

town trail . jedburgh town trail . jedburgh town

£1.00

jedburgh

town trail

Our Scottish Borders
Your destination

introduction

This edition of the Jedburgh Town Trail has been revised by Scottish Borders Council working with the Jedburgh Alliance. The aim is to provide the visitor to the Royal Burgh of Jedburgh with an added dimension to local history and to give a flavour of the town's development.

The Trail is approximately 2.5km (1½ miles) long. This should take about two hours to complete but further time should be added if you visit the Abbey and the Castle Jail. Those with less time to spare may wish to reduce this by referring to the Trail map which is found in the centre pages. The walk starts and finishes at the Tourist Information Centre in Abbey Place.

In order to guide the visitor, 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 houses, we ask you to respect the owners' privacy.

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



historical background

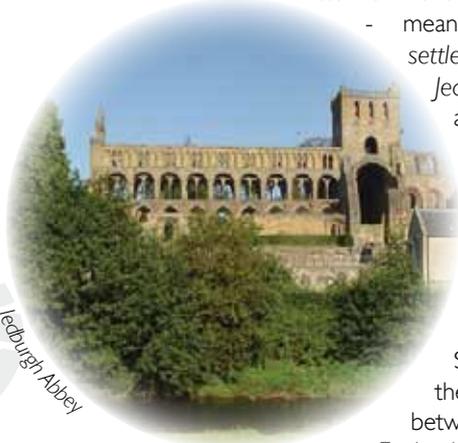
The history of the Royal Burgh of Jedburgh dates back many centuries. Around AD 830, Bishop Ecgred of Lindisfarne formed two settlements on the Jed Water, calling them both by the same name. The oldest written form of this name is *Gedwearde*

- meaning "the enclosed settlement by the River Jed" - which dates from around 1050. By the mid 16th century, the name 'Jedworth' was being used, even today locally the town is referred to as 'Jeddart'.

Situated close to the National Border between Scotland and England, the town saw more than its fair share of turmoil. During the Wars of Independence in the 13th and 14th centuries, the English captured

Jedburgh on numerous occasions. The town and Abbey were burned three times in the 15th century by the English, providing evidence of the strategic value of the town. The 16th century was no less troublesome and several attempts were made to restore order to the area. The English attacked and captured the town in 1544 as part of the "Rough Wooing" and a year later, the Earl of Hertford invaded Scotland on the orders of Henry VIII of England and laid waste to vast tracts of southern Scotland.

The Union of the Crowns in 1603 ended cross-Border warfare and brought about an increase in trade. In 1707, the Union of the Parliaments had further ramifications for trade between the two countries. The 'Treaty of Union' was supposed to be to the equal benefit of both Kingdoms but punitive taxes on traditional Scottish goods saw a decline in industries such as tanning and malting, particularly in Jedburgh. Thus many people left the Border towns to find work elsewhere.



Jedburgh Abbey

By 1741, the town was in a state of poverty and financial assistance had to be sought. Jedburgh, unlike some Border towns, was not subject to expansion as a result of the industrial revolution and early attempts to introduce woollen manufacture in the 18th century were unsuccessful. By the early 19th century however, the recovery from the Union began at last.

Today, the town retains largely the same plan as it had centuries ago, comprising the High Street and Castlegate with closes and tofts running at right angles to these main streets, similar to the Royal Mile in Edinburgh.

Jedburgh lies on the A68 from Edinburgh. The quiet nature and great beauty of the town and its Abbey make it an essential stop for tourists from all over the world. The sight of the Abbey as you approach from the south gives a real sense of the history of the town you are entering.

Start the Jedburgh Town Trail at the Tourist Information Centre. The large sandstone building to your right is the Public Hall.

Public Hall

The Public Hall was designed in 1900 by the architect J. P. Alison and completed in 1901 in a style described in a contemporary journal as “an adaptation of the later Renaissance period”. The Public Hall was designed to replace the town’s Corn Exchange, which had burned down in 1898. The Hall can accommodate around 800 people. Below ground level, two rooms from an old malt barn remain. The malt barn at one time served as the town armoury. The Hall itself is quite grand with a barrel vaulted ceiling supported by pilasters¹ and ornamental scrolled brackets, called consoles. There is a gallery supported on cast iron columns, providing further seating for the public.



Public Hall

¹ Pilaster - a rectangular feature in the shape of a pillar.

Beside the Hall is Murray's Green car park, which was upgraded by Scottish Borders Council in 1999. During the excavation work, some bones were found which probably related to a burial in the Abbey as this area would have been part of the Abbey Precinct.

