

Lin Berwick Trust

Lin Berwick, who is blind, has cerebral palsy and is a wheelchair user, founded the Trust in 1989 because of the frustration and difficulty she experienced in finding suitable holiday accommodation. The Trust has a board of 11 Trustees, a full-time Administrator and a part-time Caretaker. It opened its first house, Berwick Cottage, in East Harling, Norfolk in 1997, which has been a resounding success, receiving the highest accolades from Tourism for All (formerly Holiday Care). The East of England Tourist Board has awarded Berwick Cottage the highest grades in the three categories of Mobility, Hearing and Vision under the new National Accessible Standards. The Trust aims to build houses in the North, South, East and West and possibly in mainland Europe!

The latest venture is a [new luxurious cottage](#) in the village of Dirleton on the shores of the Firth of Forth in Scotland.

Lin Berwick and her co-Trustees are achieving a dream that will provide anxiety-free holidays for people with even the most profound disabilities.

ABOUT US



The Trust has acquired a site in the beautiful village of [Dirleton](#), East Lothian, on the coast of the Firth of Forth and only 40 minutes from Edinburgh and 4 miles from North Berwick. It is in a conservation area surrounded by some of the finest golf courses in Britain. The new cottage will be called Denis Duncan House, which is the name that our Trustees have chosen in honour of the Rev Dr Denis Duncan, who is a Vice President of the Trust, our newsletter editor and a long-standing supporter of the Trust and loyal friend of Lin's.

Denis Duncan House will be the Trust's flagship property at a cost of £430,000. It will have a twin-bedded room for people with disabilities and a superbly equipped en-suite bathroom as well as a large sitting room with conservatory leading to the garden of nearly half an acre. We have raised over £220,000 through donations from our supporters across the country and have been awarded a grant of £210,586 by the Big Lottery Fund (Scottish Office). However, we rely on donations to finance the day-to-day running of the Trust so if you would like to support us by making a donation or helping us in any other way, please click [here](#). Work started on the [construction](#) of

Denis Duncan House in November 2004 and it is hoped that the property will be open to holidaymakers from April 2006.

The Administrator

For details of availability and to book Berwick Cottage, all general enquiries or to make a donation

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DIRLETON PROJECT

Dirleton

Undiscovered Scotland: The Ultimate Online Guide

Dunbar Area Connections (Feature Level)



Approach to the Kirk

The main A198 road bypasses the village of Dirleton about two miles west of [North Berwick](#). This keeps the through traffic out, and does much to enhance the extremely attractive atmosphere of a beautiful village built around its village green.

[Dirleton Castle](#) dates back to the late 1200s and there was probably a settlement of sorts beyond the castle walls from an early date. But the origins of modern Dirleton date back to the redevelopment of the castle in the 1400s by the Halyburton family.

A map drawn in 1600s certainly shows a village here by then. And Dirleton Kirk, standing at the head of a northern extension to the village green, was built in 1612 to replace a church from the 1100s that had been inundated by sand at [Gullane](#). The imposing cross aisle was added to Dirleton Kirk in 1650 and is said to be the earliest example of neo-classical architecture in Scotland.

In 1663 [Dirleton Castle](#) and its estate was acquired by the Nisbet family. They abandoned the castle as a residence and built a large new mansion, Archerfield House, to the north west of the village. The name of the site dated back to its use as a



practice ground for Edward I's archers. Dirleton

continued to grow, now lying between the castle and the Archerfield Estate.



Dirleton Kirk

In 1849 Dirleton gained a railway station, albeit in open country over a mile to the south east of the village on the North Berwick line. The station, though

not the line, was closed in 1954. By 1869 the Castle Inn was in business, overlooking the main village green: in that year a meeting held at the Inn agreed the formation of the Archerfield Golf Club.

Today's Dirleton remains a highly attractive village of attractive cottages and more substantial houses gathered around the main



The Open Arms Hotel

village green and its extension towards the Kirk. The Castle Inn continues to



The Castle Inn

provide a draw to visitors, and the Open Arms Hotel sits on the north side of the green looking towards the [castle](#) and its [gardens](#).

Archerfield House has been less well treated than the castle it replaced. It was extensively rebuilt in 1733, and Robert Adam remodelled the interior in 1790. In the 1940s the house was the location of a meeting between Winston Churchill and US President Roosevelt to plan the D-Day landings. But by the 1950s Archerfield had ceased to be used as a house, and in 1962 the then owner stripped out the interior and knocked a hole in the structure to allow him to install a grain dryer inside.

Thirty years of dereliction followed, despite sporadic plans by various developers for leisure development of the estate. But in February 2002 planning permission was granted for a £55m development of the estate which includes three golf courses, a 245 bedroom 5 Star hotel, 50 holiday cottages

and 100 luxury homes. And Archerfield House will be restored to become the golf clubhouse. The impact of this on the surrounding area, and Dirleton in particular, will be significant: but compared to a previous generation's efforts to turn a grand mansion into a grain dryer, the developments now under way can only be a change for the better.



Cottages from Dirleton Castle