

A walk along the Radical Road

Description



North end of Radical Rd as it was in May 2022. Photo credit Nick Kempe

1st April 2025

Walking home from Holyrood, on a perfect evening, in the clearest air, cool and sunny, I decided to take the scenic route.



North end; of course the rock face is loose, all rock faces are! So are riverbanks etc. Photo Credit Ben

The north end is still barricaded off with ugly green Cold War barriers, chestnut paling fencing and random signage, all within sight of Parliament. This reminds MSPs how the 'Right to Roam' doesn't exist on their own doorstep. It also reminds the public that the MSPs and the Government are failing to hold Historic and Environment Scotland (HES) to account for their poor management of Holyrood Park.



Photo credit Ben Tindall.

An alternative access route is still used.



Broom & whin bushes on the path, with small stones. Photo credit Ben Tindall.

At the north end the ascending path is getting increasingly overgrown, largely with broom but also with whin. There are no signs of rock falls. There are some stones on the path, the size of potatoes and the occasional turnip, which may be debris from HES's descaling exercises.



Photo credit Ben Tindall.

The Peregrine was back building its nest.



The original sensible signage, needing cleaning and repainting. Photo credit Ben Tindall.

At the top quarry the old cast aluminum warning signs remain intact, but faded and graffitied.



Post covid/closure graffiti and neglect. Photo credit Ben Tindall



Photo credit Ben Tindall

Some of the graffiti on the rock has been over-sprayed in black but not removed.

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Enjoying the view/taking selfies.. without the benefit of barriers. Photo credit Ben Tindall

People walk along the top of the crags in considerable numbers. Clearly this is infinitely more dangerous than walking along the path below. This is a risk people assess for themselves and are happy to accept. The public should be allowed to do the same for the Radical Road! When are HES going to put a railing across it or deny access?! Maybe they will do the same for the top of Arthur's Seat; sadly these are places where there have been fatalities. This is all such nonsense.

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Middle barrier. Photo credit Ben Tindall

There are two further ugly barriers, a middle barrier and the south end barrier, with signage in various states of decay. The middle barrier is heavily padlocked. The South end barrier is all locked too, but is

no deterrent to climbers of any ability.



South end barrier, ugly and largely useless with broken signage. A disgrace. Photo credit Ben Tindall

There were two students above Hutton's quarry, climbing and enjoying the evening; they could not believe or understand how the place has been closed by HES for more than 6 years.



More recent signage. Climbers boulder on these rockfaces whatever the signs say. Photo credit Ben Tindall.

Category

1. Access rights

Tags

1. access rights
2. Scottish Government

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