

## Edinburgh Geological Society – Excursions 2024



<b>Excursion title:</b>	Longniddry to Aberlady shore, East Lothian		
<b>Date &amp; start time:</b>	24 August 2024 10:00am	<b>Finish time:</b>	4:00pm
<b>Leader:</b>	Mark Wilkinson, University of Edinburgh		

<b>Excursion summary:</b>	<p>The shoreline from Longniddry Bents to Aberlady Point exposes the top of the Aberlady Formation and the overlying Lower Limestone Formation, into which is intruded the Gosford Bay Sill.</p> <p>Cyclic sedimentation is well demonstrated, a typical cycle has an upward sequence of marine limestone, shale, sandstone, seatearth, coal, marine limestone. Occasionally individual units may be very thin or absent. The cycles are considered to represent the normal sequence of events in a subsiding delta. Periodically, the trees growing on the muds and sands of the deltas died and were covered by the sea, in which limestone was formed, before the next influx of mud and sand shallowed the water sufficiently for another forest to establish itself. The seat-earths in which traces of rootlets can be seen are fossil soils.</p> <p>The structure is dominated by shallowly plunging open synclines and anticlines.</p>		
<b>Meeting point:</b>	Longniddry Bents carpark #3, NT 442 776		
<b>Transport details:</b>	Private car to the car park, or Service 124 by East Coast Buses ( <a href="https://www.lothianbuses.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/124_210912.pdf">https://www.lothianbuses.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/124_210912.pdf</a> )		
<b>Outline of the excursion route:</b>	From the car park, we will walk along the shore to the S and E for c. 500m, return through the car park, then along a path by the W side of the A198 until the path enters a wooded area and it crosses a private tarmac road with a locked gate. Walk along this road for c. 350m and immediately after a small (and inconspicuous) bridge with stone parapets, take a narrow track to the left (west). This almost immediately crosses a shallow ditch, which can be slippery in wet weather. The track leads to the shore, here turn right and head northwards along the coast, and past the sandy bay that surrounds the tidal islet of Green Craig. Along the coast to Aberlady Point. Return by tracing steps, or by following the coast to the Kilspindie golf club road and return by the main road which has a good path.		
<b>Terrain, walking distance, height gain:</b>	c. 12km, no height gain. There are some good paths, but some of the walk is on trackless bouldery or rocky coastline.		
<b>Additional Hazards not included in the EGS Excursion Handbook:</b>	None		
<b>Control measures required to mitigate against any Hazards referred to above:</b>	NA		
<b>Hard hats or Hi-viz clothing needed?</b>	No		
<b>May dogs be brought on the excursion?</b>	Yes, too late in the year for nesting birds, but should be on a lead.		
<b>Toilet information:</b>	There are public toilets in Longniddry Bents #3 carpark.		
<b>Geological map sheet:</b>	Haddington, 33W and part of 41, Solid, 1983	<b>OS map sheet:</b>	Landranger 66, Edinburgh
<b>References:</b>	<p>McL. D. Duff, "Gosford Bay-Aberlady Point, Edinburgh - an excursion" in Lothian Geology - an Excursion Guide (Edinburgh Geological Society), by McAdam and Clarkson.</p> <p><a href="https://earthwise.bgs.ac.uk/index.php/Gosford_Bay-Aberlady_Point,_Edinburgh_-_an_excursion">https://earthwise.bgs.ac.uk/index.php/Gosford_Bay-Aberlady_Point,_Edinburgh_-_an_excursion</a></p>		

