



Galway 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 Galway urban fossil trail starts in the city centre and finishes at University of Galway.

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. Abbeygate Street (Lynch's Castle)

- Starting at the corner of Abbeygate Street Upper and Shop Street (Lynch's Castle) explore the dark grey paving stones. These rocks contain brachiopod and coral fossils. 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).

2. Cathedral

- Walk north down Abbeygate Street Upper onto Newtownsmith, turn left and cross the Salmon Weir Bridge towards the Cathedral. The building stones of the Cathedral contain brachiopod fossils, often weathered proud and sticking out of the outer walls. They are easily recognisable as similar to modern shells you might find on the beach. The paving stones around the Cathedral are dark grey sandstones and show striking curved lines - these are fossil burrows called Olivellites. Finally the capping

stones on the pillars outside the front door of the Cathedral contain small crinoid fossils. Crinoid ossicles are small circular plates shaped like polo mints (10 mm across or less).

3. University Quad

- From the Cathedral walk north along University Road and turn right to enter the main University gates towards the Quad. The limestone building blocks of the Quad contain abundant fossils including brachiopods and corals. While you are here, visit the James Mitchell Geology Museum located on the first floor in the south west corner of the Quad (by the staff club café).

4. University Library

- Exit the Quad and turn left, follow the road to the left towards the library. The new section of the library building, above the access ramp, is made of a yellow/buff limestone (not Irish in origin). Examine these building stones carefully, they contain ammonite fossils.

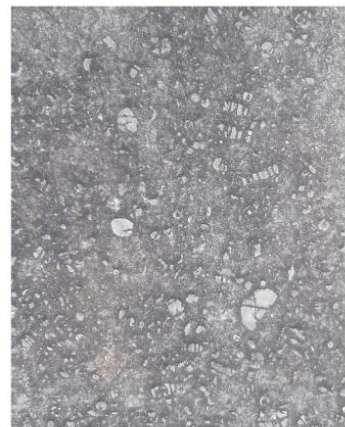


Brachiopods and corals on
Abbeygate Street Upper

Ollivelites fossils outside the
Cathedral



Brachiopods on the Cathedral



Crinoids on the
Cathedral