

## Geological Excursion Tour of Central Inverness Building Stones

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**Blue text:** = Sinclair Ross original survey rock description 02 July 1996.

**Bold text:** = Building/retail unit name & lithology type.

**Green text:** = rock age (stratigraphic and how old. Only entered once for each rock type as mentioned).

Ma = million years (1,000,000)  $10^5$  years.

Ga = billion years (1,000,000,000)  $10^8$  years.

<b>Library</b> Constructed 1841	Much cladding with cut slabs of poor quality <b>Hopeman sandstone</b> Late Permian - Early Triassic 250 Ma. Some stones laid Vertically. Rock stained with Fe oxide from ground water. Dado constructed of profiled blocks. <b>Note:</b> benchmark plus implement/weapon? sharpening grooves worn into some stones.
<b>Old Wall</b>	<b>M.O.R.S. Tarradale sandstone.</b> Middle Old Red Sandstone – Devonian (393-384 Ma). Very old wall. Poor quality red (rubble) <b>sandstone</b> blocks. False teeth (human?) in mortar.

**Cross entrance road to the coach station and proceed along Strothers Lane.**

<b>Whims</b>	<del>Pebble Old Red. Artificial skinning.</del> Premises & stonework not evident.
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**Turn right into Academy St. & Chapel St. (if required).**

<b>Your Move</b> (No. 58-60) (Corner of Strothers Lane & Academy St.) (Formerly <b>Stuart Wise</b> ).	On right corner. <b>M.O.R.S. Red sandstone.</b> Some horizontal slabs some vertical, half pieces. Good, often laminated bedding. Cross-bedding. Vertical slabs more weathered than horizontal slabs. Stonework closer to Academy St., skinned with painted concrete.
<b>Red Pepper Inverness Café &amp; La-Di-La fashion shop with apartments above.</b> No. 92 & 94 Academy St. Constructed in 2017 after fire damage in 2015.	Extensive use of fresh appearance of red <b>Arkosic Sandstone</b> cladding. Coarse grained and gritty. Probably Permian age <b>N.R.S. (New Red Sandstone)</b> . (260 Ma). From Locharbriggs, Dumfries & Galloway.

**Walk back along Academy St. viewing buildings on other side of the road.**

	Buildings predominantly yellow Hopeman Sst., & pink to red Tarradale Sst.
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**Cross to the other side of Academy St at closest pedestrian crossing to examine stonework at the Nickel & Dime Shop.**

<b>Nickel &amp; Dime</b> (Black Isle Hostel above) No. 47-49 Academy St.	<b>Aberdeen Rubislaw granodiorite.</b> Thick slabs at dado and at pavement level. <b>Mid Silurian to Mid Ordovician. (430-470 Ma).</b>
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**Use the same pedestrian crossing to cross back over Academy St. & Cross over Strothers Lane to Academy St.**

<b>M and Co</b> (No. 42) (Formerly <b>William Hill</b> )	<b>On opposite corner. Leucogranite</b> step on corner. <b>Rounded desert grains under glass</b> (magnifying lens). <b>Texture and colour may indicate Clynelish-Brora sandstone</b> (by salt pans?): <b>Late lower Jurassic (168.3 Ma).</b>
<b>Inverness Royal Academy</b> (Original building) (Formerly <b>dentists</b> )	Clearly defined <b>mini faulting</b> . Normal & reverse faults. <b>Desert</b> (aeolian?) <b>Hopeman sandstone. MORS conglomerate doorstep. Tarradale sandstone?</b>
<b>Platform 8</b> (No. 38-40)	<b>Sediment or sheared gritty Sst?</b> Opposite corner. Cleaned <b>Hopeman sandstone</b> perhaps <b>upper ORS?</b> ( <b>Sandstone</b> slabs look new plus more recent mortar). <b>Ornate carving. Vertical cladding. Rubble interior</b> (no longer visible).
<b>Brook Taverner</b> (No. 34) (Formerly <b>Royal Bar</b> )	<b>On corner: Hopeman Sst, the original cover of the building.</b> Minor herring-bone cross bedding. <b>Tarradale MORS Sandstone? Sandstone</b> locally bioturbated and heavily weathered. <b>Bioturbation probably Brora sandstone, Fascally member?</b>
<b>Rohan</b> (No. 30) On corner with Academy St & Station Square	<b>Hopeman Sst or perhaps Upper Old Red? Ornate carving. Vertical cladding. Rubble interior.</b> Generally, same building stones as Brook Taverner. Locally heavily bioturbated with relief enhanced by weathering. <b>Note:</b> Brook Taverner and Rohan original RBS building.

