











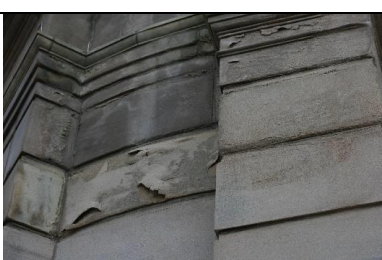


















The Building Stones Walk starts and ends at the Buckinghamshire County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury. Route is composed of 32 identified stops with a brief description and photo shown below. The route will examine the local Aylesbury stones, stones sourced from further afield in Buckinghamshire, other parts of the UK and abroad. The route will also look at the topography created by the resistant Portland limestone and the easily weathered underlying Kimmeridge Clay. The route is calculated to be under 1 mile (1.6km), mostly paved although streets with setts can be very uneven with potential tripping hazards. Allow 1 to 2 hours depending on number of stops.

A	Church Street, Museum.	Kimmeridge Clay bricks (Red and Silty from uppermost unit: Hartwell Silt, dug for brick making in Hartwell and Cambridge Street). Note how some bricks have been over baked/burnt and are a darker colour, the stripes of red are where they were stacked next to other bricks in the kiln.	
B	St. Mary's Church, Graveyard. Aylesbury.	Oldest gravestones are made from local sandy brown "Marlstone", with belemnites, from Oxon-Northants.  The arrival of the Aylesbury branch canal in 1815 encouraged these to be replaced by Yorkstone from N England.	
C	St. Mary's Church, South and East side. Aylesbury.	Church fabric. Badly weathered local Portland Limestone fill, Corners of Jurassic Limestone. Base possibly Headington Hard? East facing window of brown-weathering Taynton Limestone from Oxfordshire.	
D	St. Mary's Church, North side. Aylesbury.	Also examples of "Roach" from Portland Lst, with Trigonina and Portland Screw (Aptyxiella portlandica) fossils. Rare blocks of Arkose sandstone and Dark brown Lower Greensand.	
E	St. Mary's Square, Aylesbury.	"Sarsen stone" also known as Denner Stone can be found in small clusters throughout the Chilterns. These rocks are referred to as silcretes, they have a silica (quartz) cement and are very hard and resistant to erosion. Flying buttress of sarsen stones retaining wall of bricks (original replaced).	
F	St. Mary's Square, Aylesbury	Sarsen curb stones. A large number were historically quarried and brought to Aylesbury as curb stones and setts.	






G	Pebble Lane,	Red Kimmeridge Clay (Hartwell Silt) Bricks in old School & Museum building. NB low height of grooves made by school children sharpening their writing tips for slate boards. Slate pencils were made of slate or 'soapstone'.	
H	Pebble Lane,	Note Medieval-style central gutter in sarsen stone setts. Still in use today as seen from drain grating. Also of interest is the surviving church pump in Pebble Lane which dates to 1840, this is the only surviving example of the public pumps which supplied drinking water to the historic core of Aylesbury.	
I	Kingsbury Square water clock	Black Carboniferous Limestone with crinoids and corals, probably from Kilkenny, Eire. The 'time piece' design concept and the design for the square itself was created by Design services of Aylesbury Vale District Council in 2004 with a grant from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.	
J	Market Square-John Hampden statue	Portland Limestone from Dorset, distinctive light grey limestone with fossil fragments. Base of the statue structure is made from a Dalbeattie granite. The statue was erected in June 1912 to honour John Hampden's (c.1595 – 1643) fight against tyranny and unjust 'laws'. "For England, Parliament and the people!"	
K	Market Square-Lloyds Bank	Portland Limestone from Dorset, base. Bath (?) stone upper elevation with coarse limestone and in places concrete repair! Note also ornamental honey comb finish on some of the facing stones this is known as 'Vermiculation'. This provides an architectural contrast to the plain 'Ashlar' finished blocks	
K	Market Square - Niche & Bon Marche	Black Larvikite (Norway). In 1936 Burtons the Tailors decided this rock should front all of its shops as a national corporate Identity.  Note: compare this with the modern Larvikite variety being used to face Minute Baguettes (stop M).	
L	Market Square-Disraeli statue & HSBC Bank	Pennant Sandstone base (Wales). HSBC Bank – Similar sandstone with sedimentary features and diagenetic staining. Stone has started flaking badly about 2-3m above the group. Possibly the result of water not being directed away from the face adequately and gypsum build up and expansion.	



