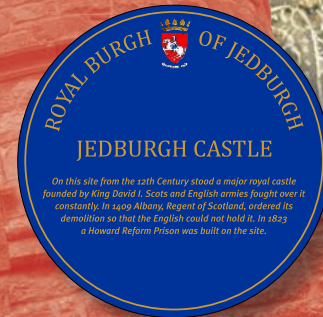


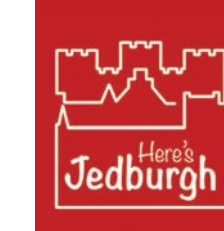


JEDBURGH

ROYAL BURGH

Blue Plaque Trail





We hope you enjoy following the Blue Plaque Trail and wish you a warm welcome to Jedburgh.

Jedburgh's Blue Plaque Trail has been created to provide an informative journey through the town's fascinating history, highlighting significant events and people along the way.

Thirty two blue plaques have been placed at points of interest and information relating to them can be found within this booklet. The full trail, which includes Jedburgh Abbey, the Castle Jail & Museum and Mary Queen of Scots' Visitor Centre, is shown on the map opposite. It is approximately 2.5 km (1.5 miles long) and could take up to two hours to complete but can easily be enjoyed in short sections.





Jedburgh's Historical Background

The history of the Royal Burgh of Jedburgh dates back many centuries. Around AD 830, Bishop Ecgrid of Lindisfarne formed two settlements on the Jed Water, calling them both by the same name. The settlement around the castle became the Jedburgh we know today. 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. Nowadays the town is often called Jethart or simply Jed by local people.

Situated close to the national border between Scotland and England, Jedburgh has suffered a great deal 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 with several attempts being made by Scottish monarchs to restore order to the area.

The English attacked and captured the town in 1544 and a year later the Earl of Hertford invaded Scotland on the orders of Henry VIII of England laying waste to vast tracts of southern Scotland. In a letter to Henry VIII, he described Jedburgh Abbey as somewhere that "might be made a good fortress". The French sent help to Jedburgh in 1548 but the English did not return.

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

By 1741, the town was in a state of poverty and financial assistance had to be sought. At first Jedburgh, unlike some Borders manufacturing towns, did not prosper as a result of the industrial revolution and early attempts to introduce woollen manufacture in the 18th century were unsuccessful. However, by the following century Jedburgh's woollen industry was flourishing.

Today, the town retains largely the same street plan as it had centuries ago; the High Street and Castlegate crossed by Exchange Street and Canongate with closes running off, similar in style to the Royal Mile in Edinburgh. Jedburgh lies on the A68, one of the main routes between England and Edinburgh as you approach from the south, and is regarded as the historic gateway to Scotland.

The quiet nature and great beauty of the town make it an essential stop for tourists from all over the world. The splendid sight of the abbey ruins on the approach from the south gives a real sense of the history of the town and its strategic importance.

The walk starts and finishes at the Public Hall in Abbey Place. Where plaques are located on houses, we ask you to respect the privacy of residents.

1 Public Hall

The large sandstone building on the corner of Abbey Place and Dean's Close was built in 1901 to replace the town's Corn Exchange, which had burned down in 1898. Below ground level are two rooms from an old malt barn, probably established by the abbey and which at one time served as the town armoury. The hall itself is quite grand with a barrel-vaulted ceiling supported by pilasters and ornamental scrolled brackets called consoles. There is also a gallery supported on cast iron columns. The hall can accommodate about 800 people.

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 confirmed this as an abbey burial site.



2 Carters' Rest

Although now a public house and restaurant, this building was formerly the location of Jedburgh Grammar School. In 1882 a new building was constructed on the High Street. The first grammar school was housed in the abbey remains. When the tower of the abbey began to fall down in 1751, the school was quickly removed to temporary rented premises in Canongate until this building was completed in 1779. Sir David Brewster, the scientist who invented the kaleidoscope, was a pupil while the grammar school was in this building.

Cross Abbey Place and climb the steps onto the raised walk called The Ramparts.

3 The Ramparts

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



During the annual Jethart Callant's Festival, this area becomes the centre of festivities when crowds gather to watch the town's chosen principal - the Callant - receive the Jethart standard. Carrying the flag, he then leads a cavalcade on horseback to ceremonies throughout Festival Day. The Callant and his followers also pay respect at the War Memorial to those who have lost their lives in armed conflict.





There is nothing like a great ruin for visitor appeal and Jedburgh Abbey ranks alongside the best of them, providing a breathtaking welcome for those arriving in the town from the south.



