

Welcome to the Dublin Mountains



Volunteer DMP Rangers

WALKING THE DUBLIN MOUNTAINS WAY

One of the flagship projects of the Dublin Mountains Partnership is the long distance trail, the Dublin Mountains Way, that crosses the Dublin Mountains from Shankill in the east to Tallaght (Sean Walsh Park) in the west, in all approximately 42 kilometers of trail from end to end.

This wonderful trail on the edge of our capital has been achieved through the cooperation of Coillte (the State forestry company), Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, South Dublin County Council, Dublin City Council, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin Mountain Initiative and some private landowners.

The Dublin Mountains Way can be walked in one go or in sections of 6-10 km. To walk the complete Dublin Mountains Way it would take a good fit walker 9/10 hours. This is a serious undertaking and should only be done in good weather and ideally in summer with long daylight hours. Alternatively, one could walk the trail in two days giving the hiker a pleasant challenge and affording the walker time to enjoy the many sights on the route.

VOLUNTEER RANGER SERVICE

The Dublin Mountains Partnership operates a Volunteer Ranger Service that acts in a stewardship role and patrols different areas of the mountains at weekends and when events are taking place in the area. They are there to enhance your visit – giving advice and assistance. They also lead walks and special activities – see our web site www.dublinmountains.ie for details. They are recognisable by their dark green uniform.

DUBLIN MOUNTAINS WAY BADGE

Having completed your walk on the Dublin Mountains Way, you may request our special Dublin Mountains Way badge by emailing a request to the Dublin Mountains Partnership Manager giving your full postal address.

CONTACT US

Dublin Mountains Partnership Manager,
c/o Coillte
Dublin Road
Newtownmountkennedy
Co. Wicklow
Tel: 01 201 1187
Email: info@dublinmountains.ie



www.dublinmountains.ie



Dublin Mountains Way



**Dublin
Mountains
Partnership**

BE PREPARED – WHAT DO YOU NEED?

Walkers should be aware that there are limited facilities on the route to obtain refreshments so make sure you carry food and water for your walk. Walkers will also need to have good footwear, rain proof clothing and a warm fleece or sweater. You should ideally carry a map and compass and if walking in winter, a torch. Be aware that mobile phone coverage may not always be available in the mountains, advise someone of your route and expected return time.

Prepare to Go on Mountains

Permits are needed for activities such as camping, mountain biking (off designated trails) horse riding etc. on Dublin Mountains Partnership lands. Contact the DMP manager to obtain a permit. Where possible travel by public transport or share cars.

LEAVE NO TRACE

When walking the Dublin Mountains Way or visiting the mountains in general please practice **Leave No Trace** according to the following principles:



● Plan Ahead and Prepare

Despite the fact that these “mountains” are not very high - our highest summit, Fairy castle is 537m, you need to be prepared to experience different types of weather, good and bad, in this area even on the one day. You should wear the proper mountain clothes, warm and rain proof and proper footwear is essential if you want to enjoy the walks.

Ensure you have the skills and equipment needed for your activity and to cope with emergencies that could arise. Some of our trails will bring users into remote locations where outdoor skills, such as map reading, are essential. Check the weather forecast and always be prepared for changing weather conditions.

● Be Considerate of Others

For environmental and safety reasons, and to minimise your impact on other users, keep group numbers to less than 8, if possible and consider others when parking. Respect any signs, regulations and special instructions for the area that you wish to visit. Permits are needed for activities such as camping, mountain biking (off designated trails) horse riding etc.

● Respect Farm Animals and Wildlife

Keep all dogs on leads and respect no dog signs.

● Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

Where possible stay on designated trails and walk on the durable surface. Leave water drains clear and avoid removing brush or similar put there to aid regeneration of vegetation and limit erosion.

● Leave What You Find

Our heritage, both natural and man-made is important – leave it as you find it – don’t add to that cairn or damage that national monument!

● Dispose of Waste Properly

Pack it out, pack it home. There are no bin collections along the trail so please take your rubbish home.

● Minimise the Impacts of Fire

Fires should only be lit in designated areas.

WAY MARKING

The Dublin Mountains Way is waymarked with the standard yellow walking man symbol at all junctions. However walkers are advised to carry a map for navigation.

