

Welcome to the Dublin Mountains



DUBLIN MOUNTAINS WAY BADGE

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

CONTACT US

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



www.dublinmountains.ie

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



**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 brash 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

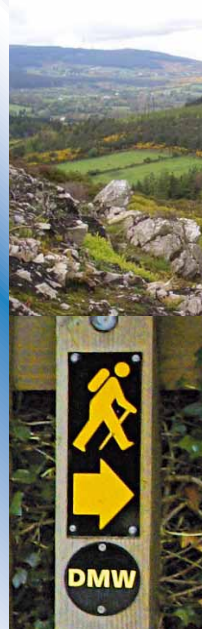
Pack it out, pack it home. There are no bin collections along the trail so please take your rubbish home.

Minimise the Impacts of Fire

Fires should only be lit in designated areas.

WAY MARKING

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



ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

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



TRANSPORT

The Dublin Mountains Way is linked at both ends to public transport. To the west Tallaght is on the LUAS Red Line, it is a 5 minute walk from the LUAS stop to Sean Walsh park where the DMW starts/finishes. To the east Shankill is on the DART line, it is a 10 minute walk from the DART station to the start/finish beside Brady's Pub on the main street.



Dublin Bus also have routes that link to various points on or near the trail. These include routes 44 (Enniskerry, Stepside and Kilternan); 44B (Glencullen and Kilternan); 47,63,118 (Stepside 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.coillte.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.coillte.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.

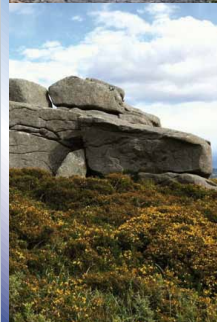


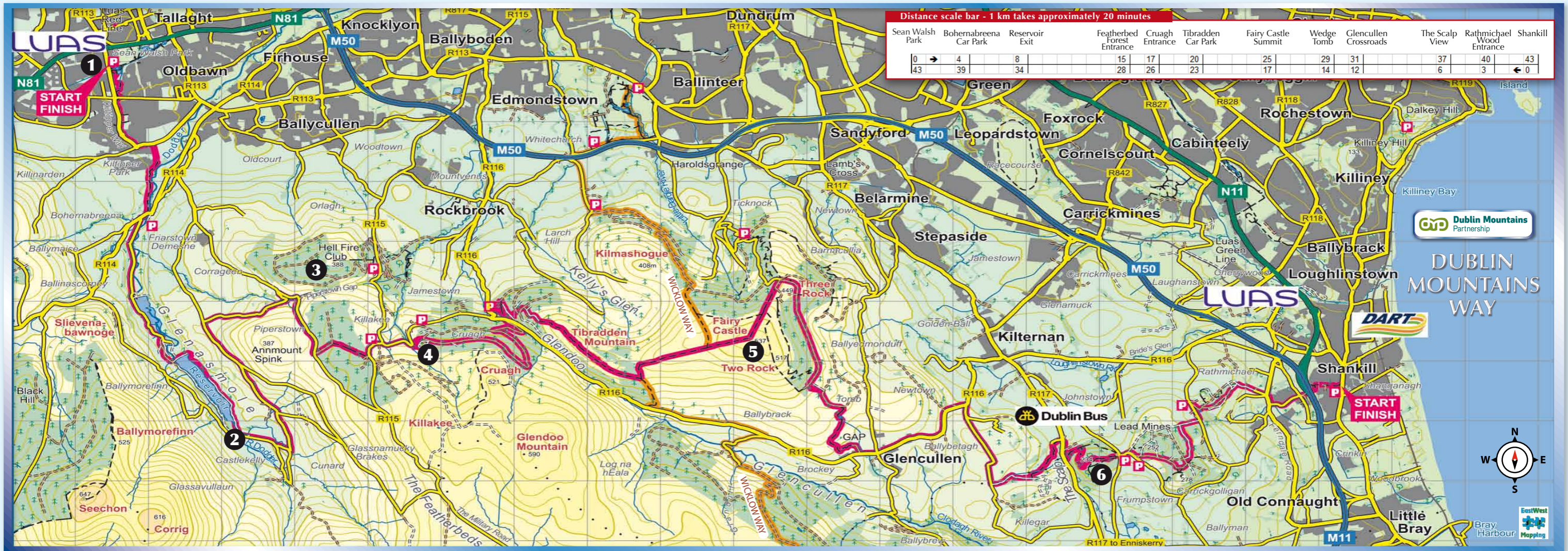
MOUNTAIN BIKING

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.

