

Edinburgh Geological Society – Excursions 2023



Excursion title:	Comiston Springs, Edinburgh		
Date & start time:	Wed 7 Jun 23, 7pm	Finish time:	9pm
Leader(s):	Ken Hitchen		

Excursion aims and description:	<p>We will visit the location of the four main Comiston Springs – the source of the water for Edinburgh’s first ever clean water supply in 1676. We will then visit the Comiston cistern building where the water was collected before being piped to the ‘Old Town’ where it could be collected in buckets by local residents. We will see where the present day outflow from the cistern has been diverted into the Braid Burn and learn how to recognize and plot the route of the original 1676 pipeline under the eastern slope of Braidburn Valley Park and the suburbs of south Edinburgh.</p>		
Meeting point:	<p>Meet at the junction of Comiston Springs Avenue and Comiston Road. This is at the southern end of Braidburn Valley Park. Comiston Road is the main A702 road from Fairmilehead down to Morningside.</p> <p>GR: NT242695. On street parking only.</p> <p>NB.1 Comiston Road is also known as Pentland Terrace at this location.</p> <p>NB.2 There are cycle lanes which restrict some parking on Comiston Road.</p>		
Transport details:	<p>Lothian buses route 11 (frequent, at least 3 per hour) passes the meeting point.</p>		
Excursion route:	<p>We will zig-zag through the Comiston housing estate heading for Peewit Spring in Oxfords Green but passing Hare, Swan and Fox springs en route. After backtracking for 200m we will divert northwards along the Cockmylane path which passes the Comiston cistern before entering the southern end of Braidburn Valley Park to inspect the markers which show the route of the original 1676 pipeline. Then return to start point.</p>		
Terrain, walking distance, height gain:	<p>Easy walking, with only gentle gradients, mainly on pavements but finishing on grass. Distance approx 2.2km. No net height gain or loss.</p>		
Specific or Medium- / High-Risk Hazards	None		
Control measures required to mitigate against any Hazards referred to above:	N/A		
Hard hats or Hi-viz clothing needed?	No		
May dogs be brought on the excursion?	Yes, on a lead		
Toilet information:	No public toilets on the route		
Geological map sheet:	Edinburgh	OS map sheet:	Explorer series 1:25,000 Map 350