

Edinburgh Geological Society Excursions

Code of Conduct & Safety Guidelines

It is important to realise that Excursions involve a level of personal risk, but that awareness of hazards, use of common sense and thought for others can greatly reduce this risk. Every participant on an Excursion has a duty of care and attention to all other participants and any member of the public.



Code of Conduct for Participants. You should:

1. Be aware of potential hazards that may be encountered during the Excursion, and familiarise yourself with the information about hazards and control measures available in advance. For your own and others' safety, you should exercise a duty of care and attention at all times.
2. Take all reasonable precautions to maintain your own safety and not endanger other members of the group, as directed by the Excursion Leader and in line with the Risk Assessment.
3. Before each Excursion, fill in the online booking form to confirm that you have received and accept guidance and information relating to hazards and control measures and this Code of Conduct.
4. Wear clothing and footwear suitable for the Excursion.
5. Consider your level of physical fitness in relation to the itinerary described. The Excursion Leader has the right to refuse to allow you to participate in, or to continue in, the Excursion if your health or fitness, clothing or equipment gives rise to concern.

In instances where an individual's level of fitness or mobility has impacted on the ability of the Excursion Leader to safely lead the group and/or complete the excursion in a reasonable time frame then the incident will be escalated to EGS Council, and they may decide to limit that person's ability to attend future excursions. It is fully appreciated that this may cause disappointment but will be based on the committee's combined assessment and overall responsibility of the duty of care to all excursion participants and your understanding is appreciated.

6. Listen to the Safety Briefing at the start of the Excursion and follow the instructions of the Excursion Leader at all times. It is important to stay with the Leader during all of the Excursion. Racing ahead or lagging behind causes problems of safety as well as making the Leader's job more difficult.
7. Notify any problems immediately to the Excursion Leader. You should notify them if you wish to leave the Excursion early.
8. Do not use a geological hammer or collect samples.
9. Follow the Country Code e.g. close gates, leave no litter, and do not disturb wildlife or plants.
10. If you smoke, have consideration for others.
11. If you are responsible for children or dogs, keep them under control.
12. If you have a medical condition such as asthma, angina, diabetes, allergy etc, please inform the Excursion Leader at the start of the Excursion.

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Low-risk Hazards & Recommended Control Measures

Definitions:

Hazard: anything that can cause harm.

Risk: the chance that someone will be harmed by the hazard.

Level of Risk: assessed as Low, Medium or High in the opinion of an assessor who has knowledge of the environment under consideration.

Specific and Medium to High Risk Hazards must be assessed by the Excursion leader. Participants must be informed of any extra precautions necessary to control risks, in the Excursion Planning Form and verbally at the start of the field trip.

Low-Risk Hazards and Recommendations for Control:

Hazard	Level of Risk	Control Measures
Weather Variable, unpredictable weather, i.e. too hot, cold, wet or windy, resulting in hypothermia, sunstroke or dehydration.	Low	Winter - wear layers of warm clothing and good quality waterproofs. Summer - wear light clothing, waterproofs, sunhat, sunglasses and sun block. Always carry spare food and plenty of liquids.
Tides Access cut off.	Low	Consult tide tables and plan visits to coastal sections at low tide or on a falling tide if possible.
Rough Terrain Injuries caused by trips/slips on rough ground or slippery rocks.	Low	Wear suitable stout footwear with good grip to protect feet and ankles. The <i>Excursion Planning Form</i> will specify if boots, trainers or Wellington boots are suitable footwear.
Steep Ground Injuries caused by falling or slipping down slopes or cliffs	Low	Take extra care near exposed edges of cliffs and rock scarps. Stay at least 2 metres back from cliff edges.
Rock Falls Injury caused by rocks/debris falling from cliffs, quarry faces or road cuttings.	Low	Wear hard hat when close to base of cliffs, quarry faces or road cuttings. Take care not to dislodge rocks when moving above other people on cliff tops, quarries or steep slopes.
Hammering Injury, especially to eyes, caused by flying rock fragments.	Low	Hammering and sample collection is not permitted on these excursions.