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Our Scottish Borders

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The Duns Town Trail has been set up by Scottish Borders Council and Scottish Borders Tourist Board. The aim is to welcome the visitor to Duns and provide an added dimension to local history and a flavour of the town's development.

The name 'Duns' may derive from the Gaelic Dun meaning fort (or hill top) which has been pluralised in an English form with the addition of the letter 's'. It may also come from the Anglo-Saxon for a low hill with a flat summit. The town of Duns lies within the former County of Berwickshire, only 17km (10 miles) from the National Border.

The Trail is approximately 5.5km (3 miles) long and should take about two hours to complete. Those with less time to spare may wish to reduce this by referring to the Trail map in the centre pages.

In order to guide you, plaques are sited along the route at specific points of interest, and information relating to them can be found within this leaflet. As some of the sites along the Trail are private houses, we would ask you to respect the owners' privacy.

We hope you will enjoy walking around the Town Trail and trust that you will have a pleasant stay in Duns.

An electronic version of this booklet is available on Scottish Borders Council's website www.scotborders.gov.uk



duns town trail

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luns tewn trail . duns t historical background

Many armies have passed througus on their way to or from England. Around 24 June 1315, one year after the Scots' victory * Bannockburn, news was sent to King " durard II of England that Kin " The Bruce" w Robert L"The Bruce" was in the "Park of Duns" which must have caused him some On concern. 20 July 1333, Sir Archibald Douglas mustered army at an Park Duns before marching to Berwick in an attempt to raise an English siege. The army marched from Duns to be defeated by the English army on Halidon Hill.

Henry Percy, the 1st Earl of Northumberland, invaded Scotland in 1377 and seemingly met little opposition. Upon reaching Duns, he relaxed his vigilance. The townspeople saw that the English were off their guard. The Scots made "a kind of rattle, made of dried skins distended round ribs of wood that were bended into a semi-circular form and fixed at the end of long poles". When shaken, they produced a horrendous racket that frightened the English horses, causing them to bolt. The Earl's men fled and were subsequently routed by local people. It may be from this episode that the town takes its design for the Burgh Arms and motto "Duns Dings A''.

The English razed Duns to the ground in 1544, 1545 and 1558. The first two burnings were part of the Earl of Hertford's brutal rampage across the Borders during the 'Rough Wooing'. Hertford was carrying out the orders of King Henry VIII who wanted

North side of Natter Square

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Queen Mary to marry his son, Prince Edward, but his efforts proved unsuccessful.

In 1639 and 1640, Covenanting Armies under General Leslie were encamped on Duns Law although the defences they built were not used. In 1650, after the Battle of Dunbar, Cromwell placed a garrison in Duns.

With relative peace in Scotland during the 18th century, the population of the town doubled. The industrial revolution at the end of the 18th century did not bring a great deal of industry to Duns as it did in so many other border towns. This was due to the fact that Duns is not built on a river and so water powered machinery could not be utilised. Consequently, there are no large mill buildings in the town. In the 19th century, Duns expanded, a change that is reflected in the number of buildings from this time.

In 1949, the Burgh Council instituted the week long Duns Festival, held during the first week in July. Each year, a mounted procession is led by a young man and young lady titled the Reiver and the Reiver's Lass. A visit is made to Duns Common to ensure that no unauthonised encroachment has been made. This is similar to festivals that occur in other border towns during the months of June to August. Today, Duns is a fine example of an old Scottish Burgh. The architecture is varied and the

Today, Duns is a fine example of an old Scottish Burgh. The architecture is varied and the town retains much of its original dignity and charm. There are of course many buildings that are not mentioned in the text but as you walk the Trail, they too will add to your enjoyment.

SunC

MERCAT CROSS

Start the Town Trail by the Mercat Cross in the Market Square. For a Scottish town or village, the Mercat Cross was a symbol of its trading status. Around it, public markets and fairs were held and proclamations made. Another function played by the cross was as a site of punishment; public humiliation

being common practice before the 19th century.

Duns' Mercat Cross is located in a prominent position on the south side of Market Square but when it was first erected in 1792 it was on the north side. The markets of Duns were held weekly on a Wednesday. The cross was taken down c.1820 to make way for

the Town House. The cross was re-erected in the Public Park in 1897.where it remained until 1994 when it was returned Market to Square as part of an improvement scheme for the area.