The car park and grassed area opposite once formed part of the site of the North British Rayon Mills, a major employer in the town for almost 50 years.

4 Jedburgh Abbey

Jedburgh has a long religious heritage, dating from at least the 9th century. In 1138, on the site of a previous church, a priory was founded by King David I of Scotland (1124-53) 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 English the power of the King of Scots 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

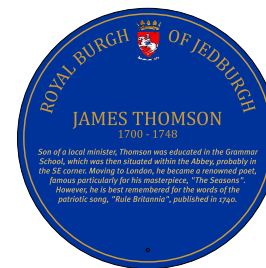
Hastings. It was also ravaged in 1410, 1416 and again in 1464. In 1523, troops under the Earl of Surrey, put the abbey to the torch once more. Repair work was undertaken only to have the buildings burned again by Sir Ralph Ewer in 1544 and the Earl of Hertford in 1545. Hertford was carrying out the orders of Henry VIII who wanted Queen Mary to marry his son - Prince Edward - but this "rough wooing" proved unsuccessful.

The monastery ceased to exist in 1559 as part of the Protestant Reformation in Scotland. This meant that the monks could no longer recruit new members to their order. Indeed, by this time there were few canons remaining as Jedburgh had become a dangerous place to live. Such was the damage to the abbey due to the cross-border wars that the canons had retreated to safety beneath the abbey tower.

The abbey was then used as the parish church until 1875 when a new church was built in the town on the south side of the Jed Water. Subsequently, the abbey ceased to be a place of worship and restoration work began. It was initiated by the Marquis of Lothian who employed architect Sir Robert Rowand Anderson. In 1913, the abbey was taken into guardianship by H.M. Office of Works and is now in the care of Historic Environment Scotland.

5 James Thomson (1700-1748)

Famous for the words of "Rule, Britannia!", James Thomson was the son of a local minister. He was educated at the grammar school



which was then situated within the abbey, probably in the south east corner. On moving to London, he became a renowned poet and was famous particularly for his masterpiece: 'The Seasons'. Thomson wrote the patriotic song "Rule, Britannia!" as a poem. It was then set to music by Thomas Arne and published in 1740.

Walk along the ramparts towards the clock tower.

Through the abbey railings you can see the old cemetery with many gravestones dating from the 17th century. The grounds 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. In the 18th century, Abbey Place was where the Jedburgh cattle market was held.



Walk under the arch of The Newgate.



6 The Newgate

This striking building with its archway and tall spire replaced the tollbooth that once stood at the top of Canongate. Building work started in 1755. The spire was added later, beginning in 1761 and finishing in 1791. The 36 metre (118 feet) high spire houses three bells, one of which dates from before the Protestant Reformation of Scotland and may originally be from the abbey.

Once you have walked 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.

The arch was at one time closed off by a pair of folding gates. The doors on either side lead to cells that were quite small and windowless.

On the level above was the cell for condemned prisoners. However, crime was low in Jedburgh in the latter part of the 18th century when only five people were condemned to death. If you look up when under the arch, you will see timber joists forming the ceiling and not vaulting as might be expected.

Return to Abbey Place. Jedburgh Sheriff Court is on your left.

8 Jedburgh Blue Plaque Trail



7 The Courthouse

Built in 1812 with the aid of French prisoners of war, who may have been responsible for the local sweets called Jethart Snails. A courtroom was added in 1861 to the designs of the Edinburgh architect David Rhind. Sir Walter Scott, who made his first appearance as an advocate 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.

Turn the corner into Castlegate. A short distance up the hill on the left is Abbey Close.

"Breathes there the man with soul so dead, Who never to himself hath said, This is my own, my native land."

WALTER SCOTT
The Lay of the Last Minstrel, 1805



8 Abbey Close

This now quiet cul-de-sac provided access to the ceremonial west door of the abbey and cloisters. David's Tower (or D'Abie's Tower as it is sometimes called) was probably the site of the residence of Bishop David Panter when he came to Jedburgh for his consecration as Bishop of Ross in 1552. It once guarded this approach to the abbey and was located at the junction of Abbey Close and Castlegate. Demolition of the tower took place some time in the mid to late 17th century.

9 Wordsworths' Visit 1803

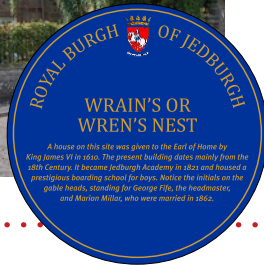
On the wall between numbers 6 and 7 Abbey Close is a stone plaque commemorating the fact that the author William

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 read to them from some of his works and doubtless told them many tales of the Borders.

