



4th International Heritage Stone Workshop

Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

14 – 17 July 2025



Heritage stone: from quarries to craft practitioners and buildings

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STONEBUILT Ireland, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland

1st circular

The 4th International Heritage Stone Workshop of the IUGS Subcommission on Heritage Stone will take place in Dublin in July 2025 and will build on the previous workshops held in Salamanca (2018), Turin (2021) and Jaipur (2023).

This Workshop has two major aims: 1) to encourage nominations of Heritage Stones around the globe, and 2) to focus on the craft practitioners who quarried stone and those who fabricated it for decoration and structural use in buildings. Both of these areas are rather underplayed at present and deserve increased attention. The convenors encourage submission of abstracts covering these topics as well as others pertaining to Heritage Stone studies.

The Workshop will comprise a one-day workshop with 20-minute presentations. Two days of excursions will visit quarries and some heritage buildings that will provide a flavour of two important Irish stonetypes: Black Irish Limestone and Leinster Granite which have been exploited since the 17th and early 19th centuries respectively. On the final morning, a tour of the decorative and building stones of Dublin will showcase the range of native and important materials used in Ireland's capital city.



Leinster Granite quarry, Ballyknockan



Aborted carving of a lion in Ballyknockan Granite

Schedule:

13 July (Sunday): Overnight in Dublin.

14 July (Monday) Day 1:

All day: Workshop in Museum Building, Trinity College Dublin.

Evening: Workshop Dinner.

Overnight in Dublin.

15 July (Tuesday) Day 2:

Excursion to the granite quarrying district of west Wicklow

Morning: Ballyknockan, Co. Wicklow: Visits to a quarry in Leinster Granite and two granite-working workshops. Ballyknockan is known across Ireland as the 'Granite Village' and many of its vernacular buildings are granite gems which will be the focus of a tour.

Lunch: locally/tbc.

Afternoon: Visit to Russborough House, Blessington is an important 18th century country house constructed of Leinster Granite with internal decoration of native and imported marbles.

Overnight in Dublin.



Russborough House



Castletown House

16 July (Wednesday) Day 3:

Excursion to the limestone quarrying area of central Ireland

Morning: Visit to Three Castles Quarry and McKeon Stone working premises at Stradbally, Co. Laois.

Lunch: locally/tbc

Afternoon: Stone use at Castletown House. This is another fine 18th century country house that features two contrasting local limestones in its façades.

Overnight in Dublin.



Threecastles Quarry – Mississippian Limestone



McKeon Stone Limestone Factory

17 July (Thursday) Day 4:

Morning: Tour of stone used in Dublin city and Geological Museum stone collection.

Afternoon or Evening: Departure.

Venue: Museum Building, Trinity College Dublin [see www.makingvictoriandublin.com].

This contains a lecture theatre; a Geological Gallery where the current exhibition *Colour in Geology* includes some geological maps and decorative stone; two seminar rooms for informal meetings; foyer for refreshments. This important building houses the Departments of Geology, Geography and Engineering.



Museum Building where the Workshop is taking place. (l): exterior; (r): interior.

Deadlines:

- Preliminary expression of interest in attending and speaking: as soon as possible to Patrick.
- Submission of Abstracts (500 words maximum) to wysjcknp@tcd.ie: 1 February 2025
- Preliminary registration: anytime up to 1 February 2025
- Final registration and payment of fees: 1 June 2025

Travel to Dublin: Dublin is served by Dublin Airport and the Dublin Ferry Port and by rail. Dublin City centre where your accommodation is likely to be, is well served from the airport by various carriers some of whom accept the Leap Card.

Local travel in Dublin: A 7-day travel pass costs €32. This is called a Leap Card which you should purchase at Dublin Airport in Arrivals Terminals 1 or 2 [<https://www.dublinpublictransport.ie/tickets>]. This allows you to travel on local Dublin busses, trams (LUAS) and commuter rail (DART). Note that travel for the excursions will be provided by the organisers.

Visa Requirements: If you are travelling to Ireland and you are not a citizen of the UK, Switzerland, or a country in the European Economic Area (the EU plus Norway, Iceland and Lichtenstein), you may need to apply for a visa. See <https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/moving-country/visas-for-ireland/visa-requirements-for-entering-ireland/> for further information. Please note that Ireland is not in the Schengen Area and a Schengen visa cannot be used to travel to Ireland.

If you need a letter of invitation in order to apply for a visa to travel to Ireland, please contact Patrick (wysjcknp@tcd.ie).

Accommodation in Dublin: Dublin has more than 25,000 hotel bedrooms, covering a range of budgets. We also have hostels closeby to Trinity. Delegates are responsible for booking their own accommodation which can be done through various online booking portals. There may be some accommodation available on the Trinity College campus in either single rooms in 3-4 bedroom apartments with a shared bathroom, or single and twin ensuite rooms (check <https://www.visittrinity.ie/stay/>). Click on "BOOK NEW" and then clear to clear all filters. Enter data range to see if accommodation is available, and continue with your reservation.

Registration Fee:

- €160.00. Fee covers Workshop morning and afternoon refreshments and lunch and dinner; travel on Days 2 and 3. Delegates will need to pay for their own lunch and dinner on those days. Details of how payment can be made will be distributed to those who indicate that they may attend. Copies of the book *The Building and Decorative Stones of Dublin* (2025) by the convenors as well as the book on Trinity's Museum Building (2019) can be ordered as part of the Registration fee for an additional €40.

Cultural opportunities (other than those indicated in the programme):

Great information on lots of cultural events and locations can be found online at:

<https://www.dublincity.ie/culturenearyou/>
www.visitdublin.ie
www.ireland.com

Information or online links to cultural and other attractions in the city such as the Guinness Storehouse, the EPIC Museum and the National Museum of Ireland [<https://www.ireland.com/en-gb/magazine/culture/dublins-top-nine-attractions/>] can also be found in the map provided. Some of these venues are free.

If delegates arrive early or wish to remain in Ireland beyond the Workshop then Day trips from Dublin to sites such as Newgrange (Neolithic burial mound), Giant's Causeway, Cliffs of Moher are popular [see <https://www.viator.com/en-IE/Ireland-tours/Day-Trips-and-Excursions/d56-g5>]. Entrance and tour fees apply and you will need to pay for yourselves.



Ballyknockan Granite Village



The Subcommittee on Heritage Stones (<https://iugs-geoheritage.org/subcomission-on-stones/>) forms part of the International Commission on Geoheritage (<https://iugs-geoheritage.org/>), which is, in turn, a scientific Commission established by the International Union of Geological Sciences.

Historical use of natural stone can be a major contributor to understand past civilizations and how different civilizations evolved over the millennia, from antiquity to the present. The geological attributes of the stones, which have survived for millennia enrich our cultural heritage, should be documented and studied for the present and future generations. The identification of stone-built monuments and historical quarries of important stones are one of the mandates of this subcommission.

The main goals of the Subcommittee are the establishment of Global standards for the recognition of IUGS Heritage Stones; coordination of the IUGS Heritage Stones program; compilation and maintenance of an IUGS Heritage Stone database; and promote collaboration among International organizations related to Heritage Stones.



STONEBUILT Ireland (www.stonebuiltireland.com) is a project researching quarries, stone types and buildings in Ireland, and is supported by the Geological Survey Ireland, the Office of Public Works, Trinity College Dublin, and formerly by the Irish Research Council



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