

2. River Tyne

2.1 The Tyne Water

Any attempt to trace the course of a river from source to sea may begin amidst uncertainty as to the starting point, and this is true in one sense of the East Lothian Tyne. The river of that name is formed just east of the village of Pencaitland, of which more later, where two streams join, namely, the Tyne Water, and the Birns Water. The latter, which rises in the Lammermuir Hills to the south, is in fact the larger contributor to the river flow, but most people would imagine that the name is what counts, hence my



decision to begin at the source of the Tyne Water. The existence of the hamlet of Tynehead at the T-junction formed by the B6458 and B6367 is a good clue to its whereabouts. Sure enough, the small stream shown in the top photograph is to be found on the west side of the latter road, and it is formed from two unnamed streamlets which meet just north of the hamlet. One of them rises only a short distance south of the B6458, but the longer one joins from the west, though beyond Tynehead it is little more than a series of ditches between fields. It can be traced passing under the A7, (south-west to north-east); I stopped following it there, but looked a few hundred metres across fields to a small wood in which the mapped source lies. The relevant national grid point, NT 383 572, is close to the 260m contour, at the edge of the Moorfoot Hills, north of Middleton, a Midlothian village. From there, the stream flows c17km to its meeting point with the Birns Water, where it becomes the River Tyne. I will mention here that Alastair Robertson has prepared a sketch map of the catchment, giving the locations and types of watermills, and it appears at the end of the account as part of Table 1.

Leaving Tynehead, the streamlet flows north then west in close company with the recently re-opened Edinburgh to Galashiels railway line, before it swings north again in a deepening tree-lined valley. This is Crichton Glen, designated a site of special scientific interest for its extensive range of deciduous trees and plant species. It widens out to yield the compelling spectacle of Crichton Castle on a grassy hillside, with cultivated green fields behind it to the east. The view from the west, alongside, hopefully does some justice to the setting, with the castle looming over the small river far below. I will not give a detailed description of a property now in the hands of Historic Scotland,



as it is well described in the guide book produced by them, but some highlights of its history are worthy of mention

Scottish medieval history is punctuated by episodes in which a king was either a minor, or a prisoner in England, and at these times a succession of noble families took the chance to raise themselves above their peers into positions of great power, albeit temporarily. Examples have included Dorwards, Comyns, Douglasses, various cadet branches of the ruling Stewart clan, Livingstones, Ramsays, and Boyds. The list also includes the Crichtons whose moment came when Sir William, 1st Lord Crichton became Lord Chancellor of Scotland in 1439; for most of the next decade during the minority of King James II, he dominated the country. It is probably to his credit that he retained the confidence of his king until he died in 1454, but he is now remembered if at all, for one of the most cruel and cynical acts in Scottish history. In 1440 as Governor of Edinburgh Castle, he chose that venue for what has become known as the 'Black Dinner'. With considerable justification, he saw the powerful and turbulent Douglas family as a major threat to his own position and perhaps to the King, but his remedy was brutal by any standards. The newly-succeeded, 16 year-old, Earl of Douglas and his younger brother were invited to dinner with the boy-king, and part-way through the meal, they were dragged out of the hall and beheaded in the castle courtyard. Crichton's path was surely made harder by the atrocity; the Douglasses and their allies responded violently, and even after an uneasy peace was restored, regular flare-ups showed that Crichton had bequeathed a long-lasting feud to the Scottish kings.

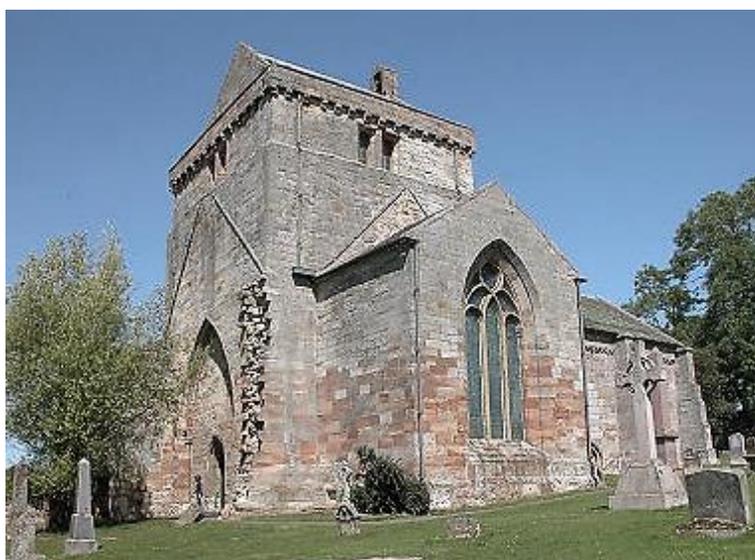
The tower which is the oldest surviving part of the ruin of Crichton Castle, dates from the late 14th century; it was captured and sacked during the disturbances following the Black Dinner, but repaired and extended thereafter by Lord Chancellor Crichton. The high status of the family did not long survive his death, and they lost the castle when the 3rd Lord Crichton rebelled against the crown in 1484. The new owner was Sir John Ramsay, Lord Bothwell, who had acquired influence and position as a youthful favourite of King James III, but the death of that monarch after the Battle of Sauchieburn in 1488 cost the young lord his title and the castle. His career thereafter was tortuous, but he was eventually rehabilitated by King James IV, and died honourably if futilely at Flodden in 1513. After 1488, the castle had passed into the hands of the Hepburn family, who were made Earls of Bothwell, and it remained with them until another forfeiture in 1593. The stand-out event for that family in this period was of course the doomed marriage of the 4th Earl to Mary Queen of Scots, but of most significance for the castle were its siege and capture in 1559, and a dramatic Italianate reconstruction in the 1580s. The turbulence of its first two centuries diminished thereafter, but its upkeep proved beyond the resources of less prominent owners; it was a ruin by the early 19th century, when Sir Walter Scott made reference to it in his narrative poem, 'Marmion', and it was sketched by J.W.M. Turner.

As with many old castles across Britain, Crichton Castle was probably as much a symbol of the power and status of its owners as a stronghold. It may seem that as-built, and with the addition of the gatehouse due to Chancellor Crichton, it was a fortress first and foremost, but this was true only within certain limits. It was expected to give protection against robber bands and opportunistic assaults by neighbouring barons, but not to withstand sieges or cannonades by armies. Any king who acquiesced in such a construction (a process formalised in England as permission to castellate) knew well enough that he might be the one bringing an army to subdue a rebellious subject, and would not have looked favourably on the erection of a near-impregnable building close to Edinburgh. So, it is no surprise that that there were obvious weaknesses in Crichton Castle's

defences like the absence of outworks and the proximity of higher ground, and that it was captured and sacked twice during major disturbances. By the late-16th century many British castle-owners had decided, perhaps prematurely, that the need for security had diminished, and that greater splendour and comfort were the new priorities. Crichton Castle fits the pattern with its major renovations of the 1580s.

A few hundred metres to the north of the castle, is a monument to the aforementioned Chancellor of Scotland. Crichton Collegiate Church of St. Mary and St. Kentigern was founded by him in 1449, on the site of an existing church which is known to have stood there as early as 1270. It is possible that the enlarged college church was constructed by building the part which stands now onto an existing nave. Originally the college comprised 8 prebendary canons and 2 choristers, and by the middle of the next century, these numbers had increased to 14 and 4, along with a provost. They were expected to perform some of the functions of a small monastery, while remaining a part of the wider community, but one specific task was to offer prayers for their founder in an attempt to ease his path to heaven, however unlikely that destination might have seemed to be, in the light of some of his actions. The Reformation saw the end of nearly all such colleges, though many of their churches survived in a parochial role.

Crichton church was not so fortunate and suffered serious damage, some deliberate to destroy 'popish symbols', but most simply because it was abandoned for a long period. Only the chancel remained roofed, all the windows were shattered, and the nave was largely destroyed. However, in 1729, the chancel and transepts were blocked off at the west end of the crossing, and the resulting chamber came back into use as a parish church. In the early 19th century, the interior was reorganised and given the galleries and box pews characteristic of



Scottish parish churches, but another restoration later in that century removed the galleries. Now redundant as a place of routine worship, it is maintained as a heritage site. The area around the church, the chanonry, must have been crowded prior to the Reformation, as many of the high-status prebendary canons mentioned above, would have had substantial manses in their own grounds there, and the choristers also would have been accommodated suitably. All these buildings were gone by the early 17th century, and only a few relatively modern houses are to be seen now. The photograph above is a view of the church from the south-west, with roof-lines on the tower showing the height of the long-gone nave, and an earlier version of the south transept; it has a rather truncated appearance, not unusual in pre-reformation survivals, but more often it is the nave which still stands. The group of buildings are high above the river, south of the hamlet of Crichton.

