

Edinburgh Geological Society – Excursion Programme 2021



Excursion title: The industrial and geological history of Charlestown
Date & time: Saturday 3rd July 2021, 10am **Finish time:** 3pm
Leader(s): Dr Katie Strang, Scottish Geology Trust & Scottish Lime Centre Trust

Excursion aims and description:	<p>The main aim of this excursion will be to look at the history of the lime industry in Charlestown, and the importance of the local geology to its success. The historic limekilns are now a scheduled monument and once produced over a third of Scotland's lime. The Blackhall limestone was the principal seam worked in the Lower Limestone Formation of Fife.</p> <p>This excursion will start from the village of Charlestown, taking a tour around a series of disused quarries running between Charlestown and Limekilns. Much of the main outcrop of the Blackhall limestone has been quarried away, though several stacks of limestone were left during the quarrying operations, and provide a fantastic opportunity to look at this deposit in more detail. Alongside its great economic importance, the Blackhall limestone also contains a rich and diverse fossil assemblage; the excursion will also look at some of the material which has been found locally, with a chance to explore some of the old spoil heaps. The excursion will finish at the historic limekilns - Broomhall Estate have kindly granted access to allow a tour of the inside of the recently refurbished draw kilns.</p>		
Meeting point:	Scottish Lime Centre Trust, Charlestown, Fife KY11 3EN		
First locality:	Scottish Lime Centre Trust, Charlestown, Fife KY11 3EN		
Excursion route:	Circular route through the village, along the coast and inland along the Lyne Burn. Return via the Estate and the Secret Loch.		
Terrain, walking distance, height gain:	6km on mixed terrain, mostly paths and woodland with 90m of ascent https://www.plotaroute.com/route/1554650		
Specific or Medium- / High-Risk Hazards:	<p>Rough Terrain Injuries caused by trips/slips on rough ground or slippery rocks.</p> <p>Rock Falls Injury caused by rocks/debris falling from cliffs, quarry faces or road cuttings.</p>		
Control measures required to mitigate against any Hazards referred to above:	<p>Wear suitable stout footwear with good grip to protect feet and ankles.</p> <p>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.</p>		
Hard hats or Hi-viz clothing needed?	Hard hats for disused quarries and historic limekilns.		
May dogs be brought on the excursion?	Yes, but will need to be kept on the lead in some areas of the Estate.		
Toilet information:	There are public toilets near the Green in Charlestown, and toilets in the Scottish Lime Centre Trust.		
Geological map sheet:	Livingston 32W	OS map sheet:	Explorer 367
References:			

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