Looking into the Market Square you face the site of the Town House. This building, also known as the Market House was built c.1816 by notable architect James Gillespie Graham. This impressive building was sadly demolished in 1966.

TOWN House (now demolished)

Looking around the square, notice the two bank buildings. On the right is the Bank of Scotland dating from the early 20th century. This has a distinctly Scottish feel to it with the narrow windows and piended' slated

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wi trail . duns tewn trail . The Whip & Saddle

roof. On the left is the Royal Bank of Scotland, which was designed by Peddie & Kinnear in 1857. If you look carefully, you can see the initials PK carved on the top left quoin². This is a strong looking block, which is influenced



by Italian architecture. The bank was built on the site of the Red Lion Inn and the manager originally had his residence on the upper floors. Next to the Royal Bank of Scotland is the Whip & Saddle.

THE WHIP & SADDLE

This simple 1824 building on the corner of Castle Street has a bellcast³ piended roof. At the ground floor, the corner was chamfered to allow horse drawn vehicles easier passage.

Now walk up Castle Street, the shape of which has changed little since the 18th century. Just before the car park on the right is no. 18.

18 CASTLE STREET

Dating from the later part of the 18th century, this building at one time the housed rooms of the Burgh Court and several legal offices. The shop front at ground floor level is a later addition. At the side, the pattern of the windows is unusual. Notice how the top of the doorway is merged with the sill of the largest window.

Stop at the top before the main road and look at the building to your right.

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KING'S ENTRY AND PARLIAMENT SQUARE

The alley to the right of the property was once known as King's Entry in honour of the visit of King James VI in 1602. The current house is from the late 19th century and has a crowstep gable facing Castle Street. The area to the left of the building, which is now the roadway, was known as Parliament

> Square. This may have been to commemorate the Union of the Parliaments of England and Scotland in 1707.

Walk back down the hill to the Market Square and turn right. Note the Working Men's Institute on your right.

WORKING MEN'S INSTITUTE

This building was built in 1877 and displays

a Dutch gable pediment⁴ and unusual stone columns. These start at the first floor level and have a 16th century appearance. The building proudly proclaims its name and date of construction on a parapet at the head of the columns. On the Dutch gable you will see a crested shield and banner carved in stone.

Opposite the Working Men's Institute you will see a three storey block with a clock on the gable. This is the Tolbooth House.

TOLBOOTH HOUSE

The building you see here dates from the early 19th century and occupies the site of an earlier Town House of a local family: Cockburn. The Rotary Club presented the clock in 1976 and there is a plaque to commemorate the 500th anniversary of Duns being granted its Burgh of Barony status by James IV in 1490.

The stone that can be seen on the corner is a rubbing stone to stop horse drawn carriages from colliding with the building. In a Scottish town, the tolbooth was where market traders paid levies to sell their goods and where those who fell foul of the law were imprisoned.

6 duns town trail

HORNING NET'S ITSTITUTE

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⁴ Pediment - a corniced gable.

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Looking ahead you will seeTheWhite Swan Hotel. There has been an inn with this name here since at least the 1820s. Notice the tripartite⁵ windows on the first floor.

Continue on past The White Swan, before turning right into Black Bull Street.

The large white building on the left, near the top of the street, is the Black Bull Hotel. Before the branch railway line from the East Coast main line arrived in Duns, stagecoaches served the town. This was one of the coaching inns on the route between Edinburgh and Berwick. As a result of falling passenger numbers and the severe floods in 1948 that damaged tracks and bridges, the railway closed in 1951. On the right are the new Co-op premises. These are built on the site of the old Corn Exchange where merchants from the surrounding area bought and sold corn on a weekly basis. The only sign of this institution now is the stone tablet built into the wall on

the Newtown S t r e e t elevation. This bears the inscription 'Corn Exchange Erected MDCCCLVI' (1856).

AU PLATE CALLAN -

Facing you at the top of Black Bull Street is no. 14 Newtown Street, an early 19th century Classical villa, built for the Bank of Scotland and now houses Scottish Borders Council's Social Work Offices.

