



## Limerick 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 Limerick urban fossil trail begins the Treaty Stone on Clancy's Strand across from King John's Castle and ends on Bedford Row in the city centre.

### 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:

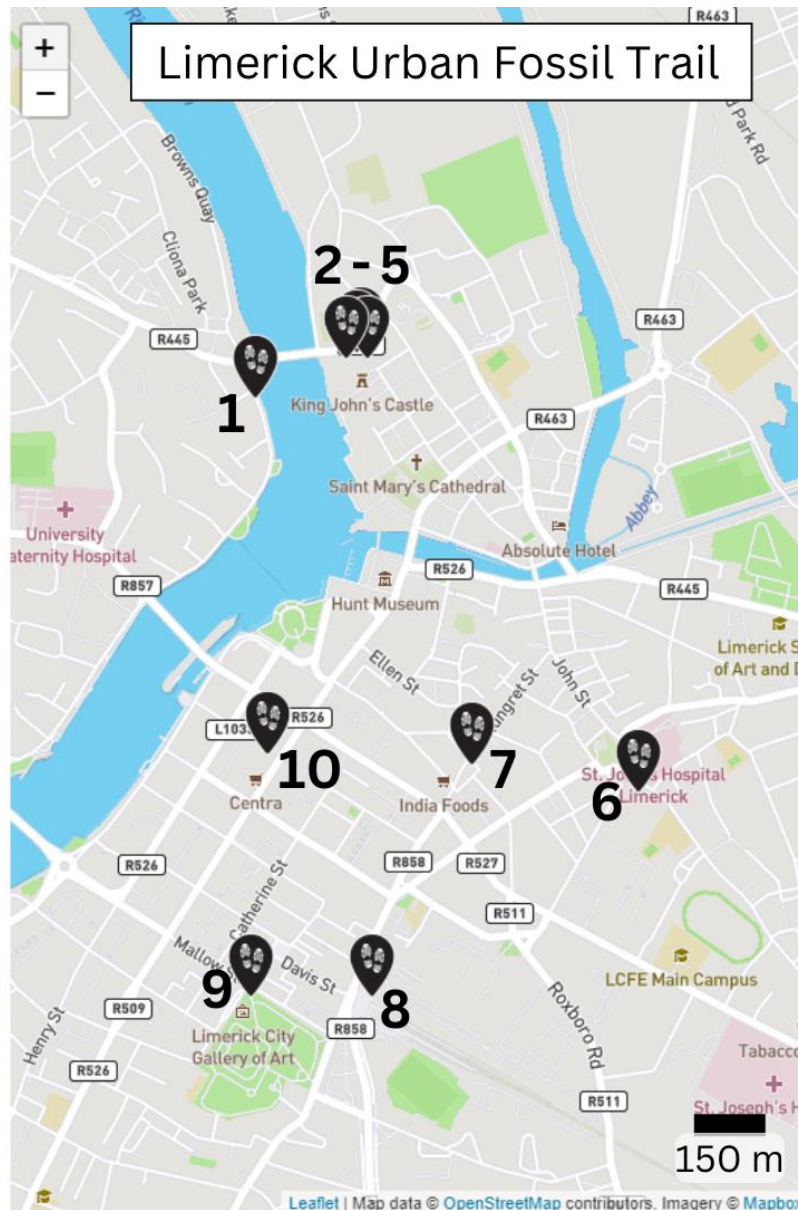
<https://www.ucc.ie/en/fossil-heritage/>

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### 1. Treaty Stone

- Start at the Treaty Stone on Clancy's Strand. The dark grey limestone blocks that make up the plinth under the Treaty Stone contain an amazing abundance of diverse fossils including brachiopods, solitary and colonial corals, some crinoids, and some lovely gastropod 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). Crinoid ossicles are small circular plates shaped like polo mints (10 mm across or less). The gastropods are the shells of marine snails and are recognisable as spirals.

### 2. North Munster Masonic Centre

- Cross Thomond Bridge towards King John's Castle. The Masonic Hall is on your left after you cross the bridge. The walls outside the building are full of brachiopod fossils.

### 3. Drinking Fountain

- Just beyond the Masonic Hall there is an old drinking fountain/cattle trough. The paving stones under the drinking fountain have lots of brachiopod fossils in them.

### 4. Michael Hogan Statue

- Turnaround from facing the fountain and you will see the Michael Hogan Statue. The stones supporting the statue contain brachiopod and crinoid fossils.

### 5. King John's Castle

- All around this area of King John's Castle the paving stones are made of a dark grey sandstone which show striking curved lines - these are fossil burrows called *Olivellites*.



Brachiopods outside the Masonic Hall



Crinoid outside the Train Station



Colonial coral fossil in the Treaty Stone



Gastropod at the Milk Market



## **6. St. John's Cathedral**

- The next stop is approximately a 10 – 13 minute walk. From the castle walk down the Parade and Nicholas Street, continuing onto Mary Street. Cross the river at Mary Street and keep walking through Broad Street onto John Street, from here you will take a slight right onto New Road and you will see St. John's Cathedral. The building stones in the walls that surround the Cathedral contain brachiopods, crinoids and corals.

## **7. Milk Market**

- Cross Cathedral Place onto John's Square and continue north onto Old Francis Street, take a left at Mungret Street towards the Milk Market. Explore the walls on the outside of the market for lots of different and interesting fossils including various types of corals, crinoids, brachiopods, gastropods and bryozoan fossils. Bryozoans are tiny marine animals, sometimes called moss animals (but they are not plants!) and are recognisable as resembling flat mats or tubes with a pitted surface.

## **8. Train Station**

- From the Milk Market head south on High Street and continue to walk for about 5 minutes along Wickham Street and onto Parnell Street. At the train station you can find fossils in the paving stones in the plaza outside the train station and the walls along the bicycle ramp. Fossils here include brachiopods, corals and crinoids.

## **9. People's Park**

- Turn left on Parnell Street after the train station, cross the road and turn right along Upper Mallow Street. The gate/archway entrance to the People's Park, next to the Limerick City Gallery of Art contains brachiopods and corals.

## **10. Bench on Bedford Row**

- Head west on Mallow Street then turn right onto O'Connell Street, continue for approximately 5 minutes until you reach Bedford Row. Brachiopods and crinoids can be seen in the public stone bench on Bedford Row and the stones that support the adjacent statue of Richard Harris.