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St Davids area Geology

The colourful rocks around St Davids are some of the oldest in Wales. Dating from 650 - 460 million years old they were formed in cold oceans and show evidence of volcanoes, and fossils of extinct animals.

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



Also check out sheet number 20: **The Building Stones of St Davids**

Middle Ordovician

470 to 460 million years old

The rocks around Aber-eiddi are famous for their dark slates and graptolite fossils. They were formed in deep cool oceans.

Layers of solidified ash (tuff and rhyolite) show evidence of nearby ancient volcanoes. The hills near St Davids are formed of volcanic magmas, such as gabbro.



Ordovician slate

Thinly bedded fine, grey rocks found near Aber-eiddi Bay.



Graptolites

Didymograptus (2 to 10cm) Extinct floating animal, found in slates.



Gabbro

A coarsely crystalline igneous rock from St Davids Head.

Cambrian

541 to 485 million years old

The colourful Cambrian rocks from the St Davids area were laid down in a cool, deepening ocean. Many can be seen in the cliffs, or as beach pebbles

Animals with hard shells had only just evolved and fossils are very rare. Some rocks show traces where ancient animals burrowed through the seabed. Most rocks do not contain fossils.



Trilobites

These are very rare here but tiny ones (up to 5mm) may sometimes be found.



Solva Beds

Fine grained yellow sandstone split into layers (or beds).



Trace fossils

Left by extinct animals burrowing into an ancient seabed.

Ediacaran

650 to 540 million years old

These ancient igneous rocks can mostly be seen in bays to the south of St Davids. They include volcanic ashes (tuffs) that have been heated and squashed. There are no fossils in these beds.



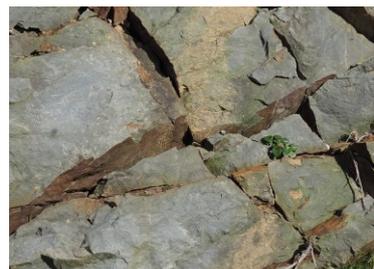
Caerbwly Sandstone

Purple sandstone often used as building stone.



Caerfai Bay Shales

Very fine grained, smooth red shale with pale bands.



St Non's Sandstone

A soft greenish coloured sandstone.



Basal Conglomerate

Brown/red rock containing small pebbles of quartz.



Granophyre

A finely crystalline grey igneous rock sometimes used as building stone.



Halleflinta

Very fine grained, almost glassy, blueish rock. A volcanic ash.