



OFFICIAL GUIDE
CLIMBING IN
HOLYROOD PARK

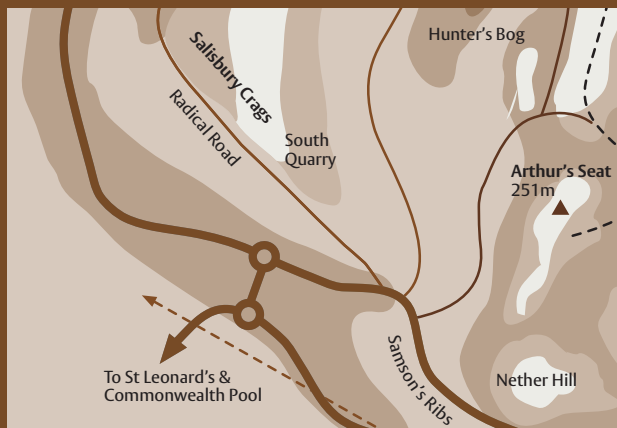


Where are you allowed to climb?

Climbing is permitted in the South Quarry only. The quarry is located on Salisbury Crags and is accessed on foot from the Radical Road.

This area is set back from the path and so minimises the danger to other park users.

Climbing is permitted between the metal plate signs on the rocks at either end of the South Quarry.



What types of climbing are allowed?

- ✓ Bouldering and free climbing are permitted in the South Quarry.
- ✗ No fixings, however temporary, can be made to the rock due to the sensitivity of the archaeological and geological remains.
- ✗ No pitons, bolts or stakes etc. are to be used.
- ✗ Climbing with ropes and other safety equipment is also discouraged to avoid damage to the rock face, to the ground at the top of the crags and to the rare plant and animal life of the park.

CLIMBING IN HOLYROOD PARK

We are pleased to welcome climbers in the designated area of Holyrood Park. However, as this is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM), we have regulations in place to protect the park, its wildlife and the interests of all visitors.

This leaflet details the regulations which must be followed when climbing.

Permits and regulations

Climbing is permitted only within the designated area of the South Quarry on Salisbury Crags.

To climb here you must first obtain a free permit from the Holyrood Park Ranger Service. You will find our contact details on the back page of this leaflet.

Please ensure you have your permit with you at all times whilst climbing. The rangers monitor climbers within the park and will ask to see your permit.

Inexperienced climbers

Climbing can be a dangerous activity which requires skill and experience.



The South Quarry is a good location for climbing but some of the rock may be loose and could fall. Please be aware of the dangers of climbing and know your limits.



Climbers are asked to help any inexperienced climbers and report any dangerous climbers to the Ranger Service.

Useful contacts

For advice on outdoor climbing contact:

The Scottish Outdoor Access Code
www.outdooraccess-scotland.com
T 01738 458 545

The Mountaineering Council of Scotland
www.mcofs.org.uk
T 01738 493 942

Protecting Salisbury Crags

Salisbury Crags are part of a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) and Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) because of the importance of the geology, and for the archaeological remains they contain.

Historic Scotland cares for Holyrood Park as a whole in order to protect the archaeology, geology and wildlife to ensure that it can be enjoyed by all users now and in the future.

Salisbury Crags are made of basalt rock and are part of a volcanic shelf of rock. The rock, called a 'sill,' was formed underground 325 million years ago when there were several active volcanoes in the area. Molten magma was forced between two layers of cementstone, a sedimentary rock, where it cooled and hardened.

Next, underground pressures caused the whole shelf of rock to split and be forced upwards, coming to rest at an angle. Finally a glacier moved across the area from the west of Scotland, scouring away the cementstone to leave the hard volcanic rock behind. This gives us the rock face we see today.

The steep face of hard ragged rock seems perfect for climbing and a hundred years ago Salisbury Crags was a very busy and popular climbing and mountaineering location. However, more recently climbing was prohibited because of the risk to climbers and other park users from falling and broken rocks. In 1995 this restriction was relaxed to allow climbing in the South Quarry.

Please climb safely and with consideration so that other climbers may continue to enjoy the opportunity to climb in the park.





DON'T FORGET

Failure to comply with any the following conditions will result in the withdrawal of your permit.

- ✓ Only climb in the South Quarry between the metal plate signs.
- ✓ Remove any loose rock carefully, to avoid hitting other climbers or visitors.
- ✓ Avoid disturbing other park users.
- ✓ Keep noise to a minimum.
- ✓ Climb in parties of no more than 6.
- ✗ Climbing is prohibited elsewhere in the park.
- ✗ No pitons, bolts or stakes etc. to be used.

Thank you for abiding by these rules and helping us to conserve the park. We hope you enjoy climbing here.

Contact the Ranger Service for a permit, or if you have any queries, concerns or comments in relation to your own or others' climbing.

Contact us:

Holyrood Park Education Centre
1 Queen's Drive, Holyrood Park, Edinburgh EH8 8HG

T 0131 652 8150

E hs.rangers@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

[www.historic-scotland.gov.uk / ranger](http://www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/ranger)