**Turn left into Station Square**

<b>Highland Rail House</b> (No. 34)	<b>Pillars of self-drive office.</b> Same building stones as Brook Taverner & Rohan. Pillars of <b>Hopeman sandstone</b> flanking entrance. <b>Caithness flagstones</b> entrance steps. <b>Mid-Devonian (393-384Ma).</b>
<b>Station entrance</b>	Façade cladding of polished <b>Westmorland slate</b> (metamorphosed ( <b>epidotised</b> ) <b>andesitic tuff</b> ). Locally with brownish weathered clasts, graded bedding, slump and fill structures. Honister quarry? <b>This rock was deposited as volcanic ash in the late Ordovician (458-448 Ma) and subsequently weakly metamorphosed to its present form (400 Ma).</b>
<b>Station Concourse</b>	<b>Station booking office:</b> Cladding off-white to pale beige Italian <b>Perlato Sicilia</b> brecciated <b>limestone.</b> <b>Miocene (23 Ma.) youngest known rock used in Inverness.</b> <b>Costa Coffee:</b> Ground level façade of blue pearl larvikite.

<b>Royal Highland Hotel</b> (1856) (No.18) (Formerly <b>Station Hotel</b> )	<b>ORS Pillars, skinned below and elsewhere. Window centres. Good truncated bedding on corner under sign (out).</b> <b>ORS</b> locally very pebbly; some large clasts. Interior: toilets (particularly gents) extensive use of brecciated dark brown, rarely light medium grey clasts of <b>Marron Emperador dolomite</b> ). Chaotically veined by white, occasionally very transparent 'glass-like' calcite. A weakly metamorphosed metasomatic rock. The very fine-grained light medium-grey 'blotches' are unaltered <b>dolomite</b> . Shelf above radiator by entrance to the gent's toilet: Dark medium-grey <b>Rubislaw granodiorite</b> with black xenoliths. Non-magnetic.
<b>Monument to the 79<sup>th</sup> Queen's Own Cameron Highlanders</b> Erected 1893 (Egypt & Sudan Campaigns – 1882 & 1887)	Very pale greyish-white <b>Portland Stone</b> statue of Highland soldier with sphinx and plinth. <b>Late Jurassic (Tithonian Stage 152-145 million years) oolitic limestone.</b> Locally fossiliferous with shell debris (bioclastic) and some worm burrows. Perhaps <b>Portland base bed?</b> Portland, Dorset, England. Cleaned in 2014. Light grey <b>Aberdeen (Kemnay) granite</b> stepped base and balusters (supporting protective chain balustrade). <b>Mid-Silurian to Mid-Silurian (470-430 Ma).</b>

### Exit Station Square and turn left into Academy Street

<b>Ash Restaurant (Royal Station Hotel)</b> (No.18)	<b>ORS Sandstone.</b> Locally cross-bedded & very gritty. Station Square side entrance interior faced Indian <b>teak wood sandstone</b> from Rajasthan. <b>Age unknown.</b>
<b>Filling Station</b> (No. 8-10) (Formerly <b>Martin &amp; Frost</b> )	<b>Cheap Hopeman sandstone.</b> Bioturbated. Worm burrows? Shows differential weathering. <b>Unpolished Aberdeen granite step</b> and <b>Red Tarradale MROS Sst.</b> Some <b>Tarradale</b> skinned with decorative tool marks. <b>ORS Chimney breast. Sandstone</b> seems too orange-yellow to be <b>Hopeman?</b> <b>Clynelish-Brora</b> perhaps?

### Look across to opposite side of Academy Street

<b>Opposite bus shelter.</b> In Academy Street (just before Inglis St.) & between Bar One (No.1) & Blacks (No. 3-9).	<b>Good bedding. N.B. pillars.</b> Red porphyritic coarse-grained <b>Kinsteary (Nairn) granite</b> portal with pilasters on same <b>granite</b> pedestals with ornate carved (yellow <b>Hopeman sandstone?</b> ) capitals above (same as Queensgate). Late 19 <sup>th</sup> century.
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### Turn left into Falcon Square

<b>Mercat Cross</b>	<b>Clashach sandstone Hopeman Formation.</b> Clashach quarry.
<b>Arched Wall</b>	<b>Hopeman sandstone &amp; Tarradale ORS sandstone.</b>
<b>Laura Ashley (Unit A)</b> <b>Pizza Express (Unit B)</b>	<b>Hopeman sandstone &amp; Tarradale ORS sandstone.</b> Both LA & PE building same stone used as arched wall remnant. Building relocated late 1990's.

