

Today, Heriot-Watt University is a vibrant forward looking university at the forefront of innovation in research and teaching. But if you delve into our history, you will discover that our international reputation as one of the leading UK universities for business and industry can be traced back almost 200 years. Our rich and inspiring story begins in 1821, as the world's first Mechanics Institute, a revolutionary concept in education which gave life changing opportunities to generations of young people.

On this trail you will find out more about our origins in a room in Edinburgh's Old Town and our journey to become Scotland's most international university. Find out more about Heriot-Watt's heritage and links in the centre of Edinburgh with the likes of Watt, Geddes, Mears, Spence and Spark. Walk around the Old Town and discover buildings of interest to alumni, students, staff and our wider Heriot-Watt community.

You can find out more about our heritage here:
www.hw.ac.uk/about/history/heritage.htm



DID YOU KNOW...

Heriot-Watt College was an early pioneer in women's education. Mary Burton, the first female Director of Heriot-Watt College persuaded the Watt Institution to admit female students on equal terms to men in 1869, allowing equal access to education twenty-three years before legislation required Scottish universities to do the same.

One of our first alumna, Dame Maria Ogilvie Gordon, who went on to receive the first female PhD in Geology, was also a pioneer for women's rights.



Geddes' Valley Section and 3D print of Patrick Geddes.



Heriot-Watt College, Chambers Street in the early 1900s.

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Find out more about Heriot-Watt University's alumni association, The Watt Club here:

www.hw.ac.uk/alumni
Facebook.com/thewattclub
Twitter.com/WattClub
LinkedIn – The Watt Club –
Alumni Association of
Heriot-Watt University



Heriot-Watt Heritage Trail

Established by and to the benefit of their communities, universities play a crucial role in the development of society.

From a pioneering institute born out of the Scottish Enlightenment, to a truly global university today, Heriot-Watt University's rich and inspiring story begins here.

