



Figure 1: Hutton as painted by Sir Henry Raeburn © Wikipedia

JAMES HUTTON
(14TH JUNE 1726 – 26TH MARCH 1797)

Hutton was a renowned physician, experimental agriculturalist and geologist. During his lifetime he helped establish the basis of modern geology: Deep Time. Through modern science and complex developments through history, Deep Time has helped establish the age of the Earth, which is roughly 4.54 billion years old.

Hutton, born in Edinburgh, spent his early years studying as a physician in Paris. After inheriting farms from his father and dwelling within agriculture, his interest with geology became self-confessed and henceforth was indulged within the field.

Hutton's work within Tayside was very significant in the world of geology as his finds enabled him to rule out the theory of Neptunism and to affirm his theory on Plutonism. In 1785, Hutton discovered that granite was penetrating the meta schist at Glen Tilt in such a way that he speculated it was once molten and then cooled. Its locality can be given as NN933741 about 11 km NE of Blair Atholl. It was then called Hutton's Locality and can be seen within figure 2. This discovery lead him to believe that granite was in fact younger than the schist. He later on wrote about his findings within his book, "Theory of Earth" (1788). His theory of Plutonsim visualised the endless process of rock formation, "We find no vestige of a beginning, no prospect of an end" (Hutton).



Figure 2: Hutton's Locality at Glen Tilt © Wikipedia

References:

http://www.amnh.org/education/resources/rfl/web/essaybooks/earth/p_hutton.htm

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glen_Tilt

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/James_Hutton

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deep_time

<http://www.scottishgeology.com/geo/regional-geology/grampian/glen-tilt/>



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