### Cross pedestrian crossing to Inglis Street

<p><b>Timpsons</b> (No. 52-54 Baron Taylor St. – next to Yorks Build Soc)</p>	<p>Very dark <b>larvikite monzonite</b> (emerald pearl or bergen?) façade. Curved dado on corners at pavement level. (Late Victorian/Early Edwardian?). Same style as Inverness Pram Centre (33-35 Union St.) &amp; Highland Souvenirs (15 Union St.). Weakly magnetic. <b>Early Permian (298-293 Ma)</b>.</p>
<p><b>Yorkshire B.S</b> (No. 25) Corner of Inglis St. &amp; Baron Taylor St.</p>	<p>Façade cladding of labrodorescent <b>blue pearl larvikite</b> (variety of <b>monzonite</b> from near Oslo). Moderately magnetic. Plus dark grey <b>pyroxenite</b>. <b>Rustenburg gabbro</b> (coarse grained equivalent of basalt) dado and at pavement level. Thick slabs. <b>This rock is from the Bushveld Complex in South Africa and dated at 2.05 Ga. (2,050 million years)</b>. Weakly magnetic. Oldest stone used in Inverness and seen elsewhere in the city. Imported c.1880's. Staff entrance <b>Pitmedden biotite granite</b>. Non-magnetic. Customer entrance step grey <b>porphyritic granite</b>. Probably Cornish. <b>Carmenellis or Bodmin</b> (Similar to Comfort Foods 22 Church St? &amp; Caledonian Sleeper 1 Union St).</p>
<p><del><b>Loods Building Society</b></del> Incorporated into the Yorkshire Building Soc?</p>	<p><del><b>Larvikite. White porp. granite. Torrazze.</b></del> Not evident (incorporated into Yorks Building Soc).</p>
<p><b>Empty retail unit</b> (No. 21-23) (Formerly <b>H. Samuels</b> &amp; then Country Casuals)</p>	<p><del><b>Balmoral Red &amp; Plastic.</b></del> Not evident. Entire non-glass façade painted.</p>
<p><b>Empty retail unit</b> (Formerly Regatta) (No. 17)</p>	<p><b>White porphyritic granite</b> façade cladding at pavement level. Possibly Cornwall/Devon? Labrodescent blue pearl <b>larvikite monzonite</b> façade cladding. Moderately magnetic.</p>
<p><b>Highland Souvenirs</b> (No. 15) (Formerly <b>Nu Tek</b>) <b>Closed</b></p>	<p>Façade cladding of <b>laerdalite</b> very dark <b>Larvikite monzonite</b> (emerald pearl or bergen?). Porphyritic with &lt;5% phenocrysts of labrodorescent perthite feldspar. Weakly magnetic (less magnetic than adjacent premises blue pearl variety). Entrance Dado curved (late Victorian/early Edwardian). Same construction as Souls Seeker Yoga (33-35 Union St.) &amp; Timpsons (52-54 Baron Taylor St.) <b>Note:</b> darker variety of <b>larvikite</b> than the dark <b>larvikite</b> variety emerald pearl.</p>
<p><b>Hays Travel</b> (No. 13) (Formerly, <b>Jaspers</b> &amp; then Thomas Cook)</p>	<p><del><b>Brocciated Serpentinite.</b></del> Not evident. Painted over?</p>
<p><b>Landa (Scottish Experience)</b> (No. 53-57 High St) (Corner of High St with Inglis St) (Boots plaques at base) (Formerly <b>Etam</b> &amp; then Hotter).</p>	<p><b>Pyroxenite.</b> Note ores (opaque minerals) in surface relief. <b>Rotten? granodiorite/tonalite.</b> <b>Xenoliths.</b> Façade cladding mainly medium brownish-grey <b>granite</b>. <b>Rubislaw granodiorite</b> Minor very dark grey <b>Rustenburg gabbro</b> cladding with patchily distributed black grains (probably magnetite). Weakly magnetic. <b>Note:</b> 'ores in relief' refers to rock thin section under petrological microscope. <b>Hopeman sandstone.</b></p>
<p><b>TSB</b> (No. 2-4) (Formerly <b>Wimpey</b>)</p>	<p><b>Hopeman sandstone.</b> Reddish-pink <b>Peterhead granite pillars (pilasters)</b> portals with black <b>xenoliths</b>. Rounded dark medium grey <b>Rubislaw granodiorite</b> spheres in reddish-pink <b>Peterhead granite</b>. Decorative <b>Hopeman sandstone</b> ornate stonework above granite with 'sparkling authigenic quartz overgrowths.</p>

### Turn left into Eastgate

<b>Marks &amp; Spencer</b>	May be Brazilian? Near Balmoral Red (Finland) + Xenoliths. Brownish-red <b>granite</b> façade cladding with some xenoliths. <b>Swedish red granite</b> according to Stone Source Inverness.
<b>Leslie Hairdressers</b> (No. 8)	Façade cladding of blue pearl <b>Larvikite monzonite</b> . Moderately magnetic.
<b>Market Brae</b>	Worn grey <b>Rubislaw granodiorite</b> steps. Very weakly magnetic (from core sample).