Turn right on Newtown Street; a short distance along is the Sheriff Court.

ni . duns fown

HOTEL

Anite Swan Hotel

SHERIFF COURT

Built c. 1855, in a Jacobean style, is the imposing Sheriff Court. The roof with fish-scale slating is worth noting. Beside the entrance you can see a plaque which was presented in 1941 by Polish servicemen stationed in the County of Berwickshire. To the right is a modern extension constructed

in 1964 which houses the local office of Scottish Borders Council. To the left of the court is the police station, built in 1895 as the County Police Office.

Opposite the Sheriff Court is Boston House. This was the birthplace of the preacher Thomas Boston who lived from 1676 to 1732 and was the son of a Covenanting

minister. His father had imprisoned been for his beliefs and

Boston House

these experiences influenced Thomas in his writing and preaching. These helped prepare the way for a split in the Church of Scotland in the mid-19th century and the formation of the Free Church, a period known as the

'Disruption'. The Free Church in Duns and its school were named in his honour.

Continue past the Council Offices and turn left up Castle Street.

On the right hand side of the road stands the barn of the original manse which was demolished in 1993; its fine gatepiers still stand. A new manse now stands close to the site.

Continue hill the no.l uр to Teindhillgreen.

Sherif Court

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EWE & LAMB

No.I Teindhillgreen once was public а house called the Fwe & Lamb and it was in this area that the town's sheep market was This is a two held.

storey house constructed of

whinstone with sandstone dressings and dating from the early 19th century. Notice the fire insurance plague below the pediment. Before a municipal fire service was set up, private companies would fight fires only if a building displayed the appropriate fire insurance plague. This indicated that the owner had paid the insurance firm his dues and was therefore covered from risk.

Barn of the original man

Also worthy of note is the blank window with a trompe l'oeil⁶ blind and the massive brick chimney stack above the central bay. Blank windows were used to keep the symmetrical appearance of the building and generally indicate the presence of fireplaces or flues tewn trail . duns fewn t in the wall.

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Many years

ministers of the parish, in addition

to receiving a cash

salary, also benefited

from a tenth share of the

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the Manse in

Teindhillgreen right into (called Back o'

kive & Lamb

⁶ trompe l'oeil - from French, to trick the eye.

agricultural produce from the parish. The

produce was stacked for the minister in a

Tithe or Teind Barn⁷. It was from this type

stands Christ stands Christ Mr Hay of Duns this of building that the street derives its name. There are many fine villas along this street. Further along

Mr Hay of Duns Castle Scottish Episcopal Church in 1857 to a design based upon a Romanesque style church which he had seen on the banks of the Rhine whilst on a sketching holiday. As well as being an amateur artist architect. and Mr Hay was the patron of the famous professional architect lames Gillespie Graham. The slated roof has bands of fish scale slates, the windows and door have simple round-headed arches. The interior continues the Romanesque

10 Castle Street

theme and has some fine decoration although glazing has now enclosed the choir loft.

> Return to Castle Street and turn right go uphill to towards Duns Castle.

At one time there were several private schools in Duns, one of which can be found at no. 47 Castle Street. This is a simple looking building in which the ground floor is some distance above the street level. The buildings of Castle Street date from the early 19th century but could incorporate earlier fabric.

70 CASTLE STREET

This house was known as 'The Beggars' Neffie' (fistful) due to the fact that a man who once lived there took part in a peculiar form of trade. The local beggars were at one time given a handful of grain from the Town's

Christ Church

charities in order for them to survive. With this they would head up Castle Street to no. 70 where they subsequently traded the grain for cash from the owner. Who knows what they did with the money but perhaps a few then made their way back downhill towards the Ewe & Lamb! Carry on up towards the lodge house.

TINKERS' ACRE

lust past the last house on your right is the entrance to the town's former reservoir (built in the late 19th century) which is set back slightly from the road. Also on this side is a field called Tinkers' Acre. The name derived from the times when travelling people camped here. They were allowed to pitch tents or set up their caravans without fear of being moved on. Continue through the North Lodge Gate. Both it and the gatepiers have a Tudor appearance.

Through the lodge gates, signposted on your right, there is a path to the Old Town cairn and Duns Law. If you wish to follow this extension to the summit of Duns Law, you should be aware that this path can be quite muddy and is steep and uneven. Details are shown at the end of the main Trail text.