ALTERNATE ROUTES

The Dublin Mountains Way also links up with Wicklow Way on Tibbradden Mountain and walkers can link up with this trail thereby enabling walkers to take alternative routes and walk to different destinations. The Wicklow Way is a 127-kilometre long-distance trail that runs from Marlay Park in the southern suburbs of Dublin through County Wicklow and ends in the village of Clonegal in County Carlow.

TRANSPORT

The Dublin Mountains Way is linked at both ends to public transport. The city centre is linked by the LUAS tramway system to Tallaght and the start is just a short five minute walk to Sean Walsh Park from the Luas stop. Shankill is linked by the Dart rail system (southwards) getting off at Shankill. The Start is at Brady's pub in the main street, a ten minute walk from the Dart station.

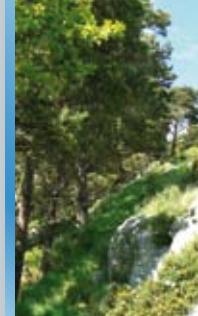
Dublin Bus also have routes that link to various points on or near the trail. These include routes 44 (Enniskerry, Stepaside and Kilternan); 44B (Glencullen and Kilternan); 47,63,118 (Stepaside and Kilternan); and 185 (Enniskerry). Tallaght and Shankill have numerous routes serving them. See www.dublinbus.ie for full schedules.

OTHER ACTIVITIES TO ENJOY IN THE DUBLIN MOUNTAINS AREA

ORIENTEERING

Orienteering is a popular outdoor sport for all the family and the Irish Orienteering Association have regular events in the Dublin Mountains.

There are also permanent orienteering courses at Hell Fire Club, Massy's Estate, Carrickgollogan, Ticknock and Barnaslingan. Visit our website or www.coillteoutdoors.ie to access a map and download details.



HIKING AND WALKING

There are many other trails and walks in the Dublin Mountains to suit all skill levels. Visit www.dublinmountains.ie for details of trails and walks in the area, or visit www.coillteoutdoors.ie

MOUNTAIN RUNNING

A little like orienteering, but without the map reading, mountain running is another popular outdoor sport in the Dublin mountains and the Irish Mountain Running Association have regular events in the Dublin mountains see www.imra.ie for details.

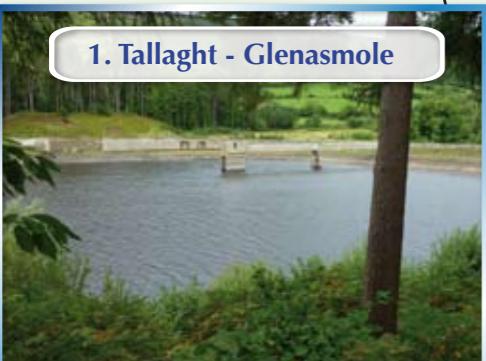
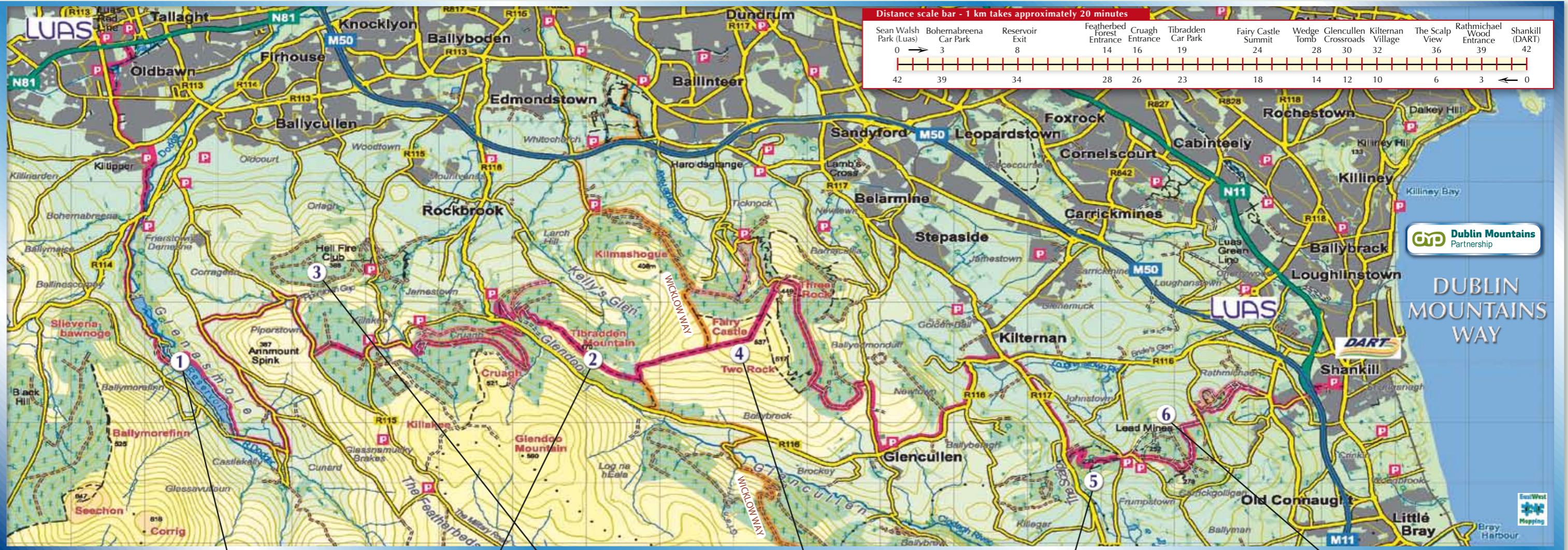