### Return along Eastgate and continue down High Street

<b>Optical Express</b> (No. 58)	<b>Hopeman Sst.</b>
<b>Old RBS</b> (opp. Inglis St) (No. 60)	<b>Calcareous ss. (hardness)</b> Light yellowish calcareous sandstone. <b>Hopeman sandstone?</b>
<b>Keep Sakes</b> (No. 47). Corner of Mealmarket Close.	Modern panels of light grey <b>porphyritic Kemnay granite</b> with pink orthoclase feldspar. More recently worked stone from Kemnay quarry.
<b>Entertainment CEX Exchange.</b> (No. 51-57) (Formerly <b>Etam</b> )	Very dark grey <del>Pyroxenite with rotten granodiorite as before. Colour index.</del> <b>Rustenburg gabbro</b> . Moderately magnetic.
<b>Alba Travel</b> (Unit 1, 41 High St) <b>Closed</b>	Light brownish-cream, cross-bedded commonly <b>micro-micaceous sandstone</b> . <b>Brora?</b>
<b>Mountain Warehouse</b> (Unit 2, 41 High St)	Light brownish-cream, cross-bedded locally iron-stained cross-bedded commonly <b>micro-micaceous sandstone</b> . <b>Brora?</b> with adjacent yellow <b>Hopeman sandstone</b> . Some slabs laid vertical.
<b>HSBC</b> (No. 50-52)	Red <b>sandstone</b> . Good cross-bedding. <b>Tarradale Stone?</b>
<b>Slaters Menswear</b> (No. 35-39) (Formerly Dorothy Perkins-Burtons)	Façade cladding of <b>laerdalite</b> very dark <b>larvikite monzonite</b> (emerald pearl or bergen?). Porphyritic with <5% phenocrysts of labrodescent perthite feldspar. <b>Doorway excellent labradorescence. Laerdalite (larvikite monzonite) on corner.</b> Variety of <b>larvikite</b> darker than emerald pearl. Weakly magnetic. Note: apparently this stone was widely used for Burtons stores.
<b>WH Smith</b> (No. 25-33) (Formerly <b>John Menzies</b> )	<del>Sawn slabs Portland Stone? Mg lime Epsom salts</del> (removed) and good façade cladding of <b>brecciated</b> cream-beige <b>marble limestone facings</b> . <a href="#">Hardness test here.</a>
<b>Yee's Hung Ga Kung Fu Academy</b> (No. 34)	Façade cladding of blue pearl <b>larvikite monzonite</b> . Weakly magnetic.
<b>Phone Clinic</b> (No. 32)	Façade cladding of blue pearl <b>larvikite monzonite</b> . Weakly magnetic.
<b>The Works</b> (No. 24)	Façade cladding of riven <b>Westmorland slate</b> (Honister Quarry)? Metamorphosed ( <b>epidotised</b> ) <b>andesitic tuff</b> . Very similar to station entrance façade.
<b>City Rooms Hostel</b> (No. 23a) (Formerly Royal Tartan Warehouse)	Ornate Victorian building above shops – 8x pilasters of reddish-pink <b>Peterhead granite</b> . 2x upper pilasters. 6x lower pilasters each in two sections with upper and lower sections joined by astragals ('discs') of <b>Rubislaw granodiorite</b> . Yellow <b>Hopeman sandstone</b> façade cladding.