Ramparts

Cross Abbey Place and either mount the stairs or follow the pavement to stroll along the raised walk, called *The Ramparts*, towards the War Memorial.

When French troops reinforced the Scots who were defending Jedburgh in 1548, from the English army, their commander General D'Esse constructed gun platforms on the eastern side of the Abbey to afford it some protection. It is from these gun platforms that this raised area takes its name.



War Memorial

Once a year during the summer, this is the centre of festivities when crowds gather during the Jethart Callant's Festival, to see the town's principal - the Callant - receive the Jethart flag. He then carries the flag with him on horseback during Festival Day. At the end of Festival Day, respect is paid at the War Memorial to all those who lost their lives in armed conflict.

Looking towards the Jed Water, the large grassed area was once the site of the North British Rayon Mills.

Jedburgh Abbey

There has been a religious foundation associated with Jedburgh for many centuries. Egred, Bishop of Lindisfarne in AD 830, granted land to the church of Lindisfarne and a place of worship was built in this area. There is no known building on this site until the 11th or 12th century. A priory was founded by King David I (1124-53) in 1138 when he invited Augustinian canons from Beauvais in France to settle in Jedburgh. By 1154, the status of the priory had been raised to that of an Abbey. This indicated clearly to

The Abbey

the English, the power of the King and the independence of the Scottish church.

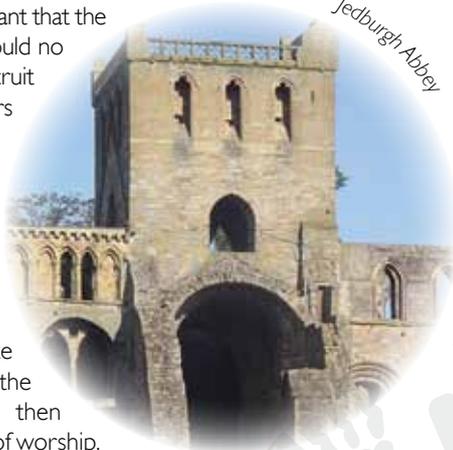
The first attack on the Abbey was in 1305, in the early phases of the Wars of Independence, when it was wrecked and plundered by the English under Sir Richard Hastings. The Abbey was thrice ravaged in the 15th century, in 1410, 1416 and again in 1464. In 1523, English troops under the Earl of Surrey, put the Abbey to the torch once more. Repair work was undertaken only to have the buildings burned again by Sir Ralph Ewer in 1544 and the Earl of Hertford in 1545. Hertford was carrying out the orders of Henry VIII who wanted Queen Mary to marry his son - Prince Edward - but his 'Rough Wooing' proved unsuccessful.



English forces occupied the town once more in 1548 but the following year, the Scots were reinforced by a strong contingent of the French army and the English withdrew. The Abbey which by this time was ruinous was suppressed in 1559 as part of the religious Reformation in Scotland.

This meant that the monks could no longer recruit new members to the order.

The Abbey was then used as the parish church until 1875 when the new parish church was built on the opposite side of the river to the abbey. The Abbey then ceased to be a place of worship. After this, the architect Sir Robert Rowand Anderson, under the guidance of the Marquis of Lothian, started restoration



Jedburgh Abbey

² Quoin - (pronounced 'coin') corner stone.

³ Bellcast - a slight flattening in the slates at the eaves.

Newgate

work on the Abbey. In 1913, the Abbey was taken in to guardianship by H.M. Office of Works and is now a Historic Scotland monument.

The Visitors' Centre has a small museum and a video display explaining more about the Abbey. If you make a visit to the Abbey, you should expect your visit to last at least one hour and an entrance fee is charged.

On leaving the Abbey, return up Abbey Place, either along the ramparts or by way of the pavement. In the 18th century, Abbey Place is where the Jedburgh cattle market was held. Notice on your right the Carters' Rest which was at one time the Jedburgh Grammar School until the new building on High Street was built in 1882. One of the more famous ex-pupils being Sir David Brewster who went on to become Principal of Edinburgh University. At the head of Abbey Place before you enter Market Place is Newgate.



Newgate

This is a harled building with an archway and a tall spire. The building replaced the tolbooth. The gatehouse was started in 1756 and the spire was added later on, works beginning in 1761 and finishing in 1791. The 36 metre (118 feet) high spire houses three bells. One of these dates from before the religious Reformation of Scotland (1525-1560) and reputedly came from the Abbey.

