

Edinburgh Geological Society – Excursions 2023



Excursion title:	Weaklaw Vent to Cheese Bay and Black Rocks, East Lothian		
Date & start time:	Sat 27 May 23, 10 am	Finish time:	c. 5 pm
Leader(s):	David Stephenson, formerly BGS		

Excursion aims and description:	<p>We will start by establishing the relationships of the Weaklaw Vent with overlying rocks of the Garleton Hills Volcanic Formation and examine structural relationships in superb three-dimensional exposures at the Hanging Rocks. The dominantly sedimentary succession of the Strathclyde Group above the volcanic rocks to the west includes thin beds of tuff, which pick out some spectacular folds in the intertidal zone. These tuffs seem to be composed largely of clasts of sedimentary rock but have not been investigated or described in detail. Around the headland, Cheese Bay is famous for its well-preserved shrimps and fish fragments but the section between there and Black Rocks also exposes basaltic intrusions with interesting contact relationships that provide clues to their age and suggest possible links to the non-volcaniclastic tuffs, tuffisites and 'cryptovents'.</p>		
Meeting point:	Car park on <u>east</u> side of Archerfield Walled Garden (café, shop, toilets etc) at [NT 502 839]		
Transport details:	Own transport or East Coast Bus 124 & X24 (North Berwick). Get off at entrance to Archerfield Estate and 10-min walk to meeting point.		
Excursion route:	Walk along estate road on south side of Home Farm to reach track along west side of Renaissance Golf Course to sandy bay west of Weaklaw Rocks, where we will spend most of the day. Then around headland to the west to Cheese Bay and SW to bay just before Black Rocks. Back east, skirting the northern part of Muirfield Golf Course, to rejoin outward route.		
Terrain, walking distance, height gain:	<p>Easy walking on tracks, sandy footpaths and beach. Minimal easy scrambling over intertidal rocks.</p> <p>8 km/5 miles, with a total ascent of only 45 m</p>		
Specific or Medium- / High-Risk Hazards	<p>Trips and slips on intertidal rocks</p> <p>Unstable cliffs at Hanging Rocks and Smuggler's Caves</p>		
Control measures required to mitigate against any Hazards referred to above:	Avoid standing beneath and hammering unstable cliffs		
Hard hats or Hi-viz clothing needed?	No		
May dogs be brought on the excursion?	Yes, but on a lead through estate and beside golf courses please		
Toilet information:	At start and finish (closes 5 pm)		
Geological map sheet:	1:50 000 Sheet 33W Haddington	OS map sheet:	1:50 000 Sheet 66 Edinburgh, Penicuik

References:

Participants are strongly recommended to read and possibly download the update to the *Lothian Geology* excursion guide on [BGS Earthwise](#). The cross-sections will be particularly useful if printed or downloaded from this link:

[North Berwick, Yellow Craig to Cheese Bay - an excursion - MediaWiki \(bgs.ac.uk\)](#)

The only previous publications, which will be referred to, are available to EGS members from the Geological Society's *Lyell* Collection:

Day, T.C. 1916. The breccias of Cheese Bay and the yellow conglomerates of Weaklaw. *Transactions of the Edinburgh Geological Society*, Vol. **10**, 261 – 275.

Day, T.C. 1923. A new volcanic vent and other new geological features on the shore, Weaklaw, near Gullane. *Transactions of the Edinburgh Geological Society*, Vol. **11**, 185 – 192.