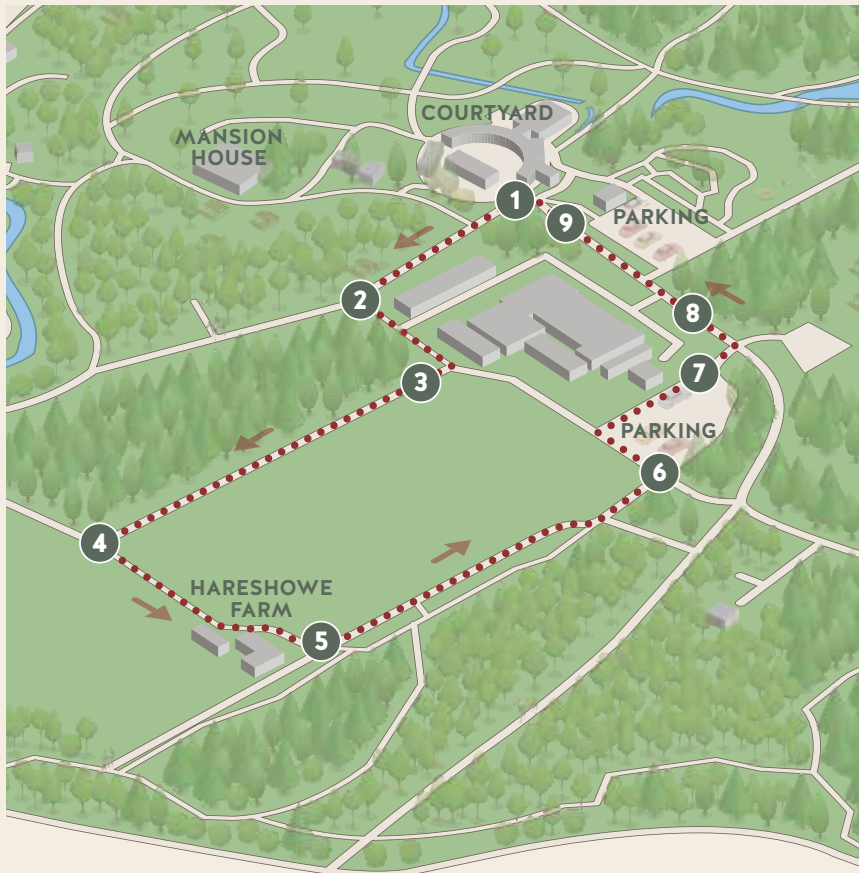
For further information please scan the QR code or visit the Aden Country Park website at:



<https://adencountrypark.org.uk/visitor-information/things-to-do/agricultural-heritage-trail/>

<https://adencountrypark.org.uk/history-heritage/farming-heritage/>

AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE TRAIL



APPROXIMATE DISTANCE:
0.8m / 1.3km



1 A BUSY WORKING DAY



2 LAND MANAGEMENT



3 PLOUGHING THE WAY



4 HARVEST SEASON



5 NEW TECHNOLOGIES IN THE FIELD



6 HARD WORK AT HAIRST TIME



7 FROM HERE TO THERE



8 MILKING TIME



9 A FAMILY AFFAIR





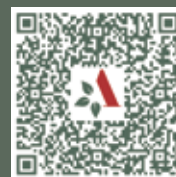
ADEN NATURE TRAIL

Aden Country Park attracts an array of different wildlife throughout the year. With its informal woodland, managed parkland, arboretums, wildflower meadows, lake, and secluded gardens, Aden's varied landscape contributes to the unique biodiversity of species that it attracts.

Whether it's the wide variety of nesting and migrating birds, wealth of aquatic and land invertebrates, amphibians, and mammals, the resident but secretive roe deer, or summer migrants such as osprey, Aden is an important natural environment in the North East of Scotland.

The Aden Nature Trail is a guided trail with wooden posts, interpretation, rubbing plaques, and QR codes for further reading. Before you set off, be sure to pick up some paper and a pencil/ crayon for taking rubbings. We hope you enjoy the trail.