Before you walk through the arch, look up and you will see a carved stone panel bearing the Burgh Arms with the date 1720. Notice also the town's motto "*Strenue et Prospere*" meaning 'With vigour and success'. This plaque was taken from a wellhead of the town's first public water supply and proves that you cannot always tell the date of a building from a dated stone. It was built into the spire during the early 19th century.

Once under the arch - which was at one time closed off by a pair of folding gates - the doors seen either side of you lead to cells. These are quite small and windowless. Just imagine the conditions for the prisoners during the cold, dark winter days. On the level above was the cell for condemned prisoners and they would have had a bit more to think about than the condition of their surroundings. That having been said, crime was low in Jedburgh in the latter part of the 18th century when only five people were condemned to death "but not one of them for murder". If you look up when you are under the arch, you will see that timber joists form the ceiling and not vaulting as you might expect.

Once through the arch, you get another view of the Abbey. Through the railings you can see the old cemetery with many gravestones dating from the 17th century. The ground and the nave of the Abbey itself would have been used for burials from the time of its foundation. In 1993, during the laying of a gas pipe in Abbey Place "several skulls" were discovered, thereby extending the known graveyard limit towards the north side of the road.

Walk the short distance into Market Place.

Market Place

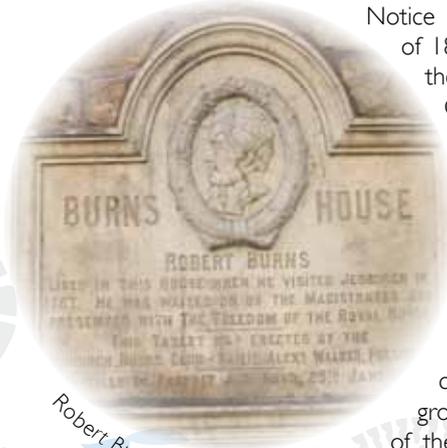
This was the centre of the Burgh's social and economic life. Here traders would come from all over Scotland and even the continent to sell goods. A Mercat Cross once stood here, its position marked by a plaque set in the middle of the road. In a law passed by King William I (1165-1214) it was a requirement that all goods for sale in Burghs be presented at the "*mercat and mercat cross*". Mercat crosses signified the trading status of a town or village and served additional functions as sites of proclamations and punishment. Weekly markets were held on Mondays and Fridays, although this was changed in 1639 to Tuesday and Friday to stop people having to travel on a Sunday. The Cross was removed in the 19th century as part of the 'improvements' carried out to the town. The former location of the cross is marked by a circular panel set in the street, which is still used as the start point for the Jedburgh Handba' game.



Market Place

Also set in the ground of Market Place is a plaque marking the position of a tower which once stood here, the Kirkwynd Tower, which guarded the approach to the Abbey from Market Place. The first official record of the tower is in 1551 but it may have pre-dated this. By 1787, the tower was in a dangerous condition and roofless, finally being demolished in 1791.

Notice the Jubilee Fountain of 1899, built to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. This is an ornamental gothic column, which is topped by a unicorn - the Heraldic supporter of the Royal Scottish Arms - holding the Burgh shield. There are cast iron lamp fittings grouped around the top of the column. Turn right into Canongate.



Robert Burns

Canongate

This was the primary entrance to the town, leading as it did from the Canongate Bridge. At the end of the bridge would have been the Canongate Port, a fortified entranceway. Number 2 Canongate is built on the foundations of an earlier building and these are still visible in the basement. There are many fine 18th century buildings including the white building on the left. Notice the two small circular windows on the first and second floors. Next door is number 10, the site of the former Black Bull Inn. Prior to 1759, the centre of Canongate had a group of buildings running down its length. This was called the 'Tongue o' the Canongate'. The town's Tolbooth stood at the Market Place end before it was replaced by Newgate.

Here also is the Royal Hotel - which was previously the Harrow Inn. It was perhaps renamed after the visit of royalty to the town although this is not certain. Past the Royal Hotel, on your left was the site of a house in which Robert Burns stayed on his visit to Jedburgh in 1797 when he was made a Freeman of the Royal Burgh. There is a plaque - a profile of Burns originally with a

light blue background and the head picked out in gold leaf - marking the spot of the house.

Return to the Market Place and from there turn left to head uphill on Castlegate.