By convention, the buildings of Crichton are described as on the right bank of the Tyne Water, as they are if one looks downstream, but the next building of interest progressing northwards, is on the left bank, Vogrie House. The large house in Victorian baronial style was built in 1875, for the Dewar family who had owned the 2000-

acre estate since the early 18th century, and could trace ancestors in the Lothians, back to the 13th century. Contrary to some accounts, John Dewar who founded the well-known whisky-distilling business was of another branch of the family. The prosperity of the estate was based on activities including farming, coal-mining and a gun-powder mill. In the late 18th century, the town of Gorebridge to the south-east was founded



to house estate-workers, and the nearby village of Dewartown must have had a similar *raison d'être*. The resources of the Dewars became insufficient to sustain the estate in the 20th century, and it had to be sold. It is now a country park in the hands of the local council, with a walk beside the Tyne Water serving as one of the attractions, while the mansion shown above has been leased to various organisations in recent years.

The road past the entrance to Vogrie Country Park, the B6372, can be followed north-east through Dewartown, (belying its name, little more than two lines of attractive cottages), to a cross-roads where it meets a quiet unclassified road. It was not always thus, as this was once the main road south from Edinburgh to the Borders and the Merse, and centuries before that, Roman Dere Street followed the same line, leading north-west from York into Scotland. A left-turn would give a clue to these origins, as the



road heads arrow-straight towards Dalkeith, though the Roman road forked short of that location, with an eastern branch proceeding to the fort of Inveresk, and a west branch leading towards the forts of Elginhaugh and Cramond. However, our journey requires a right-turn here to get back to the Tyne Water in the village of Ford, named for a wet crossing of the river, beside fine houses, two dating to the 17th century. There is a functional modern bridge there now, though earlier bridges like that shown on Adair's map of 1682 seems to have been a short distance downstream, near the line of the present A68. The Tyne Water has grown considerably in covering nearly 8km from its source, as can be seen from the photograph, looking downstream from the bridge in Ford; the river has been channelled and on its right bank there is a platform of no obvious function, though it might have been associated with a corn mill which once occupied the site; part of the platform is visible in the lower right of the photograph.

Until 1831, all road-traffic had to negotiate the steep bank which rises from the river to the village of Pathhead to the east. I should like to have something nice to say about the latter, because it had significance for me in the many years during which I travelled regularly between Middlesbrough and Edinburgh, but sadly the houses on its steeply sloping main street are rather nondescript. Each time I arrived there having driven through nearly

50km of rough farmland and moors from the previous village of Greenlaw, most often at around 8.00 PM on a Friday evening, I knew that I was within half-an-hour of my destination in Edinburgh and that another tiring journey was almost at an end. The great engineer, Thomas Telford, was contracted during the 1820s to improve what is now the A68, aiming to achieve the reductions in journey times that he had made possible elsewhere, for example on the



London to Holyhead road, which was then the main route from England to Ireland. The more modest Scottish scheme involved re-alignments along the length of the road, but there was one major engineering challenge, namely to provide an easier route across the valley of the Tyne Water. Telford's solution, shown in the photograph, was Lothian Bridge designed in 1827, which carries the A68 north-west from Pathhead, at high level. The bridge, made of sandstone blocks, comprises 5 stilted semi-circular arches, each spanning 15m, with a clearance above the river bed of more than 22.5m. They support a roadway of width, 6.6m, while to each side there are 0.6m wide pathways, which along with the parapets are supported on shallow segmental side-arches above narrowed outward extensions to the pillars. The main bridge structure was clearly designed in accordance with tried design rules applied by Telford to a multiplicity of bridges, aqueducts, and viaducts, and like the others it has stood the tests of time and vastly increased loads, but the arch extensions were decorative, with Telford aiming to make the bridge appear less bulky. Dean Bridge in Edinburgh, built around the same time, has a slightly different version of this feature. The success of the measure can be judged on the photograph of the downstream face, above, but for what it is worth, I think that Lothian Bridge demonstrates that while Telford was unrivalled amongst British engineers of his time in producing reliable constructions, often majestic in their settings, his attempts at smaller-scale decoration were sometimes less successful.

From Lothian Bridge, the river continues its northern course, separating two extensive private properties, Oxenford Castle on its left bank, and Preston Hall to the right. The former is in the possession of the Dalrymple, Earls of Stair, who played a prominent role during the 17th and 18th centuries, one as the Secretary of State who provided the orders for the Massacre of Glencoe, his son as a Field Marshal and commander of allied armies during the War of the Austrian Succession. Preston Hall is in the hands of a family called Callander with Indian Nabobs in their ancestry. Although weddings and some events open to the public are held in both, the buildings are not generally accessible, so I shall not give much space to them here. According to McWilliam, Oxenford Castle is built around a 16th century tower, but is largely the product of two later building programmes, one directed by the renowned architect, Robert Adam, in the 1770s, the other by a Scottish architect of near-comparable repute, William Burn, after 1840. The same source states that Preston Hall dates from 1700, but was largely rebuilt in the 1790s by Robert Mitchell, a disciple of Robert Adam. Moving on downstream, the Tyne Water is crossed by the A6093, carried by a modern bridge which stands alongside its predecessor, a century older. Thereafter the river begins to swing round from north to east and leaves Midlothian for East Lothian, flowing through a broad valley towards the village of Ormiston on its left bank.

Ormiston is usually described as the first planned village in Scotland, founded by the local laird, John Cockburn in 1735. Although it has expanded considerably since then with the addition of much purely functional housing, it retains an attractive tree-lined main street with a 15th century market cross. (Presumably, Cockburn reconfigured an existing village rather than starting afresh; this may be confirmed by the fact that Adair's map of 1682 shows a bridge giving access from the south, though the present bridge is relatively modern). It was not uncommon for



landlords to accommodate estate-workers at locations out of sight from their mansions, but it seems the Cockburns went further than most in this regard. The ruins of their hall, rebuilt by the aforementioned John Cockburn, are 2km south of the village centre, south of the Tyne Water, and of the A6093. More pertinently, the overgrown ruins of the 13th century parish church of St. Giles are close-by the hall, and its replacement of 1690 is no nearer the village. Parishioners from the village will not have gone short of exercise on Sundays. The above photograph of the first St. Giles Church looks east, with the recess for an effigy on the north wall. Also nearby is a large yew tree, thought to have been documented in the 15th century, so at least 600 years old.

A short distance downstream from Ormiston, also on the left bank of the Tyne Water is to be found what is by repute, one of the great mansions of Scotland, Winton House, shown alongside. It was originally a possession of the powerful Seton family, who obtained the estate in the mid-12th century and built a tower there in the late 15th century. That building was almost destroyed during the English invasions of the 1540s, and did not reappear in its present guise until the early 17th century, after the head of the family had become 1st Earl of Winton in 1600. The family's enduring loyalty to the Stuarts proved disastrous for them after the 1715 uprising. The 5th Earl was sentenced to



death after his capture at Preston in Lancashire, and the title and estates were forfeited. The Earl contrived to escape from the Tower of London, and lived for another 30 years as an exile in Italy, but the fortunes of the family never fully recovered. Thereafter the estate and Winton House passed through many hands, but were properly maintained and now they are a high status venue for events like weddings and conferences. The house

is occasionally opened to the public, but I have not been there; the photograph, an aerial view from the west, is taken from the internet.

On leaving the Winton estate, the river veers to the south-east, before re-crossing the A6093 and dividing the village of Pencaitland into east and west communities. The bridge here appears fairly nondescript from the road, though narrow enough to be traffic-light controlled. The view from downstream on the river bank corrects that impression. As shown alongside, it has the form of a



causeway because here the river receives a small right bank tributary, the Blackford Burn, which passes through the left hand arch; two of the three arches are pointed, and the larger rests on ribs which are just about visible in the lightened photograph. There is a date-stone marked 1510, but its appearance suggests that some of the bridge might be at least a century older, with few still-standing predecessors in Scotland. Curiously, it is not shown on the earliest maps, those produced in the late 16th century by Timothy Pont, and by John Blaeu in the mid-17th century, though the reliable John Adair shows it in his map of 1682. Perhaps more surprisingly the Roy map of c1750 fails to record the bridge. It has been altered over time; the segmental flood arch to the right is a later addition, and the bridge narrow as it is may have been widened. There was a mill just upstream on the Blackford Burn, but a house occupies the site now.