<b>Castle Cones</b> (No. 21) (Formerly <b>Crawfords</b> & then <b>Buonissimo</b> )	Façade cladding of reddish-pink <b>Red Peterhead granite</b> . Carved <b>granite</b> portal with pilaster facing and arch extending over adjacent arched entrance to Lombard St. Lombard St. side of archway – single <b>Red Peterhead granite</b> portal pilaster.
<b>Poundland</b> (No. 13-15) (Formerly <b>Woolworths</b> )	Pavement level façade cladding of dark grey <b>Rustenburg gabbro?</b> <b>Black Norwegian granite of trade</b> . <b>Ghosting</b> . Non-magnetic. Above shop: facing tiles of green <b>Westmorland slate</b> . (Honister quarry?). <b>Note:</b> side façade (previously entrance) of shop in Lombard Street: Cladding of very dark <b>larvikite monzonite</b> (emerald pearl or bergen?). Porphyritic with <5% phenocrysts of labrodescent perthite feldspar. Moderately magnetic. Above street level – same green <b>Westmorland slate</b> facing tiles.
<b>Caledonian Bar</b> (No. 9) (Formerly <b>Bank of Scotland</b> )	Dado panels of <b>non-porphyritic light grey biotite granite with zoned feldspars</b> . <b>Ghosting on ledge</b> . Probably <b>Kemnay granite?</b> <b>Ghosting</b> & granitized xenoliths; locally weakly defined foliation. Plus, dark grey <b>Rustenburg gabbro</b> with aligned black linear xenoliths. Similar lithology to Hootananny). Non-magnetic. Look above. Excellent <b>Hopeman sandstone</b> columns & ornate carving. Painted stonework probably <b>Hopeman sandstone</b> . Painted due to poor state of stonework.
<b>Town House</b> (Castle Wynd) 1878	<b>Unpolished Aberdeen granite pillars</b> and steps. Steps show aligned minerals – <b>Rubislaw granodiorite</b> . Extensive use of <b>Hopeman Sst</b> . Occasional cross-bedding. Cleaned and repaired 2017-2020. 85% of stonework replaced. Interior: ground floor entrance hall: flanking coarse-grained porphyritic red <b>Kinsteary (Nairn) granite</b> squared pedestals supporting white marble busts. <b>Granite</b> same variety as <b>granite</b> columns in Queensgate. Presented 1887. First floor landing: flanking <b>red Kinsteary (Nairn) granite</b> columnar pedestals supporting white marble busts. Presented 1887. Main hall. 3 stone pedestals supporting busts: 1) reddish-pink <b>Red Peterhead granite</b> with marble bust. Presented 1883. 2) Beige <b>scaglione</b> (brecciated synthetic marble) with white marble bust, 27 Aug 1887. 3) Very dark grey speckled <b>dolerite?</b> <b>Nero Zimbabwe?</b> Weakly magnetic. Bronze bust. 1933.
<b>Mercat (Market) Cross</b> (Restored 1900)	<b>Quartz porphyry</b> (incorrect lithology). <b>Granite xenolith</b> . Weathered <b>Aberdeen (Rubislaw?) granodiorite</b> stepped base supporting two-rock component pedestal with lower light grey <b>Kemnay granite</b> with black xenoliths and milky-white vein quartz inclusion and upper honed (non-polished) reddish-pink <b>Corrennie granite</b> supporting column of weathered <b>Hopeman sandstone</b> topped with pale grey grotesque gargoyle-like <b>Marble</b> carving. Also historic <b>Hopeman sandstone</b> Clach na cuddin historic washing stone on <b>granite</b> in front of pedestal. <b>Caithness flagstones</b> between Mercat Cross and Town House entrance. Yellow <b>Hopeman Sandstone</b> wolf sculptures either side of entrance steps.
<b>Clock tower (Toolbooth Steeple).</b>	<b>Clashach (Hopeman) sandstone</b> , <b>mason's marks and pitting</b> , small scale faulting. Bioturbated (arthropods?). Some pockmarking. Benchmark 1791. Patrick Sellar.

### Turn left into Church Street

<b>Pedestrian precinct.</b> The Three Virtues (Faith, Hope & Charity)	Architectural features (3x) of stacked inclined light medium grey ' <b>Caithness flagstones</b> ' (lithified laminated <b>siltstone</b> and <b>mudstone</b> ) with well-developed syneresis cracks/gypsum pseudomorphs.
<b>Top Cut</b> (No. 4)	Façade cladding of very dark <b>larvikite monzonite</b> (emerald pearl or bergen?). Porphyritic with <5% phenocrysts of labrodescent perthite feldspar. Variety of <b>larvikite monzonite</b> darker than emerald pearl? Moderately magnetic.

<b>Lauders</b> (No. 16) (Formerly <b>Criterion Bar</b> )	<b>Mid Old Red. Black Isle? Tarradale sandstone?</b>
<b>Revolution</b> (No. 11-19)	Façade cladding of very dark grey <b>Pyroxenite</b> . Moderately magnetic. Minor medium grey <b>Rustenburg gabbro</b> . Yellow <b>sandstone</b> . locally bioturbated. <b>Hopeman?</b> <b>Note:</b> Generally, in Inverness, the <b>Rustenburg gabbros</b> are medium to coarse-grained whereas the <b>pyroxenite/pyroxene gabbros</b> are finer grained. i.e., the darker the rock, the finer the grain size and more magnetic.
<b>York House</b> (offices) (No. 20)	Grey <b>Aberdeen granite</b> . Red <b>Tarradale Sst.</b> Worn & weathered <b>Caithness flagstone</b> entrance steps.
<b>Comfort Foods</b> (No. 22)	Distinctive <b>porphyritic granite</b> façade cladding with white feldspar phenocrysts. <b>Cornish granite</b> from either Bodmin or Carnmenellis.
<b>Coffee Affair</b> (No. 24) (Corner of Church St with Union St) (Formerly <b>Trustee Savings</b> )	Façade cladding of fine grained medium bluish-grey <b>granite</b> . <b>Xenoliths and ghosting</b> . Possibly Scottish <b>Dalbeattie granite</b> (Dumfries & Galloway)? ( <b>Early Devonian (397 +/- 2.0 Ma)</b> ). <b>Painted sandstone</b>

