

Edinburgh Geological Society – Excursions 2026



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| Excursion title: | James Hutton's Jedburgh Unconformity & the Great Tapestry at Galashiels |
| Date & start time: | Saturday, 25 th April 2026 Coach departs Waterloo Place 09:00 Excursion starts at Jedburgh 10:30 |
| Finish time: | 16:00 |
| Leader(s), organisation: | Alison Tymon and Emma Bedda |

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| Excursion summary: | <p>In 1787 James Hutton and John Clerk of Eldin visited Jedburgh and enjoyed a saunter upstream along the Jed Water riverbank. Here John Clark sketched the famous James Hutton's unconformity at Jedburgh. Follow in their footsteps and find out more about their journey. View John Clerk of Eldin's stunning illustration depicting the valuable site and get involved in discussions on geodiversity and the difficulty of preserve one of Scotland's most important geological sites. The afternoon will be completed with a bus trip to view the Great Scottish Tapestry at Galashiels a collaborative masterpiece of Scottish Heritage the brainchild of Alexander McCall Smith and Alastair Moffat; an opportunity to bask in the impressive James Hutton panel, as well as several panels on the geological history of Scotland.</p> <p>Tickets £12:50.</p> |
| Meeting point: | Meet at the Lothian Park car park (Abbey Bridge End car park), close to Jedburgh Abbey, Jedburgh NT 650 203. What3words: tangling.exporters.slicer |
| Transport details: | Coach from Edinburgh or drive (please tick coach option, if required, when booking). |
| Extra pick-up points for coach: | FAIRMILEHEAD (please inform excursion secretary if pick up required.) |
| Outline of the excursion route: | <p>Adjacent to the car park is an interpretation board about the significance of the site to be visited, as well as a stonework unconformity feature by Max Nowell, erected twenty years ago. A gentle saunter upstream for 500m along the Jed Water river bank across Lothian Park leads to the famous unconformity illustrated by John Clerk of Eldin on his visit to Jedburgh with James Hutton in 1787. The unconformity is very overgrown and the features difficult to distinguish, so contributions to a discussion about the conservation of one of Scotland's most important geological sites will be welcome.</p> <p>Café available for lunch or bring packed lunch.</p> <p>After lunch, back in the coach with Emma Bedda for transfer to visit the Great Tapestry of Scotland in Galashiels. Self-led visit to view themimpressive James Hutton panel, as well as several panels on the geological history of Scotland.</p> |
| Terrain, walking distance, height gain: | Gentle walk along river. Please wear comfortable walking shoes, terrain should fairly flat. |
| Excursion Grade | Easy field trips participants should be used to walking 1 mile (1.6 km), on good coastal paths and beaches of sand and pebbles. |

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| | 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>: | none |
| Control measures required to mitigate against any Hazards referred to above: | none |
| Hard hats or Hi-viz clothing needed? | no |
| May dogs be brought on the excursion? | no |
| Toilet information: | Public toilets available at car park |
| Geological map sheet: | Jedburgh (S), OL explorer 16 – The Cheviot Hills |
| References: | https://earthwise.bgs.ac.uk/index.php/Jedburgh - Melrose - ... McAdam, A.D., Clarkson, E.N.K. & Stone, P. 1993 Scottish Borders Geology: an excursion guide pp. 96-97 https://geosites.scottishgeologytrust.org/geosite/4050 |

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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.