

## Edinburgh Geological Society – Excursions 2026



<b>Excursion title:</b>	South Queensferry
<b>Date &amp; start time:</b>	Saturday, 9 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 10:30
<b>Finish time:</b>	16:00
<b>Leader(s), organisation:</b>	Richard Smith, EGS

<b>Excursion summary:</b>	An excursion to set the spectacular three bridges within their surrounding geological context. This excursion will examine exposed Carboniferous sedimentary cycles of the West Lothian Oil-Shale and Gullane formations deposited in a shallow marine environment over 350 million years ago. Igneous magmas intruded the cool sedimentary units; this trip explores the relationships between these hot magmas and their surrounding cool sediments.
<b>Meeting point:</b>	Hawes Pier, South Queensferry NT 135 783. What3Words: division.debut.oval
<b>Transport details:</b>	Bus and car parking by promenade to the west. Accessible by bus to South Queensferry or train to Dalmeny.
<b>Outline of the excursion route:</b>	Walk west on promenade to view the bridges, then east on coastal path to Hounds Point and back, stopping at select rock exposures.
<b>Terrain, walking distance, height gain:</b>	Walking about 6 km on mainly fairly even path (kerbs and stiles a possibility) with some steep slopes and rocks on shoreline; 10 m or so of ascent and descent to rock exposures on sandy beaches.
<b>Excursion Grade</b>	<p><b>B/C - Moderate to Strenuous</b></p> <p><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).</p> <p><b>Strenuous</b> field trips all participants should have very good balance &amp; be used to walking up to 5 miles (8 km), sometimes on rocky ground including boulder beaches and steep slopes where you may occasionally need to use your hands.</p> <p><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></p>
<b>Additional Hazards not included in the EGS Excursion Handbook:</b>	<p>Likely slippery rocks if wet. Risk of being cut off by a rising tide.</p> <p>Tide table predicts Low Tide 13.11 on 9-05-2026, gradually rising to High tide at 20:16.</p> <p><a href="https://tides.willyweather.co.uk/dg/edinburgh/queensferry.html">https://tides.willyweather.co.uk/dg/edinburgh/queensferry.html</a></p>
<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>	No, but can be worn at participants discretion.
<b>May dogs be brought on the excursion?</b>	No.
<b>Toilet information:</b>	Toilets at beginning and end of walk

<b>Geological map sheet:</b>	BGS 1:50k 32W OS 1:50k 65
<b>References:</b>	Edinburgh Geology: Excursion Guide; Cramond-Queensferry pp192-196

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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.