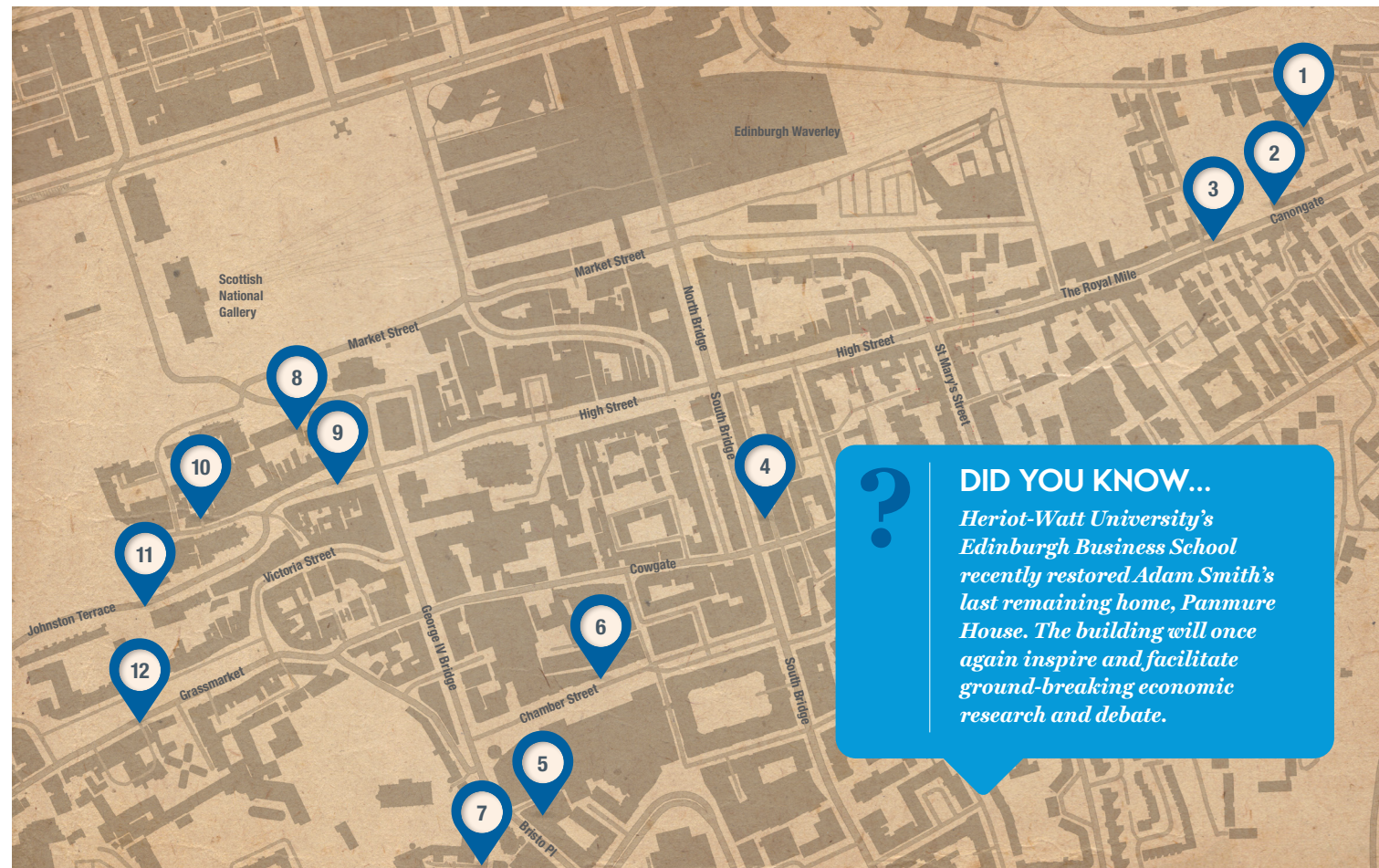


1. **Adam Smith's Panmure House** – Reopened in 2018
2. **Cannongate Flats** – Basil Spence (taught at Heriot-Watt College 1931-40)
3. **Bakehouse Close** (Museum of Edinburgh) – Restoration by F.C. Mears 1927-32
4. **St. Cecilia Hall**, Niddry Street – site of Heriot-Watt College's first lecture in 1821 and classes from 1821 to 1837, when the institution moved to Adam Square
5. **National Museum Scotland** – The Boulton and Watt engine is one of the oldest surviving beam engines in the world
6. **Chambers Street** – Watt Institution 1872, became Heriot-Watt College 1888
7. **16a Bruntsfield Place (off map)** – Murial Spark, an alumna of Heriot-Watt College, lived here in 1945
8. **Lawnmarket** – Patrick Geddes lived at 6 James Court from 1887 (taught at Heriot-Watt College 1886-1890)
9. **Patrick Geddes Centre**
10. **Outlook Tower** – Patrick Geddes' sociological museum. The view from the north terrace includes Heriot-Watt University's sports performance centre, Oriam and places our current campus in Patrick Geddes/Frank Mear's Valley Section
11. **Patrick Geddes Steps** – 3 Doves: Sympathy, Synergy, Synthesis
12. **Grassmarket** – Old Castle Brewery (now Apex Hotel), Heriot-Watt's Student Union



DID YOU KNOW...

The Edinburgh School of Arts (which became the Watt Institution, the School of Arts and is now Heriot-Watt University), was the first Mechanics Institute in the world and was established in 1821. Some years later, in 1854, the UK's first alumni association, The Watt Club, was created.



DID YOU KNOW...

Heriot-Watt University's Edinburgh Business School recently restored Adam Smith's last remaining home, Panmure House. The building will once again inspire and facilitate ground-breaking economic research and debate.



Sir Patrick Geddes

A statue to Sir Patrick Geddes was sculpted by the artist Kenny Hunter, and is located in a landscaped Sandeman House Garden, 55 High Street, in the Old Town. Geddes taught a course in Botany at Heriot-Watt College in the 1880s and the sculpture is appropriately adorned with bees.



Huntly House and Bakehouse Close

Early 16th Century house restored by F.C. Mears (1927-1932). F.C. Mears was Patrick Geddes son-in-law, a student of Heriot-Watt College from 1897, where he later became Head of the School of Town and Country Planning (1932-1948). An inscribed panel marks the restoration.