Continue along the road uphill to Pavilion Lodge. *duns tewn trail* . duns tewn t

PAVILION LODGE

Approximately 400m from the gates you will find a cairn erected to the memory of John Duns Scotus. Built in 1966 by the Franciscan Order, this cairn commemorates 700th the anniversary of the birth of John Duns Scotus. The cairn is built on what is said to be the site of the cottage where he was born.

Near the cairn is the Pavilion Lodge which dates from the 1770s and is one of the QONITION LODGE

้ารุงพี่ trail. duns tรุงพี่ trail. du entrances to Duns Castle. A full height gothic arch links the round towers, which have a square plan at ground level. The castellated parapets give a defensive feel to this building. There has been a castle here from at least the 1320s although the present building is an early 19th century Gothic remodelling of a 15th century tower house. Views to the castle can be gained from the path to Duns Law. Please note that Duns Castle and its grounds are private property.

> Taking the path to your right will lead you to the Nature Reserve and details of this walk can be found in a leaflet entitled 'Walks Around Duns'.

Return now back through the North Lodge gate and walk down Castle Street. At the

junction of Teindhillgreen and Castle Street, turn right into the street with the unusual name of Clouds.

CLOUDS

Two fanciful origins for the name of this street name may come from McLeod, the name of a former resident in the area or possibly from its high position. However, it was once called Spinning Yard Head and it was here that a material known as "Clud" was made. This material was mentioned by Robert Burns in one of his letters where he notes that he bought a length of "Dunse Clud" and he hopes that "twill wear well". Most of the buildings on this street date from the early 19th century. Two houses on the street worthy of mention are nos. L and 3 which face south and are concealed from the street by a high wall. No. I has a former gig house attached, the 19th century equivalent of a garage.

No. 3 is older and is said to have been built in 1743 when it was called Rosebank. The house was originally approached along a driveway leading from Newtown Street, roughly where there is a gap in the buildings beside the Police

Former Gig House & No. 1

28 NEWTOWN STREET

On the left hand side at the foot of Gourlay's Wynd is no. 28 Newtown Street, originally called 'Clackmae'. This is reputedly one of the oldest houses in Duns. This building dates from the 18th century but may incorporate some 17th c e n t u r y fabric.

It has incredibly thick walls and a steep roof pitch indicating that it was originally thatched. Notice the round headed arch window in Gourlay's Wynd. Opposite this building is no. 43 Newtown Street.

Station. During the Second World War, Polish soldiers were billeted in this house.

On your left at the end of Clouds are nos. 13 and 14, the latter of which has obelisk gatepiers. A church was built here in 1770 to house the Duns' Burghers Congregation. The congregation increased and a new church was built in 1821. Notice the tripartite window on the first floor and the gothic detailing of the windows.

No. 14 Clouds

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Now bear left down Gourlay's Wynd, which was called Meetinghouse Wynd in the early 19th century. This brings you to Newtown Street, which was the first street to be rebuilt after the burning of Duns by the Earl of Hertford in 1545. SUN

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A6112 Grantshouse

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43 NEWTOWN STREET

Although Boston died in 1732,

is tawi trail. duis tawi trail. duis Alt' This was built in 1843 in the Jacobean style as the Boston Free Church School and has a number of decorative panels.

his local influence was so strong that at the time of the Disruption in the mid-19th century, the local Free Church and its school were named in his As honour. you can see. former the schoolhouse is richly ornamented with carved stone plaques. Above the central window on the attic floor is a carved scroll bearing the inscription "Boston Free Church School" and at the first floor, above the right hand door, is a burning bush and the title "School Industry of Feed My Lambs''. The panels above the doors scallop are shaped.

To the left on Newtown Street is the former British Linen Co Bank building (no.

24). It was built in 1845 by William Waddell, with a Georgian extension to the rear.

Former British Linen Co Bank

Half way along Newtown Street is no. 29 with its simple and elegant doorpiece. This house was built around 1741 although it was re-fronted and extended in the early 19th century. There is a barn and a stable to the rear of the building. In 1780, the house belonged to the quartermaster for the 4th Regiment of Horse.

A3 Newtown Street

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Retrace your steps and continue along Newtown Street. As you walk, look up towards roof level on your right and see the crowstep gables from nos. 34 to 40. This end of Newtown Street saw traders buying and selling horses in the 19th century.

At the end on the right is a 19th century villa which houses a local museum; the Jim Clark Room.