### Turn Right Into Union Street

<b>The White House</b> 50 Union St. / 26 Church St. (opposite Coffee Affair) (Formerly <b>Bank of Scotland</b> ). 1863.	Dado panels, sills and cornices of <b>large slabs</b> pinkish-red <b>Peterhead granite</b> with some <b>xenoliths</b> . Cornices adjacent to windows have corner inserts of pink, ( <b>Portuguese?</b> ) coarser grained polished pink <b>granite</b> . Fitted when windows extended down. <b>Door pillars</b> portals of reddish-pink <b>Red Peterhead granite</b> on pedestals of light grey ( <b>Kemnay?</b> ) <b>granite</b> . Yellow <b>Hopeman sandstone?</b> Locally very gritty with pink feldspar.
<b>Breakout Games</b> (No. 37-39).	Façade cladding of grey biotite <b>granite</b> . Possibly Scottish <b>Dalbeattie granite</b> (Dumfries & Galloway)? (same as Coffee Affair (24 Church St.).
<b>Soul Seeker Yoga</b> (No. 33-35) (Formerly <b>Oddbins</b> , followed by the Inverness Pram Centre)	Façade cladding of <b>laerdalite</b> . Facade cladding of very dark <b>larvikite monzonite</b> (emerald pearl or bergen?). Porphyritic with <5% phenocrysts of labrodescent perthite feldspar. Curved dado at entrance pavement level with distinctive air vent. Most likely late Victorian - early Edwardian construction. Weakly magnetic. Same construction as Timpsons (52-54 Baron Taylor St.) & Highland Souvenirs (15 Union St.) F. J. Kelly on entrance threshold.
<b>Cash Generator</b> (No. 38) <b>closed</b>	<b>Brecciated</b> greenish-grey <b>serpentinite</b> with white calcareous veining facade cladding at pavement-level. Italian <b>ophicalcite (calcareous serpentinite)</b> from the Piedmont Alps.
<b>USA Professional Nails &amp; Spar Shop</b> (No. 21-23) Corner of Union St. & Drummond St. (Formerly Maggie Blyth)	Façade cladding of <b>Rustenburg gabbro</b> . Non to very weakly magnetic.
<b>Pavement</b>	Modern stone benches of light grey <b>porphyritic Kemnay granite</b> with pale pinkish-grey orthoclase feldspar. More recently worked stone from Kemnay quarry.
<b>Barclays Bank</b> (No. 19a) & <b>Cancer Aid UK</b> (1 Drummond St.). (Formerly <b>Woolwich</b> )	Dado panels and doorway portals of <b>white</b> light grey <b>Kemnay granite</b> below with <b>aligned minerals</b> . <b>Note:</b> Kemnay granite usually larger micas. Medium grey polished <b>granodiorite/tonalite Rubislaw</b> granodiorite <b>pillars with xenoliths</b> and aligned minerals on <b>granite</b> pedestals. Columns show some characteristic <b>Rubislaw granodiorite</b> foliation and ghosting. Some feldspars