Sheriff Court

On the left just as you leave Castlegate is Jedburgh Sheriff Court, originally the site of the Council House. Built in 1812 by French prisoners of war², a courtroom was added in 1861 to the designs of the Edinburgh architect David Rhind. Sir Walter Scott, who made his first appearance as a defence lawyer here in 1793, often visited the previous court building. There is a plaque (on the Market Place side of the building) dating from 1932 to commemorate the centenary of Scott's death. The building is still used as a court and justice is regularly dispensed from here.

As you continue up Castlegate, next door to the Sheriff Court is the town's Police station.

On your left, after the police station is a red sandstone building, which is the town's small Masonic Lodge designed by J.P. Alison in 1903. Notice the panels above the doors. That on the left reads "IN THE LORD IS ALL MY TRUST" and the one over the right door reads "ANNO DOMINI 1903",

although this is now badly eroded. On this site was the town's flesh market where meat was sold. On the road was the lawn market where goods such as linen were traded.

Take the first left as you go uphill into Abbey Close.



Police Station

² They may have been responsible for the local delicacy Jethart Snails.

the author William Wordsworth and his sister Dorothy stayed for a while in a house on this site during their visit to Scotland in 1803. Whilst there, they were visited by Sir Walter Scott who doubtless told them many tales of the Borders.



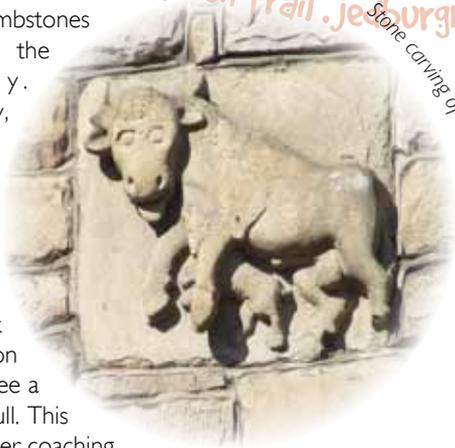
William Wordsworth Plaque

This was also the site of Mary Somerville's house. She was a famous scientist and mathematician, after whom Somerville College for ladies at the University of Oxford was named.

Return to Castlegate and continue uphill into the Townhead area. The building that projects out on the left hand side is Number 48 Castlegate, dating from the 17th century. From here upwards, the houses mostly date from the 19th century but all have

typically narrow strips of gardens or tofts to the rear. When Number 60 Castlegate was reconstructed in the early 20th century, it was found that much of the paving in the garden consisted of tombstones from the Abbey.

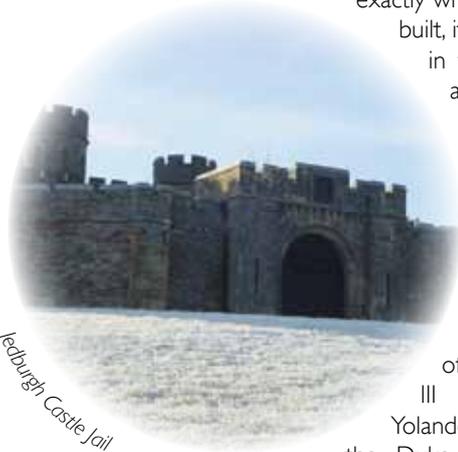
Clearly, the ruins of the Abbey were used as a source of stone for the people of Jedburgh. If you look up at the buildings on your right, you will see a stone carving of a bull. This came from the former coaching inn, the Black Bull, which is now Number 10 Canongate.



stone carving of bull

Jedburgh Castle Jail

This was built on the site of a Royal Castle, which had been constructed to defend the town from southern attacks. The Royal Castle would have overlooked the entire town and a good impression of the commanding prospect can be gained from the brow of the hill. Although it is not certain exactly when the castle was built, it was in existence in the 12th century as it was here that King Malcolm IV