JIM CLARK ROOM

Jim Clark was born in 1936 at Kilmany in Fife where his parents were sheep farmers and lived most of his life in Berwickshire after his parents moved to a farm in the area. He was a charismatic figure who started motor racing in 1956 and made his World Championship début in 1960 for Lotus, recording his first win the following year. He became World Motor Racing Champion in 1963 and again in 1965, a year in which he also won the Indianapolis 500 race in America. He was granted the Freedom of the Burgh of Duns in 1965, the highest honour the town can bestow on a person. He died tragically during a Formula 2 race at Hockenheim in Germany in April 1968. Such was his world-wide appeal that a corner was named in his memory at that circuit. The museum is open from Easter until the end of October and visited by large numbers of motor racing enthusiasts from all over the world. There is also a Jim Clark Trail available which covers many of the sites associated with the life and career of Jim Clark. He is buried in Chirnside Churchyard, 12 kilometres (7 miles) to the east.

Opposite the Museum is the Berwickshire Campus of Borders College. This was the Berwickshire High School, built in 1896 and used as such until the opening of a new school in 1958 on the outskirts of the town.

Head downhill past the college to the junction of New Road and Langtongate. If you wish, you can continue onto New Road (see il. duns fown

extended walk section at end of main Trail).

At the junction is a private house "Westways". This building dates from the early 20th century and was formerly a shop with flat above. Note the fine carvings on the front of the building, depicting an owl, lion's head and cherubs.

> Langtongate is one of the oldest streets in the town, although the buildings have changed over the centuries. On the right is the Volunteer Hall, built in the later 19th century as a Drill Hall.

100 metres from the junction, on the left and set back from road, is a the pair of mid-19th century semidetached Tudor villas. formerly known as Union Cottages. As you can see, the window panes are wider than they are tall. This type of window is called a lying pane window.

Next door is no. 14 Langtongate. This is a late 18th century building. Note the scroll skewputs⁸ and tin fire insurance plate between the first floor windows, which signified that the owner had paid their dues to the Caledonian Insurance Company.

Tudor Villas

Opposite the junction of Willis Wynd is no. 47 South Street. This building was erected in 1714 and was formerly one of the town's breweries.

Westway

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Willis Wynd Chabel

Turn left up Willis Wynd, which links Langtongate with Newtown Street.

Part the of way up is Willis Wynd Chapel, of many one former ecclesiastical buildings in the town. This small, classically designed building with a later vestibule to the front was built c.1825.

Retrace your steps back down the hill to Langtongate and turn left.

FORMER POST OFFICE

Now the Royal Mail Sorting Office and Never Neverland Nursery, this building was designed c.1900. The two gabled outer bays are joined at eaves level by a chunky balustraded parapet. The door to the left has a simple moulding around its edge with a

cornice above it. The door on the right is far simpler in detailing. As you can see, the architects introduced crowsteps to the gables, a traditional Scottish tewn trail . duns tewn t detail.

As you head along South Street towards Market Square you pass a mixture of old buildings with ornate doorways more modern buildings.

Where Langtongate opens out, on your left on the corner, is the Former Dunlop Hotel.

and

FORMER DUNLOP HOTEL

The Dunlop Trust built this in the late 19th century as a temperance hotel. John Dunlop, who died in 1868, fought all his life against alcohol, had set up the Trust. One of his

former post Office

Drumclog Be//

ideas was the Scottish Band of Hope, which tried to educate children against the 'evil of drink'. The elevation that faces Market Square has the words DUNLOP TRUST carved on a stone in the centre at eaves level.

> Opposite the Dunlop H otel is a lane, sign posted Public Park. Follow this lane past the bowling green (which was once the town's bleaching green). The lane is called Blinkbonnie, meaning a pleasant place.

DUNS PUBLIC PARK

To your right at the edge of the Park is Boston Court sheltered housing, built on the site of the Boston Memorial Church. At the

entrance you can find the Drumclog Bell. John Wilson and Son in Glasgow founded this bell in 1892. It was named in commemoration the Battle of of Drumclog I June 1679 on Strathaven at in Lanarkshire. At this battle. Graham of Claverhouse - Bonnie defeated Dundee was _ whilst trying to disperse a large group of Covenanters. The bell was bequeathed to the Duns Boston Memorial Church in memory of a local merchant.

