

Erosion Emergency on Calton Hill, September 2025

The erosion of the top soil on Calton Hill this summer has been the worst for many years. The deterioration in the general condition of the ground has been severe.

Erosion is the biggest problem we face. We can pick up litter in a moment, contractors can move portaloos in a day, volunteers could unblock all the drainage channels within in a week or two — but the repair of erosion takes time and money.

Erosion takes place in the summer when the ground is dry. Water is not available on the hill, unless it is brought up there by bowser trucks. The large number of visitors adds to the wear and tear and the compaction of the ground.

Erosion occurs in areas where the grass has been repeatedly cut short — on the assumption that it will rain regularly. There is no erosion where the grass has been left uncut by the local authority.

Sometimes you can actually see the earth blowing away in the wind.

The photographs below were all taken on 9 September 2025.



Erosion emergency on Calton Hill, September 2025



Erosion emergency on Calton Hill, September 2025



Erosion emergency on Calton Hill, September 2025



Calton Hill Conservation Trust, 12 September 2025