



Nature on your doorstep

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Penarth fossils

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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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.



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)



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



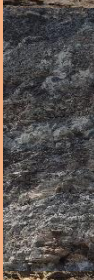
Marine reptile teeth
Ichthyosaurus



Marine reptile vertebra
Ichthyosaurus
(part of the backbone)



Coprolite
Fossilised droppings from ichthyosaurs and other marine reptiles.



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.



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.

Triassic

215 million years