

West Angle fossils

The rocks of West Angle Bay, South Pembrokeshire, were formed around 350 million years ago in shallow, stormy, tropical seas. Many types of small fossils can be seen in the rocks, but please don't try to collect them. Keep away from the cliffs as they are very unstable and rocks could fall at any time.

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Carboniferous

The rocks of West Angle Bay are mostly fine-grained grey limestones 360 to 340 million years old. They were laid down in shallow tropical seas.

Evidence of violent storms can be seen in some beds where the fossils are broken and overturned. Fossils are plentiful, but look out for some rare ones (marked with a star). ★

Please do not hammer at the cliffs, or at fossils in solid rock, as the bay is a Site of Special Scientific Interest



Brachiopod
Chonetes
(2 to 3 cm)



Brachiopod
Spirifer
(1 to 3 cm)



Brachiopod
Schellwienella
(4 to 6 cm)



Orthocone
A straight nautilus
(5 to 10 cm)



Bryozoan
Fenestella
A tiny net-like animal



Brachiopod
Rhynchonellid
(1 to 3 cm)



Solitary Coral
Zaphrentis
(Up to 1 cm)



Crinoid stems
Usually found in pieces, broken by ancient storms (up to 1 cm in diameter)



Crinoid ★
Hylodecrinus cymrus
(2 to 3 cm across)
Only found here!



Trilobite tail ★
Brachymetopus
(1 cm)
Rare



Echinoid ★
Hyattechinus
(2 to 5 cm across)
Very rare sea-urchins



Shark tooth ★
(1 to 2 cm)
Rare



Trace fossil
Evidence of an extinct animal burrowing through the ancient sea-bed



Gastropod
(Up to 5 cm)
Molluscs with spiral shells