Immediately east of the bridge, on the south side of the A6093, but almost hidden by trees, is Pencaitland Parish Church, viewed from the west in the photograph alongside. The church is basically a buttressed box built in the 16th or 17th century, but probably resting on the older foundations of a 13th century church. It has been suggested that a chapel within the church is of similar, or even older, vintage, but McWilliam contests that strongly and dates it to the Victorian era. The striking west tower is square in section for most of its height, but octagonal above. Both inside and out there have been many alterations and additions, and the result, unfortunately is a rather incoherent structure. For the rest it should be said that Pencaitland is a pleasant village, which like Ormiston, now serves mainly as a dormitory town for Edinburgh.



Beyond the old bridge, the Tyne Water flows south-east for a short distance, passing the site of another vanished mill, before reverting to an easterly course alongside the B6355 as it leaves Pencaitland. The junction with the Birns Water which gives birth to the River Tyne is in this stretch and can be approached by way of a pathway through rather scrubby woodland. The photograph shows the Birns Water, flowing from the upper left, meeting the Tyne Water flowing from the right; the River Tyne, leaves from the lower left. The view is slightly deceptive, failing to show that the Birns Water is by far the faster flowing stream which on average supplies 65% of the water and the main impetus to the flow of the newly constituted river. As already noted, the Tyne Water is 17km long from its source to this point, and the river still has to travel 31km to reach the sea. Before continuing that journey, a detour up the important tributary is called for.



2.2 The Birns Water

The Birns Water approaches the junction from the east, but before a sharp bend it was travelling north, and a short distance upstream, Saltoun Hall is on its right bank. The hall, which has now been divided into private apartments, is at the end of a long drive. The view alongside is from the south, and the Birns Water is on the left of the photograph. Although the building began life



as far back as the 12th century, its appearance now is largely the result of alterations made, after the estate came into the ownership of the Fletcher family. In particular, the architect, William Burn was responsible for the large central tower with its castellations, an early 19th century development. Inside and outside, judging from sales literature for some of the apartments, the hall is a fine example of Gothic Revival architecture.

Andrew Fletcher, known as the Patriot for his fierce opposition to the Act of Union of 1707 between England and Scotland, was the grandson of the first Fletcher laird of the estate. He led a fairly tempestuous early career, opposing the regime in Scotland of King Charles II, before forfeiting Saltoun Hall and fleeing to Holland in 1683, when accused of plotting against the King. There, he caballed with James, Duke of Monmouth, and was chosen to lead the cavalry for the latter's ill-fated revolt against King James VII in 1685. He had no sooner landed at Torbay, than he shot dead a prominent fellow officer after an argument; his dismissal and departure perhaps saved his life, given what was to come for the invading force, and Monmouth's inglorious end. The next couple of years saw him in a Spanish prison, and fighting for Hungary against the Turks, before he returned home

during the Glorious Revolution of 1688. His estate at Saltoun was restored, but relations with King William soon became frosty, as Fletcher realised that William regarded himself as King of England, first and foremost, and gave minimal consideration to Scottish interests. It may be that Fletcher's significance in the events which culminated in the Act of Union has been overstated in recent years, because the country was dominated then by its magnates, and the decision depended largely on them, but he was an able polemicist giving a strong voice to the lesser lairds and burgh merchants, in the anti-Union cause. Disheartened by the loss of that argument and the consequences, he retired from public life, confining himself to his estate, making innovations which gained him a deserved reputation as an 'improver'. He died at the age of 61 in 1716, and is buried in the family vault at the church in East Saltoun, a village close to Saltoun Hall.

Apart from pioneering agricultural improvements, Fletcher played a part in developing the technology of mills by sending a millwright called James Meikle to Holland to acquire the technology for producing pot barley, i.e., part-refined barley with the outer husk removed. This led to the first such watermill in Scotland being erected on the right bank of Birns water, 1½km upstream from Saltoun House; it was not copied for 30 years, and was still operating in the early years of the 20th century. The mill has now been converted into a private house, but the line of the lade which supplied the water, which powered it, can still be followed. The 18th century also saw the development of a linen mill with an associated bleachfield on the estate, again the first in Scotland. The Birns Water has a small left bank tributary here, and several hundred metres along the Kinchie Burn is the distillery which produces Glenkinchie Malts. It began operations in 1825, and although there was a hiatus of some 30 years after 1850, production was resumed on the site in 1881, and has continued ever since. The 20th century consolidation of the industry, eventually led to Glenkinchie becoming a subsidiary of the multi-national drinks company, Diagio. There are only a few whisky distilleries in the Scottish Lowlands (out of c97 in all), and Glenkinchie might have succeeded over the years in part because of this rarity and the qualities of East Lothian barley and Lammermuir water. The brand does not receive the very highest ratings from the experts, and is not one of my own favourites, but clearly it has enough admirers to sustain demand. Guided tours are available.

A short distance upstream, the Birns Water and the Humbie Water meet in the Saltoun Forest; the confluence is shown in a photograph posted on the Internet by a Mr. Owens. The former stream approaches from the left, the latter from the top right, and the combined stream, still the Birns Water, leaves from the lower right. Curiously, just as with the formation of the Tyne River, the name of the smaller contributor is preserved.



The Birns Water has reached this point by following a north-westerly course for c5km from the Stobshiel Reservoir in the southern foothills of the Lammermuir Hills. The source of the Humbie Water is c4km south of the confluence, just south-west of the hamlet of the same name. However, about half-way there, c2km further upstream, it is joined from the south-west by a tributary called the Keith Water. I have been unable to reach the spot, nor have I found conclusive photographic evidence on the Internet, but comparing the two joining streams on maps, old and new, the Keith Water is drawn larger, and its feeders seem to drain a far more extensive tract

of land. So, it can be taken as almost certain that once again the name of the lesser contributor is preserved after a meeting of streams.

A short distance west of this confluence is Keith Marischal House, and near to it, an ancient ruined church. The estate is quite difficult to find, and my own explorations in its vicinity were interrupted by the resident of a nearby house, who would not be convinced that I was not a reconnoitring burglar. The house came into the hands of the family of the King's marshal (commander of his soldiers) in the 12th century, and



thereafter the descendants took the name of the property, Keith. It has a vaulted ground floor, and was built as an L-plan tower-house in 1589 for George Keith, the 5th Earl Marischal. His successors lost the house because of their Jacobite sympathies and it passed to the Earls of Hopetoun at the end of the 17th century. They significantly extended the property, building a new wing to complete a U-plan. The north front was 'baronialised' in 1889, hence the faux turrets and crowstep gable seen in the photograph, but the core of the house is of the 16th century with some survivals of an earlier building. It is now let as holiday accommodation.

Keith Marischal Church probably originated as a chapel in the early 12th century and its remains are part-concealed in a clump of trees, opposite the north front of the house which it originally served. The east wall, viewed directly in the photograph, dates from then, and survives to near roof height with a vesica window, surmounting two plain lancets. The church gained independent parochial status in the 13th century. In 1469 the parish was made into a prebend of the collegiate church of St Salvator in St. Andrews, and the incumbent priest became



a paid vicar. The Reformation restored the independence of the parish of Keith, but in 1618 it was incorporated in that of Humble. The disused church became the ruin which can be seen now.

Keith Water is formed from a network of streams, many of which originate in the northern Lammermuir Hills, near to the high pass of Soutra which provides the route for the A68 to link the Lothians and Scottish Borders, and housed a renowned medieval hospital. One such stream, arguably the main one, is the Cakemuir Burn, which rises south of Tynehead, beside the reopened railway between Edinburgh and the Scottish Borders, and only 1km south-east of the source of the Tyne Water. After flowing 2km north-eastwards, the burn arrives at

Cakemuir Castle, a tower built by the Wauchope family in the 1560s. Not long afterwards its owners sheltered Mary, Queen of Scots, after she famously fled from Borthwick Castle in the attire of a page-boy; a puzzling tale since she is thought to have been almost 6 feet tall, and possessor of a striking female figure. The large west wing on the right of the photograph, taken in



fading light, was added in 1761. As with many such buildings, it was baronialised in the late 19th century, and has been further modified since. It is thought that it had a medieval predecessor called Black Castle, on the other (north) bank of the Cakemuir Burn. The stream continues in a north easterly direction, until just before flowing under the A68 it receives two small tributaries, and its name changes to Fala Dam Burn. The north-easterly path continues until another name change, to Costerton Water, takes place; finally the stream adopts the name of Keith Water, after receiving another tributary, and follows the path already described by which its contents reach the River Tyne.

2.3The River Tyne

A short distance downstream from the confluence which formed it, the river passes under Spilmersford Bridge, which carries the B6355 road to Gifford. Its heavy, rather bland appearance suggests that it was built in c1800, though it required extensive repairs after flood damage in 1948. The fabric is coursed sandstone rubble, and the parapets are topped with small castellations, just about visible on the photograph alongside. It has a shallow segmental river arch, and to the west, a smaller arch which



originally crossed a mill lade. There were limekilns on the left bank, west of the bridge, until the 19th century, and the lade just mentioned, supplied mills which processed corn and textiles, and also a sawmill, at Spilmersford, before returning to the river downstream, near to Nisbet. The main entrance to the grounds of afore-mentioned Saltoun Hall, through a rather over-stated gatehouse, is immediately east of the bridge.