For further information please scan the QR code or visit the Aden Country Park website at:



<https://adencountrypark.org.uk/visitor-information/things-to-do/walks-tours-trails-aden-nature-trail>



<https://adencountrypark.org.uk/history-heritage/natural-history>

ADEN NATURE TRAIL



APPROXIMATE DISTANCE:
1.8m / 2.9 km

0 MILES

0 KILOMETRES

1/4 MILES

1/4 KILOMETRES



BROAD BUCKLER FERN



ALDER



OAK



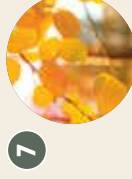
MALLARD DUCK



WILDFLOWERS



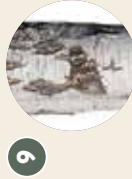
ELDER



ASPEN



SCOTS PINE



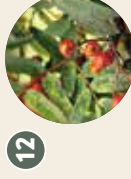
BIRCH



ROE DEER



BRAMBLE



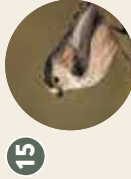
ROWAN



HAZEL



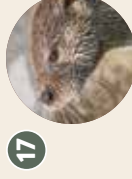
HAWTHORN



WOODLAND BIRDS



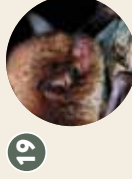
**PLANTATION ON ANCIENT
WOODLAND SITE**



OTTERS



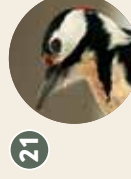
STINGING NETTLES



DAUBENTON'S BAT



DEAD WOOD



GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER

A person with a backpack is walking away on a forest path in autumn. The path is covered in fallen leaves and surrounded by tall trees and dense ferns. The lighting is soft and golden, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The person is wearing a light-colored jacket and dark pants.

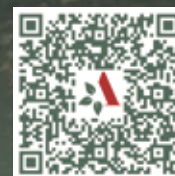
ADEN TREE TRAIL

Aden Country Park is home to a wide variety of native and non-native trees. The Aden Tree Trail guides visitors around ten different species, including a number in the Victorian Arboretum. In the 1830s when tree and plant collecting was at its height, Caroline Lambton, the wife of the fourth Russell Laird of Aden, is said to have redesigned the Aden Estate grounds, planting specimen trees, and creating landscaped gardens.

Today, the Aden Tree Trail is a popular trail which has been designed to help visitors explore the park, discover interesting tree specimens, encourage learning, and increase knowledge and understanding of tree species identification.

The Aden Tree Trail is a guided trail with numbered wooden posts which relates to the tree species information within this leaflet. We hope you enjoy the trail and the legacy that Caroline has left for future generations to enjoy.

For further information please scan the QR code or visit the Aden Country Park website at:

