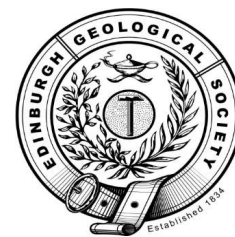


Edinburgh Geological Society – Excursions 2026



Excursion title:	Scotsman's Steps
Date & start time:	Wednesday 1 st July 2026 at 19:00
Finish time:	21:00
Leader(s), organisation:	Fiona McGibbon

Excursion summary:	The Scotsman Steps which connect North Bridge to Market St in Edinburgh became an artwork in 2011 when the Fruitmarket Gallery commissioned Martin Creed to make his <i>Work No.1059</i> , which involved resurfacing the steps with 104 different 'marbles' from all over the world. The colourful slabs of rock are an amazing range of lithologies, colours and textures, each with a tale to tell. We will take it one step at a time, thinking about the geological processes of their formation and brushing up on Italian in passing. A petrological parade across four continents in just two hours!
Meeting point:	Meet at the entrance to the Scotsman Steps on Market St, opposite the Waverley Station entrance.
Transport details:	Plenty of public transport via bus or train to Waverley Station.
Outline of the excursion route:	We start at the bottom of the Scotsman Steps and end up at the top.
Terrain, walking distance, height gain:	This excursion slowly ascends 104 steps. Participants should be fit enough to ascend all steps.
Excursion Grade	A - Easy field trips participants should be used to walking 1 mile (1.6 km), on good coastal paths and beaches of sand and pebbles. 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>:	Be mindful the steps are enclosed. Careful of trip hazards, spills or wet steps. Take care not to fall down the steps.
Control measures required to mitigate against any Hazards referred to above:	Please be mindful of other users of the staircase. Let them pass during the excursion.
Hard hats or Hi-viz clothing needed?	No
May dogs be brought on the excursion?	No
Toilet information:	There are toilets in Waverley Station.
Geological map sheet:	n/a
References:	There is a downloadable pdf guide to the Scotsman Steps as well as a video on the Fruitmarket Gallery's website:

	https://www.fruitmarket.co.uk/archive/martin-creed-work-no-1059-the-scotsman-steps/
--	---

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.