

The Abbey Gardens is a quiet retreat near to the centre of the popular market town of Abingdon in Oxfordshire. The historic site was once home to the 7th Century Abingdon Abbey. The gardens comprise of two main areas; the formal garden area with flower beds, herbaceous borders, seating and an Italian walkway; and open parkland with a number of mature trees, an ornamental lake and a Folly that stands near a statue of Queen Victoria. The lake is a haven for wildlife and is home to the nationally scarce water vole. The River Thames is only a short walk away and provides the opportunity for boat users to stop and visit the gardens.



Further information

To find out more about The Abbey Gardens please contact us at:

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The Abbey Gardens



1 Old Abbey house garden

The Old Abbey House Garden is enclosed by walls, forming a secluded area to enjoy the colourful herbaceous plantings. The house forms the western edge of the garden, and the windows and doors open straight out into the garden.



2 Formal garden

The Formal Garden was constructed in the 1870's by EJ Trendell and requires intensive maintenance. It contains the majority of the remnants of the Victorian garden.



3 Queen Victoria statue

The Queen Victoria statue once stood in Abingdon's Market Place. It was moved to the Abbey Gardens in 1946. Approached from the Landscape Park, it marks the beginning of the formal gardens



4 Landscape park

The Landscape Park contains most of the foundations for the Abbey. However, as nothing remains above ground, the foundations have been marked with stone slabs to give an idea of how large the church was.



9 West entrance

The West Entrance is a pleasant space through which visitors can walk to and from the town centre. It provides the first glimpse of the gardens beyond.

8 Rock garden

A walk through the Rock Garden secluded from the main routes will take you back to the wild and more romantic design style of the era.

7 Italian walk

Lying to the side of the Rock Garden, the Italian Walk is a narrow intimate and sheltered space, enclosed by a steep grass bank and the Abbey Close wall. Italian style conifers line the bank.



6 Trendell's folly

Trendell's Folly is enclosed by mature trees in a corner of the garden, forming a secluded area for contemplation. EJ Trendell, a 19th Century wine merchant built the folly using stone from St Helen's Church.



5 Ornamental lake

The Ornamental Lake lies at the eastern end of Abbey Gardens. It is an enclosed and sheltered spot, providing an area to sit and enjoy the water life, including the nationally scarce water vole.