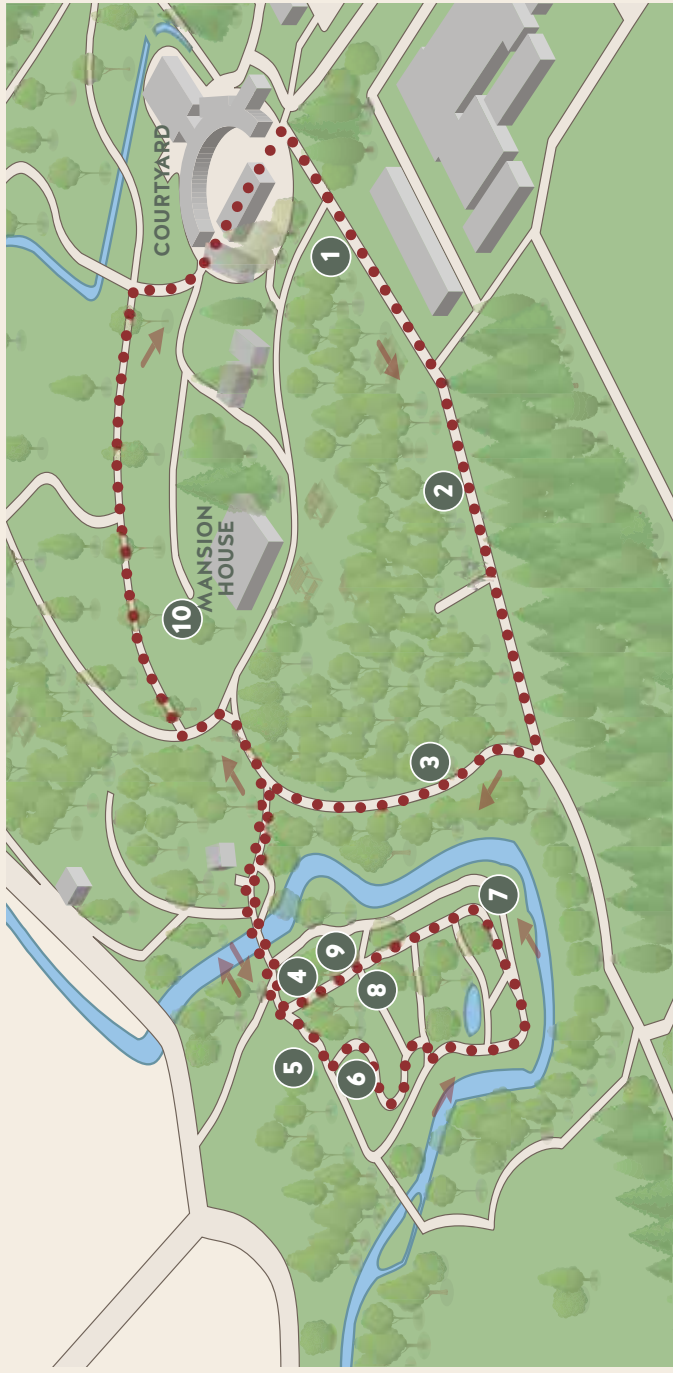


<https://adencountrypark.org.uk/visitor-information/things-to-do/walks-tours-trails/>



<https://adencountrypark.org.uk/history-heritage/natural-history/>

ADEN TREE TRAIL



APPROXIMATE DISTANCE:
0.8m / 1.3km

0 MILES

1/4 MILES

0 KILOMETRES

1/4 KILOMETRES

1 SILVER BIRCH (*betula pendula*)



These small native trees have distinctive white to silver coloured bark. Birch trees are hardy and can be used to make besom brooms for gardens and forest-fire beaters.

2 BEECH (*fagus sylvatica*)



This particular beech has a fantastic twisted trunk. Look for characteristic smooth grey bark and spiky fruits. Beech wood is fine grained and knot free and ideal for making furniture.

3 COMMON YEW (*taxus baccata*)



Yews can live for thousands of years and have poisonous leaves and berries. The close-grained wood elastic qualities was highly prized in the Middle Ages for making longbows.

4 MONKEY PUZZLE (*araucaria araucana*)



Climbing this tree, with its sharp close-set leaves, would puzzle even a monkey! According to tradition, that's how it got its name. They are otherwise known as a Chile pine.

5 IRISH YEW (*taxus baccata fastigiata*)



More upright than common yews, all Irish yews descend from cuttings of one tree found in County Fermanagh in the 1700s. Nowadays, it provides food and shelter for native animals.

6 LAWSON CYPRESS (*chamaecyparis lawsoniana*)



Tall ornamental with feathery foliage. One of the UK's most popular garden conifers, Lawson cypress has rot-resistant wood which is popular in Japan for coffins and shrines.

7 SYCAMORE (*acer pseudoplatanus*)



Look for 'helicopter' winged seeds. The sycamore's hardwood is often used for utensils and worktops and was often planted on farms to provide shade and to keep dairies cool.

8 WELLINGTONIA (*sequoiadendron giganteum*)



Aden's tallest tree (30m). In its native California, it can live up to 3,400 years, and is the largest tree species in the world. The thick, reddish, bark has no resin, so is fire-proof.

9 DOUGLAS FIR (*pseudotsuga menziesii*)



The Douglas fir isn't just for Christmas. First introduced in the 1800s, it's one of the most valuable timber sources, and provides homes for the likes of red squirrels and pine martens.

10 HORSE CHESTNUT (*aesculus hippocastanum*)



Large five to seven leaves, and showy 'candles' of flowers produce spiky cases with conkers in autumn. The wood is light and until recently, was used to make artificial limbs.

please
SHARE, RETURN or RECYCLE



ADEN
COUNTRY PARK

CONTACT INFORMATION



For further information about Aden Country Park, its facilities, events, opening hours etc, please visit the Aden website: www.adencountrypark.org.uk

GENERAL ENQUIRES

Email: enquiries@adencountrypark.org.uk

ABERDEENSHIRE MUSEUMS SERVICE

Email: museum@adencountrypark.org.uk

BUCHAN RANGER SERVICE

Email: buchanranger@adencountrypark.org.uk

PARK MAINTENANCE

Email: maintenance@adencountrypark.org.uk