10 Jedburgh Abbey

Royal business and celebrations were often conducted at Jedburgh Abbey as it was a favourite destination for Scottish kings. The abbot was frequently used as an ambassador and counsellor to the King. Among royal visitors were Malcolm IV, William the Lion, Robert the Bruce and James V and the abbey was where Alexander III was married in 1285.

Jedburgh Blue Plaque Trail 9



11 Wrain's or Wren's Nest

At the foot of Abbey Close, you will see on your right a building called 'Wren's Nest' which was built in the early 18th century. King James VI granted the site in 1610 to Alexander, Earl of Home. The house which occupied the site at that time was called Wrain's Nest. Later in the 17th century, the house passed to the Laird of Edgerston who may have been responsible for the building that you see today.

In 1821, Jedburgh Academy, a noted boarding school, took

possession of the building and schoolrooms were built in 1843, only to be burned down in 1911. If you look at the gable heads, you will see the initials GF and MM, standing for George Fife (the headmaster of the Academy) and Marion Millar, whom he married in 1862. The Academy closed at the beginning of the 20th century and the building has since been converted into two dwellings.

Return to Castlegate and continue uphill to the town head area.

12 Townhead Port

Near here was the Townhead Port or gate. Ports were a key feature of medieval towns which helped defend the burgh in times of danger. Jedburgh had four ports which controlled the flow of people and goods in and out of the Royal Burgh. Number 89 Castlegate is thought to occupy the site of the Townhead Port, the former southern entrance to the town.

13 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 castle would have overlooked the entire town and provided a commanding view from the brow of the hill. It is not known exactly when the castle was built but it was in existence before the abbey and it was here that King Malcolm IV 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 wide-spread celebration.

Imagine the fanfare 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 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 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

demolished the castle in 1409 on the orders of Regent Albany. By 1819 all that was left on the hill was the town's gallows.

The following year work started on the construction of a prison based on the design principles of the penal reformer John Howard.

Although no longer a prison, Jedburgh Castle Jail gives visitors a taste of what life was like in an 1830s prison, while also telling the story of the Royal Burgh of Jedburgh. Here you can see videos on local events such as Handba' and the Jethart Callant's Festival. The Museum is open from late March until the end of October.

Walk back down Castlegate on the left-hand side of the road.

Number 91 (at the head of Castlegate) is a modern building dating from 1935 very much in the spirit of Scottish architecture. The semi-circular tower with its bell cast roof to the left of the building is an elegant feature.



Heading back down the hill, the buildings are of mixed age, ranging from mid-18th century to late 19th century. Nearer to Market Place, you will see that most of the buildings have been modernised but the layout of wynds and closes to the rear remains almost unchanged.



14 Jedburgh Public Library

This building was opened and gifted to the town in 1900 by the Dunfermline born philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, replacing the 1884 public library on the High Street. It was designed by George Washington Browne who also designed public libraries in Kelso and Edinburgh.

The building is reminiscent of grand 16th century Scottish architecture and is not at all out of place here. Above the doorway, there is a carved panel which says: "LET THERE BE LIGHT". The ground floor is built on a raised basement and is reached by a set of six steps. The library has a wonderful arched window which occupies a large proportion of the front wall, allowing light to flood into the building. Originally, the flat above was occupied by the librarian and later used for the Registrar.

The next building on your left as you go downhill is known as Prince Charlie's House at Blackhills Close.



15 Prince Charlie's House

During the 1745 attempt to restore the Stuart monarchy, Prince Charles Edward Stuart - Bonnie Prince Charlie - is said to have stayed in this house on the 6th and 7th November whilst making towards England with his army of supporters. A stone plaque on the first floor records this event. Above it is a badly eroded strange sundial. Most of the building has been restored or rebuilt and little of the original fabric remains, though the style of the house has been retained.



16 John Ainslie (1745-1828)

Born in Jedburgh and buried in the abbey, John Ainslie was a surveyor, mapmaker and engraver, apprenticed to the "Geographer to George III". He produced fine maps of the country, the quality of which challenged others to improve their mapping techniques. He wrote the standard text for his profession and was a surveyor on the Forth and Clyde Canal project.



17 Closes

At Blackhills Close walk through and you will see some interesting features where you emerge, including an ornate doorway.