Return from Boston Court into the park, and on your right is a war memorial dedicated to 127 Polish soldiers who were stationed in Duns during the Second World War and who died during the liberation of Europe.

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An advanced party of Poles arrived in the town in February 1942 to prepare accommodation throughout Berwickshire for the main body of 15,000 troops. The town played host to the 1st and 2nd Armoured Regiments until March 1944 when they departed for England, to prepare for the invasion of mainland Europe. The memorial was paid for by Polish former soldiers and by the people of Duns. This was unveiled in 1981 by the former Commanding Officer of the Division, General Maczek,

Polish War Memorial

Continue through the park to a bronze bust by the artist Frank Tritchler of the philosopher, John Duns Scotus. Born around the year 1266 and for long associated with the town, he became a Franciscan friar and was known as 'Subtle Doctor'. The derogatory term 'dunce' is believed to have originated as an insult used to describe his followers. He died in Cologne in Germany. In 1991, Pope John Paul II declared him 'venerable' which may be the first step towards Sainthood.

Near to this statue is the War Memorial the in form of an obelisk. The Burgh Arms are carved on the front of the memorial and the names of those from the town who died in both World Wars are recorded on granite plaques.

As you exit the park you will notice armorial panels on the gates. The two central gates

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of I'la... those of John J..., from the 17th century (to the nark was created was part of those of John J..., from the 17th century (to the nark was created was part of those of John J..., from the 17th century (to the nark was created was part of those of John J..., bear the Burgh Arms and the side gates, the arms of Sir William Miller of Manderston (to the left) and defence for the town. The land was purchased in 1891 by Andrew Smith Winchester who then gifted it to the town. Smith also paid for the Mercat Cross

of

to be re-erected in

the park in 1897 after

it had been dismantled in 1820 to make way for

the Town House. Sir James

Miller of Manderston levelled the

entire area, landscaped it and presented the

gates and railings to the town.

Mr

Barniken House Hoter

After leaving the bark. turn left and follow the road Barniken to House Hotel.

BARNIKEN HOUSE HOTEL

This is another mid-19th century villa which has been converted into a hotel. Once more, you can see

the panelled pilasters that can be found elsewhere in the town. The coach house to the north has been converted into houses. The area in front of the hotel was for centuries covered by a bog and the only way of crossing it was by way of a causeway. Throughout all the

turbulent times in the Borders, the causeway was protected by a barniken (a fortified building). Bearing in mind just how often Duns was used as a muster and re-supply point for armies, the causeway and Barniken must have witnessed more than a few troop movements.

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Amonial panets on the sottes

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The hotel is set back from the junction of Murray Street and Station Road. This was where one of the town's tollhouses was situated. During the 18th century the road network was improved greatly in the Borders. This was due largely to the creation of Turnpike Trusts who undertook road improvements, the costs of which were recouped by the imposition of tolls. The Duns area was turnpiked in 1791-2 and there was great opposition to the seven tollbars, two of which were in the town itself. Almost as soon as the tolls had been erected, the town ones were destroyed by fire and soon after, two in the countryside were also destroyed. The tolls within the town do not appear to have been replaced.

From Barniken House, walk through the car park, past the graveyard of Duns Parish Church. Turn left and head up Currie Street with the graveyard on your left hand side.

On the opposite side of the road is the former Duns South Church dating from 1851, now a carpet salesroom. Opposite

the church take the small lane that rises from Currie Street. This passes beside the church hall and into Church Square.

DUNS PARISH CHURCH

Before reaching the church you pass close by the hall and the entrance to the graveyard. This building was built in the late 18th century as the Parish school and Schoolmaster's house.

In the churchyard are many fine gravest on es. Try to find the gravestone of a blacksmith, which is carved to show the tools of his trade. Notice the slate grave slab (rare in this area) near the entrance with the word 'Dunse' inscribed on it, this being the spelling used from the 1720s until 1882, when a public meeting agreed to revert to the ancient spelling. Robert Burns Ours something Church, Churchyord

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visited Duns in May 1787 and stayed with the Ainslie family. He attended the church and seeing Rachel Ainslie searching the bible for the passage to which the minister was referring, Burns wrote a note to her that said:

"Fair Maid, you need not take the hint,

Nor idle texts pursue Twas guilty sinners that he meant Not angels, such as you.''

