

## The Sedgwick Museum of Earth Sciences

The Sedgwick Museum collections are a 4.5 billion-year journey through time with the meteoritic building blocks of planets, to the thousands of fossils of animals and plants that illustrate the evolution of life in the oceans, on land and in the air.

A major teaching and research resource in the Department of Earth Sciences, the Sedgwick Museum collections are a national treasure.

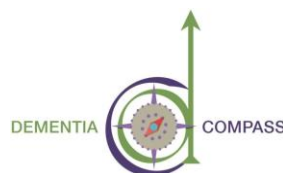
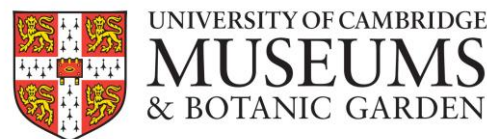
## Dementia Compass

This guide has been created through the *Portals to the World* programme, a partnership between the University of Cambridge Museums and Dementia Compass.

Dementia Compass is a social venture with over a decade of experience supporting individuals with Alzheimer's or other dementias and their families.

Dementia Compass builds and provides resources that reduce the impacts of dementia and to help people stay connected with who and what matters.

For more information visit the  
**Dementia Compass**  
[www.dementiacompass.com](http://www.dementiacompass.com)  
Phone 07876 350 638  
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### Why a museum walk?

Visiting a museum is a great opportunity to meet friends and have some gentle exercise as you explore the exhibits.



### How long will it take?

With time to stop and look, the walk should take you approximately 40 minutes.



### How far is it?

It's approximately 300 steps.



### What access support is there?

This walk is located on the ground floor below the museum and in the neighbouring courtyard area.



### How can you visit the Museum?

The Museum is on the first floor. Should you wish to visit, staff will direct you to the entrance, and a lift is available.

Assistance dogs are welcome.

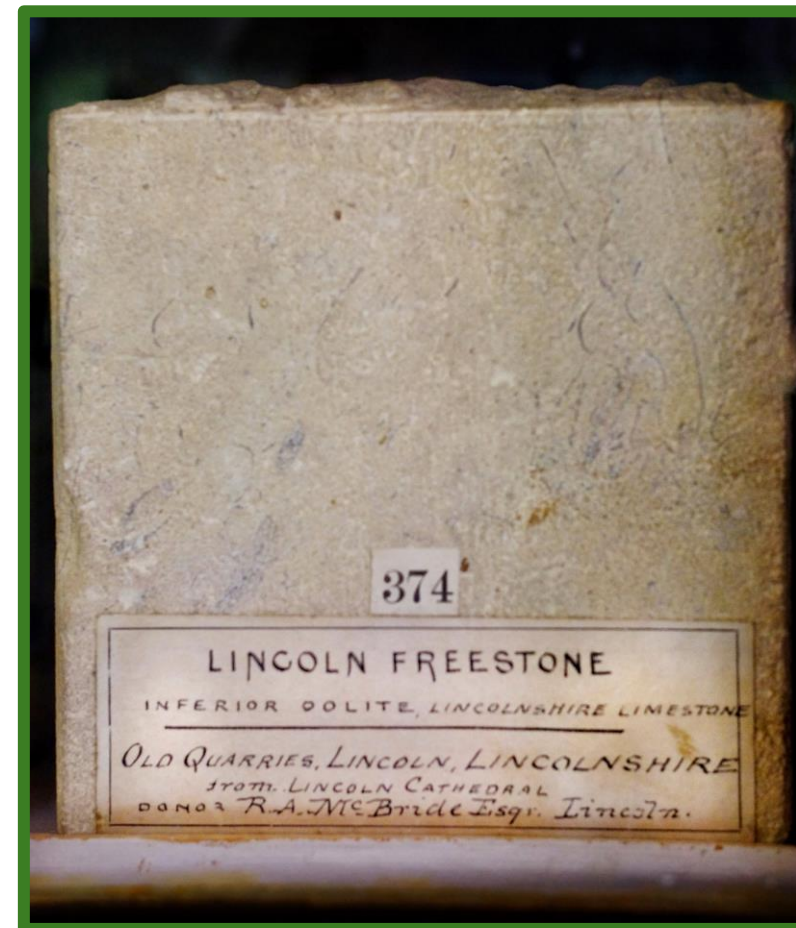
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## Museum Walk