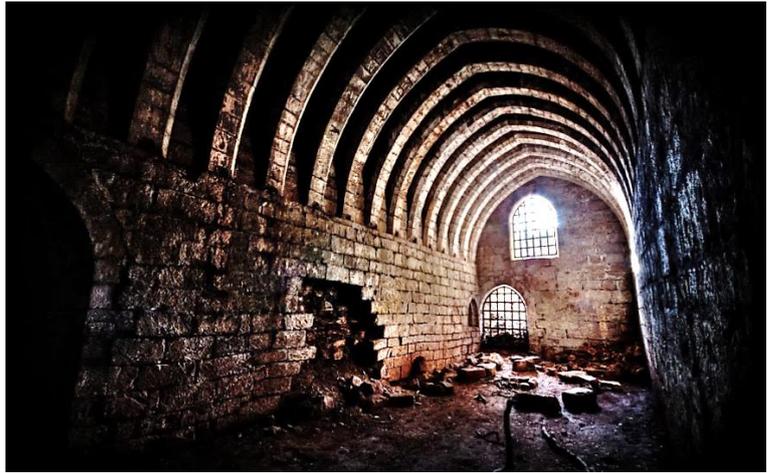
From Nisbet, the River Tyne flows north-east through a broad shallow strath containing some of the richest agricultural land in Great Britain. It is bridged again beside the hamlet of Samuelston, a group of long-standing farm steadings interspersed with cottages and some more modern houses. There were once two or even three corn mills here and traces of the lade which carried water to them are still visible. The bridge is of 18th century vintage, and comprises a single segmental arch built of sandstone rubble, and with unusually long voussoirs making up the single flush arch rings at each face. The river is approaching the historic county town of

Haddington, and just short of the outskirts is probably the best-known of the mansions that mark its course, Lennoxlove. However, before the river gets there it receives a substantial right bank tributary, the Colstoun Water, along which I shall track first.

Before meeting the River Tyne, this stream flows round the west of the Lennoxlove estate, but immediately upstream, it passes close by Colstoun House. I must confess that although I had unknowingly driven past the entrance lodges on a few occasions, I had never heard of this castle cum mansion until embarking on this project. It was the private residence of a branch of the Broun family for several centuries, though it is now open to a slightly wider public, for weddings, and as an up-market hotel. I shall confine myself to observing that the present house, raised above the right bank of the Colstoun Water, had its origins mainly in the 16th century, though there may have been older elements, but it was added to regularly afterwards, and the present aspect owing much to Sir Robert Lorimer's intervention in the early 20th century, following a major fire. A legend surrounds the Brouns, concerning a pear presented to them by an alleged necromancer, Hugo of Gifford, when he married into the family in the 13th century. It came with a guarantee of prosperity, provided it was kept intact. All went well for the Brouns, until the pregnant wife of the owner in the late 17th century, satisfied a craving by taking a bite of the still-succulent fruit. Of course, the family fortunes tumbled for a period, with money troubles and sudden deaths, but were eventually restored, and the pear, tooth-marks and all, apparently survives.

Moving upstream, the Colstoun Water skirts the village of Bolton with its distinctive early-19th century church tower across the main street from an unusual dovecot of slightly earlier vintage. Further upstream, there is no public access to Colstoun Old Mill, now a private house, but in the 17th century, the site of two corn-mills (according to Shaw). The village of Gifford is a further 2km to the south-east, and there the Colstoun Water is renamed the Gifford Water. The name comes from the Norman family who built nearby Yester Castle in the 13th century, before the estate passed to the Hays by marriage in 1357. During the 17th century, following common aristocratic practice, they re-sited, an old village called Bothans, to a more comfortable distance from their new mansion, Yester House, and renamed it Gifford. The choice of location might have been linked to the presence there of a corn mill in the 17th century, and during the next century a mill in the village made paper, (used for banknotes) until the 1750s, and thereafter linen. No trace remains, saving the street named 'Old Mill Lane', but lined with new houses. The village is relatively free from through-traffic, though a popular Sunday afternoon venue, while its buildings, including a church dating to 1710, are neat and well-cared for. Comfortably more than 60 years ago, my parents often joined the Sunday trippers out from Edinburgh, accompanied by their rather unwilling sons, taking afternoon tea in a tidy, white-painted café. At around the same time, I recall extremely frustrating times on a 9-hole golf course there. I eventually became a scratch golfer of some repute, but competence was built on hard work at least as much as natural ability, so in these early days the ball rarely seemed to behave as intended after being struck, and my long-suffering father witnessed many tantrums, not that he was wont to accept misfortune associated with his own efforts with total equanimity. I regret never going back, when I could play a bit, in the hope of getting my 'revenge', but the opportunity never presented itself.

Yester Castle is a ruin on the left bank of Hopes Water, one of the streams which form Gifford Water shortly before it reaches Gifford. It was built by the Hugo Gifford, already mentioned, who was perhaps of higher repute than implied earlier in the legend of Colstoun House, as he was first guardian and then councillor to King Alexander III of Scotland. However, the story goes that the chamber shown alongside,



which survives below the remnants of the castle, 'Goblin's Ha', was built with the aid of the devil. Be that as it may, the castle was strong enough to fight off a contingent of the English force, which won the Battle of Pinkie in 1547. It was however inaccessible, and probably for this reason a tower house to its north-west replaced it not long afterwards.

At the end of the 17th century, the head of the Hay family achieved the status of Marquis of Tweeddale, and this was the trigger for demolition of the tower and erection of the present mansion which was a creation of William and Robert Adam, and is generally thought to be one of the finest houses in Scotland, though it is no longer in the hands of the Hays. I leave detailed description to McWilliam, but the photograph shows the rear of the building with the Gifford Water in the foreground. Near to the house is a family mausoleum which was once a grander establishment. It began life in the 13th century as the parish church for Bothans, the precursor of Gifford. In 1421, it was raised to the status of the Collegiate Church of St. Cuthbert, continuing in its old role but with a college comprising a provost, and eventually 6 prebendary canons attached. The Reformation saw an end to such establishments, and the church became solely the parish church of Bothans. When the village was moved and reborn as Gifford, the parochial role was lost and the church, shown above, became first a chapel and then a mausoleum. The frontage in view is an Adam construct, added to the choir and transepts of the 15th century collegiate church, not their greatest work, I think.



One of the feeders into Gifford Water is the Newlands Burn, which rises to the south-east near a group of ponds close to the B6355 road between Gifford and Duns. Here, there are two hillforts in close proximity, called Green Castle and Black Castle. The photograph, taken by RCAHMs is an aerial view of the former, a triangular fort of dimension 68m (length) X 56m (maximum width) on a plateau with double ramparts. Newlands Burn to the left, with steep banks, most likely flowed past the fort when it was built, but the pond appeared later. There are many hillforts on the northern slopes of the Lammermuir Hills, most often overlooking the Lothian plain.



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Returning to the River Tyne, and the delayed encounter with Lennoxlove on the right bank, the estate was called Lethington when first acquired by the Maitland family in the 14th century, and a century later they built the L-shaped tower which still dominates the building; it is central in the aerial photograph taken from the south-east (obtained from a travel website). The first of the family to come to national prominence was William Maitland of Lethington, who was Secretary of State to Mary Queen of Scots in the 1560s, when she ruled in Scotland, though his service cost him his life. Their importance increased with each generation, until a John Maitland, also Secretary of State, (for King Charles II), and a key political figure south as well as north of the border, became the first and last Duke of Lauderdale in 1672. The Maitlands remained prominent thereafter, but Thirlestane Castle near Lauder was their main base, so Lethington was sold. The name of the estate was changed to Lennoxlove by a provision of the will of the purchaser, a Duchess of Richmond and Lennox who died in 1703. Thereafter, it passed through many hands until it was acquired by the 14th Duke of Hamilton in 1946, and it remains with that family. An east wing on the right in the photograph was added to the tower in the early 17th century, along with the second tower at its southern end. Since then there has been no major change though the architect Sir Robert Lorimer made alterations in detail during the early 20th century. Guided tours are given to the public during the summer, and glimpses of the house amongst trees are obtainable from a minor road to its south. Directly opposite Lennoxlove, water is drawn off on the left bank of the river into a lade which supplied a corn mill at Clerkington. Parts of the lade still exist, and small left Bank tributaries, the Backhouse and Letham Burns, feed the surviving portion, before it re-joins the river.



