

Aberdeen's natural playground

Hazlehead and the forests around Countesswells have long been popular places for walking, cycling, horse riding and picnics.

There are a range of path types for different user needs - from easier ability routes on the level around the Park and its gardens to the wooded trails through the Den Wood and around the golf course.

The more challenging and rougher trails around Countesswells and Foggieton are particularly enjoyed by mountain bikers and horse riders.



Multi-user trails at Countesswells Woods above, with the play area in Hazlehead Park below



How to get there

By public transport from city centre

B9119/A944 Kingswells – First Bus Service 11 Orange Line

Westhill & Elrick – Stagecoach Bluebird x17

Banchory – Stagecoach Bluebird 200

Ballater – Stagecoach Bluebird 210

A93 Cults – First Bus 19 Turquoise Line

The Royal Deeside – Stagecoach 201, 202 & 203

For more information contact:

www.firstbus.com Tel: (01224) 650000

www.stagecoachbus.com Tel: (01224) 597590

www.aberdeencity.gov.uk – search for cycle map

Aberdeen City Council Ranger Service (01224) 897400

Forestry Commission Scotland: www.forestry.gov.uk/scotland
– search for Countesswells

Friends of Hazlehead Park: www.friendsofhazlehead.co.uk

Aberdeen Greenspace Trust Limited: www.aberdeengreenspace.org.uk



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Photographs kindly provided by:
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HAZLEHEAD & COUNTESSWELLS

Paths through Aberdeen's historic park and woodlands

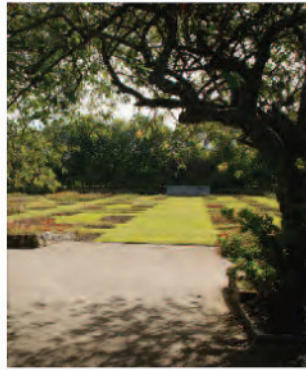


HAZLEHEAD & COUNTESSWELLS

Paths through Aberdeen's historic park and woodlands

Hazlehead Park

The Park is formed on what was Hazlehead estate, formerly part of Aberdeen's historic Freedom Lands. Hazlehead Park has public toilets, a pet's corner and a large children's play area as well as rose gardens, azalea and rhododendron borders and heather beds. Around the edges of the park are football pitches, three golf courses and a pitch and putt course.



Formal gardens

The Park has a significant collection of sculptures by a range of artists and heritage items which have been rescued from various places within the City.

Piper Alpha memorial



A maze n'history

Hazlehead House was built in the late 18th century. The estate was bought back by the Town Council in 1920 in order to establish a park and golf course. The house survived as a café until the late 1950s when it was demolished to make way for the current building. The gardens have a large privet hedge maze which was first planted in 1935.



Blacktop cup-marked stone

There is early evidence of human occupation from prehistory in the form of cup and ring marks and of later agricultural use through piles of field clearance stones as well as rig and furrow cultivation.

Hazlehead maze



Mills and coins

The Mill of Maidencraig was built as a meal mill in 1616 by the town of Aberdeen and in later years was reputed to have the second largest water wheel in Scotland. The wheel was present until 1927.



An Elizabeth I silver groat similar to those found in the Maidencraig hoard

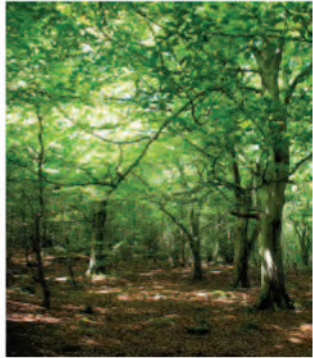
It was here on 13th October 1858 that workmen excavating a new mill dam found a hoard of coins in a red earthenware vessel. It was said that acting on the maxim of "the thing that's found is free" they broke the pint pig and divided the contents. The authorities got wind of this and the Fiscal managed to recover sixty eight coins dating from the late sixteenth and early seventeenth century.

The Den of Maidencraig was designated a Local Nature Reserve in 1992 due to its high value for wildlife and people.

Maidencraig Millwheel



“Experience the natural beauty of the countryside on your doorstep”



Beech woodland



Woodland walks



Wych elm



Treecreeper



Red squirrel

Natural beauty

A journey around Hazlehead and Countesswells will take you through a mosaic of woodland communities. From the predominately pine and birch woods of Hazlehead and Den Wood, through to the mainly conifer woods of Countesswells and Foggieton with their rich broadleaf areas, including some of the original beech tree plantings by the Burnett family next to the car park at Blacktop.



A walk in the park

The birds and the trees

Wych elm (or Scots elm) can be seen along various boundaries in the Park and around the fringes at Foggieton. It is a species of great importance in the local landscape of north east Scotland and stands out distinctively from local hedges and wooded edges in the area. So much so it has been given its own Local Biodiversity Action Plan to coordinate its management and future conservation.

