



# Geowalks

## Arthur's Seat for Schools

### About Geowalks

I'm an Edinburgh geologist with a passion for explaining the story of the Earth. Since 1998 I've been running Geowalks, a small business which specialises in geological education. I lead guided walks and holidays all over Scotland, and offer talks, courses and workshops. For further information, please get in touch!

**Angus Miller**

### Walks for School & University Groups

Arthur's Seat in Edinburgh is an ideal outdoor classroom! Guided tours are available for school & university parties, exploring a range of themes. Groups from Primary to University level have already enjoyed tours.

*"Both P7 classes benefited greatly from their work up Arthur's Seat and did excellent follow on activities as a result. I would like to thank you most sincerely for making this such a successful trip." P7 Teacher*

A walk through Holyrood Park is an excellent accompaniment to a visit to Our Dynamic Earth, a chance to explore the local context and discover how the amazing stories of Edinburgh's past have shaped today's landscape.

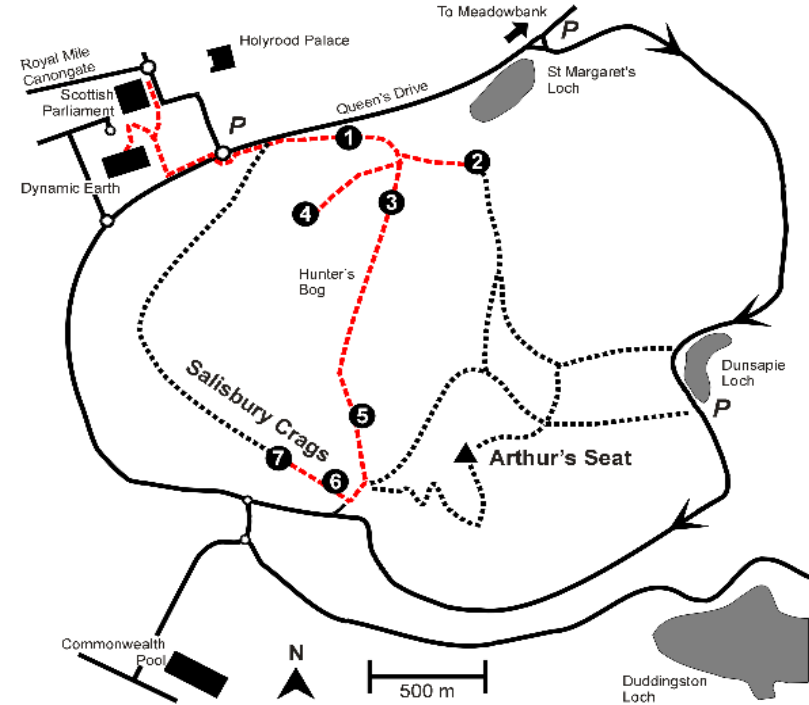
**What's on offer?** The key is flexibility, to fit the time you have and the themes you'd like to explore ... and the weather conditions on the day.

A typical tour would start from Our Dynamic Earth or the Scottish Parliament and last for 90 minutes to two hours, following a low-level route through Hunter's Bog and exploring the links between the rocks beneath Edinburgh, the ice ages and the shape of today's landscape. You can arrange for your coach to pick up the group at the end of the walk or we can walk back through the park.

Safety is important, and needs to be considered as part of planning any trip. The safety of the group remains the responsibility of the teacher in charge, who is responsible for ensuring compliance with all local authority and school regulations and guidelines. I can offer advice on safety precautions and risk assessments, and I'm a qualified Mountain Leader with a current Emergency Aid certificate.

There are many options for short and long tours, and different themes. I think it's important that school groups get outdoors and explore, so I keep costs low: guide price £50 for two hours.

The map shows a suggested route that includes the stops listed below. Most tours won't visit every stop: I can suggest an itinerary to fit the time available.



1. Views of Edinburgh's Hills: explore how the varied rocks found beneath Edinburgh are responsible for the shape of today's landscape.
2. St Anthony's Well: stand on an ancient lava flow and imagine what Edinburgh was like when the lava was hot (around 340 million years ago). And what's the story of Bob, the smooth, round, polished boulder?
3. The Dasses: a close-up look at some of the crystals that form igneous rocks, and consider the differences between igneous and sedimentary rocks.
4. The old sandstone quarry: find out about sedimentary rocks, discover clues to ancient environments and how the local rocks have been used by people.
5. The scree slopes of Arthur's Seat: examine rocks from the crater of the ancient volcano, and think about the slow natural processes that are gradually eroding the hill.
6. Hutton's Section: discover the different rocks of Edinburgh and find out about James Hutton, world famous philosopher and the father of modern geology.
7. Salisbury Crags: a great view over Edinburgh, where you can really appreciate the work of the ice grinding over the landscape from the west, and shaping the hard igneous rocks that form Edinburgh's hills.