& RBS). 1901-1902.	have a pinkish tinge. <b>Good sandstone - way up ORS</b> with some cross-bedding. Same construction & decorative stonework continues around corner and into adjacent building - Cancer Research UK (1 Drummond St.).
<b>Regerson Footwear</b> (Unit 4 17, 7) (Formerly <b>Arnotts</b> ) <b>Redevelopment</b>	Façade cladding of <b>laerdalite</b> of very dark <b>larvikite monzonite</b> (emerald pearl or bergen?). Porphyritic with <5% phenocrysts of labrodescent perthite feldspar <b>below</b> . Above, light grey <b>marble</b> with white calcite veining. Entrance cladding of white marble with grey veining.
<b>Slaters Menswear</b> (No. 15) (Formerly <b>Arnotts</b> ) <b>Redevelopment</b>	Façade cladding of very dark <b>larvikite monzonite</b> (emerald pearl or bergen?). Porphyritic with <5% phenocrysts of labrodescent perthite feldspar below. Above; light grey <b>marble</b> with white calcite veining.
<b>British Heart Foundation</b> (Unit 2-7-17) (Formerly <b>Arnotts</b> ) <b>Redevelopment</b>	Façade cladding of very dark <b>larvikite monzonite</b> (emerald pearl or bergen?). Porphyritic with <5% phenocrysts of labrodescent perthite feldspar below. Above; light grey <b>marble</b> with white calcite veining. Entrances lined with white marble cladding same as No.24 Church St. opposite side of road.
<b>Allsorts</b> (Previously Ferguson and Wilson) (No. 24) next to Victorian Market entrance. (Formerly <b>Clydesdale TV</b> ).	Façade cladding of blue pearl <b>larvikite monzonite</b> . Weakly magnetic. Replacement section of miss-matched silvery-grey silver pearl <b>larvikite monzonite</b> (only known example of this rock in Inverness) cladding. Moderately magnetic. Shuttered entrance. Sides lined with white <b>marble</b> same as former Arnotts entrances opposite side of road.
<b>Virgin Money</b> (No. 15 Academy St.) (Formerly Clydesdale Bank)	<b>Aeolian Hopeman sandstone</b> . <b>Cleaned and repaired</b> . Locally weathered. <b>Look up at Norwich Union opposite, ORS</b> .
<b>Caledonian Sleeper</b> (No.1 Union St) (Junction with Academy St).	Two different grey granite dados. Academy St. dado of <b>Porphyritic granite</b> . Probably Cornish. Carnmenellis or Bodmin (Similar to Comfort Foods 22 Church St?). Union St. dado finer-grained <b>granite</b> . Possibly <b>Dalbeattie granite</b> (Dumfries & Galloway)? Similar to Coffee Affair (24 Church St).

### Left into Academy Street

<b>Victorian Market</b> Academy St. entrance.	<b>Cross-bedded Old Red Sandstone</b> . <b>Good bedding</b> . <b>Some Hopeman sandstone</b> .
<b>Craig Wood</b> (No. 23) (Formerly <b>Currys</b> )	Façade <b>cladding of calcareous sandstone slabs</b> .
<b>Craigdon Mountain Sports inverness</b> (No. 25). (Formerly Highland Schoolwear).	Façade cladding of very dark grey-black <b>pyroxenite gabbro</b> . Transitional rock between gabbro and pyroxenite. Probably from Rustenburg, South Africa. Weakly magnetic.

### Left into Queensgate

<b>Primo</b> (No. 1) (Corner of Academy St & Queensgate)	Façade cladding of <b>porphyritic granite plus xenoliths</b> . Light-medium grey biotite rich with white phenocrysts and black xenoliths. Cornwall/Devon?
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Formerly <a href="#">Britannia Building Society</a>	
<b>Empty Premises</b> (No. 2-4) (Formerly <a href="#">Royal Insurance</a> , then William Hill)	Red coarse-grained <a href="#">porphyritic Kinsteary (Nairn) granite</a> columns plus <a href="#">xenoliths</a> on <b>Hopeman sandstone</b> pedestals with ornate carved (yellow <b>Hopeman sandstone</b> capitals above columns.
<b>Queensgate Apartments</b> (No. 6)	Yellow <b>Hopeman sandstone</b> .
<b>Victorian Market</b> Queensgate entrance	Inside entrance, vertical dark medium brownish-grey <b>Rubislaw granodiorite</b> pilasters flanking retail outlets on both sides.
<b>No. 17 Queensgate</b> (Formerly <a href="#">Alliance &amp; Leicester</a> )	Façade upper portal <a href="#">cladding slabs</a> yellow <b>Hopeman sandstone</b> . Light grey <b>Kemnay granite</b> portal dado, cornices. <b>Rubislaw granodiorite</b> entrance steps.
<b>PSDA</b> (No.23)	Basal cladding of black <b>Pyroxenite</b> . Moderately magnetic.
<b>Macleod &amp; MacCallum</b> (No. 25) (Formerly <a href="#">N.W. Securities</a> , then RBS)	Dada & cornice of <a href="#">non-porphyritic Kemnay granite</a> . Pavement level <a href="#">basal cladding of sheared pyroxenite/peridotite?</a> Continuation at pavement level of the same rock ( <b>Pyroxenite</b> ) as PSDA (No. 23). Moderately magnetic. <b>Contains xenoliths with phenocrysts?</b>
<b>Queensgate Apartments?</b> (No. 27?)	Façade upper portal <a href="#">cladding slabs</a> yellow <b>Hopeman sandstone</b> . Light grey <b>Kemnay granite</b> portal dado, cornices.
<b>Crawfords</b>	<del><a href="#">Brecciated serpentinite</a></del> . Not evident.
<b>Semi-Chem</b> (Unit 3. No 21-23)	Basal cladding of black <b>Pyroxenite</b> . Moderately magnetic.
<b>Scottish Building Society</b> (No. 71)	Pavement level façade cladding of dark grey <b>Caithness flagstones</b> (lithified laminated siltstone and mudstone) with well-developed syneresis cracks/gypsum pseudomorphs.
<b>Aspendos</b> (No. 26) (Formerly <a href="#">National Provincial</a> )	<a href="#">Ditto but better and ghosting</a> . <a href="#">Gneiss banding</a> . <b>EXCELLENT</b> . Red coarse-grained <b>porphyritic Kinsteary (Nairn) granite</b> columns. Pink alkali feldspar phenocrysts with red reaction rims. Magma mixing flow banding of phenocrysts. <b>Hopeman sandstone</b> . pedestals. Ornate carved (yellow <b>Hopeman?</b> ) <b>sandstone</b> capitals above. Same as William Hill. Greenish-grey wavy foliation riven façade cladding. <b>Westmorland slate?</b>
<b>Highland Solicitors Property Centre</b> (No. 30). 1885.	<a href="#">Ditto</a> . <a href="#">On corner</a> columns of porphyritic <b>Kinsteary (Nairn) granite and xenoliths</b> . <b>Sandstones</b> . Same red coarse-grained <b>porphyritic granite</b> columns with ornate carved (yellow <b>Hopeman?</b> ) <b>sandstone</b> capitals above. Same as William Hill & Aspendos. Painted <b>Hopeman sandstone</b> pedestal. Pavement façade cladding below of very dark grey <b>pyroxene gabbro</b> . <b>Rustenburg?</b> Weakly magnetic.
<b>R+B restaurant</b> (No. 73) (Formerly <a href="#">Haydens Coffee Bar</a> )	<a href="#">Sawn Hopeman sandstone &amp; granite</a> . Façade cladding of light grey Kemnay granite. <b>Hopeman sandstone</b> . <a href="#">Look up</a> .