M	Market Square- Minute Baguettes	Larvikite ( Norway) much lighter than the 1936 variety used at Burtons. Rock extracted from the pluton is paler as excavation goes deeper. (Conversely, shallow-dug Victorian Larvikite is black).	
N > O	Market Square- Britannia	Front facing – Granite or ?Granodiorite (more Plagioclase feldspar) Very pale in colour. Entrance– SW English Granite, a series of Permian age intrusion e.g. Dartmoor, Bodmin Moor etc.	
N > O	Market Square-Hale Leys Entrance	Pillars, Coarse Jurassic limestone with Pink granite bases.	
N > O	Market Square- NatWest Bank	Dolerite base, upper elevation– Portland Limestone from Dorset.	
O	Market Square.- Clock Tower and Paving.	The Clock Tower completed in 1877 was designed, in the Gothic style, by the local architect D Brandon. Noggin of 'local' Middle Jurassic White Limestone (showing blue heart features) typical of North Buckinghamshire. Corners –more massive Jurassic limestones (Oxon). Plinth – Yorkstone, sandstone flags.	
O / P	Market Square- Halifax Building Society.	Nice contrast of polished and rough faces.  Dark coloured: Finnish Red Balmoral granite, from Vehmaa, Finland.  Light coloured: Peterhead Granite, Aberdeenshire, Scotland.	
P	Civic Centre Demolition	The Maxwell Swimming Pool was excavated from Kimmeridge Clay Formation; Hartwell Silt to Swindon Clay Members	

P	Market Square, Corn Exchange	Local red bricks, slightly silty with occasional clasts. Probably made from Hartwell Silts (Lockes Pit, Hartwell or Webster & Cannons Pit, Cambridge Street. Designed by D Bandom in 1865, the Corn Exchange never realised the profits its builders intended due to steep decline in the value of grain.	
Q	Market Square, County Court	Originally built as the County Hall it now houses the Crown Court. Designed by local architect Thomas Harris. This building was completed in 1740. A red brick building of seven bays and two stories Mixed Portland and Taynton limestones. Badly patched!	
Q	Market Square, south end, Water trough,	Light greenish grey granite. Similar water troughs can be found in London, these were made from Cornish granites when railway access opened up the Bodmin Moor Quarries in Cornwall.	
R	Market Square, south end, Lion Plinth	The recumbent lions in front of the Courts were given by Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild of Waddesdon Manor in 1888.  Coarse cross-bedded Jurassic Limestone. Weathering brings out these features well.	
S	Market Square, Friars Square Entrance.	Tuff, (Probably Lake district e.g Honister Slate).  Volcanic in origin, fine dust settles in water sinking to the bottom as a series of layers which become compressed and deformed.	
T	Market Square, War Memorial	Portland Limestone from Portland. Very distinctive white-grey limestone. Used uniformly all over the world for CWGC memorials until 1998.  Setts in Market Square are mainly sarsen but also include red Nepheline Syenite.	
U	Panasonic, Temple Street.	Coarse Marble, calcite crystals can be easily seen. Marble is metamorphic rock, originally this would have been a limestone but has been subjected to heat and pressure and the original form has been altered. This is probably Carrara Marble from Italy.	



V	Kings Head Passage, off Temple Street.(Follow signs to Information Centre)	A large variety of different stone types can be found in the courtyard. This include Sarsen setts, Coach-mounting steps made from Yorkstone. Also puddingstone (variety of Tertiary sarsen), volcanic agglomerate and Bunter pebbles set into ground.	
W	George Street, Opposite Queens Head (south side).	Black slate / mudstone? Setts – similar to top of High Street at entrance to pedestrian area.  Kerbs of massive sandstone, probably from northern England. Also note the man-made composite setts.	
X	Rickford's Hill	Walk to break in slope to see topography caused by Portland Limestone capping Aylesbury Hill, looking down to Friarage Road.  (Refer to the cross section on page 1 ).	
Y	Church Street, pavement near Museum.	Yorkstone with ripples. (below Thomas Hickman's house). Yorkstone is a sandstone formed during the Carboniferous. The sand layers are separated by thin spreads of the silvery mica flakes. York Stone cuts down layer by layer so that the non-slip sand surface is exposed and maintained with wear.	
Z	Bucks County Museum, Church Street, Aylesbury.	End of walk – Café and museum.  Be sure to visit the building stone/brick exhibits here and also local fossils display.	
<b>Important transportation dates</b>			
1815 - January	Grand Union canal Aylesbury Branch was completed in January 1815. It became cost effective to bring better quality building stone from further-a-field e.g. Yorkstone.		
1839	The Aylesbury Railway opened. Connecting Aylesbury to Cheddington into the LNWR (London and North Western). With connections onto London and Birmingham.		
1863	Aylesbury station opens 1863 by the Wycombe Railway (later GWR).		
1868	Connection by the Aylesbury & Buckingham Railway(later Metropolitan Railway).		
1899	The Great Central Railway (GCR) connected to Aylesbury in 1899 from Annesley Junction just north of Nottingham on their 'London Extension' line to Marylebone.		