

Carry on along the Torness walk way around the shore side of the building. Just to the north of the Torness walkway is a restored 19th Century lime kiln which was used to produce lime used to neutralise acidic soil in farming.



Ahead of you lies the next point of interest - the lighthouse at Barns Ness. Designed by David A Stevenson the lighthouse was turned on 1 October 1901. The tower is 121 feet tall and has 169 steps to the top of the tower. The light shines for over 10 miles and it was automated in 1986. The path continues towards Dunbar via the little beach at whitesands.

The route now skirts the Dunbar East Links golf course which was laid out in 1857 and redesigned by Old Tom Morris around 1894. It is used as an Open Championship Qualifying Venue when the Open is played at Muirfield. All of the major Scottish Championships have been played here; the Scottish Amateur, Scottish Professional Championships, and Scottish Boys' Championship. The British Ladies and the Ladies Home Internationals have also enjoyed Dunbar as a venue.

Dunbar means "the fort on the point", and you reach the small Victorian harbour with the ruins of Dunbar castle above. The harbour walls were constructed with masonry from the castle. There has been evidence of a settlement here since the Iron Age period and the castle played an important defensive role against English invasions in the 13th century. It became a Royal possession in 1433 and was much extended by Mary's mother, Marie de Guise between 1550 and 1560. Very little remains of the castle now with only a portion of the castle walls still visible. Defences were built on this rocky outcrop by the Votanidi tribe during the Romans' excursions into Scotland and it was a Northumbrian stronghold in 650AD. It was later a Pictish fortress until captured by the Scots under Kenneth MacAlpin in 849AD. The first stone castle was probably constructed by the Earl of Dunbar in the 1070s.



There is a pub just before you reach the High St that is named after Agnes Randolph, the 4th Countess of Moray, also known as "black Agnes" on account of her olive skin complexion. She became renowned for her heroic defence of Dunbar Castle against an English attack by the William Montague, 1st Earl of Salisbury which began on 13 January 1338. Salisbury began his engagement with a bombardment by catapults, which sent huge rocks and lead shot against the castle ramparts. However the Lady surprised the Earl by refusing to surrender to his troops and proudly proclaimed:

*"Of Scotland's King I haud my house, He pays me meat and fee,
And I will keep my gude and house, While my house will keep me."*

Lady Agnes responded by having her maids dress in their Sunday best. She led them to the outer walls and instructed them to dust the battle damage away with their handkerchiefs in order to humiliate the English.

The recent addition of the John Muir Birthplace Interpretive Centre is another must for those interested in conservation - you can visit this museum (which has free entry) located on the High Street. There is a statue of him as a boy (see photo) outside the museum. John Muir was born in Dunbar in 1838 and emigrated to America with his family in 1849. He is renowned in America as the father of conservation and the founder of the American National Park system. His jewel in the crown of his achievements is Yosemite National Park. Now belatedly being honoured in the town of his birth, it is apparent that Muir's love of nature and all things natural were learnt during his childhood in Dunbar, which he himself admitted in his unfinished autobiography, "The Story of My Boyhood and Youth".



At the centre, established by the John Muir Birthplace Trust (JMBT), visitors can explore John Muir's Dunbar boyhood, life experience, legacy and read extracts from his journals and view some of his sketches of wildlife and plants. The museum is spread over a number of floors and is well worth a visit.