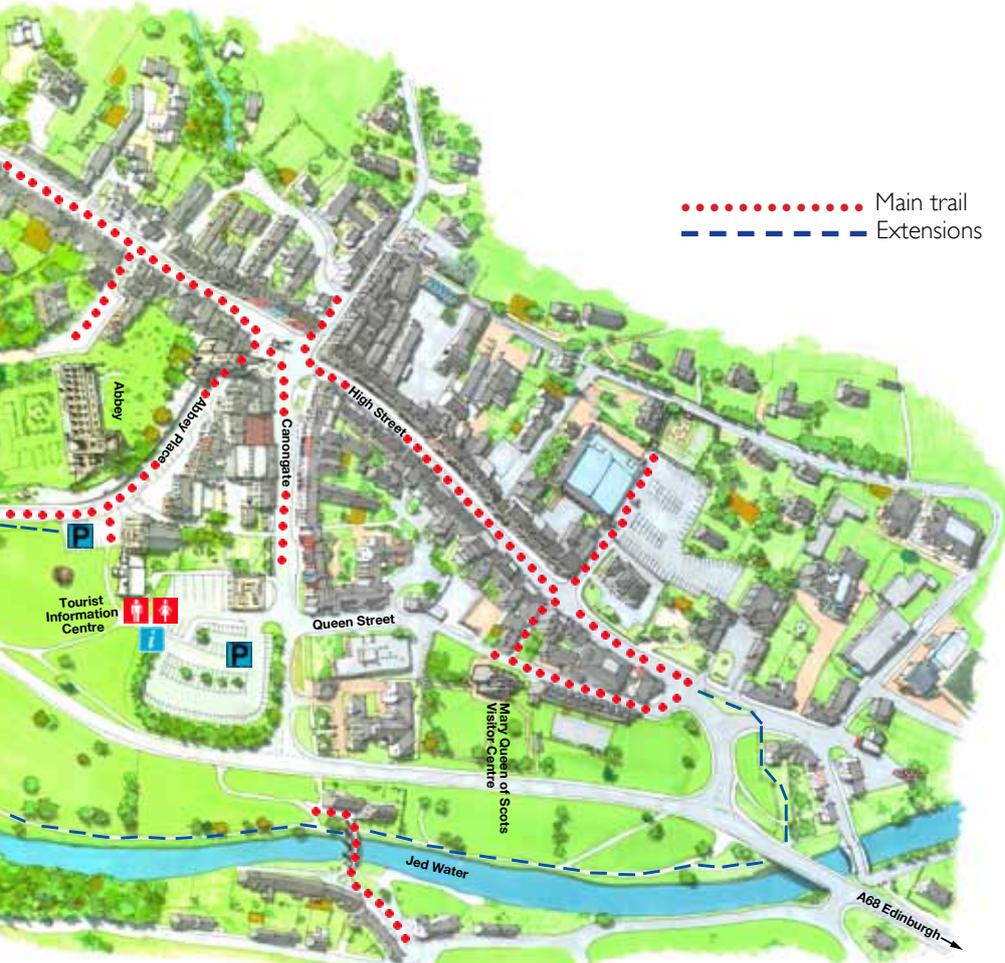


Jedburgh Castle Jail

died in 1165. The grandest Royal event that took place in the town was the second marriage of King Alexander III (1241-1286) to Yolande (daughter of the Duke of Dreux from France) in October 1285, during which time the Royal party would have stayed at the Castle. It was a great honour for any

town to be visited by the King but to have a royal wedding as well would have been a cause for widespread celebration. Imagine the buzz that there would have been as visitors and officials gathered from Scotland and France. The ceremony, according to legend, was marred by the appearance of a ghostly apparition, foretelling of Alexander's death within a year. Sure enough, the King was killed when his horse fell from a cliff in Fife, plunging Scotland into turmoil and eventually leading to the Wars of Independence with England.

Whoever controlled the Castle controlled the town and much of southern Scotland, so Jedburgh was vital to the English in their attempts to subjugate Scotland. During the late 13th and early 14th centuries when the Wars of Independence were at their height, there were several occasions when the Castle passed back and forth between Scottish and English control. King Edward I of England ["The Hammer of the Scots"] visited Jedburgh at least once during his reign and he doubtless looked from the castle to the town below. By the 15th century, the Scots had had enough of the frequent changes in control and



..... Main trail
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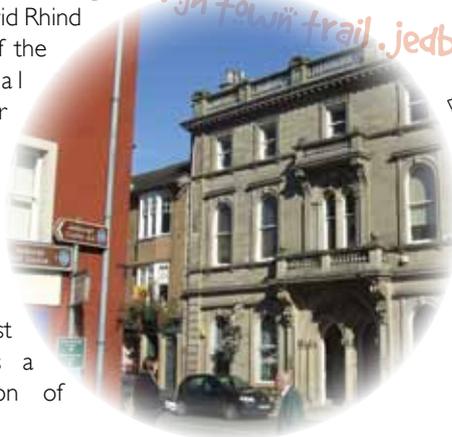
sundial was its bowl and slab faces. Most of the building has been restored or rebuilt and little of the original fabric remains.

