

THE BECKS GO TO DURHAM

SANDRA & GRAHAM BECK

PART 1

TO DURHAM AND FINCHALE ABBEY VILLAGE AND TOURING PARK

THE CAMPSITE

Wanting a little adventure before the Christmas preparations began we decided to revisit a part of the north of England that we hadn't seen for many years. A little investigation threw up a delightful campsite very close to Durham and right next to the beautiful Finchdale Priory. Finchdale Abbey is an historic site situated within a meander of the River Wear, and close by Durham, locally called 'The Jewel of The North East.

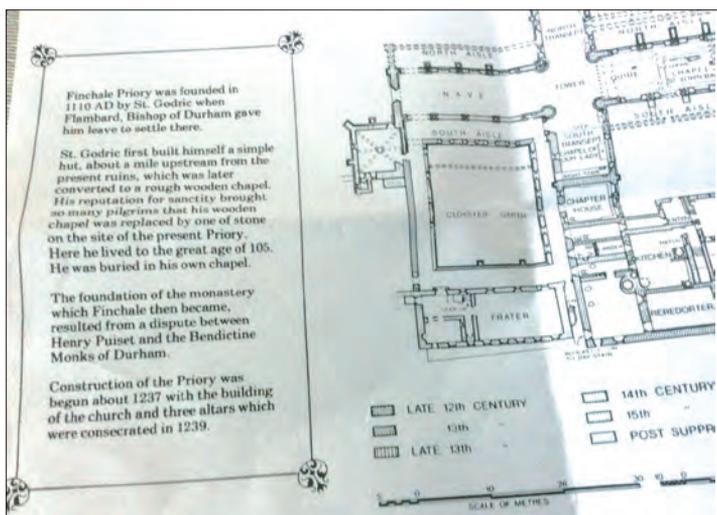
The site overlooks the ruins of the 13th Century Finchdale Priory which is now managed by English Heritage. The campsite has 40 pitches for touring caravans and motorhomes, some of which are ideally equipped for RV's having service points and 16

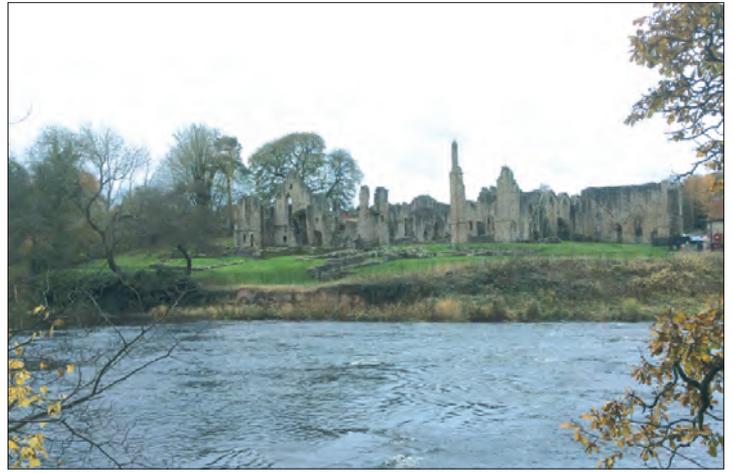


amp electric. The site is secure with code access and 24 hour security guards. The toilet and shower facilities are immaculately clean. The site is only 4 miles from Durham, there is direct access to beautiful walks along the banks of the River Wear and into the nearby woods. This is a wonderful spot and one that we will definitely be visiting again!

FINCHDALE PRIORY

Being so close, we had to visit Finchdale Priory and learned that it was founded in 1110 AD by St. Goodrich, when the then Bishop of Durham, Flambard, gave him permission to settle there. Considering it's age, it is in wonderful condition and very well worth a visit. The River Wear runs alongside the Priory and there are some beautiful views from the river banks. There is also a very pleasant little coffee shop in which you can relax and admire the views.





SEAHAM and HERITAGE COAST

We spent a most enjoyable day in the seaside town of Seaham, and on the beach too. Seaham is on Durham's Heritage Coast, the beach is a cobbled one, and there were quite a number of people roaming around on it, digging holes or rummaging about in the pebbles. After watching, fascinated at their activities I had to go and ask a young man, who was walking across the beach in our direction, if they were searching for some kind of shellfish to eat. He laughed and said no, not shellfish, but, that everyone was hunting for sea glass stones. We obviously looked puzzled so he delved into his pocket and immediately produced some samples for us to look at. He then went on to explain that the locals make things from the coloured glass to sell.

Apparently many years ago there was a glass factory in the vicinity and all the old, left over, glass was brought down to the beach and dumped into the sea. Over many, many years, the sea washed and buffeted the glass against the stones turning the glass into perfectly rounded coloured glass pebbles. We began our own search and, sure enough, within a very short time we had discovered some lovely examples of our own! Yet again, we realised you learn something new every day!!

