

Dunbar - a town with layers of history

This is not an exhaustive collection, nor a detailed one - pages could be written for each place shown on the map, and many more besides!

Please take a detour from our route - the High Street in particular is full of architectural and historical assets. There are the obvious, such as the Church and Lauderdale House that bookend the street - but also many hidden treasures. Explore the closes off the High Street and see how being 'close' gave many of the older houses in Dunbar shelter. The town was bordered by a wall, part of which still remains at Bamburgh Close.

Elsewhere are gems like Friarscroft Doocot (at The Co-op), Newhouse Farm Steading (Queens Road). Think about the descriptive place names and you will get a picture of an older Dunbar - Parsonspool and Abbeylands with their religious connotations; the walled garden that once served Lauderdale House and is now one of our parks; Belhaven, the original harbour; the summer, winter and spring fields, the bleaching field. Many Dunbar residents will be able to name something of architectural or historical importance that we haven't included here.



Bleachingfield Centre

Or immerse yourself in Dunbar's more recent history as a holiday destination - walk the Clifftops at Winterfield and if you don't already know, see if you can work out where Dunbar's famous outdoor pools were.

More historical information can be gained from Dunbar Town house, which has a local history room, from the John Muir Birthplace and from the Library.

Get about by bike

This series of cycle routes is designed to encourage families and individuals to get out and explore Dunbar. Exploring by bike for fun may encourage you to take more cycle journeys. Or why not take a leisurely walk round our route instead?

We recommend that you start this route at Station Road and follow it clockwise, turning down Countess Road and under the railway tunnel. A full text description of the route is available at www.ourlocality.org/exploredunbar.

Spokes, the Lothian cycle campaign, produces a clear and comprehensive cycle map of East Lothian which can be purchased online from www.spokes.org.uk.

East Lothian Council produce a series of walking and cycling maps to help you explore the county. For more information and to download leaflets visit www.eastlothian.gov.uk or www.visiteastlothian.org.

This leaflet is not a substitute for using a map and compass. Every effort has been made to check its accuracy at the time of publication. Sustaining Dunbar is not responsible for the consequences of errors. However, we welcome any suggestions for inclusion in future editions.

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Cycle tours in and around Dunbar



Architectural Assets & Hidden History



Explore some of Dunbar's architectural heritage.

3.5 miles. 30mins leisurely cycling, plus stops.