The river skirts the south and east of Haddington, and there is a pleasant walkway amongst trees on its left bank, between the river and a mill lade. A characteristic view is shown alongside. It is quite difficult in such idyllic conditions to appreciate that the river has a propensity to flood, but there are markers in the town centre dating to 1358, 1775, and 1948 showing river levels rising by c3m, causing a large part of Haddington to be inundated. Scattered through the town are varied and interesting buildings and banks attached to their managers' houses, a



police-station, and a fire-station, dating from the 19th century, still stand on the main street. I remember going to one of the bank houses with my father to visit his friend, the manager, a few times in the mid-1950s, and being thrashed at table-tennis by the daughter of the house. Town records go back to the 12th century when there was a royal palace on a site indicated by a plaque, but Haddington's location on the path of English invasions, mean that its history is of sackings and sieges, so there is but one medieval building standing; a ruin to which I will return later. There was never a Haddington Castle, the nearest thing being a fort raised during an English occupation of the late 1540s, which was quickly destroyed, when the Scots regained the town. I mentioned a mill lade, and beside the B6368 where it crosses the River Tyne before entering the town from the south, an 18th century version of the East or Poldrate Corn Mill still stands, though sadly not in working order. Records show that it had a medieval predecessor, Kirk Mill, and there were also mills at the west end of the town, near to where the aforementioned lade is taken off; one was a corn mill dating back at least to the 16th century, the other an 18th century woollen mill.

On the other side of the B6368 from Poldrate Mill is Haddington Collegiate Church of St. Mary, sometimes called the Lamp of Lothian. The aerial view alongside, taken from the south-west, shows the form of the building and its proximity to the River Tyne, flowing towards Nungate Bridge near the centre of the photograph. Work on building the church began in 1380 but it was not completed until a century later in 1486, as a fully aisled cruciform building, 62.8m long with many altars. A nascent college of prebendary



canons seems to have collected speedily, but it was formalised only in 1540, and details are scant, not least because an English invasion left the church without a roof in 1548. Few if any repairs were made before the Reformation of 1560 when it is likely that there was further damage. Thereafter, reputedly on the advice of

locally-born John Knox, the nave alone, (on the left in the photograph) was re-roofed and blocked off at its east end to serve as the parish church, the chancel and transepts being left to fall into ruin. Apart from minor changes, matters rested there for 4 centuries, until in 1960 a project was begun to restore fully the east end of the church, and remove the wall separating it from the nave; the work was completed in 1973. Much 15th century masonry remains but in the chancel and transepts the vaulting is entirely modern. As for college domestic buildings including manses, there seem to be no traces, either because the life of the college was so short that they were not built, or because of destruction by the invaders and later Reformers.

Mention of Haddington's greatest son, John Knox, requires that something more be said here. Incredibly for such a famous person, there is no consensus within a 10 year period between 1505 and 1515, as to when he was born, though authorities now seem to prefer 1513, the year of Flodden. His career was anything but straightforward, and his impact is easy to lose amidst spicy tales of his time spent chained to an oar in French galleys, and of his confrontations with the young Mary, Queen of Scots; the latter were true enough, but did not present him in the best light. His personal life was sometimes controversial as well, with a marriage when in his 50s to a 17-year old bride, a defiance of convention. However, he was a religious figure of European significance in the early years of the Reformation, influencing doctrine in England during the short reign of King Edward VI, and preaching to such effect in the Geneva of John Calvin, that he was awarded the freedom of the city when he left for Scotland. There, he was an important player in the negotiations leading to the Treaty of Leith which re-established Scottish independence (mainly from France) and the key force in making Scotland's church Presbyterian rather than Episcopalian, although paradoxically he was willing to tolerate bishops after 1560. It is a strange twist that he had been offered but refused appointment as Bishop of Rochester in England, earlier in his career. At the end of his life although enfeebled he was still preaching in St. Giles Church in Edinburgh; at his graveside in 1572, the then Regent of Scotland, the Earl of Morton, gave testimony to his fearless pursuit of his ambitions for his church and country. His words, spoken and written, resonated beyond the grave and contributed massively to the eventual abolition of the episcopate in 1689, more than a century later.

Just downstream from the Lamp of the Lothians is Nungate Bridge which was probably built no later than the early-16th century, as it appears on the earliest maps. It is now restricted to pedestrian and cycle use, but was for long the main access route east, to and from the town; presumably it was antedated by a ford as the river is wide and usually shallow at this point. The fabric of the bridge is coursed sandstone rubble



with much patching, and it has three low-rise segmental arches of 13.2m span; it is just less than 4.5m wide between the parapets. There are triangular cutwaters and decorative hood moulds over the single arch rings. A squinch at the eastern end turns the pathway south to meet the main road through that part of the town; probably the river bed directly in line was unsuitable for anchoring piers.

A short distance downstream, the Victoria Bridge opened in 1900, carries a minor road over the River Tyne heading east, from the town along the right bank, whereas the A1, now bypassing Haddington to the north is on the left bank. Immediately downstream of the bridge, a large weir signals the presence of another corn mill, supplied with water by a right bank lade. There are records of Gimmers Mill dating back to the early 15th century, when it was owned by Haddington Abbey. None of the buildings shown in the photograph above are remotely as old as that although one might speculate about the age of the mill lade which still survives behind the red-roofed building. Now the site is occupied by a malt refiner.



Next, the river skirts Haddington Golf Course, the only one adjacent to it and its tributaries, except perhaps for a new course near Yester House. This is surprising given the large number of golf courses in East Lothian. The club began its life at Amisfield Park, the present site, in 1865, but for some reason, golf was allowed only in the winter months. Even this privilege was withdrawn after 16 years, and the club migrated to the south slopes of the Garleton Hills which lie



just north of the town. The rule of winter-play only was still in force, though eventually it was lifted. The new course was hilly, windswept, rocky terrain with much gorse-cover and must have been a challenge too great for many members; unsurprisingly a number of attempts were made to return to Amisfield Park. In 1928, the Palladian mansion of 1755 at the centre of the estate, occupied by the family who later acquired the title of Earl of Wemyss, was demolished and in 1931 the golf club was allowed to return there. I view the course with some affection because I held the record there for a short time, nearly 50 years ago. Beside the course, (on the left in the photograph above, commissioned by the Friends of the River Tyne), a weir known as Amisfield Cascade was maybe built for a cloth mill operating around the turn of the 18th century, and was later a water feature in the grounds of the mansion.

The Amisfield Estate occupied part of the medieval precinct of the Cistercian nunnery, Haddington Priory of St. Mary. It was founded in 1159, probably for a prioress and 24 nuns. No part of the main complex (the church and claustral buildings) has survived above ground, nor has the site been excavated; some rather inconclusive electrical resistance surveys have been carried out, but there remains doubt as to the location of most of the abbey buildings. The only visible survival is the small ruined church of St. Martin, which is thought to have been

at the western gateway of the precinct, and to have provided services for townspeople as well as visitors to the priory. The photograph (taken in fading light) is a view from the north-east. The numerous rectangular holes through the walls would have been filled in during the church's active years but probably aided the building process by providing anchors for scaffolding. The single-chamber church which has dimensions of 16.5 X 5.1m with walls 1.4m thick, may date to the 12th century, but the buttresses are a later addition, needed to support the weight of an upper floor.



A short distance further downstream there is another clue to the former existence of the priory, namely Abbey Mill Bridge which carries a minor road across the River Tyne, beside rather dilapidated old buildings, which may once have been part of a mill complex. The bridge is an early 16th century sandstone structure, which appears on all the old maps. It has 3 pointed arches each spanning c10m, and carrying a roadway whose width is 4.8m; unusually wide given its age but it is as-built. The river only flows under the southern-most arch. The dressed voussoirs form double arch rings in two orders which are chamfered; the rest of the masonry is coursed rubble, picked out with whitened mortar. One apparent curiosity is that there are five prominent ribs under the central span, but only two outer ribs are visible below each of the others. The bridge is in good repair, and though not well-known is one of the finest of its vintage in the country.



Nothing illustrates better the role of East Lothian as the granary of Scotland, than the succession of corn mills along the River Tyne, and from here three more followed fairly rapidly, namely Sandy's Mill, Beanston Mill, and Hailes Mill, though all are now converted into private houses. The first-named, shown alongside, dates to the mid-18th century and operated until the mid-20th century. A breast-shot water wheel survives, (see Appendix A2) but the lade controlled by a sluice gate now feeds a generator.



