

Dunbar Harbour Trust

Views towards potential
improvements to Dunbar harbour

August – September 2005

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Introduction

Dunbar Harbour Trust (DHT) wishes to obtain the views and opinions of current users and visitors about Dunbar harbour facilities and heritage sites.

The Trust, set up in 1999, aims to maintain Dunbar harbour as a working fishing port and improve the general facilities for harbour users. The trust also aims to preserve the historical features of the harbour for the benefit of the community and as an attraction for visitors.

The DHT members developed a series of questionnaires that would obtain the views of the variety of users and visitors to Dunbar harbour as well as scoping their views as to potential improvements. All the questionnaires include an identical core set of questions and additional questions that are specific to each respondent group.

There are 4 questionnaires (copies of the questionnaires are included at the end of this report)

	Questionnaire	Method
1	Visitors	Face to face at harbour
2	Users	Face to face at harbour
3	Residents	Face to face in street
4	Web site	On line from DHT website

Fieldwork took place between 27 August – 11 September 2005. DHT members conducted the interviews and a total of 153 questionnaires were completed, a full breakdown by questionnaire type is included below:

	Questionnaire	Number of completed questionnaires
1	Visitors	29
2	Users	16
3	Residents	40
4	Web site	68
	TOTAL	153

Data is analysed and reported on as a whole unless otherwise stated.

DHT would like to thank Fiona McDiarmid for her support in developing the questionnaires, analysing the data and reporting and André Coner, Dunbar Webdesign (www.dunbarwebdesign.co.uk) for designing and developing the web survey.

Profile of visitors to Dunbar harbour

Frequency of visits

Just over half of all respondents (52%) regularly visit Dunbar harbour at least once a month, of which, a quarter (24%) visit at least once a week. As you would expect, users of the harbour visit the harbour most regularly with around two in five (44%) visiting every day. Tourists/visitors are less regular visitors to the harbour with around in five (45%) visiting a couple of times a year and one in five (21%) visiting less than once a year.

Chart 1. Frequency of visits to Dunbar harbour (%)

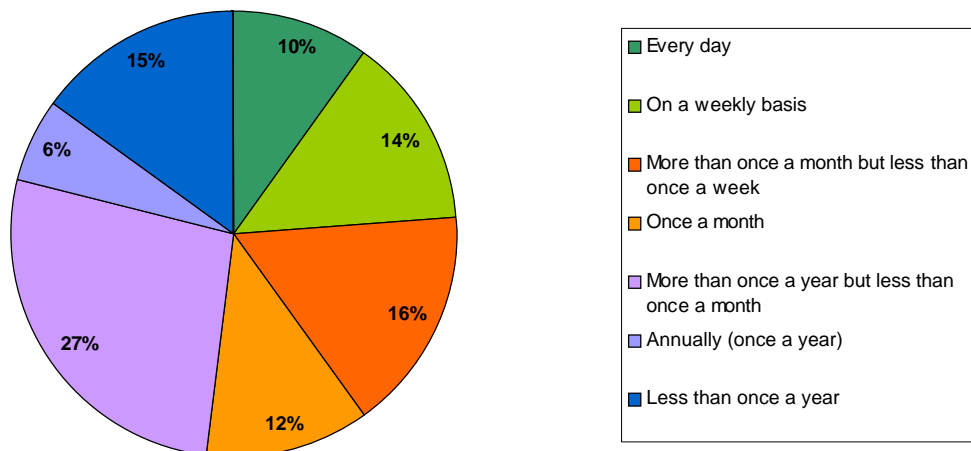


Table 1. Frequency of visits to Dunbar harbour by respondent type

	%	All	Users	Visitors	Residents	Web
<i>Base</i>		153	16	29	40	68
Every day	10	44	-	5	10	
On a weekly basis	14	13	7	10	19	
More than once a month but less than once a week	16	19	-	10	25	
Once a month	12	-	3	20	13	
More than once a year but less than once a month	27	19	45	25	25	
Annually (once a year)	6	6	7	8	4	
Less than once a year	15	-	21	23	3	
This is the first time	n/a	n/a	17	n/a	n/a	

Visitors to Dunbar harbour are most likely to come with either their partner or spouse (46%) or with other family members (42%). Around two in five visitors (38%) are on their own and just under one in five (18%) visit with their children or with friends. Given the age profile of respondents, it is fair to assume that 'other family members' may include a significant number of grandchildren for whom the harbour is an attraction.

Table 2. Profile of visitor parties to Dunbar harbour by respondent type

%	All	Visitors	Residents	Web
<i>Base</i>	137	29	40	68
On my own	38	24	43	41
With my partner/spouse	46	59	50	38
With my child/ren	18	21	20	16
With other family members	42	14	33	41
With friends	18	10	8	28

Reasons for visiting

The majority of visitors to Dunbar harbour come to walk around and see the harbour (83%), with a further one in three specifically mentioning that they have come to see the boats (34%) and wildlife (30%).

