

HOWTH SPECIAL AMENITY AREA ORDER



Cliff Path, Howth

In 1999, Fingal County Council recognised the exceptional character of the area of Howth by making the Howth Special Amenity Area Order. The Order protects many of the special qualities of the area and aims to preserve and enhance the character and special features of Howth. The Howth Order was confirmed by the Minister for Environment on the 16th May 2000.

- The Howth Special Amenity Area has a total area of 547 hectares.
- It includes Ireland's Eye (28 hectares) and the heathland, woods, cliffs, shingle beaches and wooded residential areas of the south-eastern half of the Howth peninsula (519 hectares). These areas have a rich diversity of flora and fauna, and include protected species such as the Green-winged Orchid and the Red Squirrel.

- The Howth Special Amenity Area includes large and flourishing colonies of seabirds on Ireland's Eye, and on the cliffs of Howth Head between Boscadden Bay and the Baily Lighthouse. These seabird colonies are among the largest in the country, and include species such as kittiwakes, guillemots, razorbills, cormorants and gannets.
- The order designates a 21 kilometre network of rights-of-way as public footpaths. Every large area of heathland and woodland on the peninsula can be reached by these paths. These footpaths are shown on SAAO Map A.
- The order designates 35 sites and areas of special natural, historical, architectural, archaeological and geological interest. These sites and areas of special interest are shown on SAAO Map B.
- If a property is included in the area of the SAAO for Howth then the exemptions from planning permission under Class 1 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2001 do not apply. In practice this means that most types of development require planning permission from the planning authority. The Council's Planning Department should be consulted before carrying out any works.