By the time the last of these mills has been reached, the river has changed character again, entering a steep-sided ravine, cutting through the foothills of Traprain Law. At 221m, the volcanic outcrop seems higher rising fairly abruptly in the flat Lothian plain; its summit is a large plateau which was inhabited more or less continuously from 1000 BC, when the first ramparts surrounding parts of the summit were built, until shortly after 400AD. By that date, the site was the oppidum of a British tribe called the Votadini, who ruled South-East Scotland, and mutated in some way into the Gododdin when their capital shifted to Edinburgh. In c600, they fought the Anglo-Saxons at Catraeth (Catterick) as commemorated by a rare surviving poem; they lost and were absorbed into Northumbria, but regained their independence later in the century, before being formally subsumed into Scotland by the Treaty of Carham in 1018.

Many hill forts have been surveyed and at least partially excavated, and much has been written regarding their configurations and functions. As with other ancient sites, apparently fortified, there has in recent years been a strong tendency to play down the military aspect, partly because the experts would themselves have organised things differently to achieve greater defensibility, and partly because there seems to have been a desire to portray our ancestors as less quarrelsome than ourselves. So it has



been suggested that they were really symbols of the status of their owners, or ritual centres, occupied only intermittently, and that the ramparts, certainly much less formidable at Traprain than at the likes of Maiden Castle in Dorset, were built to contain domestic animals rather than keep attackers out. I am unconvinced by these arguments and while accepting that the defences of many hillforts would not protect against major threats, I think that they were probably seen as a deterrent to lesser attacks. (The relevant comparison may be with the moats dug round medieval houses which were otherwise unfortified). Hillforts can only be fully appreciated from above, so I present an aerial view looking east, taken from the RCAHMS site, with ramparts appearing as lines at the edges of escarpments. The River Tyne is to the left (north) of the area covered by the photograph.

In 1919, a large hoard of silver was discovered on the summit, together with enough Roman coins to date the find to the 5th century. The individual items were plates and other utensils, chopped and crushed, also of Roman origin. It has been suggested that they were a payment, measured by weight of silver, from the Romans or some British successors in the north of England to the Gododdin for services rendered, or a protection fee. My last word on Traprain is to deprecate strongly the fact that a chunk of the hillfort has been destroyed by quarrying which began after 1938. That this should be allowed to happen so recently to a historic site of paramount national importance, comparable with Dunadd, and Burghead, also somewhat neglected, ought to be seen as a scandal.

Beside the river, at the bottom of the aforementioned ravine in the shadow of Traprain Law and 6km east of Haddington, is Hailes Castle. In truth the photograph of the north face, seen alongside, belies the usual gloomy appearance of the building; the River Tyne can be seen in the lower left hand corner. It was built in the 13th century, probably by an Earl of Dunbar and March, and was enlarged at the end of the 14th century by the Hepburns, who have already been encountered as owners for a short



time of Crichton Castle. The eastern half of the site, on the left in the photograph, was the original 13th century castle of which the lower parts remain, while a 14th century addition is to the west (right), and includes a tower. For more than two centuries, until 1567, the castle remained with the turbulent Hepburns, and its history is punctuated by local quarrels and English assaults during invasions. The last Hepburn owner was James, 4th Earl of Bothwell, who after 'abducting' Mary Queen of Scots, took her there and then to Dunbar. Their marriage, her abdication, and his forfeiture and flight soon followed and the castle gravitated to Lothian grandees who have already been mentioned; the Seton family held it for most of the 17th century, and then it passed to the Dalrymples in the 18th century. It was slighted by Cromwell's army after the Battle of Dunbar, but parts remained roofed until the 19th century; the ruin is now maintained by Historic Scotland.

A further 2km downstream, the River Tyne arrives at the village of East Linton, where it is crossed by a final ancient bridge, the fourth. East Linton Bridge was built in the mid/late 16th century, replacing an earlier bridge on the site which had been blown up in 1549 by French soldiers confronting the English Invaders after the humiliating Scottish defeat at the Battle of Pinkie, two



years earlier. It duly appears on the old maps of Pont, Blaeu, and Adair. It was then on the main road between Edinburgh and London, the A1 in modern times, and remained so until 1927 when the village was bypassed. It has 2 segmental arches each resting on 4 chamfered ribs, and spanning 12m. The broad central pier has large stepped cutwaters, tapered to meet the bridge face below string courses at the base of the parapet. The bridge was originally 3.2m wide, and the 16th century structure remains at the core, but in 1763, 0.9m was added at each face, so the aspect is that of an 18th century bridge, and medieval features incorporated then, such as chamfered voussoirs, are really pastiches. Nonetheless, as shown in the photograph, it is an attractive sight, enhanced by the waterfall just downstream. Although somewhat blighted by the main railway line which crosses the river here on a strictly functional bridge, the village centre has character, and there are a number of interesting houses dating back to the 18th century.

Raised above the north side of a minor road leaving the village to the east is Prestonkirk Parish Church of St. Baldred. The main part of the church is a rather plain box built in 1770, though the tower with a curious cupola is almost a century and a half older. However the main historic interest is at the east end, because here part of a 13th century chancel is attached to the end-wall of the church, as shown in the photograph. Indeed, the lancet windows could even be older though there has obviously been some refurbishment. The old chancel is unconnected internally to the main body of the church, and has probably survived because it was for a period the burial vault of an important local family, the Smeatons.



Within the church building many services will have been conducted by the most famous by far of the medieval rectors of the parish, Gavin Douglas, provost of St. Giles in Edinburgh and later, Bishop of Dunkeld. Born at Tantallon Castle near North Berwick, maybe in 1474, educated at St. Andrews and Paris Universities, he has two main claims to fame; firstly he was one of the 'Makars', the distinguished Scottish poets, writing at the time in the Scots language, whose numbers also included Robert Henryson and William Dunbar. Gavin Douglas produced original work of quality, but his greatest achievement was a translation of the Aeneid into Scots, the first such into any northern language. After the Scottish disaster of Flodden, he had an important political and diplomatic role, being central to the signing of the Treaty of Rouen in 1517, which secured French aid to oppose attempts by England, to follow up her triumph, by conquest. However, Gavin Douglas had a fraught relationship with the Regent for the infant King James V, John Stewart, Duke of Albany; he lost his bishopric and was exiled in 1521, dying of the plague in London, a year later.

Unsurprisingly for a village in a rich farming area, there have been no less than 5 corn mills in and just to the east of the village. In the centre, there are house and street names which refer to a mill marked on old maps, and shown in the old postcard. Below the rocky waterfalls (linns) which gave the village its name, a lade on the right bank supplied Houston Mill, noteworthy because it was the home in the 18th century, of Andrew Meikle. Born in 1719, and trained as a millwright, he was one of Scotland's great



engineers, inventor in c1785 of a viable mechanical threshing machine, driven by waterpower or horses, which eliminated a labour intensive and wasteful manual operation with flails. During the next few decades, their use spread rapidly throughout Scotland and into England; the approximate locations for those installed as farm mills

in the River Tyne catchment are given in the Appendix. This was Meikle's greatest achievement, but he was responsible for many technical improvements to farming and milling equipment, and trained another local boy, John Rennie the elder, who was his apprentice, and became a renowned civil engineer. Meikle died in 1811, and was buried in Prestonkirk churchyard, as was the father of John Rennie.

Immediately downstream of Houston Mill is Preston Mill, shown alongside, to which water diverted by a weir flows along a lade near the left bank. There is thought to have been a mill here in the late 16th century, though the oldest building now standing is probably of the 17th century. The water wheel, in the right foreground of the photograph, is undershot, i.e. water pushes the lower vanes, and the drying kiln had a characteristic roof shape to provide an



updraft of hot air which removed dust (but not of course the grain). Preston Mill is now owned by the National Trust for Scotland. Moving 1km downstream, another weir and left bank lade supplied Knowes Mill, long disused and now the site of a farm steading. Just before that lade returned to the river, some of the water was diverted into a channel which followed a still-visible path across fields to the village of Tynninghame. There beside the A198 there was a sawmill, on a site now occupied by a private house; two bridges allow the lade and the parent river to pass under the road where they reunite.

The River Tyne is tidal here under some conditions as it enters the grounds of Tynninghame House. The early-17th century mansion and the estate were purchased by Thomas Hamilton, 1st Earl of Haddington in 1627; he was a lawyer who played an important role in Scottish government during the reign of King James VI, especially after that monarch departed for London. He was Lord President of the Court of Session from



1616 to 1625, an important political as well as legal office in those days. He went by the soubriquet of 'Tam o' the Cowgate' because his town house was there, (a more prestigious address then, than it has been at various times since). The present appearance of the house is the result of alterations made by William Burn in 1829. He largely kept the overall configuration around 3 sides of a courtyard, but rebuilt the outer walls and windows and added the profusion of conical turrets; the result is the exaggerated version of the Scottish Baronial style, which can be seen in the photograph alongside, taken from the nearest public road, some distance away to the north. It was not the finest hour of an acclaimed architect but perhaps he was only doing what his client demanded. Internally, Burn effected a transformation acclaimed by McWilliam, which was surely not as overstated, though never having seen it, I don't know. The house remained in the hands of the Earls of

Haddington, until the 13th Earl sold the property in 1987, since when it has been divided into apartments. Just to the south of the mansion is the small ruin shown in the photograph, which is all that remains of the 12th century, Tynninghame Church, in use until 1761, but which since then has been viewed more as a folly. The arches look suspiciously as though they have been rebuilt, no doubt in a location easily viewed from the house, but perhaps I am mistaken.



