



North Berwick

A walk around the Lodge Gardens

in collaboration with



North Berwick Environment and Heritage Trust
Heritage Guide

The Lodge Grounds comprise a series of gardens within an Arts & Crafts garden set within the Victorian landscape of the town's public park. The Lodge was created by the Dalrymple family around the end of the 17th century.

The car park is a convenient start point. Winter colour (1 on map on back page) comes from red and orange stems of dogwoods and white from Himalayan birch and Tibetan bramble. Through the archway in the wall you will find a sub-tropical bed (2) which in summer has two types of banana – they don't bear fruit – among other exotic plants. The aviary (3) has budgies, parakeets and canaries, many donated, and is popular with children. On the other side is the sandy, dry bed (4) with plants like yuccas that enjoy sun and, in summer, cacti too. The rose garden (5) has been planted with



The sub-tropical bed



The rose garden and rockery behind; the white benches are in an Arts & Crafts style

The fernery (7) has over 20 different ferns; most are unusual forms of British native ferns. The stumpery (8) has some less common woodland plants such as hardy begonias and busy lizzies as well as tree peonies; all are labelled. Beside it a north-facing bank (9) has fine displays of aconites, snowdrops and species of crocus in early spring, followed by dwarf daffodils and then by white wild garlic and cow parsley.



Dwarf daffodils on north-facing bank



The shady bed showing a variety of foliage colours

Next is the Lavender Garden (12) which has a blue theme from lavender, catmint and Russian sage, all exceptionally attractive to bees. Small standing stones here align with a view towards North Berwick Law. The Japanese bed (13) in the middle of the Lodge commemorates lives lost in World War II. The well-used playpark area (14) is accessible to all children, including any in wheelchairs.



The children's playpark in autumn

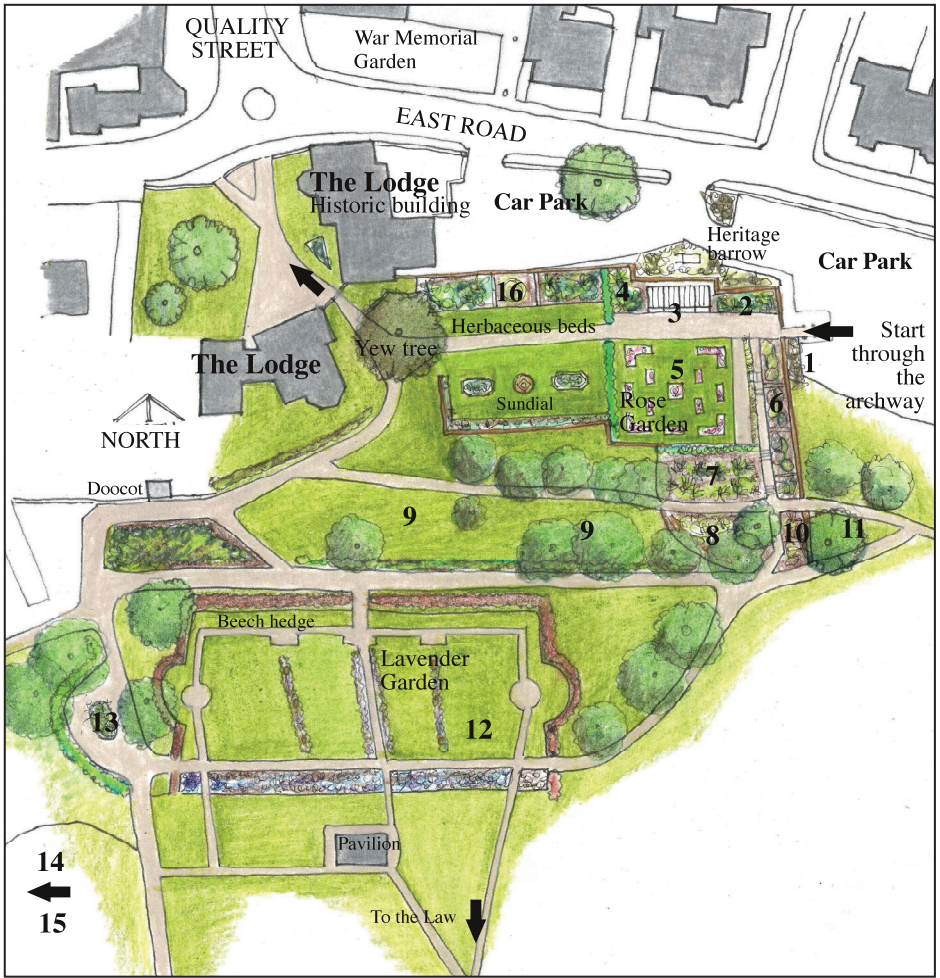


The stumpery

Nearby are several rare trees (15) from the International Conifer Conservation Programme, notably Fitzroya, the giant of the Andes, named after the captain of HMS *Beagle* by Charles Darwin, and four very rare Arran whitebeams from the Scottish Native Plants Programme, all donated by the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh. The trees in the park have been planted to allow views of the Bass Rock and other prominent features.

It is possible to walk south towards the Law but most people return to the car park or town centre, passing the carpet bed (16) in the centre of the ornamental garden. Each year East Lothian Council gardeners create a display for a local group.

The shade bed (10) shows that foliage can be as attractive as flowers and lasts a good deal longer. In spring there is a daffodil display (11) through the archway here with examples of all 13 main types of these bulbs with an information board. There are also large plantings of daffodils throughout the park.



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