Treecreepers are often seen in the woods around this area. Its long slender down curved beak makes it easier to tell from other birds. It is the only small brown land bird in the area which has a beak shaped like this. Treecreepers climb up the trunk of trees, going around in a spiral, picking out insects and spiders from gaps in the bark using their specially adapted beaks.



Garden tiger moth

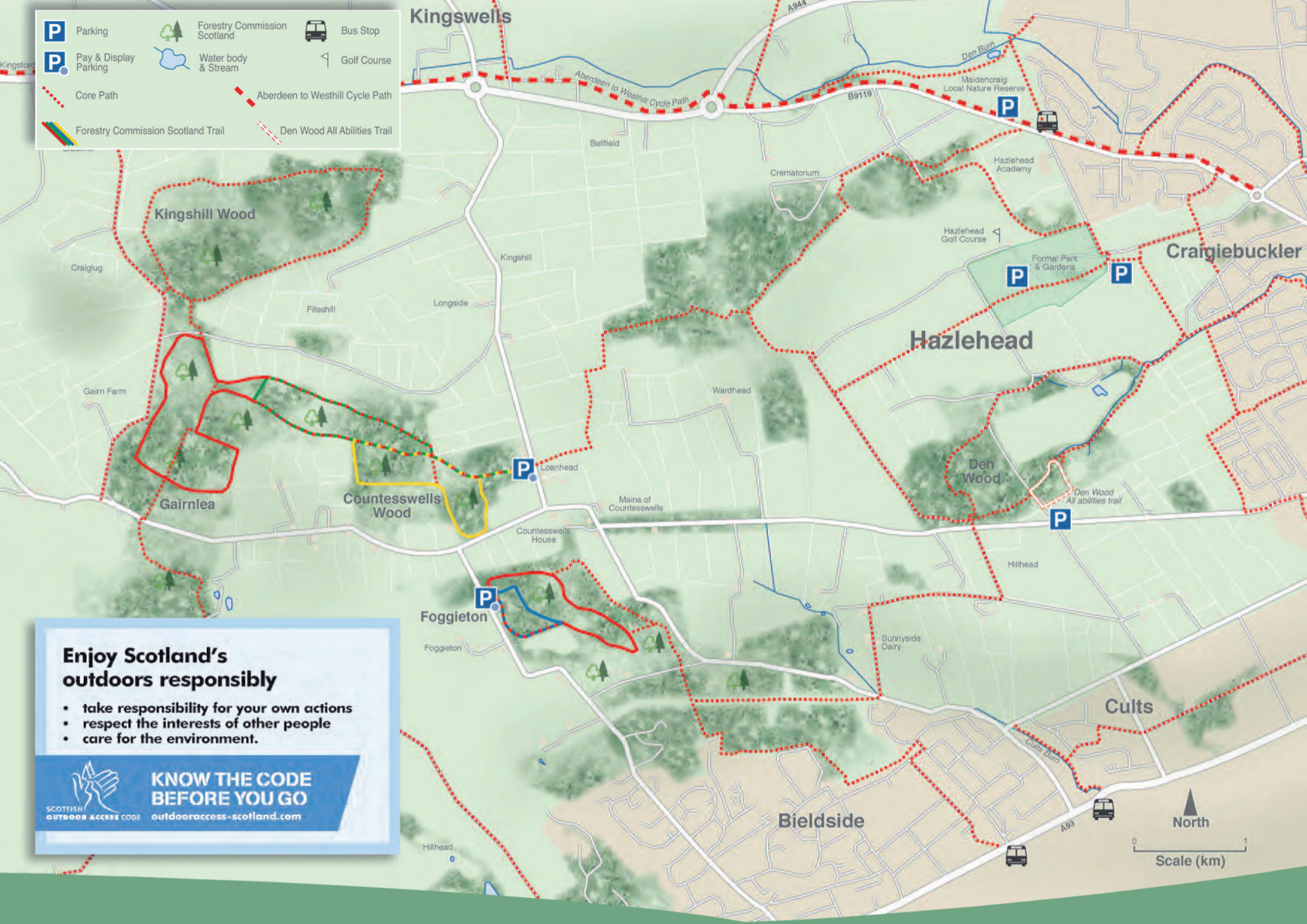
Red squirrels

Red squirrels can be seen in the Den Wood and Hazlehead Wood. They can also sometimes be heard making sounds or dropping seeds from the canopies of trees whilst they feed. You may find cones which squirrels have eaten on the woodland floor, or around favoured feeding perches. Look out for their nests (called dreys), which are made of twigs and needles formed in football sized structures.



Pine cones amongst cone remains eaten by red squirrel

	Parking		Forestry Commission Scotland		Bus Stop
	Pay & Display Parking		Water body & Stream		Golf Course
	Core Path		Aberdeen to Westhill Cycle Path		
	Forestry Commission Scotland Trail		Den Wood All Abilities Trail		



Enjoy Scotland's outdoors responsibly

- take responsibility for your own actions
- respect the interests of other people
- care for the environment.



**KNOW THE CODE
BEFORE YOU GO**

outdooraccess-scotland.com