The photograph alongside shows the estuary of the River Tyne, with Tynninghame House at the bottom of the photograph with the ruined church just visible above and to the right. Otherwise, the photograph, taken with tide well-in, shows the river reaching the North Sea, with Belhaven Bay and the John Muir country park on the right bank and St. Baldred's Cradle on the left bank. The rocky feature is named for a Northumbrian saint who lived in the 8th century, and is sometimes described as the apostle of the Lothians, though in truth Christianity had probably established itself there, a century earlier. St. Baldred is said to have founded a



monastery at Tynninghame, but to have withdrawn intermittently from his role as abbot, to lead a hermit's life, in two caves, one at Seacliff, 6km north of the River Tyne Estuary, the other on the Bass Rock.

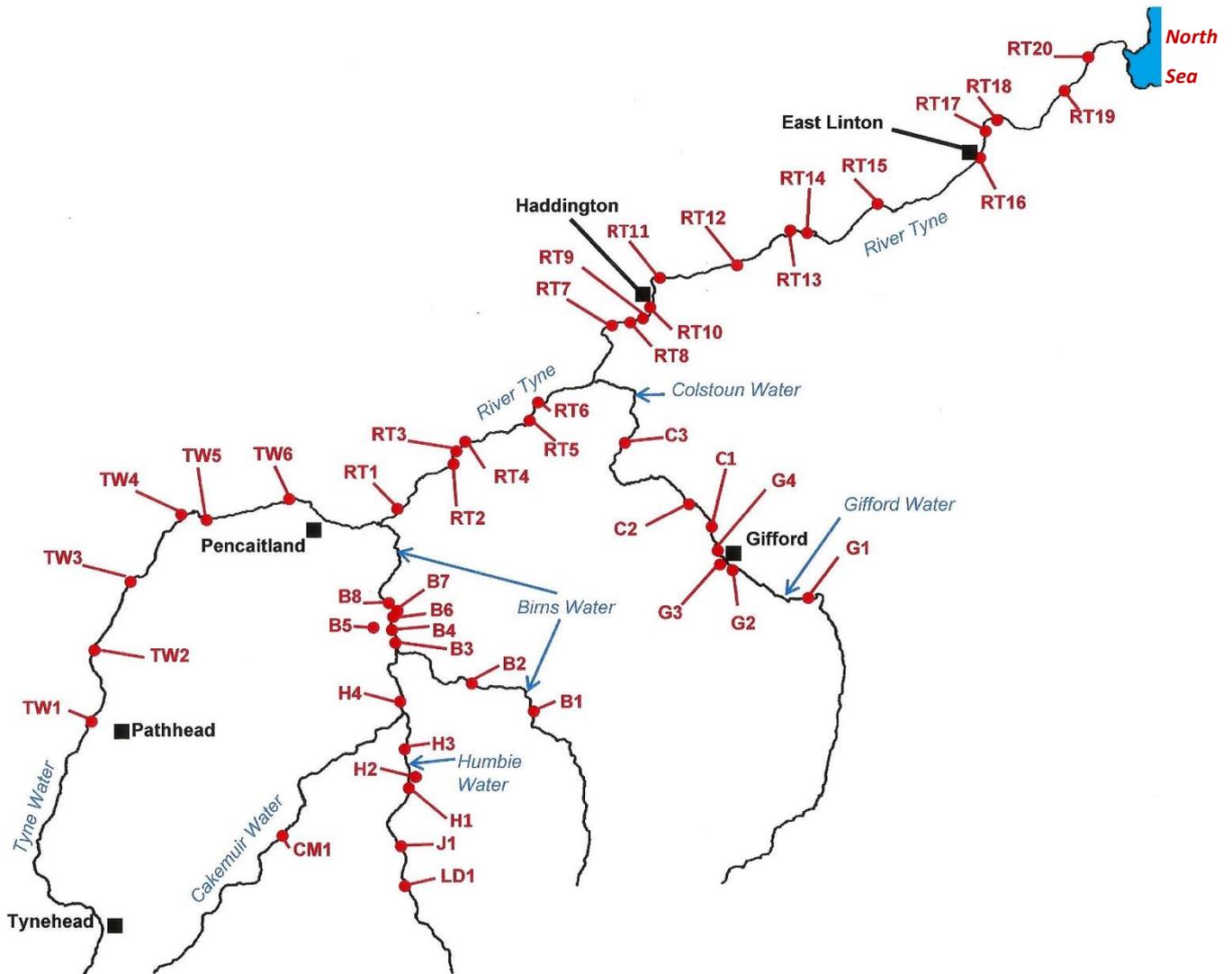
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Here, the River Tyne completes its 48km journey from beside Tynehead. It discharges water at a rate of 2.95m³/s or 39300 gallons/minute, close to 4 standard road-tanker loads per minute. There is little that is particularly remarkable about the river itself; like many, it and its tributaries make the transition from upland streams of some vigour, to more placid lowland rivers, albeit with a propensity to flooding. It is unusual in Scotland in being crossed by 4 late medieval bridges, all still in use and in a decent state of repair, however 3 other bridges marked on 17th century maps of the catchment seem to have disappeared. The large number of mansions, some called castles, along its banks is perhaps unusual, but can be explained by the pleasant countryside, and the proximity to Edinburgh, where men involved in national affairs had to base themselves, especially before 1707. The lower reaches of the river were on the usual route north for invading English armies, and many buildings, never mind people suffered for that; the most important town on its banks, Haddington,

would probably look quite different if it had been further from the invasion route. The rich farming land through which the River Tyne passes explains the existence of the large number of watermill sites on its banks between Spilmersford and Tynninghame, most of which ground corn; many have left a footprint, whether of the lades that brought water to them, or buildings which have been adapted to other uses. There were several more of these commercial or stand-alone watermills on the tributaries; the locations of all of those which operated after c1750 are in Alastair Robertson's Appendix. (There were of course watermills operating long before 1750, and some of them are mentioned in the text. Unfortunately we have insufficient information to present any sort of overview of such watermills, which is why we have confined ourselves to the said period.) Mention has already been made of the large number of threshing mills which were once in the catchment; almost all of them were located in farm steadings, so can be called farm mills. Typically the threshing machine was located in a barn, and those that were water-powered, (rather than by horses or later by steam) usually had a water-supply system, in which streams fed a mill pond, directly or by way of a lade. A sluice gate could be raised intermittently to allow water to flow down a channel to drive a water wheel; the water then exited by way of a tail race into the Tyne water system, flowing eventually to the river. The Appendix lists all of those water-powered threshing mills, and locates them in the Tyne water system, though without a sketch map.

I will end by returning to the curious naming of the streams in the Tyne system. The origin of the name itself, as with its larger Northumbrian namesake is the subject of speculation only, in which I shall not indulge. It is surprising that after its meeting point with the main tributary, Birns Water, the name adopted is that of the smaller stream, but that is not a unique case, and a far more striking example is found 200km south, where the name of the Yorkshire Ouse comes after a junction, from an insignificant little joining stream, Ouseburn, rather than the great River Ure. It is far more surprising that the pattern is repeated at the confluence of the Birns Water and the larger Humble Water, and then again upstream along the latter at its confluence with the larger Keith Water; the likeliest if still unconvincing explanation is that adjacent place-names were fixed before the names of the watercourses, which then had to fit in, whatever the apparent anomaly of a substantially larger river being named as a tributary of a smaller one.