One in five (20%) mention that they have come to see the castle with fewer than one in eight visiting to see the battery and vaults (12% and 9% respectively). Tourists/visitors to Dunbar harbour are more likely than other groups to state that they have visited the harbour to see the battery (34%).

These findings suggest that more needs to be done to improve and promote the historical sites to visitors as to attract them to the harbour to see the historical sites as well as the boats and wildlife.

Table 3. Reasons for visiting Dunbar harbour by respondent type

%	All	Visitors	Residents	Web
<i>Base</i>	137	29	40	68
To walk around and see the harbour	83	83	93	78
To see the boats	34	41	40	43
To see the wildlife	30	17	28	37
To see the castle	20	28	15	21
To see the battery	12	34	13	16
To see the fishermen	9	7	5	13
To see the vaults	9	-	5	15
To go line fishing	7	-	-	13
To visit the memorial	7	10	5	7
To meet friends	5	-	8	6
Other	16	14	5	24
To see the lifeboats	1	3	n/a	n/a

Chart 2. Reasons for visiting Dunbar harbour (%)

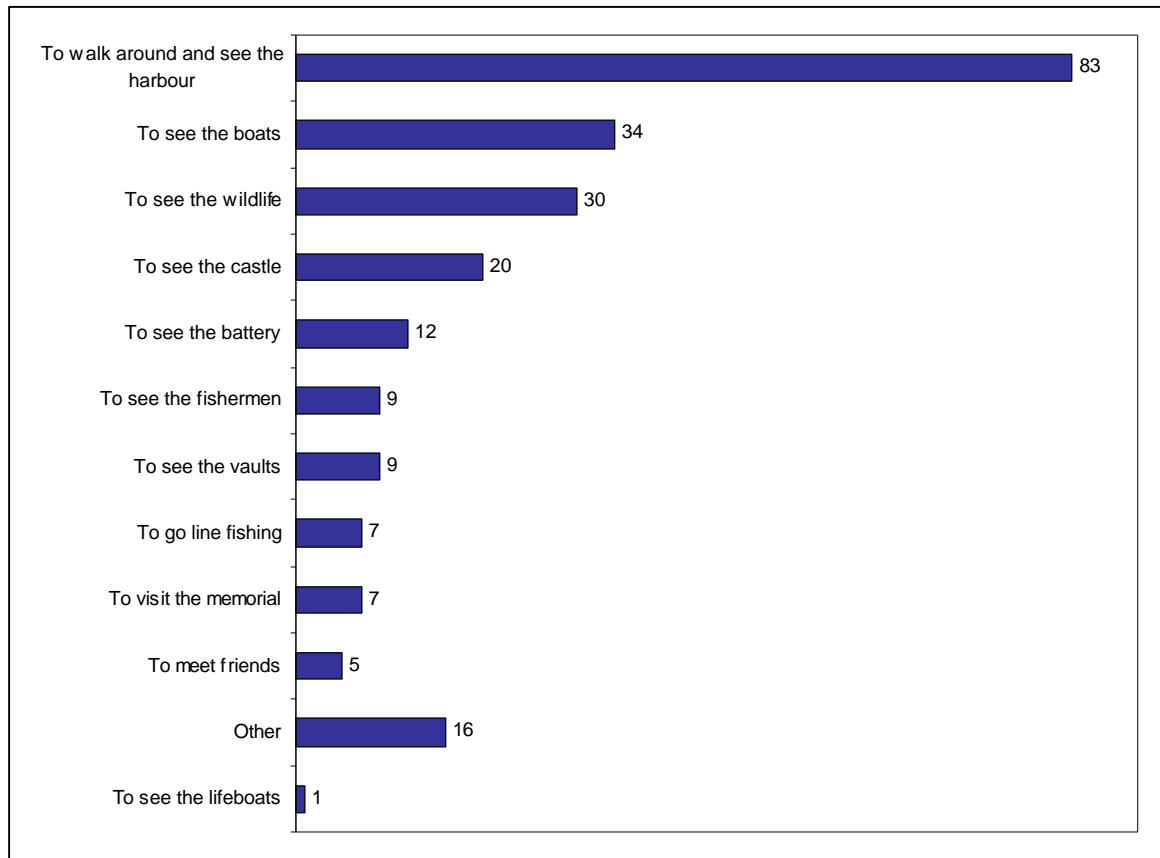
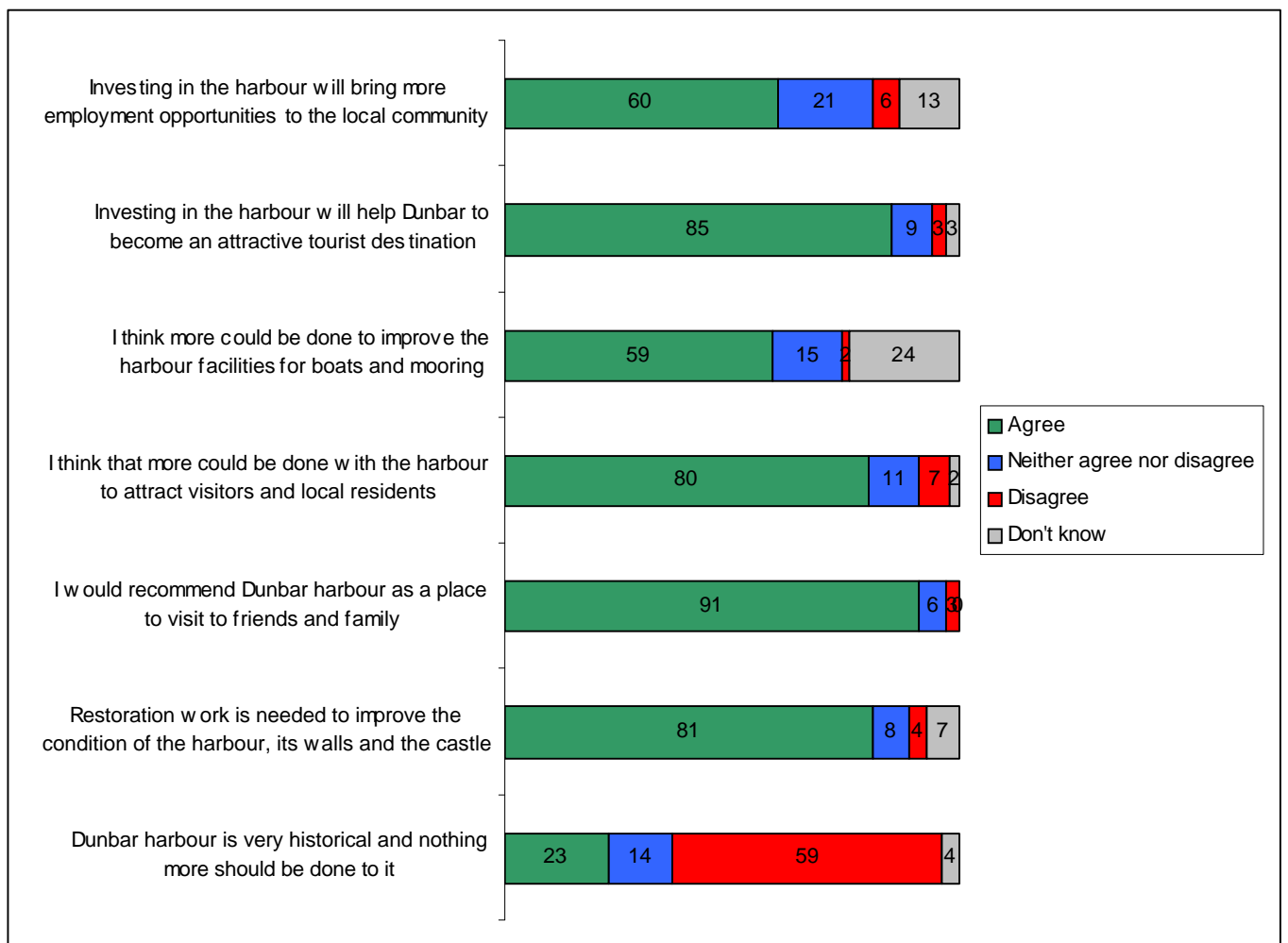


Image of Dunbar harbour

Dunbar harbour is a well-known attraction in Dunbar. Nine in ten (91%) respondents *recommend Dunbar harbour as a place to visit to family and friends*. The harbour is particularly famous for its historical heritage with most respondents feeling that the historical sites need to be preserved and improved for visitors; eight in ten agree that *restoration work is needed to improve the condition of the harbour, its walls and the castle* (81%) and that *...more could be done with the harbour to attract visitors and local residents* (80%).

The majority of users, residents and web survey respondents also agree that *investing in the harbour will help Dunbar to become an attractive tourist destination* (85%) and believe that *more could be done to improve the harbour facilities for boats and mooring* (59%) and that *investing in the harbour will bring more employment opportunities for the local community* (60%).

Chart 3. Attitudes towards Dunbar harbour (%)



Particular interest groups for this part of the questionnaire are users of the harbour. Users include fishermen, sailors, divers, local residents who live near the harbour, lifeboat volunteers and harbour employees. Users have strong views as they use the harbour day to day and the survey findings demonstrate that users are positive towards investment and improvement.