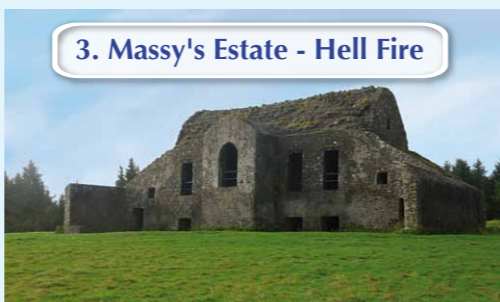




1. Tallaght - Glenasmole



2. Glenasmole - Cruagh



3. Massy's Estate - Hell Fire



4. Cruagh - Fairy Castle



5. Fairy Castle - Barnaslingan



6. Barnaslingan - Shankill

The **Dublin Mountains Way (DMW)** starts in **Sean Walsh Park** beside Tallaght Stadium, home of Shamrock Rovers football club. The start of the **DMW** is sign-posted from the Red-Line LUAS Stop at the Square, Tallaght (www.luas.ie). The **DMW** passes through Sean Walsh Park running parallel to Whitestown Way and Kiltipper Way before emerging onto the foot-path alongside Kiltipper Way from here it heads south towards Ellensborough Green. In Ellensborough Green the **DMW** runs parallel to Kiltipper Road before turning south to enter the northern end of **Kiltipper Park** via the grounds of Kiltipper Woods Care Centre. On exiting **Kiltipper Park** the **DMW** crosses the R114 County road, Bohernabreena Road, and enters **Bohernabreena Reservoir** car park in the **Glenasmole Valley**.

Bohernabreena reservoir supplies 18.2 million litres of water per day to Dublin (which is only a small contribution to the overall Dublin use of up to 410 million litres, but in times of severe drought, its value is appreciated). The scheme was begun in 1883 using local granite in its construction. The river Dodder, flowing through the reservoir, has a long history of use for both drinking water and power for mills. The peaty water from the upper slopes was used to supply the mills down the Dodder (the lower reservoir) and the lower non-peaty slopes are used for drinking supply (the upper reservoir – with pipes leading to Ballyboden works for treatment).

The **DMW** travels alongside the western side of the lower reservoir and the eastern boundary of the upper reservoir before exiting the southern end of the reservoir grounds onto a County road, Allagour Road.

The section of the **DMW** between Bohernabreena Reservoir and the Featherbed Forest entrance travels along relatively quiet County roads. On exiting Bohernabreena onto Allagour Road the **DMW** travels in a south-easterly direction towards and across the beautiful **Castle Kelly Bridge** from here it travels north passing **Glenasmole Community Centre** and the entrance to **St. Ann's Chapel**, ruin and graveyard. The short walk to the St. Ann's graveyard is a lovely detour, if you do visit the historic graveyard please show due respect. Soon the **DMW** reaches a junction with a County road signposted Tallaght/Glenree, continue heading north in the direction of Tallaght along this road, Mountain road, until Newtown Lane (L7381) which is a sharp turn to the east. Note if you reach Glenasmole school you have missed the turn. Newtown lane is a narrow country lane which skirts to the north of **Annmount Spink/Piperstown Hill**, this is a short sharp ascent. At the junction of Newtown Lane and Piperstown road (L7422) the **DMW** climbs steadily in a southerly direction towards **Featherbed Forest** and from here there are views of the Wicklow Uplands including Kippure and Corrig Mountains. The **DMW** enters **Featherbed Forest** and crosses through the young forest on a purpose built trail which was opened in October 2011. The **DMW** exits the forest onto the Killakee Road (R115) which leads down to the viewing point and County Council car-park at **Killakee**, care is needed on this busy section of road. From Killakee car-park the **DMW** travels eastwards onto Cruagh Road (L8124) 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, see Section 3.

To take the optional spur route through **Massy's Estate** and **Hell Fire Club** Forest follow the **DMW** through the County road into the beautiful Massy's Estate to the north and follow the Riverside Walk (white way- marking discs) along **Glendoo Brook** through the old estate. There are 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 as well as wonderful stone bridges, an old icehouse and other reminders of the forest's past history.

Exiting Massy's Estate cross over to the **Hell Fire Club** and follow the Montpelier Loop (blue way-marking discs) up to the Hell Fire Club and back to the Hell Fire Club car-park. Then return to Massy's Estate, re-join the Riverside Walk and link back with the **DMW** at Cruagh. Note this spur loop is 8-10km.

