

Edinburgh Geological Society – Excursions 2026



Excursion title:	Elephant Rock, Montrose
Date & start time:	Saturday 22 nd August 2026 Coach departs Waterloo Place 09:00 Excursion starts near Boddin Farm 11:30
Finish time:	16:30
Leader(s), organisation:	Rosalind

Excursion summary:	Boddin Point, 5 km south of Montrose, comprises a small exposure of Upper Devonian sedimentary rocks faulted against lavas of the Montrose Volcanic Formation (MVF). Extensive “cornstone” nodular development in a thick deposit of calcretised sandstone in the Kinnesswood Formation was worked here between 1696 and 1831 and burned in three lime kilns on the shore, two of which are still well preserved. The “Elephant Rock” is a Siluro-Devonian 6-metre-wide felsitic dyke which cuts the MVF lavas. Erosion of much of the host lavas has left a spectacular 20 m-high wall striking out to sea. It is a rich red in colour, porphyritic and occasionally vesicular, with veins of chalcedony. Recent erosion has cut two sea arches across the dyke, giving it the appearance of an elephant’s trunk and legs.
Meeting point:	Lay-by near Boddin Farm NO 712 536. Parking is very limited, so car sharing is encouraged if not coming by the bus. What3words: fabric.spotty.culminate
Transport details:	Coach available, please tick when booking.
Extra pick-up points for coach:	BARTON, please let excursion secretary know if stop is required.
Outline of the excursion route:	Cliff top footpath to the top of the Elephant Rock. Optional descent to the base of the Rock. Return along path to Boddin Point.
Terrain, walking distance, height gain:	4 km, largely level, coastal path, Moderate Terrain , optional descent down a sloping path to the Elephant Rock. Pebble and boulder beach at Boddin Point.
Excursion Grade	B - Moderate field trips all participants should have good balance and be used to walking up to 3 miles (4.8 km), sometimes on uneven ground (such as rocky shores). Note these grades are not an extensive list of difficulty so please read the full excursion form or inform the excursion secretary if you have any questions or concerns.
Additional Hazards not included in the <i>EGS Excursion Handbook</i>:	no
Control measures required to mitigate against any Hazards referred to above:	Footwear with a good tread and ankle support.
Hard hats or Hi-viz clothing needed?	Yes

May dogs be brought on the excursion?	No
Toilet information:	Toilets at the Arbroath Information Centre
Geological map sheet:	Sheet 57 Forfar (out of print) Landranger 1:50,000 Sheet 54 Dundee to Montrose
References:	Ballin DF 2000. Geological Society of London Special Publications 180

version 1.1, 28Jan2026

Excursion grade key

A grade field trips participants should be able to walk 1 mile (1.6 km), on good coastal paths and beaches of sand and pebbles.

B grade field trips all participants should have good balance and be fit enough to walk up to 3 miles (4.8 km), sometimes on uneven ground (such as rocky shores).

C grade field trips all participants should have very good balance & be fit enough to walk up to 4 miles (6.5 km), sometimes on more uneven ground than for B grade (such as rocky shores with small boulders), on steeper slopes, & for light scrambles.