



Dublin 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 Dublin urban fossil trail starts at Christ Church and finishes at the Aer Cap Holdings Building on the corner of Stephens Green and Earlsfort Terrace.

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:

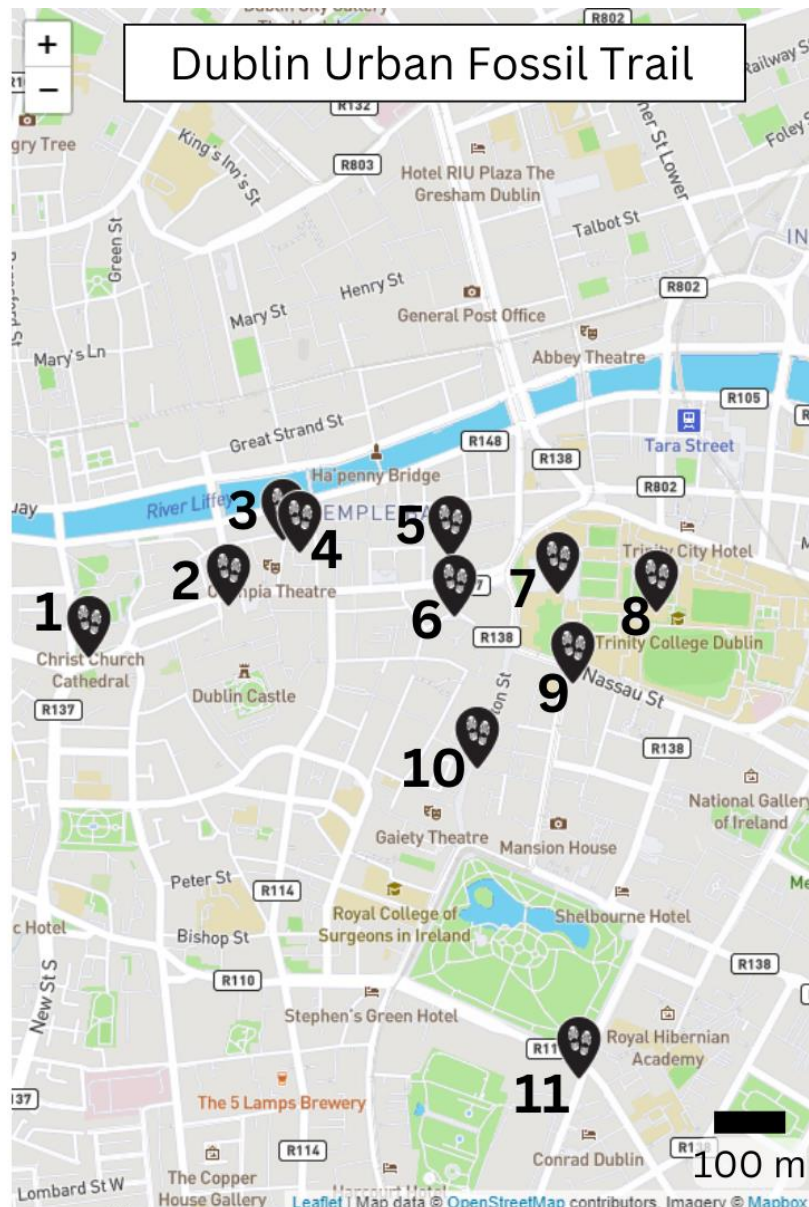
<https://www.ucc.ie/en/fossil-heritage/>

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1. Christ Church

- Starting at Christ Church explore the building stones of the main church for fossils. There are brachiopods, corals and crinoids to be found here. The best examples can be found in the building stones that line the corners of the building. The brachiopod fossils can be recognised as white circles or semicircles and the corals are characterised by a polka dot pattern. When you look at the “dots” closely you can see that they are circles with radial lines (like the spokes on a bicycle wheel). Crinoid ossicles are small circular plates shaped like polo mints (10 mm across or less).

2. City Hall Dame Street

- From the church walk east along Lord Edmund Street to City Hall. Outside the city hall there are walls and pillars with large ornamental features on top, these walls contain incredible bivalve fossils that pop out of the stonework. They appear very similar to modern day oysters. This building stone is not Irish in origin.

3. Bad Bobs Bar Temple Bar

- Cross Dame Street from here onto Parliament Street then turn right onto Essex Street East. On the corner of Essex Street East and Sycamore Street you will find Bad Bob's Bar. The building stones here contain brachiopods, corals and crinoids.

4. Meeting House Square

- Continue along Essex Street East for approximately 20 meters and turn right at Rory Gallagher corner onto Meeting House Square. The dark paving stones in the square contain white brachiopods, corals and crinoids. The building stones of the photo museum in the square also contain fossils!

5. Foster Place Buildings

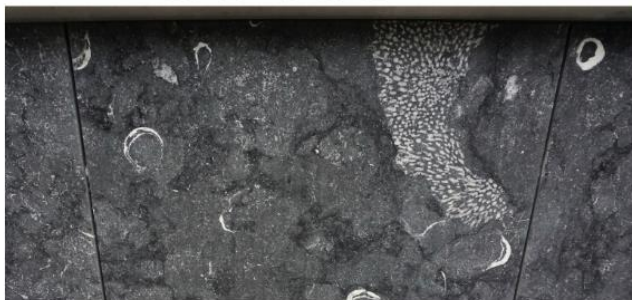
- Exit the square via the steps at the south-east corner and turn right onto Eustace Street, and then turn right onto Dame street continuing to Foster Place by the former Irish Houses of Parliament. The building stones here and particularly the pillars in Foster Place contain bivalves similar to those seen at City Hall.



Crinoids and brachiopods at Alliance Francaise



Bivalve fossil outside City Hall



Brachiopods and corals at AerCap Holdings



Gastropods at AerCap Holdings



Ammonite in the Trinity Musuem building

6. College Green Apartments

- From Foster Place cross College Green to Church Lane. Explore the College Green Apartment buildings stones from the College Green side at the old Hibernian bank 1824 to the back of the building across from the Molly Malone statue. The building stones contain brachiopods, corals and crinoids.

7. Examination Hall Trinity

- Walk back onto College Green and enter the main gates of Trinity College Dublin. As you enter Parliament Square the Examination Hall will be on your right. The paving stones, walls and pillars outside the buildings contain bivalve fossils.

8. Museum Building Trinity

- Walk through Library Square by the library building towards the Museum Building on New Square. Enter the museum building through the main door and explore the entrance hall. There are ammonite fossils within the red limestone pillars, can you find them? There are also a selection of fossils from around the world in the display cabinet near the entrance to the building.

9. Alliance Francaise Dublin

- Exit Trinity College to the south of the library onto Nassau Street, and continue to the corner of Nassau Street and Kildare Street. The building stones of the Alliance Francaise building and the wall outside contain an impressive abundance of crinoid fossil fragments.

10. The White Company shop

- Walk along Nassau Street west and then turn left onto Grafton Street. Continue for approximately 3 minutes along Grafton Street until you reach the White Company Shop on the right-hand side of the street. The façade of the building contains brachiopods, corals and crinoids.

11. AerCap Holdings Buildings

- Continue along Grafton Street to Stephens Green, walk through Stephens Green (or around it) exiting at the southeast corner. Here you will find the AerCap Holdings Building on the corner of Earlsfort Terrace. The light yellow/buff limestone in the main building stones contain a spectacular density of weathered out conical gastropods. The gastropods are the shells of marine snails and are recognisable as spirals. There are also colonial corals and brachiopods in dark grey limestone in lower half of building on the Earlsfort Terrace side of the building.