MOUNTAIN BIKING

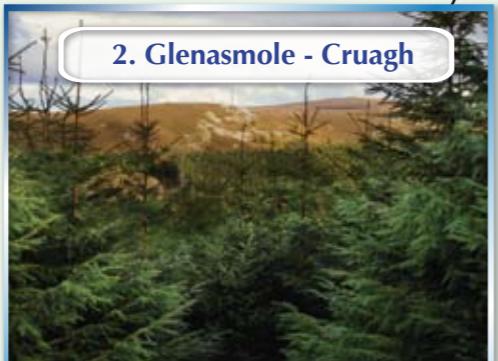
The Dublin Mountains Partnership and Coillte opened the first 8km section of mountain bike trail at Ticknock on 8th May 2011. For more information see www.dublinmountains.ie

BOULDERING

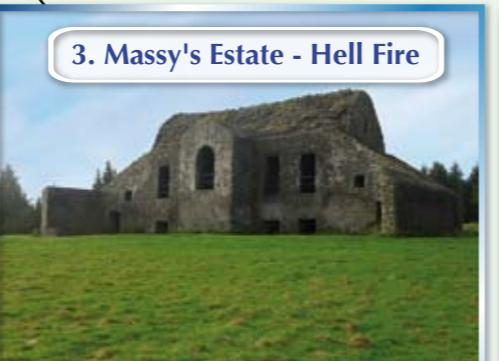
This is climbing without a rope on large outcrops and boulders – it is possible to do so in two areas of the Dublin Mountains Partnership - Three Rock and The Scalp.



1. Tallaght - Glenasmole



2. Glenasmole - Cruagh



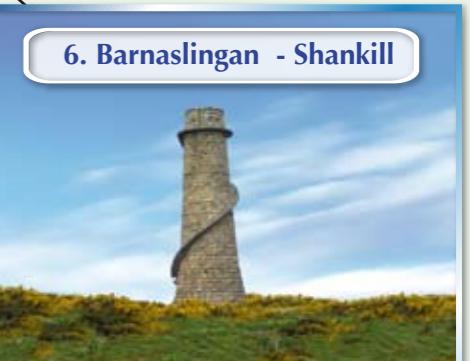
3. Massy's Estate - Hell Fire



4. Tibradden - Fairy Castle



5. Fairy Castle - Barnaslingan



6. Barnaslingan - Shankill

The Dublin Mountains Way starts in **Sean Walsh Park**, close to the LUAS Red Line. It passes through the suburbs of **Tallaght** and continues onto **Kiltipper Park**. From there it crosses Fort Bridge into the **Boherabreena** reservoir car park. Boherabreena supplies 18.2 million litres of water per day to Dublin. This is only a small contribution to the overall 410 million litres that Dublin uses daily, in times of severe drought, its value is appreciated. The scheme began in 1883 using local granite in its construction.