Enter Blackhills Close and walk through (under) the buildings, and you will see some interesting features where you emerge, including an ornate doorway. Return to Castlegate and head through Cornelius Close (but mind your head!) to emerge once more to the rear of the properties. Here you will see a drum staircase on your left, which was added in 1978 to the rear of Numbers 3-5 Castlegate (which date from the late 17th century) and replaced a range which extended back from the building. Although this is a later addition, it returns the building to something like its original plan. These Closes give a sense of what the medieval backland layout may have been like. Retrace your steps back to Castlegate and continue downhill. Numbers 1 and 2 Castlegate are set back from the rest of the buildings. Built in the 18th century they were altered in the 19th and again in the 20th century.

At the foot of Castlegate, turn left into Exchange Street.

Exchange Street

This street is one of the four original streets of the Burgh which lead directly to Market Place. Here you will find Numbers 3-5, formerly a bank. Designed in 1868 by David Rhind as a branch of the Commercial Bank, the upper floors were designed as a flat for the manager. Notice how the central window at first floor level is a smaller version of the entrance.



Exchange Street

Further along, Number 11, West Port House, was designed in 1899 by the renowned Borders architect J. P. Alison, of Hawick, as commercial premises for the Co-operative Society. The design displays early use of 'curtain walling', in other words, the majority

Spread Eagle Hotel

to occupy the site when she stayed in the town in 1566. Near this spot stood Moscrop Tower; one of the six towers of the town, although its exact site is not known.



Opposite the Spread Eagle is Number 19, a fine Victorian building, designed by J. P. Alison. An inscribed panel bearing the date of construction, 1897, is visible at second floor level. It is worth pausing and admiring the fine detail around the windows and just below roof level.

As you continue down High Street on the opposite side of the street next to the former Post Office is the original Library. The Dunfermline born philanthropist Andrew Carnegie opened this in October 1884 and there is a stone plaque on the building to commemorate the event. A new Public

Library was opened in May 1900 on Castlegate.

Loupin'-on Stane

In front of you is the Bank of Scotland and in the grounds you find the 'Loupin'-on stane', used as a step-up to allow riders to mount their horses.

At one time, this was the house of one of Sir Walter Scott's friends, Sheriff Shortreed.



Loupin'-on Stane

Jedburgh Friary

Even though nothing remains standing above ground, what remains is still the most extensive Franciscan Friary to be seen in Scotland. In the 15th century, Sir Andrew Ker of Ferniehirst provided this site so that the religious order of St Francis might establish

a community in Jedburgh. To distinguish them from the 'black friars' of the Dominican order, the Franciscans were known as 'grey friars' from the colour of their habit or gown. Unlike other orders, the 'grey friars' had close links with the community and they provided services such as healing the sick and teaching the locals.



Greyfriars Garden

Much of the former Friary was used as a market garden and in 1982 development proposals led to an archaeological investigation. The site was investigated over two years with the Co-operative Society providing funds for further work in 1991-92. The following year, Borders Regional Council consolidated the site. To

illustrate where there are remains under ground, brown gravel between sandstone edging represents original walls, drains are shown with grey cobbles and graves are marked by white gravel. Remnants of walls under the car park are marked by red setts and drains by grey.

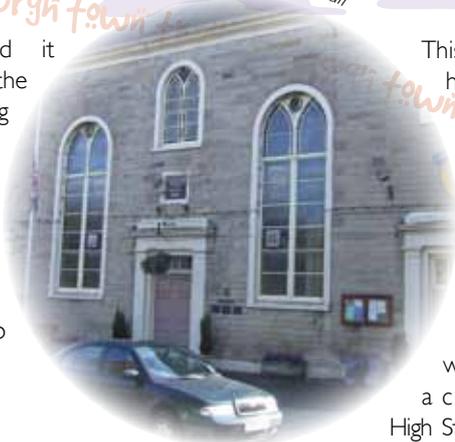
The present garden is based on historical research and has been laid out to reflect medieval interest in horticulture and the science of healing. The friars would have been self-sufficient in most things as they grew flowers, vegetables, medicinal herbs and plants that were used for other purposes, such as floor covering and dyes for clothing.

Return to the High Street and turn left to continue downhill.

On the opposite side of the road from the Bank of Scotland is Royal British Legion Hall. A church was erected on this site in 1757. However, it proved to be too small and too poorly built to accommodate the

Royal British Legion Hall

congregation and it was replaced by the present building in 1818. The church, known as Jedburgh Boston Church was sold in 1932 and has not been used as a place of worship since that time.



