

The colourful rocks of Penarth were formed over 200 million years ago and tell a fascinating story of changes in climate and sea-level.

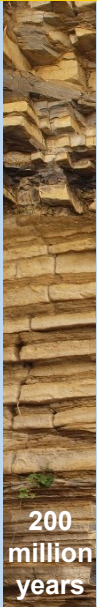
Look for fossils in the loose pebbles and rocks on the beach.

Keep away from the cliffs as they are very unstable and rocks could fall at any time.

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Find more nature guides or get in touch with our museum scientists for help with identification: museum.wales/collections/on-your-doorstep

Jurassic



Alternate layers of blue/grey limestones and muds. Formed in clear, warm, shallow seas. Most of the fossils will have come from these beds.

Please do not hammer at the cliffs, or at fossils in layers of solid rock.

200 million years



Brachiopods

Calcirhynchia
(1 to 1.5 cm)



Ammonite

Schlotheimia
(up to 12 cm)



Bivalve

Plagiostoma
(up to 20 cm)



Bivalve

Liostraea
(up to 5 cm)



Bivalve

Chlamys
(up to 10 cm)



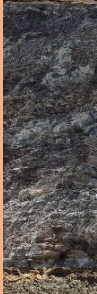
Bivalve

Cardinia
(up to 5 cm)

Triassic



Pale mudstones laid down in shallow seas and lagoons. Ripple marks and mud cracks are common. Few fossils.



Dark mudstones were deposited in shallow seas. Bone Beds containing fossil fragments were formed during intense storms.



Green, grey and red muds laid down in shallow seas and lagoons. Few fossils.



Red rocks, with large pink and white chunks of the mineral alabaster. Formed around seasonal lakes in deserts.

215 million years



Marine reptile teeth

Ichthyosaurus



Marine reptile vertebra

Ichthyosaurus
(part of the backbone)



Coprolite

Fossilised droppings from ichthyosaurs and other marine reptiles.



Ripples and mudcracks

Evidence of very shallow water.



Beef

A fibrous calcite mineral occurring in shales. Looks much like meat.



Alabaster

A mineral formed by evaporation in hot Triassic deserts.