The river Dodder supplies this reservoir. It has a long history of supplying water both for drinking water purposes and for powering mills. The peaty water from the upper slopes was used to supply the mills further down the Dodder (the lower reservoir). The lower non-peaty slopes are used for drinking water supply (the upper reservoir – with pipes leading to Ballyboden works for treatment). The DMW traverses the eastern boundary of the lake and exits the reservoir at the southern end onto public road, crossing **Castlekelly Bridge**.

The route travels along the road to the **Piperstown Gap**, passing the entrance to **St. Ann's Chapel** (ruin and graveyard) on the west side of the road. The route now climbs up towards Piperstown skirting by **Anmount Spink**. It then enters **Featherbed Forest** with views of the Wicklow Uplands, including Kippure and Corrig Mountains. Here a new section of trail has recently been opened through the Featherbeds (October 2011). The DMW exits the forest onto a public road leading down to a viewing point at **Killakee**. The DMW itself continues along the road to the western edge of **Cruagh Wood** and enters the wood at the bridge over Glendoo Brook. (You can divert onto Walks in **Massy's** and **Hell Fire** at this point).

Nearing the top of the forest road in Cruagh there is another pleasant diversion route – the Cruagh Mountain Access Route. It includes a 400m bog bridge that brings you up to the open mountain where you will be rewarded with great views of Dublin city.

Here there is an optional spur route through **Massy's Estate** leading over to **Hell Fire**. The trail follows the **Glendoo Brook** down through the estate passing wonderful stone bridges, an old icehouse and walled gardens.

There are also many wonderful specimen trees to see in Massy's estate including giant redwood, coastal redwood, beech, lime, cedar, monkey puzzle, western hemlock, oak, Monterey pine and grand fir.

Exiting Massy's Estate the route crosses over to the **Hell Fire Club** and follows the forest road up to the Hell Fire Club on **Montpelier Hill**. The route does a loop of the Hell Fire and then back up through Massy's Estate to the entrance to Cruagh Wood where you can continue on the DMW via the Wood.

The route continues along the forest road beside the **Owenthrasha River** to exit onto and cross the **R116**, into the car park in **Pine Forest** at Tibradden. The DMW now follows a forest road where it leads onto a trail up onto **Tibradden Mountain**. The DMW travels across the open mountain to a cairn on top of **Tibradden Mountain**. This offers walkers excellent walking on a robust trail constructed to best international practice (modified for Irish conditions) and has already become hugely popular with walkers. It includes bog bridge, reversal trail, robust stone stair case and water management features.

Heading up to Fairy Castle the DMW joins the Wicklow Way for a small section before the DMW heads northeast towards its highest point, **Fairy Castle** summit at 537m. From here the views over Dublin City and bay can be spectacular.

The DMW now heads downhill northwards to another viewing point near **Three Rock**. The route then follows the forest road southwards with new views opening up of the Sugarloaf and Wicklow mountains. It then leads off east through a privately owned wood (where you can see the Ballyedmonduff Wedge Tomb) and private farm land. Having crossed the private land, (respect the farm animals) head south along **Ballyedmonduff** road to the cross roads at **Glencullen**.

With the option of a rest break at Johnnie Fox's pub in Glencullen, the route continues along the **R116** (take care on this narrow section of road) towards the village of **Kilternan** where it turns south again along the **R117** to reach the entrance to **Barnaslingan Wood**.

The DMW enters **Barnaslingan Wood** just south of the Kilternan Hotel and ski training slopes. The route now follows a forest road and trail until it leads off up onto the viewing point of the Scalp with a fantastic panorama all around. The trail continues down westwards to exit the wood for a short walk on narrow road until it enters **Carrickgollogan Wood**. Close to here there are amazing views from Carrickgollogan hill.

As you continue on the DMW a detour here along the Lead Mines Way (orange discs) gives you a close up view of the Lead Mines chimney. The DMW heads down towards Puck's Castle golf course. It then enters into **Rathmichael Wood**, passing a standing stone beside the trail. After another short walk along the public road and crossing over the **M50** we are back into suburbs of Shankill village where the DMW finishes on the main street in **Shankill** beside Brady's pub.