This area of the town is where horse-trading used to take place and was called Horsemarket. The horse market was later moved to Abbey Close, only to return after protests from Townfoot residents. At this point you have the option of following the main trail along Queen Street,

which is across High Street

Former Trinity Church

On the left as you reach the foot of High Street, is the former Trinity Church. Originally the Blackfriars Church was in this area, perhaps even on this site. A new church was built here in 1746, followed by a second in 1801 on the same site. The present building was constructed in 1818 in the low classical style, but set back from the location of its predecessors. The building is no longer in use as a church.

or taking an alternative riverside route, which is described at the end of the main trail text. A short distance along Queen Street is Mary Queen of Scots' Visitor Centre.

Former Trinity Church



Mary Queen of Scots' Visitor Centre

This building dates from the last quarter of the 16th century and is according to tradition where Queen Mary rented accommodation from Lady Ferniehirst (a Scott by birth) during her temporary residence in the town in 1566. Both the Scott and Ferniehirst

families were supporters of the Queen. In 1693, the Ferniehirst family were known to own the Tower of Jedburgh which was "situated near the cross", at the head of Canongate.

A further clue to the building's history comes from the arms on the west side of the building. These

are of the Wigner family and would have formerly been placed there in the 17th century, although they were re-carved at a later date. Given that the Earl of Surrey had

destroyed Jedburgh in 1523, it is likely that this building was built in the years immediately after the attack.

The building was thatched until at least the 1890s when red tiles replaced the thatch. In 1980, the roof was re-covered with slates. In the grounds, there are several pear trees, a fruit for which the town was once famous,, and were even said to have been sold in markets in London. The main pear orchard for the town was on Lady's Green - the site of the former North British Rayon Mills - and at one time, there were over 40 types of pears growing in the town. You can also find an Early Medieval cross base, upon which are carved fantastic beasts. This cross base was found in the Bongate area of the town and may indicate the presence of an early Christian community in the town. Inside there is a small museum with many artefacts relating to Queen Mary. The Museum is open from March to November

Leave the Visitor Centre and turn left to walk further along Queen Street. At the junction with Canongate, turn left and head downhill towards the Jed Water:



Visitor Centre

At the foot of Canongate is a modern housing development dating from 1985, which has a traditional Scottish appearance. Further down the road is a plaque commemorating the birth of the scientist and inventor of the kaleidoscope, Sir David Brewster. With the re-alignment of roads and the construction of new bridges, Canongate lost its status as a major thoroughfare but it is still a busy shopping street.

Continue down Canongate, through the subway to the riverside where you will come to Piper's House and the Canongate Bridge.

Piper's House

Piper's House dates from 1604 although it was remodelled in 1896. If you look at the lintel over the central window on the first floor, you can see the initials of Adam Ainslie, who built the house, his wife Janet and the date 1604. The window replaced the original entrance door that was at the head of a flight of stone stairs.

The town's last official piper, Robin Hastie, is said to have occupied a portion of the house. On the last crow step⁴ to the south east, there is a carved figure of a piper. According to Sir Walter Scott, the Hastie family had been Burgh Pipers for three hundred years. When Hastie died in the early 19th century, Scott wrote that "old age had rendered Robin a wretched performer but he knew several old songs and tunes, which have probably died with him". The building has corbels⁵ on the south elevation that may have been used to support a lean-to building.

Walk to Canongate Bridge.



Carved figure of a piper

⁴ Crow Step - stones on the gables giving a stepped appearance. ⁵ Corbel - a projecting stone which supports another feature.

Canongate Bridge

Now used only as a footbridge, this was at one time the principal route into the town. It is interesting to note that for defensive reasons, the approaches to the bridge are more or less at 90 degrees. Built in the 16th century, this is an attractive three-arched bridge. Under each arch are chamfered ribs. Originally each span had four ribs but the easternmost arch now has only two. Notice the way the cutwaters - which relieve the pressure of the flowing water on the bridge - carry right up to parapet level. When you get onto the bridge itself, you see the reason for this, in that they form refuges where pedestrians could get out of the way safely of traffic, predominantly horses, including the stagecoach from Edinburgh to Newcastle. The eastern refuges contain chamfered stones, possibly from the Jedburgh Friary.



Canongate Bridge

On the upstream side of the bridge is a ford across the Jed Water. This ford is still used by horse riders instead of the bridge and each year during the Callant's Festival when the Callant is followed across the ford by massed ranks of riders.

Across the bridge you will see a large 1930s building on the left, which occupies the site of Well House, a reminder that Jedburgh's water supply was not always piped. The steps on the right hand side of the building lead down to the well which is no longer in use.