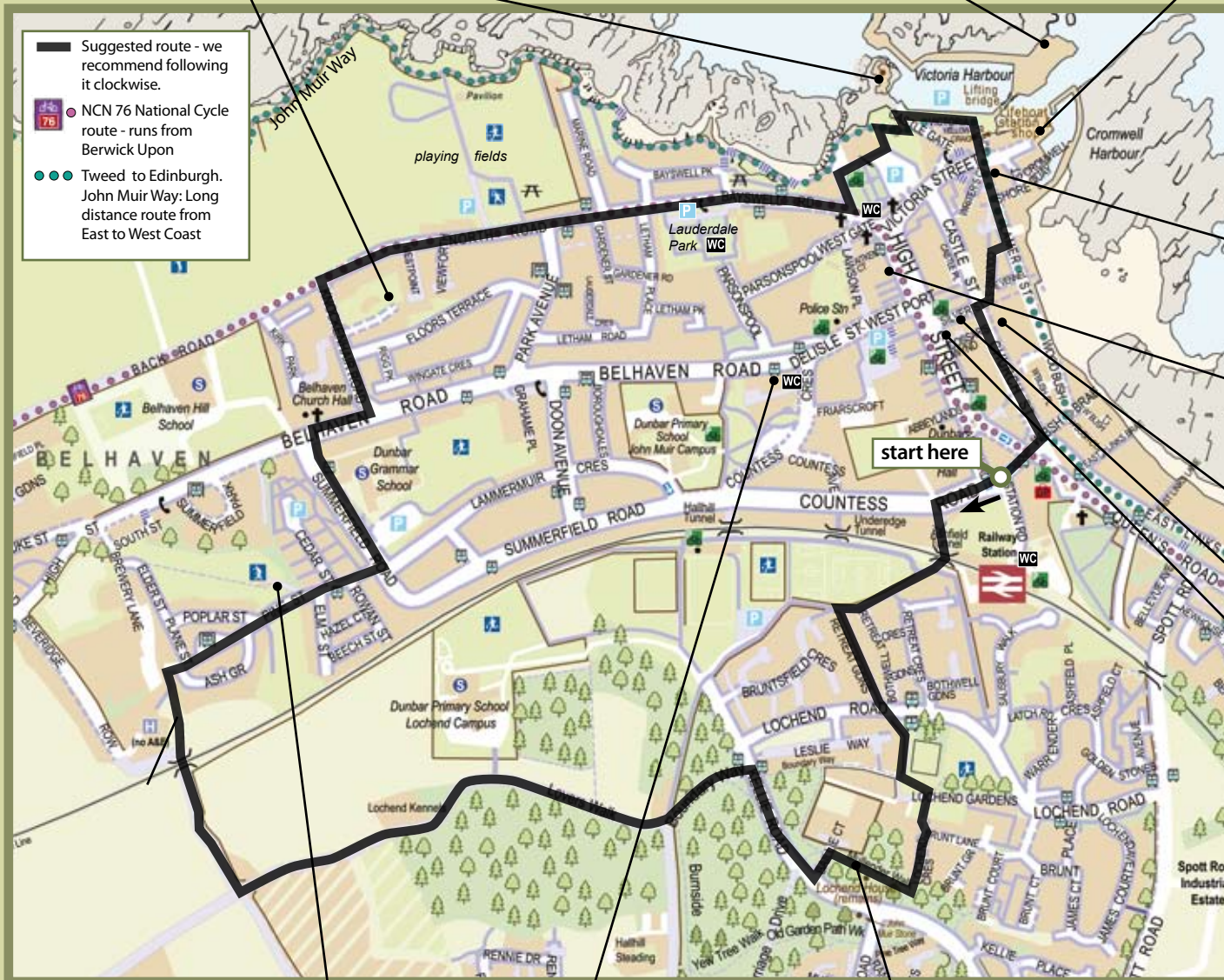


Knockenhair: Look for the circular tower, which even without the paddles is still recognisable as the tower of a windmill, dating from the 1600s.

Dunbar Castle: All you can see are the remains of a mighty stronghold, key in the long conflict between the Scots and the English.

Lamer Island Battery: The battery was built in the 1781 to protect the harbour and was a hospital during the First World War.

McArthur's Stores or Spott's Girnell (granary). The granary has been here since 1658 and remodelled on several occasions - most recently by Dunbar Harbour Trust in 2009 to create fishermen's stores, an office and meeting space. Cromwell Harbour is also worth visiting.



Housing by Sir Basil Spence, (1948 - 51) includes courtyards for fishermen to dry nets. On **Victoria St**, fishermen's houses (1935) with arched doorways by renowned modernist architects Kininmonth and Spence are unique to Dunbar and replace the 'slum' housing in Cats' Row (now Victoria Street).

John Muir Birthplace. Converted into a visitor centre by in Richard Murphy Architects in 2003 and well worth a visit. Although John was born here in 1838, the Muir family moved to the house next door when he was two years old until their move to America just before his eleventh birthday.

Old Assembly Rooms were built in 1822 for farmers around the town to gather in. Funds to build this were raised by subscription.

In Victorian times, **Dunbar Jail** was here - look for the long high windows facing the sea.

Dunbar Town House was built in the late 1500s and is considered Scotland's oldest Council Chamber in regular use. The townhouse refurbishment was completed in 2012, including the restoration of the original lime render to protect the eroded sandstone.



Sir Basil Spence designed 'The Trees' area, but the plan changed and it took years to build. He designed the buildings on **Pine Street** with the round windows and concrete canopies.

The Bleachingfield Community Centre has a green roof, solar panels and is clad with home grown larch. Look for artwork inspired by the coast and countryside on the windows.

Lochend House. The houses south of the railway are built on what was Lochend Estate. Lochend House was built in the 1600s and destroyed by fire in 1859.