Appendix: Table 1: Water Mills on the River Tyne and its Tributaries



River Tyne

	Mill	Type
RT1	Spilmersford	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal, Saw
RT2	Nisbet Wauk	Textiles, tanneries
RT3	Nisbet	Unknown
RT4	Pidgeon House	Unknown
RT5	Samuelston W	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
RT6	Samuelston E	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
RT7	Clerkington	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
RT8	Haddington Wauk	Textiles, tanneries
RT9	Haddington West	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal, Tweed
RT10	H'ton Poldrate	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
RT11	H'ton Gimmers	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
RT12	Abbey	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
RT13	Sandy's	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
RT14	Beanston	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
RT15	Hailes	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
RT16	East Linton	Other or unknown
RT17	Houston	Saw, textiles, tanneries
RT18	Preston	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
RT19	Knowes	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
RT20	Tyninghame Saw	Saw

Tributaries

Tyne Water

	Mill	Type
TW1	Ford	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
TW2	Cranston	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal, Saw
TW3	Whitehouse	Unknown
TW4	Ormiston Saw	Saw
TW5	Ormiston	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal

Birns Water

	Mill	Type
B1	Ewingston	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
B2	Gilchriston	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
B3	Salton	Bleachfield
B4	Barley	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
B5	Peaston	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
B6	Salton	Paper
B7	Milton	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
B8	W. Saltoun	Textiles, tanneries

Humbie Water

	Mill	Type
H1	Humbie Saw	Saw
H2	Humbie Wauk	Textiles, tanneries
H3	Keith	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal

Johnstounburn Water

	Mill	Type
J1	Mavishall	Saw

Cakemuir Burn

	Mill	Type
CM1	Fala	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal

Linn Dean Water

	Mill	Type
LD1	Soutra	Corn, Saw

Gifford Water

	Mill	Type
G1	Yester Saw	Saw
G2	Gifford Paper/lint	Paper, textiles
G3	Gifford	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
G4	Gifford Wauk	Textiles, tanneries

Colstoun Water

	Mill	Type
C1	Colstoun	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
C2	Eaglescarnie	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
C3	Bolton Saw	Saw

Table 2: Mills in the Tyne Catchment on Streams not shown in the Map

Tributary	Mill Stream	Mill	Type of Mill
Tyne Water	Blackford Burn	Pencaitland	Quarry, thread
Tyne Water	Puddle Burn	Winton	Unknown
Humbie Water	Unknown	Humbie House	Saw
Cakemuir Burn	Fala Dam Burn	Costerton Th	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal
Gifford Water	Hopeton Water	Quarryford	Corn
Colston Water	Beugh Burn	Woodhead	Corn, Grain, Flour, Meal

Note that all the mills listed in Tables 1 & 2 are referred to as 'commercial mills'.

Threshing Mills

The base source of information for identifying threshing mills in the River Tyne catchment was the first edition of the six inches to the mile Ordnance Survey maps (6 inch OS maps) of East Lothian and Midlothian. These maps were surveyed in 1852 and 1853. Not all of the relevant first edition six inch OS maps identified threshing mills and threshing machines. To take account of this, all farms in the catchment were identified from the map and their description in the "Scotland's Places" website was checked. The following procedure was followed:

1. Any farms with threshing mills were recorded in the tables below.
2. Threshing **machines** were labelled on many farms. Farms where threshing machines had been identified were checked on the first edition 6 inches to the mile OS maps and, often, on the second edition 25 inches to the mile OS maps (as water courses are marked more clearly on this series). Farms were defined as having water-powered threshing mills where there was a credible water supply (mill pond, mill dam, mill lade or stream).
3. Mill lades, ponds and/or dams were marked on the two OS maps on a number of farms, which were not labelled as having threshing mills or threshing machines, nor was there any mention of threshing in their description in the "Scotland's Places" website. The presence of any of these features is a strong indicator of the presence of a water mill on the farm at some time and threshing mills were by far the most common type of farm mill. On these grounds, a total of 19 "unlabelled" farms were identified as having threshing mills across the catchment. They were included in the summary table (Table 3) and listed (and identified with an asterisk) in Table 4. The failure to record a mill at these sites may reflect

the fact that the water-powered mill had fallen into disuse by the time of the map surveys or inconsistencies in data recording between the map surveyors.

4. Thus sites where water-powered farm mills operated at some time after c1790, are tabulated but it is difficult to say more about exactly when they operated.

A total of 58 threshing mills was found in the River Tyne catchment. The numbers and locations of these mills are summarised in Table 3. (The main tributaries are listed according to the order where they joined the River Tyne, from upstream downwards.)

Table 3: Summary of the locations of threshing mills in the River Tyne catchment

Location of Catchment	Number of Threshing Mills
River Tyne	18
Tributaries	
Tyne Water	10
Birns Water	22
Colstoun Water	8
Total	58

Threshing mills were found throughout the catchment. Some were well upstream, one over 275m above sea level, in what now look like unpromising areas for growing grain.

The individual mills are listed in Table 4. The catchments are listed in order starting upstream and moving downstream. The mills within each catchment are listed alphabetically. (The exact location of each threshing mill can be found by searching for the threshing mill name using the “search gazetteer function on the first edition 6 inch OS map or the second edition 25 inch OS map on the NLS Maps website). The table gives, where possible, the name of threshing mill, the name of the millstream and the name of the tributary of the River Tyne or one of the main tributaries.

Most identified threshing mills utilised mill dams and many were built on very small streams. The result is that the list in Table 4 contains many ‘nameless’ tributaries and mill streams. These are marked as “Unknown”.

Table 4: Threshing Mills in the River Tyne Catchment

(a) River Tyne

Tributary	Mill Stream	Mill
Bearford Burn	Unknown	Bara
Unknown	Unknown	Beanston Mains
Bearford Burn	Bearford Burn	Bearford
Unknown	Unknown	Begbie*
Unknown	Unknown	Cairdinnis*
Unknown	Unknown	Coalston Mains
Unknown	Unknown	Drylawhill
Cock Burn	Cock Burn	Herdmanston Mains
Unknown	Unknown	Howmuir
Unknown	Unknown	Knowes
Bearford Burn	Morham Burn	Mainshill
Bearford Burn	Unknown	Morham Bank
Bearford Burn	Morham Burn	Morham Mains
Unknown	Unknown	Nether Hailes
River Tyne	River Tyne	Nisbet*
Hedderwick Burn	Hedderwick Burn	North Belton*
Letham Burn	Letham Burn	Ugstonrig*
Bearford Burn	Morham Burn	Whitelaw

* These threshing mills were identified from the presence of mill ponds and/or mill lades

(b) Birns Water

Tributary	Mill Stream	Mill
Cakemuir Burn	Unknown	Blackcastle*
Humbie Water	Unknown	Blegbie
Humbie Water	Unknown	Costerton Mains
Cakemuir Burn	Unknown	Cowbraehill*
Humbie Water	Unknown	Duncrahill
Birns Water	Birns Water	Ewingston
Humbie Water	East Water	Fala Hall
Humbie Water	East Water	Fala Mains*
Birns Water	Birns Water	Gilchriston
Unknown	Unknown	Greenhead
Humbie Water	Unknown	Highlee
Humbie Water	Unknown	Humbie Mains
Kinchie Burn	Unknown	Lampock Wells*
Birns Water	Birns Water	Milton
Humbie Water	Unknown	New Mains
Humbie Water	Unknown	Plowlandhill
Humbie Water	Unknown	Soutra Mains*
Birns Water	Birns Water	Soutra*
Unknown	Unknown	Stobshiel
Kinchie Burn	Kinchie Burn	Templehall*
Cakemuir Burn	Unknown	West Mains of Blackshiels
Humbie Water	Unknown	Windy Mains

* These threshing mills were identified from the presence of mill ponds and/or mill lades

(c) Tyne Water

River/Tributary	Mill Stream	Mill
Unknown	Unknown	Blinkbonny*
Bellyford Burn	Unknown	Cousland Park
Bellyford Burn	Unknown	Elphinstone Tower*
Unknown	Unknown	Halfflow Kiln
Unknown	Unknown	Hopefield
Unknown	Unknown	Loanhead
Unknown	Unknown	Loquhariot
Murray Burn	Unknown	Murrays*
Murray Burn	Unknown	Ormiston Mains*
Tyne Water	Tyne Water	Tynehead

* These threshing mills were identified from the presence of mill ponds and/or mill lades

(d) Colstoun Water

River/Tributary	Mill Stream	Mill
Hope Water	Unknown	Castle Mains
Unknown	Unknown	Eaglescairnie Mains*
Blance Burn	Blance Burn	Greenlaw
Kidlaw Burn	Kidlaw Burn	Kidlaw
Unknown	Unknown	Marvingston*
Gifford Water	Unknown	Newlands
Hope Water	Unknown	Quarryford
Gifford Water	Unknown	Townhead

* These threshing mills were identified from the presence of mill ponds and/or mill lades

Summary

A total of 105 watermill sites have been identified, in the River Tyne catchment; only those on which watermills operated after c1750 are included. Watermills on other sites which had ceased to operate by 1750 are excluded because information about them is usually sketchy at best.

Table 5 Summary of Mills in the River Tyne Catchment

Mill Function	Number of Mills
Corn	29
Saw	9
Textile	9
Paper	2
Tannery	5
Unknown	4
Total Number of Commercial Mills	47
Threshing Mills	58
Total All Mills	105

The individual numbers do not add to give the total number of commercial mills, because of function changes over the years, which mean that one watermill might have had two or more roles.

There is further discussion of watermills in Appendix 2 of the main document.