



Clonmel Urban Fossil Trail

Ireland's Fossil Heritage has created a series of urban fossil trails that guide you to fossils in the buildings, paving stones and walls in several towns and cities across Ireland.

The Clonmel urban fossil trail starts at the West Gate on O'Connell Street and finishes at the Credit Union on Parnell Street.

Leave No Trace

We encourage all visitors to the outdoors, including fossil sites, to follow the principles of the Leave No Trace campaign. We strongly discourage hammering and removal of fresh rock samples! Many fossil sites, including sites in Ireland, have been irrevocably impacted by irresponsible fossil collection, resulting in the destruction and loss of our natural heritage. Instead "Leave What You Find" – aim to minimise your mark on the natural environment and leave the fossils there for the next visitor to enjoy.

Find Out More

You can learn more about the fossils found on this trail and other Irish fossils on our website:

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/fossil-heritage/>

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1. West Gate

- Starting at the West Gate on O'Connell Street explore the building stones along the lower half of the arch/gateway the grey limestone here has white brachiopods which are abundant in some of the building stones. Brachiopod fossils can be recognised as white circles or semicircles.

2. AIB Bank Clonmel

- From West Gate walk east along O'Connell Street until you reach the AIB Bank. The building stones of the bank have crinoid fossils in them. You can see ossicles(circular shapes usually less than 10 mm across) in cross section and also long sections of the stem. The stem sections may look like a stack of polo mints in cross section.

3. Main Guard

- Continue along O’Connell Street as far as the Main Guard on the corner of Sarsfield Street and Mitchell Street. The paving stones at the Main Guard contain brachiopod fossils. Explore the paving stones and footpaths around Mitchell Street before continuing.

4. Old Clonmel Post Office

- Walk along Gladstone Street to the Old Post Office, brachiopod fossils can be found in the building stones along the lower half of the building.

5. Church of St. Peter and Paul

- Just beyond the Old Post Office Building you will find the Church of St. Peter and Paul. The building stones of the wall and pillars outside the church contain fossils that are the same colour as the stone. On close inspection you will see abundant crinoid ossicles and some brachiopods.



Brachiopods at West Gate



Colonial Corals outside the Credit Union

Brachiopods along Mitchell Street

6. Dental Surgery

- From the church walk east along Market Place towards the Easter 196 Memorial. The building stones of the dental surgery and also some of the paving stones around the Easter Rising memorial contain brachiopod fossils.

7. Bank of Ireland

- Head south down Emmet Street and then turn left onto Parnell Street. The Bank of Ireland building on the left hand side of the street has brachiopod and solitary coral fossils. The corals are characterised by a circular shape which upon closer inspection can be seen to contain radial lines (like the spokes on a bicycle wheel).

8. Parnell Street

- Continue for about 50 m along Parnell Street. On the corner of Parnell Street and College Avenue there is a building which is covered with a large mural. The building stones and pillar stones of this building contain an abundance of white solitary corals, some colonial corals and brachiopods. Colonial corals appear as a polka dot pattern.

9. Credit Union

- Cross College Avenue to the Credit Union and explore the paving stones on the steps and ramp. The dark grey limestone contains white brachiopods and solitary and colonial corals in vertical section.