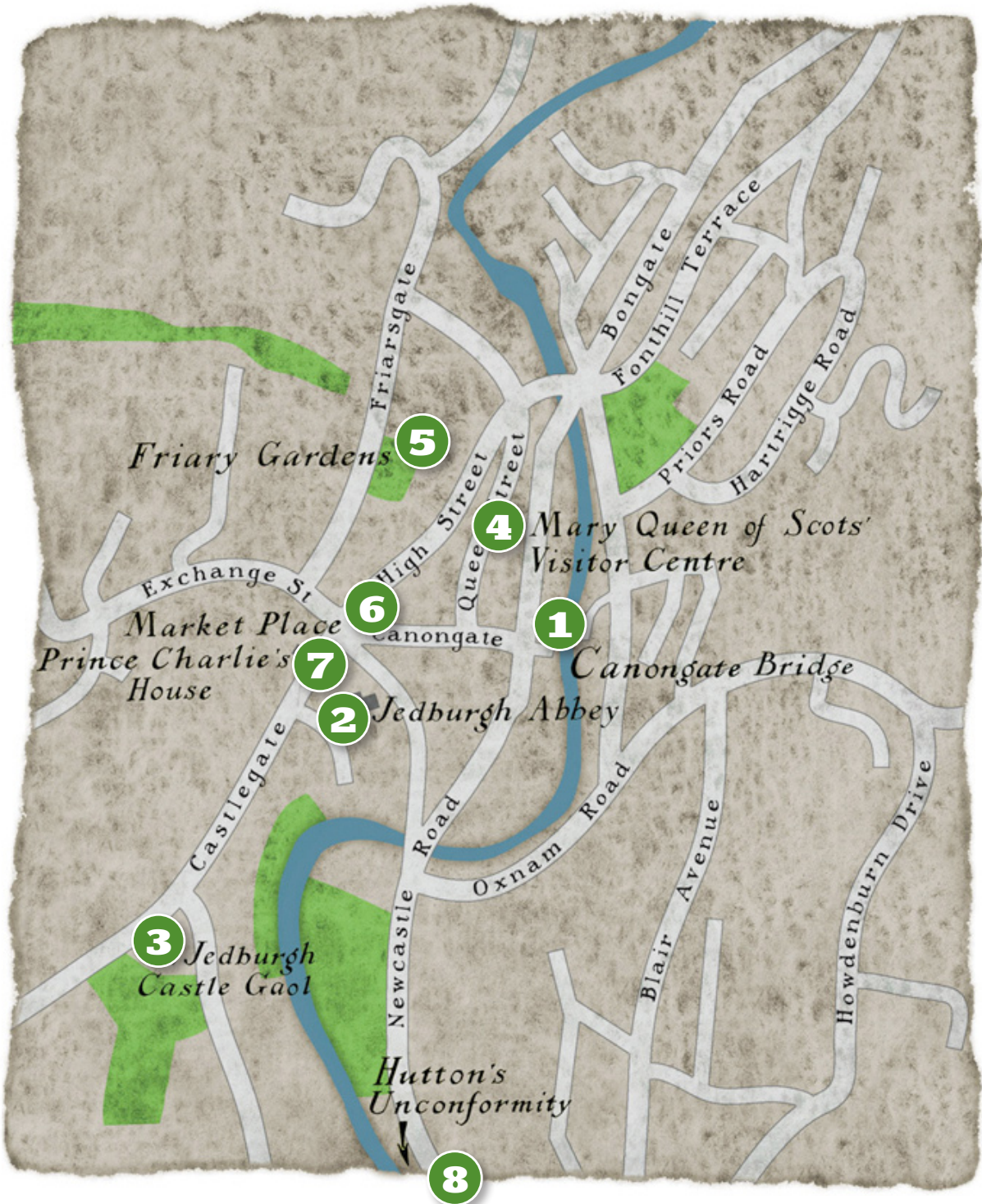


Out&About History Daytripper

Jedburgh

BY JULIAN HUMPHRYS



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1. Canongate Bridge

Now only used as a footbridge, this 16th century three-arched bridge was once the principal route into and out of Jedburgh. Note the refuges to enable pedestrians to avoid the carriages that once rumbled across it and the way that, for defensive reasons, the approaches are virtually at right angles to the bridge.

2. Jedburgh Abbey

This major Augustinian Abbey is one of the most complete in Scotland. It was founded as a priory by King David I of Scotland in 1138, both as an act of piety and as a statement of his power and authority. Its status was raised to that of an Abbey in 1154 but its proximity to what was to be for four centuries a frequently hostile border meant it was repeatedly attacked, pillaged and burned. Although the Abbey was suppressed in 1559 as part of the Scottish Reformation, its church was used as Jedburgh's parish church until 1875. Major excavations in the 1980s have uncovered the remains of the domestic buildings that once stood around the great church. Artefacts on display in the Abbey visitor centre include part of a beautifully carved 8th century stone shrine and a thousand year old ivory comb, again with superb carvings.

3. Jedburgh Castle Gaol

The royal castle that once stood here frequently changed hands with the result that it was demolished in 1409 to prevent it from being used by the English. The castellated buildings you see today were built as a prison in the 1820s. Influenced by the ideas of the penal reformer John Howard, they feature separate heated cells, an open exercise yard and a purpose-built kitchen. The building now serves as a museum of prison life and local history.

4. Mary Queen of Scots' Visitor Centre

One of a number of defensible tower houses built after Jedburgh had been burned by the English in 1523. It was once believed that Mary Queen of Scots lodged here during her visit to the town in 1566 and the building now houses displays telling the story of her life and death.

5. Friary Gardens

The site of a Franciscan Friary founded in the 15th century by Sir Andrew Ker of Ferniehirst. The location of the original walls and drains are marked out with gravel and cobbles while the garden contains examples of the sort of plants the friars would have grown, both for food and medicine.

6. Market Place

Jedburgh was first granted the right to hold a market by King William the Lion of Scotland in the 12th century and a panel in the middle of the road marks the position of the original Mercat Cross. The ornamental gothic column topped by a unicorn was erected to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee. The Market Place is the starting point for Jedburgh's annual Handba' game in which the 'Uppies' (those born above the Mercat Cross) take on the 'Doonies' (those born below it) with the Castle Gaol and the lower end of the town as the two goals.

7. Prince Charlie's House

Note the plaque on this much-restored 17th century merchant's house recalling the fact that Charles Edward Stuart is believed to have stayed here on 6 and 7 November 1745 prior to his invasion of England.

8. Hutton's Unconformity

Head south through Lothian Park and about 300yards outside the town beside the River Jed you'll come to Hutton's Unconformity, one of the most important geological sites in Britain. It was after studying the rock formations here and at other sites in Scotland that James Hutton, an 18th century farmer and doctor from Berwickshire, was able to put forward the theory that the world's surface had evolved over millions of years, not the thousands previously thought.

Information

Jedburgh is on the A68, 55 miles north-west of Newcastle and 48 miles south-east of Edinburgh

Jedburgh Tourist Information:
01835 863170 www.jedburgh.org.uk

Jedburgh Abbey: 01835 863925 www.historic-scotland.gov.uk