Here you will see a drum staircase on your left added in 1978 to the rear of numbers 3-5 Castlegate, which date from the late 17th century. Although a later addition, it returns the building to something like its original plan. These closes give a sense of what the medieval layout may have been like.

Return to Castlegate via Cornelius Close and continue downhill. At the foot of Castlegate, turn left into Exchange Street.

Exchange Street - which is still known locally as Burn Wynd - is one of the four ancient streets of the burgh which lead directly to Market Place. There would have been a port - an entrance - to the town here, not far from the junction of Exchange Street and Friarsgate and next to the Skiprunning Burn, which still flows underground.

18 Skiprunning Burn

The town burn, also known as the Back Burn and now culverted, runs underground from behind the houses in Castlegate and High Street into the River Jed at the foot of the town. Originally, it provided water for the abbey and acted as part of the burgh defences. Later it provided power for workshops and perhaps sanitation.

19 Port House

This category 'A' listed building was designed in 1899 by James Pearson Alison of Hawick for the local Co-operative Society. The design displays an early and exceptional use of 'curtain walling' where most of the wall is glass. This was extremely unusual for the date. Note the carved shields on the piers. The Port House was built on the site of the Corn Exchange which burned down at the end of the 19th century with the loss of many historic artefacts.

20 Battle of Burn Wynd 1601

On Rood-Fair Day, 30 armed men - mostly Turnbells - pursuing an ancient feud, forced their way into the burgh near here at the

Burn Wynd port. They challenged their enemy Sir Thomas Ker who lived in the tower in the Market Place. The burghers took up arms and a bloody affray ensued. The townsfolk won the day, but Sir Thomas Ker was amongst the dead.

Here you will find numbers 3-5, formerly a branch of the Commercial Bank designed in 1868 by David Rhind. 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.





Walk the short distance into Market Place.



The Market Place 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 and its position is marked by a stone circle 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 "mercato and mercat cross". Mercato crosses signified the trading status of a town or village and served

additional functions as sites of proclamations and punishment. Markets were held on Mondays and Fridays, but this was changed in 1639 to Tuesdays and Fridays to stop people having to travel on a Sunday. The cross was possibly removed in the 19th century as part of the improvements carried out to the town.

Set in the ground of Market Place is a stone marking the site of the Kirkwynd Tower, which guarded the abbey from this approach. By 1787 the tower was in a dangerous condition and roofless, finally being demolished in 1791.

Notice the Jubilee Fountain erected in 1887 to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. This is an ornamental gothic column topped by a unicorn - the heraldic supporter of the royal arms of Scotland - holding the burgh shield. There are cast iron lamp fittings grouped around the top of the column.

It is from here that the ancient traditional game of Handba' is played each year in February or March between 'uppies' and 'doonies'. Pre-Lent

celebrations such as this were once held all over Great Britain and Europe. Local mythology has it that on one occasion the severed head of an English soldier was gruesomely used as 'the ba' (ball). The event is now part of the town's heritage and is enthusiastically celebrated each year.

Walk down the High Street.

21 Spread Eagle Hotel

About half way down on the left-hand side you will find the Spread Eagle Hotel. Notice the gilt double-headed eagle over the entrance. The present building dates from the early 18th century. Queen Mary reputedly visited the building that used 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.

On the corner with Jeweller's Wynd is the blue plaque referring to the Franciscan Friary.

22 Jedburgh Friary

Even though this building has been demolished, 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 local population.

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 underground: mixed

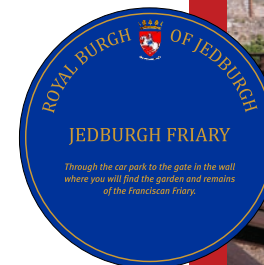
gravel between sandstone edging represents original walls, drains are shown with grey cobbles and graves are marked. Remnants of walls under the car park are indicated by red setts and drains by grey.

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 along Jeweller's Wynd.

23 Sheriff Shortreed (1762-1829)

Born in Jedburgh, Robert Shortreed lived in this house and was a close friend of





Sir Walter Scott. Together they ranged over the wilds of Liddesdale collecting ballads, stories and legends of the oral tradition of the Borders, which otherwise would have been lost. These were published as the renowned "Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border" in 1802.

Return to the High Street and cross the road taking Smith's Wynd into Queen Street.

24 Mary Queen of Scots' House

This building probably dates from the 16th century but has been significantly altered over the centuries by its many different owners. Queen Mary is believed to have rented accommodation - possibly in this building - from Lady Ker of Ferniehirst during her temporary residence in the town in 1566.

