



# Building Stones of St Davids Pembrokeshire



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Many historic buildings and houses in St Davids contain a variety of building stone, many are sourced locally, but some come from further afield. Building stones are a great way to study geology in the urban environment. Here is a selection of local stones you can spot!

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



## What is building stone?

Rocks are everywhere beneath our feet, but they may be covered in soil, vegetation, roads and buildings. Many different rocks are exposed in the sea cliffs and rugged hills around St Davids.

Not all rocks are suitable for building with. Stone is chosen for its strength, resistance to weathering, attractiveness, and cost to extract and transport. Most of the stone used in St Davids was quarried locally.

## St Non's Sandstone



Green sandstone, weathering to buff brown, with small sparkling mineral grains of mica.

**Spot it!** High St, The Pebbles, Cathedral

## Caerbwdy Sandstone



Purple sandstone, with sparkling grains of mica. Used as a freestone, which means it can be cut in any direction. Often cut into blocks or carved, and used on the corner of buildings (quoins), or around doorways and windows.

**Spot it!** High St, Cathedral, Bishops Palace

## Lower Pebidian Tuffs



Purple, red and green, gritty looking, with distinct, large flattened rock fragments and fractured crystals.

**Spot it!** The Pebbles, Cathedral, Bishops Palace

## Granophyre



Light coloured type of granite with small quartz and felspar crystals, and dark speckling of chlorite throughout.

**Spot it!** High Street, Porth-y-Twr, Bishops Palace

### How were these rocks formed?



Deposited in a shallow sea



By volcanic eruption



Magma cooled slowly deep underground

## Gabbro



Dark rock, containing crystals of white feldspar and black pyroxene (well-formed elongate crystals), and a small amount of quartz. Weathered surface are often brownish and pitted.

**Spot it!** High St, Porth-y-Twr, Cathedral, Bishops Palace.

