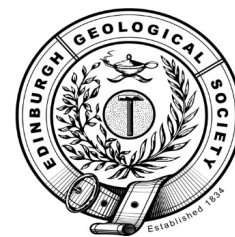


Edinburgh Geological Society – Excursions 2026



Excursion title:	Siccar Point & the Deep Time Trail (joint excursion with the Geological Society of Glasgow)
Date & start time:	Saturday 4 July 2026, 11am at Cockburnspath
Finish time:	16:00 (with High Tea afterwards)
Leader(s), organisation:	Angus Miller, EGS

Excursion summary:	<p>Siccar Point, described as the most important geological site in the world, sits at the eastern end of a superb coastal section with three sets of contrasting sedimentary rocks from three periods: Carboniferous, Devonian and Silurian. The angular unconformity between the Devonian and Silurian strata at Siccar Point was used by James Hutton to support his world-shaking ideas of geological time and natural processes, after he set out with friends to search for the junction: <i>“What clearer evidence could we have had of the different formation of these rocks, and of the long interval which separated their formation, had we actually seen them emerging from the bosom of the deep? We felt ourselves necessarily carried back to the time ...”</i> (John Playfair).</p> <p>In the year of the Tercentenary of Hutton’s birth, this excursion will follow the journey made by Hutton, John Playfair and James Hall along the coast on an easy footpath with good views of the coastal scenery created from these varied rocks, including a sheltered harbour, sandy bays and cliff sections. As we approach Siccar Point, we will join the new Deep Time Trail created by EGS this year to mark the Tercentenary and generously supported by GSG and other donors.</p>
Meeting point:	Edinburgh Road, Cockburnspath.
Transport details:	Coach from Glasgow, with extra pickup on the Edinburgh city bypass.
Extra pick-up points for coach:	Sheriffhall Park & Ride, Old Dalkeith Road EH22 1FF at 10am (please inform excursion secretary if required.)
Outline of the excursion route:	Follow the Southern Upland Way from Cockburnspath along the cliff top path to Pease Bay (toilets and shop available), then continue on the Berwickshire Coastal Path to the start of the Deep Time Trail. Route map - http://plotaroute.com/route/3248353 . At the end of the excursion the coach will collect us from the Siccar Point car park.
Terrain, walking distance, height gain:	Easy path with some descent / ascent on steps – height gain 100m, distance 4 miles to the viewpoint. Siccar Point can be viewed safely from the viewpoints; descent down the steep slope to the rocks is not recommended.
Excursion Grade	<p>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).</p> <p>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.</p>
Additional Hazards not included in the EGS Excursion Handbook:	Descent down the steep grassy slope, and walking on the rocks, is dangerous and could result in injury.
Control measures required to mitigate	Descent down the steep grass slope to the rocks should only be undertaken if the conditions allow (not if the grass is wet or in a strong wind) by people comfortable on

against any Hazards referred to above:	steep slopes, with strong footwear and a good sense of balance.
Hard hats or Hi-viz clothing needed?	Not required.
May dogs be brought on the excursion?	Yes.
Toilet information:	Toilets at Cockburnspath and Pease Bay.
Geological map sheet:	Eyemouth (S) Scotland sheet 34.
References:	Lothian Geology - an Excursion Guide (Edinburgh Geological Society, 1996), pp 146-151 – available from https://geoguide.scottishgeologytrust.org/p/egs_lo/egs_lo_18_siccarpoint Siccar Point leaflet, Lothian and Borders GeoConservation, 2015 - https://edinburghgeolsoc.org/publications/geoconservation-leaflets/#siccar-point The Deep Time Trail - https://james-hutton.org/deep-time-trail/

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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.