

Welcome to House of the Binns

The House of the Binns is the only National Trust for Scotland property that is still home to the family whose ancestors first built it 400 years ago. The mansion and its contents richly reflect the history of the Dalyell family and, through them, the history of Scotland.

The Binns' commanding hillside location is enhanced by a natural parkland landscape. Developed between the mid-18th and mid-19th centuries, the landscape was designed to surprise and delight visitors.

Today, the parkland's buildings, burns, trees, woods and grassland support a huge variety of wildlife which you can encounter throughout the year.



When Eleanor Dalyell - together with her son, Tam - gave the Binns to the Trust in 1944, the deed of gift retained the right of the family to live there.



General Tam Dalyell (1615-85) is said to have introduced *thumbikins* or *thumbscrews* into Scotland as instruments of torture. He confronted the Covenanters as Commander-in-Chief of Charles II's forces in Scotland.



Key to Map

- ① ENTRANCE GATE LODGE (HOLIDAY COTTAGE)
- ② ENTRANCE/EXIT ROAD
- ③ SERGEANT'S POND
- ④ CAR PARK
- ⑤ HOUSE OF THE BINNS
- ⑥ VIEWPOINT
- ⑦ WOODLAND WALK (PURPLE)
- ⑧ GENERAL TAM'S SMOKEHOUSE
- ⑨ BINNS TOWER
- ⑩ PARKLAND WALK (ORANGE)
- ⑪ PADDY'S COTTAGE
- ⑫ ERRICK BURN
- ⑬ WALLED GARDEN (CLOSED)
- ⑭ GARDEN COTTAGE
- ⑮ OLD STABLE BLOCK
- ⑯ OLD QUARRY



Dogs at the Binns

Young livestock are present in the parkland most of the time. Please do not take your dog into the parkland when there are lambs and calves. If you do have your dog with you at other times, keep as far as possible from the animals and keep your dog on a short lead. If cows act aggressively towards you, let the dog go and take the shortest and safest route out of the field.

Peafowl roam the meadow in front of the house. Keep your dog on a short lead when walking in this area.

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The House of the Binns stands high on the western slope of Binns Hill, overlooking the River Forth, with spectacular views in all directions.



The designed parkland remains intact, with many of its trees dating back to the early schemes. Why not try the Parkland Walk and discover its history and wildlife for yourself.

The Binns is famous for its peafowl colony. See if you can spot the sycamore tree, close to the garage yard, where these birds roost at night.



Binns parkland wildlife: bulbous buttercups; fox; badger.