## The Stones that Built Cambridge



Building material from the Watson Collection, Sedgwick Museum

## How geology shapes the places we live.

Over a thousand years ago, the earliest inhabitants of Cambridge and much of East Anglia had to use what was available locally – wood and clay to build their houses.

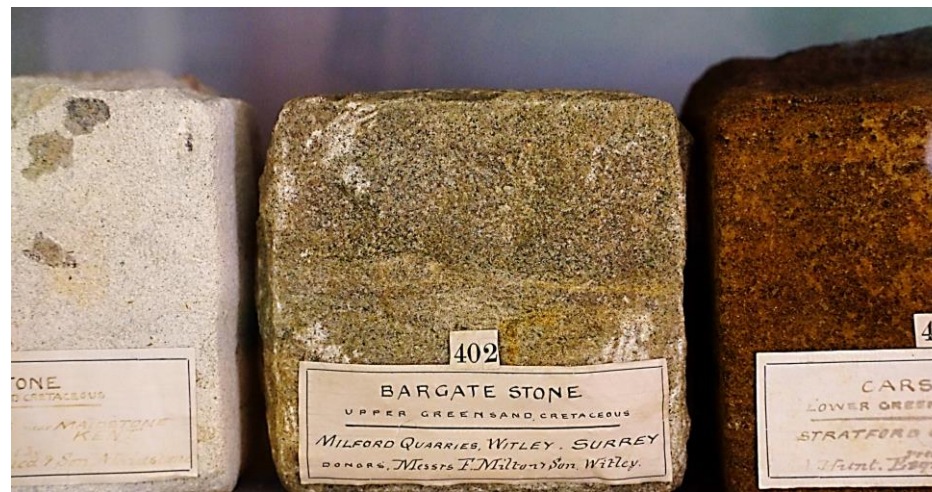
Roman brick making technology and the ability to import stone by road and river eventually allowed construction of longer lasting buildings on a larger scale.



## John Watson Building Stones Collection, Sedgwick Museum 1

Over 100 years ago, John Watson who was working in the cement manufacturing industry, began collecting building stones. He labelled and catalogued over 1100 rock samples from quarries around the world and donated them to the Sedgwick Museum in 1911.

From local Lincolnshire to the island of Bermuda, the samples are arranged by composition from igneous rocks, such as granite, to metamorphics, such as slate, and sedimentary rocks, such as limestone and sandstone.



## Stone bears Sedgwick Museum entrance 2



When King Edward VII opened the Sedgwick Museum in 1904, he was 'greeted' by the life-size bears made of Clipsham limestone that 'guard' the entrance stairway.

Clipsham is one of the hardest Jurassic limestones in the country and has been widely used for restoration on historic buildings, such as the Houses of Parliament and Canterbury Cathedral.



## Cobbles and paving stones Museum courtyard areas

Streets and pavements that come under constant wear need to be surfaced with hard rock materials, especially where there is wheeled traffic.

Historically, Cambridge streets were made of hard-wearing stone cobbles before the invention of asphalt 'tarmac' surfacing's.

The smoother surfaced town pavements and floors of important buildings such as churches were made of slabs of imported sandstone.



## Bricks and brickwork University buildings

The Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, like the Sedgwick Museum, is externally constructed mainly of brick. Made of locally abundant clay, bricks are significantly cheaper to make and use compared with stone which has to be quarried, dressed and transported to Cambridge.

These museum buildings are good examples of the older buildings in Cambridge, including the houses people lived in.

In the 1800 and 1900's brick-making companies were established in the industrial area of north Cambridge, where they could provide a ready and local, supply of building materials.