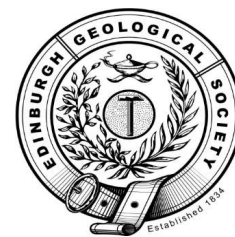


## Edinburgh Geological Society – Excursions 2026



<b>Excursion title:</b>	Hutton's Edinburgh
<b>Date &amp; start time:</b>	Wednesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> June and 24 <sup>th</sup> June 2026 at 19:00
<b>Finish time:</b>	21:00
<b>Leader(s), organisation:</b>	Angus Miller

<b>Excursion summary:</b>	James Hutton, father of modern geology, lived at St John's Hill at the edge of Holyrood Park for most of the last 30 years of his life. As part of the celebrations of his 300 <sup>th</sup> birthday, we'll follow in his footsteps from the site of his house and visit key locations in Holyrood Park that helped shape and confirm his ideas on the nature of igneous rocks. He didn't get everything right! We'll be guided by the 'Lost Drawings', prepared for volumes 3 and 4 of Hutton's Theory of the Earth, written at St John's Hill but left unpublished when he died. We'll view Arthur's Seat from the Parade Ground behind Holyrood Palace, visit lava flows in the vicinity of St Anthony's Chapel and Hutton's Section and Hutton's Rock at Salisbury Crags.
<b>Meeting point:</b>	At the Hutton Memorial Garden, Viewcraig Gardens, Edinburgh EH8 9UL. Take the steps to the garden from the first corner of Viewcraig Gardens, south of the entrance to the NCP Holyrood multi-story car park. <a href="https://maps.app.goo.gl/kqMhSg4NMyUEEd1m7">https://maps.app.goo.gl/kqMhSg4NMyUEEd1m7</a>
<b>Transport details:</b>	Car share or public transport
<b>Outline of the excursion route:</b>	We'll follow a low-level route through Holyrood Park, taking in the view of Arthur's Seat from near Holyrood Palace, visiting St Anthony's Chapel then walking through Hunter's Bog to finish at Hutton's Section on Salisbury Crags.
<b>Terrain, walking distance, height gain:</b>	Distance 4.5 km with height gain of 120 metres - <a href="https://www.plotaroute.com/route/3220946">https://www.plotaroute.com/route/3220946</a>
<b>Excursion Grade</b>	<b>B - Moderate</b> 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). <b>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.</b>
<b>Additional Hazards not included in the EGS Excursion Handbook:</b>	None
<b>Control measures required to mitigate against any Hazards referred to above:</b>	Advised study footwear with ankle support Poles useful, if needed Suncream if a hot day <b>NO HAMMERS</b>
<b>Hard hats or Hi-viz clothing needed?</b>	not required.
<b>May dogs be brought on the excursion?</b>	Yes

<b>Toilet information:</b>	None on Arthur's Seat Education Centre toilets are near the base of Arthur's Seat, close to Holyrood Palace.
<b>Geological map sheet:</b>	<a href="#">BGS 1:50 000 Geological Survey of Scotland map. Bedrock and Superficial</a> <a href="#">BGS 1:25 000 series - Classical areas of British geology Edinburgh District</a>
<b>References:</b>	Discovering Edinburgh's Volcano – available to purchase a paper copy or free pdf download - <a href="https://edinburghgeolsoc.org/publications/geological-excursion-guides/#toggle-id-7">https://edinburghgeolsoc.org/publications/geological-excursion-guides/#toggle-id-7</a>

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**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.