### Turn Left Into Church Street

<b>Hootananny</b> (No. 67) (Corner of Church St with Fraser St).	Extensive dado of very dark grey <b>Rustenburg Bon Accord gabbro</b> from Bushveld, South Africa. Non-magnetic. Some dados of dark brownish grey <b>Rubislaw granodiorite</b> (similar to the granite portals in Queensgate entrance to the Victorian Market). Upper façade cladding of light grey <b>Kemnay granite</b>
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Formerly Hydro Electric Building	with some ghosting. Local minor replacement of <b>Kemnay</b> façade with panel cladding of light pale pinkish-white <b>Kemnay granite</b> with orange-grey alkali feldspar (more recently worked stone from Kemnay quarry). Fraser St., side façade. Lower dado panelling of black <b>Rustenburg Bon Accord gabbro</b> . Upper panelling of <b>Kemnay granite</b> . Most likely late Victorian - early Edwardian construction?
<b>Apartment's entrance</b> (No. 58-60)	Yellow sandstone. <b>Hopeman</b> .
<b>Co-op</b> (No. 59)	Pavement level façade cladding of very dark grey-black <b>Rustenburg gabbro</b> . Very weakly magnetic. Façade cladding on corner of very dark <b>larvikite monzonite</b> (emerald pearl or bergen?). Porphyritic with <5% phenocrysts of labrodescent perthite feldspar. Weakly magnetic. Entrance porches floored with a 'crazy paving' mosaic of cemented irregular shaped fragments of dark red and greenish-grey <b>Turkish serpentinite</b> with white calcite veining. <a href="#">Above Co-op &amp; Oxfam.</a> <b>Old Red</b> sandstone.
<b>Munro &amp; Noble</b> (No. 26)	<b>Hopeman sandstone</b> .
<b>Margaret Street Church</b>	Worth looking at.

### Inverness Castle

<b>Inverness Castle</b> (1834) Stonework restored 1986	Interesting pebbly <b>Old Red</b> from Black Isle with <b>andesite</b> pebbles <b>Tarradale sandstone</b> . <b>ORS sandstone</b> planar & trough cross-bedding, gritty layers. Locally conglomeritic with clasts of <b>andesite</b> , <b>schist</b> , <b>quartz</b> etc. Note differential weathering with harder pebbles standing proud of softer red sandstone matrix. Observe 'upside down' block with pebbly fluvial channel lag conglomerate wrong way up. Flora MacDonald bronze statue on granite pedestal dated 1896. Plinth of smoothed but unpolished reddish-pink <b>Corrennie granite</b> resting on plinth of red rough-dressed coarse-grained porphyritic <b>Kinsteary (Nairn) granite</b> . Corner 'squat' columnar capitals of red <b>Corrennie granite</b> .
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**End of excursion**