

## Edinburgh Geological Society – Excursions 2026



<b>Excursion title:</b>	Hutton's Edinburgh
<b>Date &amp; start time:</b>	Wednesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 and 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2026 at 19:00
<b>Finish time:</b>	21:00
<b>Leader(s), organisation:</b>	Prof Beverly Bergman

<b>Excursion summary:</b>	2026 is a special year for our local Scottish geological legend James Hutton! EGS is celebrating his tercentenary with a special Hutton's Edinburgh excursion. Join our local James Hutton boffin with a trail to key sites across the city associated with Hutton's life. With the aid of old maps and pictures, see where James Hutton lived with his family when he was a child, follow his route to school and hear about some of the events that would have shaped his childhood. Visit his final resting place in Greyfriars Kirkyard and pay respects to this great visionary. Then make our way up to the site of the house on St John's Hill that he built when he returned to Edinburgh and where he lived with his three sisters, now the site of the Hutton Memorial Garden, and see how the view from the garden inspired his geological thinking. The walk will finish close to where he socialised with such luminaries as Joseph Black and Adam Smith, to enjoy a drink to his memory and to continue the historical stories of the great man himself.
<b>Meeting point:</b>	Outside the National Library of Scotland (NLS) on George IV Bridge. Limited on-street car parking may be available nearby but public transport is recommended.
<b>Transport details:</b>	Lothian buses no. 9, 23 and 27 stop outside NLS. Several other buses stop nearby.
<b>Outline of the excursion route:</b>	George IV Bridge, Greyfriars Kirk, Pleasance, St John's Hill, finishing at the Cowgate near to South Bridge.
<b>Terrain, walking distance, height gain:</b>	About 2 miles on pavements. Paths and grass in Greyfriars Kirkyard. Minimal height gain.
<b>Excursion Grade</b>	<b>A - Easy</b> <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 <i>EGS Excursion Handbook</i>:</b>	Care when crossing roads. Use pedestrian crossings when available and obey traffic signals.
<b>Control measures required to mitigate against any Hazards referred to above:</b>	Require sturdy boots with good grip, waterproof clothing, gloves, consider a trekking pole, sunscreen, plenty of water, food. Protection against wind and possibility of poor visibility so stay in the group.
<b>Hard hats or Hi-viz clothing needed?</b>	Hi-viz jackets may be worn if desired. Hard hats not required.
<b>May dogs be brought on the excursion?</b>	No.
<b>Toilet information:</b>	Toilet available in National Library of Scotland at start.

<b>Geological map sheet:</b>	Landranger 66 Explorer 350
<b>References:</b>	Various books about James Hutton.

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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.