

# VOLCANIC ROCK USES

A lot of volcanic rock is very hard. You can see it's use in early Oamaru buildings – often building footings are made from volcanic rock and the upper part of the building is the softer limestone! Many features like walls and bridges are also made of volcanic rock. Have you ever noticed the materials these are made from and wondered where it came from? Often it was not transported far between source and end use. Look around and see what you can discover! If you come across a wall or a bridge and are not sure what it's made from make a few observations... Here's something you may find helpful:

- Volcanic
  - Dark colour
  - Often has sparkly minerals or fragments of other rock
  - Very hard
- Limestone
  - Light colour
  - Often made from one rock type (doesn't have other rock fragments)
  - Soft



Bridge at the Oamaru Public Gardens

Of course, because it's nature – there are some exceptions – this is where experience counts!

Check out our “becoming a rock detective” reference sheet to help you identify rocks you come across!