All users (100%) agree that *more could be done with the harbour to attract visitors and local residents* and also feel that *investing in the harbour will help Dunbar to become an attractive tourist destination*. Around nine in ten agree that *restoration work is needed to improve the condition of the harbour, its walls and castle* (94%) and that *more could be done to improve the harbour facilities for boats and mooring* (88%).

Table 4. Attitudes towards Dunbar harbour

% Agree	All	Users	Visitors	Residents	Web
<i>Base</i>	153	16	29	40	68
I would recommend Dunbar harbour as a place to visit to friends and family	91	88	94	98	88
Investing in the harbour will help Dunbar to become an attractive tourist destination	85	100	n/a	80	85
Restoration work is needed to improve the condition of the harbour, its walls and the castle	81	94	66	78	87
I think more could be done with the harbour to attract visitors and local residents	80	100	72	68	87
Investing in the harbour will bring more employment opportunities to the local community	60	50	n/a	53	66
I think more could be done to improve the harbour facilities for boats and mooring	59	88	n/a	35	66
Dunbar harbour is very historical and nothing more should be done to it	23	19	31	43	9

Improvements to Dunbar harbour

The DHT wish to put forward a range of recommendations to improve or develop the harbour, its facilities and historical sites. Some recommendations are small but others are more ambitious. The questionnaire enables the DHT to gain the views of different groups as to the extent that they support or oppose the recommendations.

Mirroring the previous findings supporting improvements to the historical sites and facilities, the majority of respondents support providing more information on what is of historical interest and interesting to see (96%) and support the development of the castle (80%) and vaults (79%).

There is strong support for the development of the battery as a visitor pavilion with incorporated café, dive shop or chandlery and exhibition space (for history of Dunbar or local art). Eight in ten (83%) support the development overall of which more than half (52%) strongly support.

Support for improving facilities in the harbour is also strong. The majority support the provision toilet and shower facilities for sailors, fishermen and divers to use (86%) and the provision of more parking spaces for visitors (72%),

In terms of new visitor attractions, the vast majority (96%) support the offer of trips to the Bass Rock and May Isle, of which more than six in ten (64%) strongly support. Nine in ten (91%) also support the setting up of a fish stall to sell locally caught fish/shellfish, of which more than half (54%) strongly support.

Improvements to the harbour for boats and fishermen gain similarly strong levels of support, although around a third of respondents felt that they did not have an opinion since they did not use boats in the harbour.

In looking at the users responses in particular, the vast majority support improving the mooring and access facilities (e.g. provide more ladders, pontoons) for boats in the harbour (94%). Three quarters (75%) support the development of the harbour as a 24/7 marina and the construction of a breakwater to reduce wave surges across the harbour entrance, and seven in ten support the provision of a re-fuelling facility for boats and fishing boats (69%). Further clarification is maybe needed for identifying the extent of support for the construction of lock gates to keep harbour water in. Two in five support this recommendation however; equal numbers do not express an opinion.

Table 5. Extent of support for DHT recommendations

% Strongly Support and Support	All	Users	Visitors	Residents	Web
<i>Base</i>	153	16	29	40	68
Historical Sites					
Provide more information on what is historical interest and interesting to see	96	n/a	97	93	99
Develop the Battery as a visitor pavilion with incorporated café, dive shop or chandlery and exhibition space (for history of Dunbar or local art)	83	100	83	70	87
Develop the Castle as a visitor attraction	80	n/a	76	68	88
Develop the Vaults as a visitor attraction	79	n/a	66	62	94
New visitor attractions					
Offer trips to the Bass Rock and May Isle	96	n/a	93	95	99
Set up fish stall to sell locally caught fish/shellfish	91	94	97	83	92
Harbour facilities					
Provide toilet and shower facilities for sailors, fishermen and divers to use	86	100	86	88	82
Provide more parking spaces for visitors	72	81	69	68	75
Facilities for users of the harbour					
Improve the mooring and access facilities (e.g. provide more ladders, pontoons) for boats in the harbour	68	94	66	48	75
Provide a re-fuelling facility for boats and fishing boats	63	69	58	53	70
Develop the harbour as a 24/7 marina	59	75	n/a	50	60
Construct lock gates to keep water in the harbour	39	56	n/a	38	35
Construct breakwater to reduce wave surges across the harbour entrance	75	75	n/a	n/a	n/a

Sample profile

The total number of respondents is 153

	Number	%
Respondents who live:		
In Dunbar	86	56
Neighbouring village to Dunbar	14	9
Elsewhere in East Lothian	7	4
Elsewhere in Scotland	23	15
Elsewhere in UK	18	12
Outwith UK	5	3
Refused	-	-
Age group:		
16-18	2	1
18-24	2	1
25-34	19	13
35-54	61	40
55-64	41	27
65+	28	18
Gender:		
Male	102	67
Female	51	33

Topline Findings and Questionnaires