On entering Cruagh Forest the **DMW** continues along a section of trail constructed in partnership with the Irish Ramblers Club, Mountain Meitheal and Dublin Mountains Partnership. Nearing the top of the forest road in Cruagh there is the option of another diversion route this time onto the Cruagh Mountain Access Route which was brings you up to the open mountain with an option to climb to Cruagh Mountain Summit (521m) from here on a clear day there are great views towards Dublin city, Dublin Bay and northwards to the Cooley and Mourne Mountains. A 400m bog bridge constructed in partnership with Mountain Meitheal volunteers brings you back down to the forest road to re-join the **DMW**.

In Cruagh the **DMW** continues along the forest road beside the **Owerdoher River** to exit onto and across the **R116** County road and into the car park of Tibradden Forest also known as the **Pine Forest**. The **DMW** follows a forest road under exciting zip-lines operated by www.zipit.ie before joining a trail up onto **Tibradden Mountain**. The **DMW** travels across the open mountain on a constructed trail to a cairn on top of **Tibradden Mountain** (470m).

At a trail T-junction the **DMW** joins the **Wicklow Way (WW)** for just over 1km. At a second T-junction the **DMW** ascends eastwards towards the highest point on the 42km route, **Fairy Castle** (537m), the highest point on the **DMW**, while the **WW** descends northwards to skirt around Kilmashogue Mountain. From Fairy Castle the views over Dublin City and Bay can be spectacular.

The **DMW** travels north-eastwards from Fairy Castle downhill towards the telecom and RTE masts, to a viewing point near **Three Rock**. From here the **DMW** follows the forest road southwards with new views opening up of the Great Sugarloaf, Carrickgolligan, and the Wicklow Mountains. The **DMW** then travels through a private wood and former golf club now a mountain bike centre, www.thegap.ie. Ballyedmonduff Wedge Tomb is accessible along this route across a metal bridge. The **GAP** café welcomes walkers. From the **GAP** the **DMW** joins the Ballybrack Road (R116) and travels through Glencullen village passing Johnny Foxes pub where another pit-stop can be taken.

From Glencullen the **DMW** continues eastwards past Glencullen school and church down Ballybetagh road (R116), take care on this narrow section of road. A re-route of the **DMW**, opened in 2018, sees the **DMW** turn off the R116 onto Killegar Lane. After approximately 1.5km travelling south on Killegar lane, and just at the Dublin-Wicklow County boundary, the **DMW** enters the grounds of the former Kilternan Sports Hotel through a kissing gate and from there travels along a laneway and a newly constructed trail. The **DMW** exits the grounds of the former Sports Hotel at the Enniskerry road (R117). The **DMW** travels on a footpath along the R117 southwards towards the Scalp, passing the Scalp Petrol Station, before reaching **Barnaslingan Wood**. Dublin bus serves this forest entrance (www.dublinbus.ie Bus stops 4088/4121).

The **DMW** enters **Barnaslingan Wood** where it follows a forest road and trail which leads to the viewing point of the Scalp. The trail then leads through the wood and exits Barnaslingan via its car-park onto Barnaslingan Lane, a narrow County road and from there onto an even narrower County road, Murphy's Lane, where after a short distance the **DMW** enters **Carrickgolligan Wood**. A short diversion off the **DMW** onto the Mountain Access Route (white way-marking discs) leads to the peak of Carrickgolligan (278m). Another short diversion along the Lead Mines Way (orange way-marking discs) gives you a close up view of the Lead Mines chimney.

The **DMW** exits Carrickgolligan onto Puck's Castle Lane, as you descend towards this County road you can see Shankill in the distance. The **DMW** enters **Rathmichael Wood**, passing a standing stone beside the trail, a short diversion onto Rathmichael Walk (green way-marking discs) will lead you past a Rath and the chance to catch a glimpse of Pucks Castle. The **DMW** exits Rathmichael Wood onto a narrow laneway passing a stone cross along the way before joining Ferndale Road. From Ferndale Road the **DMW** travels onto Lordello road crossing over the M50/M11 on a pedestrian bridge and then passes through the suburbs of Shankill village where the **DMW** finishes on the main street in **Shankill** beside Brady's pub. Dublin bus serves Shankill village (www.dublinbus.ie Bus Stops 3139/3140), Shankill DART Station (www.irishrail.ie) is just over 1km from the end of the **DMW**.