

Birmingham Building Stones - walk 1

Leader: Julie Schroder




On good early summers evening 3rd May 2018, 17 geologists met up in Victoria Square in the centre of Birmingham at 18:00 hrs to participate in a guided tour of the building stones used in this area of the city.



WMRG & BCGS members congregate in Victoria Square

Three building stone trails in Birmingham have been compiled by Ruth Siddall on behalf of the Black Country Geological Society. Our walk will take in a number of the sites from Trail 1: 'The Town Hall to the Cathedral'. There are pdfs and a series of mobile friendly web pages for each of the trails. These can all be found by going to:

<http://bcgs.info/pub/local-geology/building-stone-trails/>

The walk commenced with a look at The Town Hall, a brick building clad in Penmon Marble from Anglesey	This is an early Carboniferous (Asbian) Limestone composed of reef deposits and fossils.	
		

The Council house is built from 3 Upper Carboniferous Sandstones (Millstone Grit Group); Coxbench, Wrexham and Darley Dale Sandstones. All three sandstones look similar, are buff coloured, medium to fine grained, variably micaceous and cross bedded, and are of fluvial origin

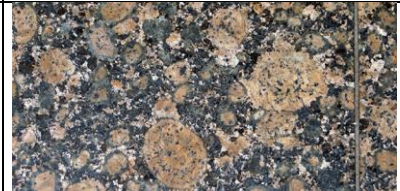


Victoria Square is landscaped with Watts Cliffe Sandstone with sculptures from Darley Dale Sandstone, both belonging to the Carb Millstone Grit Group



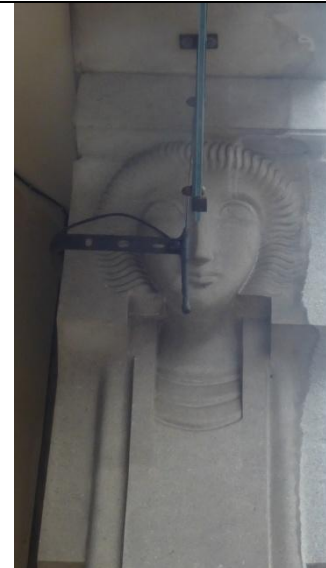
Waterloo House
Dakota Mahogany Granite,
USA. 2.7 billion year

Waterloo House
Baltic Brown Rapakivi
Granite, Finland, 1.5 billion
yrs old



New Oxford House.
Whitbed Portland Stone, U Jurassic Limestone
Birds eye Marble, L Carb Limestone (below)

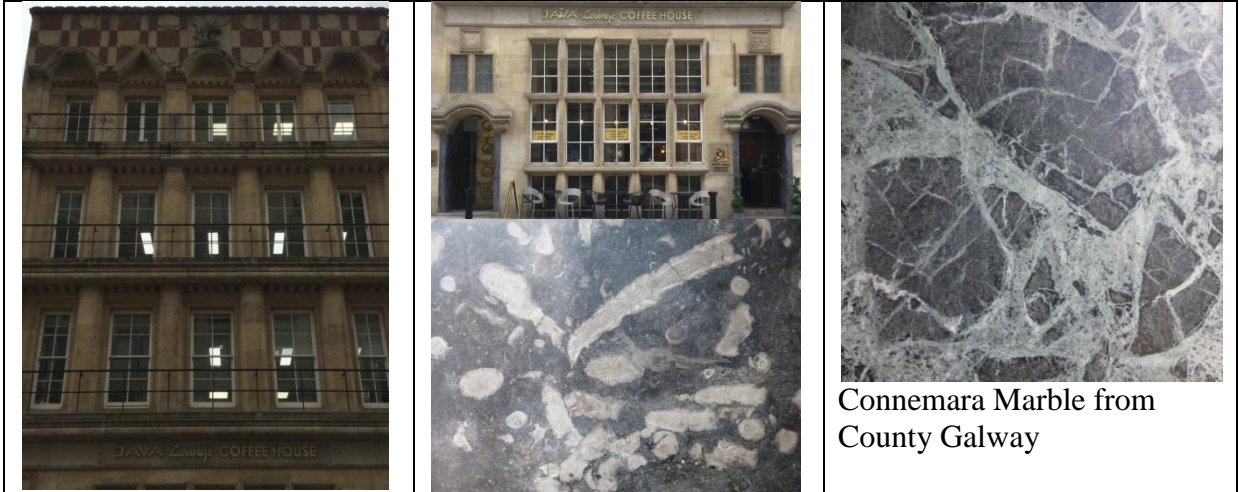
New Oxford House
Entrance






Adams Restaurant. Verde Alpi Serpentine Breccia, Alpine Orogeny



124 Colmore Row, Java Lounge Coffee Shop. Grade 1 listed building Doorways soffits of Black Frosterley Marble from Weardale. Limestone containing white corals (*Dibunophyllum bipartum*) in a black bituminous limestone matrix. Inside contains panels of Connemara Marble. These are metamorphosed limestones which also contain a high proportion of the serpentine group minerals as well as tremolite, forsterite and diopside.



Connemara Marble from County Galway

<p>Starbucks, and 125 Colmore Row. Garnet Metagranite, Brazil 630-480 Ma</p>	<p>115 Colmore Row Giallo Dorata/Golden Carioca Yellow Granite, early Cambrian</p>	<p>115 Colmore Row Bath Stone, Oolitic Limestone. Jurassic Oxfordian</p>
		

<p>98 Colmore Row, Portland Whitbed Limestone, Jurassic Tithonian Marina Pearl Larvikite, Norway, 290 ma</p>	<p>85-89 Colmore Row Coxbench or Darley Dale U Carboniferous sandstone</p>
 	

84 Colmore Row
Portland Stone, Limestone,
Jurassic Tithonian and
Dancing Cairns Granite,
grey, foliated granite, 470 ma
(Caledonian orogeny)



79-83 Colmore Row
Bath Stone, Oolitic
Limestone, Jurassic
Oxfordian



Gusto Restaurant (The Grand
Hotel), Colmore Row
Shap Granite Lake District,
397 Ma (Caledonian)



Barclays, 15 Colmore Row
Bath stone, oolitic Lst, Jurassic
Oxfordian. Sitting on Granite
from Sardinia or Spain ?



Cathedral Church of Saint Philip
Darley Dale Sandstone, U Carb Millstone Grit
White Mansfield Stone, calcarenite/oolitic Limestone, Permian
Magnesium Lst, Zechstein
White Hollington Stone , Sandstone, Triassic
Dunhouse Stone, Sandstone, Carb, Millstone Grit Gp



Burnaby Obelisk
Portland Stone, Jurassic
Tithonian Limestone.
Birds eye marbles, L
Carboniferous Limestone,
Anglesey



Crimean War Memorial
Peterhead Granite, Red
Granite, 406 Ma (Caledonian
Orogeny)



John Heap & William
Badger Memorial.
Penmon Marble, Anglesey,
L Carboniferous Asbian.



Compiled by: Ray Pratt