The road beside this building was the original approach to the town from the north and this would have been the route that Bonnie Prince Charlie took on his way into England. The grassy hill you see behind and to the left of Well House is Stone Hill, where there used to be a stone tower, the walls of which were 2 metres (7 feet) thick. This was only one of a number of towers located in and around the town. In 1523, the Earl of Surrey reported that Jedburgh had "six good towers therein, which towne and toweris be clenely

destroyed, brent and throwne downe". The foundations of the tower were removed in 1852 and sadly nothing remains of it today.

From Canongate Bridge return to the Tourist Information Centre via Canongate and the tarmac path between the Electricity substation and the Royal Hotel to the end of the Jedburgh Town Trail. As this has been a short walk, not every aspect has been covered but we hope that you have gained an insight into the town's history and architecture and trust that you will return soon.

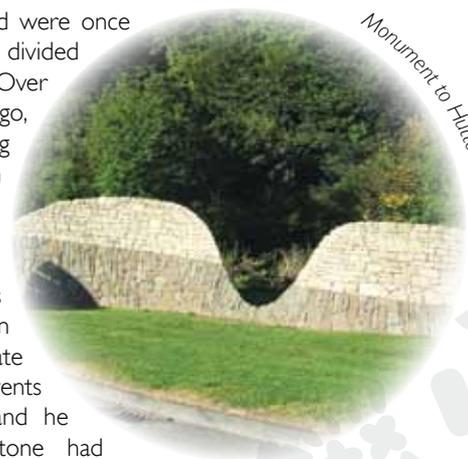
Extensions

1. Continue out of town from the Abbey, cross the Jed Water and enter the large car park on your right. At the rear of the car park, by the Jed Water is a monument to 'Hutton's Unconformity'. This is one of the most important geological sites in the world.

James Hutton, a farmer and doctor from Duns in Berwickshire, conceived a theory about the formation of the Earth based upon what he saw in the geological formation of

the ground on Arran, at Siccar Point on the Berwickshire coast and at Inchbonny. Whilst visiting Allar's Mill on the Jed Water, Hutton was delighted to see horizontal bands of red sandstone lying 'unconformably' on top of near vertical and folded bands of rock. He published his *Theory of the Earth* in 1788 and has since become known as the 'founding father' of modern geology.

Scotland and England were once separate landmasses divided by a deep ocean. Over 450 million years ago, they collided causing vertical bands, then sediment was laid down during the next few million years forming bands of sandstone. Hutton was not able to date the geological events as we can today and he thought the sandstone had been deposited in the sea. It must be remembered that he lived in a time where



Monument to Hutton's Unconformity

the age of the world was estimated to be between 6,000 and 40,000 years old. Based on what he learned at Inchbonny, Hutton challenged the established philosophical and theological order when he “looked through the abyss of time and found no vestige of a beginning and no prospect of an end” and realised that the formations he found here required the Earth to be very old indeed.

Return to main trail

2. From Trinity Church follow High Street towards the junction with the A68 (you will be following a section of the Borders Abbeys Way). Before reaching the A68 take the tarmac path off to the left to pass under the road. Before going through the underpass you will see Townfoot Bridge.

Until construction of the bypass in 1974, the Townfoot Bridge routed the A68 through the town. The council records from the 1680s refer to a bridge at this point but it has long since been removed. The Townfoot Bridge is made of concrete and was designed in the 1920s by J.A. Leslie & Reid Engineers and spans 20.5 metres (68 feet) with a single arch⁶.

Continue through the underpass and you will emerge on the riverside path beside the Jed Water (still signed as the Borders Abbeys Way). Follow this path to the Canongate Bridge (see main text). From here you may return via Canongate to the start of the Trail, or continue along the riverside.

If you wish you may continue along the riverside path which follows the approximate line of a mill lade that powered both the Abbey Mill (below the Abbey) and a snuff mill which was about half way along the path. The grassy mounds within the park on your right are formed from the rubble left over when the North British Rayon Mill, which used to occupy the site, was demolished in the early 1970s. As you once more approach the road, you will see, over the river, the Laidlaw Memorial Pool and Fitness Centre, now part of the Waterside Fitness Centre, where if you have time, you can enjoy a relaxing swim. The path goes through another underpass before emerging in front of the Abbey. From there it is a short walk uphill back to the Tourist Information Centre and the end of the Trail.

⁶ This is one of a group of five identical bridges over the Jed Water. The others are Station Bridge, Inchbonny, Hundalle and Ferniehurst.

Notes



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