When Robert Burns visited Jedburgh in 1787 the house was owned by a Dr Lindsay whose daughter Isabella charmed the poet.

The building which is now a museum dedicated to Mary, Queen of Scots 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. At one time there were over 40 types of pears growing in the town. It is believed that Augustinian canons first introduced fruit trees. All over Jedburgh were pear and apple orchards with produce exported as far as London.

Within the grounds stands 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 a Christian community in Jedburgh in the 9th century.

25 Mary Queen of Scots' Visit 1566

It is believed that Mary, Queen of Scots lodged here during her visit to Jedburgh in 1566 to conduct a royal inspection of the border country and hold a court to try lawless borderers. While in Jedburgh, she confirmed the status of the town as a royal burgh.

It was while staying here that she almost died after a long journey to Hermitage Castle and back. She became dangerously ill on her return and was expected to die. She survived but later at her execution in 1587, she is believed to have uttered these words:

"Would that I had died at Jethart".

Leave the Visitor Centre and turn left. At the junction with Canongate turn left again.

Three plaques commemorating famous scientists are on the left just before the underpass.

26 James Veitch (1771-1838)

A man of rare talent and self-taught, he developed his knowledge of engineering, mathematics and astronomy, becoming famous for his telescopes and other scientific instruments.

His scientific workshop at Inchbonny near Jedburgh was visited by many eminent people including Mary Somerville, Sir Walter Scott and notably Sir David Brewster whom he inspired to study optics.



27 Mary Somerville (1780-1872)

Known as the "Rose of Jedwood", Mary became famous for her writings on mathematics, astronomy and the sciences, despite all the difficulties put in her way as a woman in a man's world. She was respected all over Europe and received many distinctions. Somerville College, Oxford was named in her honour.

She was born in the manse situated in the abbey grounds, where her uncle Dr Thomas Somerville lived while he was minister of the parish church.

28 Sir David Brewster (1781-1868)

Born in a house on this site, son of the rector of the grammar school, he became a famous physicist, mathematician, astronomer and inventor. He was Principal of both St Andrews and Edinburgh Universities. His main work was on optics and the polarisation of light (Brewster's Angle). He is also remembered for the invention of the kaleidoscope.

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

29 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 roughly at 90 degrees. Built in the 16th century, this is an attractive three-arched bridge.



Look out for Mary Somerville on the Scottish £10 note.

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. On the bridge are refuges where pedestrians could safely get out of the way of traffic, predominantly horses, including the stagecoach between Edinburgh and Newcastle.





The eastern refuges contain chamfered stones, possibly from the Jedburgh Friary. On the upstream side of the bridge is a ford across the Jed Water still used by horse riders and each year during the Callant's Festival by the Callant leading 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 south 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 several towers located in and around the town. In 1523, the Earl of Surrey reported that Jedburgh had “six good towers therin, 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.

At the end of the bridge at the foot of Canongate would have been the Canongate Port, a fortified entranceway.

From Canongate Bridge return towards Canongate. On your right near the underpass is Piper's House.

30 Piper's House

The town's last official piper, Robin Hastie, is said to have occupied a portion of this house. On the last crow step 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 piper, often accompanied by a “swasher” or drummer, was required to play around the town in the early morning and in the evening. He could be fined if he failed in his duty. He would also play at important events such as markets and fairs.



The 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 steps.

Return through the underpass towards the town centre. On the right-hand side was the Black Bull Inn.

31 Black Bull Inn

In 1726 on the site of the Black Bull Inn a murder took place, when Sir Gilbert Elliot of Stobs drew his sword and stabbed Colonel Stewart of Stewartfield, a prominent local landowner. Much alcohol had been consumed and an argument about political matters had arisen.

Sir Gilbert escaped and hid in the graveyard, later to be smuggled abroad and ultimately pardoned.

Across the road is the Royal Hotel.

32 Royal Hotel

This hotel was previously the Harrow Inn. It may have been renamed after the visit of royalty to the town. Near the Royal Hotel is the site of a house in which Robert Burns stayed on his visit to Jedburgh in 1787, 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.



You have now reached the end of the Blue Plaque Trail.

We hope this trail has provided an enjoyable and informative experience for you. You may now return to the starting point along Dean's Close or take a break in one of the town's cafes.

Supported by:



HISTORIC
ENVIRONMENT
SCOTLAND



ÀRAINNEACHD
EACHDRAIDHEIL
ALBA

If you require this information booklet in an
alternative language please visit:

www.jedburgh.org.uk