> Rachel Ainslie is buried in the Ainslie family grave that can be found in the graveyard.

The ancient parish church was taken down in 1790 although some vestiges of the original building remained until they too were demolished in 1874. The church of 1790 was destroyed in a fire in 1879

and restored in 1880 forming the present building. Some elements of the |790church remain. for example, the tower upon which is an inscribed table detailing the history.

The interior has a fine black and terracotta tiled floor and there is a panelled gallery with boxed pews for the families of the local estates. On the gallery are the coats of arms of Manderston, Grueldykes, Duns Castle, Cockburn and Wedderburn. The south wall is dominated by an ornate organ with stencilled pipes and there are a number of colourful stained glass windows from 1880. Please note that it may not be possible to enter the church building.

Colourful stained glass windows

24 duns town trail

Ens Perish Church

own frail . duns fown frail . duns for Chemist Shop

Leave the church and continue along the lane towards the Market Square.

As you enter the Square, on your left is no. 5, an early 19th century three storey house. Note the mouldings around the door and windows.

On your right is a chemist's shop. Each side of the building has panelled pilasters, a feature of early 19th century buildings in Duns. The shop-front was rebuilt in the early 1990s and is essentially a copy of the original design.

It is just a short distance to the Mercat Cross and the end of this walk. We hope that this Trail has given you a flavour of the town and trust that you will return again soon.

EXTENDED WALKS

DUNS LAW

'rail . duns fown frail ons fow Following the path from the North Lodge Gate, you can look down on Duns Castle. King Robert I granted the lands of Duns with the associated Tower or Castle to his nephew

Randolph, Farl of

Moray, who rebuilt structure the in 1320. Part of that building may be incorporated within the east wing of the present castle, which was built between 1818 and 1822 by James Gillespie Graham. The stable range (to the right of the castle) with its octagonal spire, dates from 1794.

Duns Law

The loch ('Hen Poo') was created in the 18th century when the castle grounds were landscaped. This area, a glacial drainage channel, now forms a nature reserve, which is frequented by many species of birds and other wildlife.

On the west side of Duns Law is a cairn. which is locally said to mark the site of the Old Town of Duns. It stands in an area known as the Bruntons (possibly from 'burnt town' however, except for the name, there is no evidence that the town was ever situated here. What is likely is that there was a settlement small around the base of the hill, more probably on the same side as the town is now.

On the summit of Duns Law is the Covenanters' Stone where the supporters of General Sir Alexander Leslie knelt and took the oath of allegiance to the "Covenant for Religion Crown and Country". This is perhaps the most famous incident in the history of the town. In 1639, Leslie and his Covenanting Army of 12,000 men were encamped here during their successful struggle to resist King Charles I's attempt to impose the Church of England in place of the Scottish Church. Here they set up their standard in the struggle for Scotland's religious liberty. The last attack on Duns came on 8th August 1640, when the English garrison from Berwick made an unsuccessful attempt to capture Leslie's cannon.

The remains of the fortifications they built can be seen on the summit and this is a rare survivor of Civil War defence works. The other fortifications around the summit are from an Iron Age hill fort, dating from over 2,000 years ago and these were built to defend a small farming community.

Old Town Coin

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The views from the top of the Law are stunning. A wide expanse of countryside can be seen, stretching to the sea as far as Holy Island, off the Northumberland coast. The Cheviot Hills lie to the south and the Lammermuir Hills to the north. A viewpoint cairn helps orientate this view for you. The cairn was erected by the local community with financial assistance from the European LEADER II programme.

SOUTH LODGE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Follow New Road towards the edge of town. Approximately 300m from the Jim Clark Room you will see the South Lodge, another entrance to Duns Castle Estate. The South Lodge, which dates from 1820, is locally known as Sally's Lodge after a former resident. During the Second World War there was a camp for 300 Polish soldiers established here.

Just past the South Lodge is the Berwickshire High School. | & F Johnston designed the main block in 1938 and they were also responsible for later additions. Although designed in the late 1930s, the school did not open until 1958. This was due to the shortage of materials both during and immediately after World War Two. This long low building has a large number of windows, which means that the classrooms are bright. The design is typical of the late 1930s and is a fine example of a streamlined modernist building. A new school is currently being constructed on the opposite side

From here return to Langtongate to rejoin the main Town Trail.

of the road.

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