RAHENY is a coastal village located 8 kilometres from Dublin City Centre and it is easily accessed by public transport. It is served by the **DART** and by the number **29A**, **31**, **32**, **32A** and **32B** buses. The bus stops in Raheny are very near to the DART station.

The Raheny Way walk is a project aimed at developing walking routes within the Raheny area. Routes have been identified which take the walker past many historical and environmental attractions in the area. The routes consist of three looped walks on footpaths, sand and grass, with little in the way of hills. They are suitable for use by walkers of all abilities and ages. Route 1 is suitable for wheelchair users. All three options enjoy panoramic views of Howth, Wicklow and The North Bull Island and pass by many of the historic sites in Raheny.

Route 1: The Coast Walk
Distance: **4.4 km** Duration: **1 hour** Level: **Easy**

This walk starts at Raheny DART station and runs via Main Street and Watermill Road, as far as the junction with James Larkin Road. It crosses the road and turns left along the cycle / pedestrian track as far as the first set of traffic lights at Blackbanks. From here the route crosses the road and turns left and runs along the Howth Road back to Raheny Village.

Route 2: The Beach Walk
Distance: **7.6 km** Duration: **1.5 hours** Level: **Easy**

This route follows the same path as Route 1 as far as the junction with James Larkin Road. From here the route goes along Causeway Road, onto the beach. Walk 300m, turn right and back onto Causeway Road, rejoining Route 1 at the James Larkin Road junction.

Route 3: The Raheny Way
Distance: **12 km** Duration: **2.2 hours** Level: **Moderate**

Route 3 is an extension of Route 2. At the beach it turns left (East) running close to the end of the island and returning to Causeway Road via the sand dunes.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF RAHENY

Raheny has a rich history that may date back to the Iron Age between 400 B.C. and 400 A.D. Some people say the name Raheny is derived from the Irish "**Rath Eanna**" - "**The Fort of Eanna**". Others claim it comes from "**Rath Eannaigh**"- the fort of the swamp or marsh.

Little is known about the life of Eanna. However, if we are to credit him with the creation of the ancient rath or fortification from which the village got its name, he chose well. The hill was well chosen by one with political intelligence and military genius for defence and protection of his tribe. Commanding views of the bay and countryside could be had from this fortification. The celebrated Battle of Clontarf took place in its immediate vicinity. The Rath may have been a place of importance at this time.

The remains of the Rath can be seen at the top of Main Street. In the 18th and 19th centuries Raheny was very rural comprising of large private estates, small farms and labourer's cottages. The big houses were occupied by families who were prominent in the social, economic and political life of the country. The largest estate in the Raheny area was St Anne's which belonged to the Guinness family. The family home was described as the "most palatial house built in Ireland during the second half of the 19th century". It was destroyed by fire in 1943. Many of the buildings in Raheny are contained in The Record of Protected Structures of Dublin City Council. Blue Plaques around the village mark the historical sites. The Santry river runs through the village.

PLACES OF INTEREST

1 Raheny Railway Station. The station was built as part of the Dublin to Drogheda Railway. It was opened on the 24th May 1844 at a cost of £320. On the 23rd of May 1844, the day before the official opening, two special trains with 600 guests including Daniel O'Connell travelled from Dublin to Drogheda, stopping off for a banquet in Raheny, on the return journey.

2 The Crescent Cottages were built about 1790 by Samuel Dick, a linen merchant and governor of the Bank of Ireland as accommodation for his workers on his nearby estate in Violet Hill. In 1879, Lord Ardilaun, renovated them at a cost of £375. The Cottages remain almost unchanged since they were built and are among the oldest houses in Raheny.

3 Church of Our Lady Mother of Divine Grace. The 1950s saw Raheny expand and St Assam's Catholic Church could no longer accommodate the growing population. The foundation stone for the new church was laid on Sunday 24th of April 1960 by Archbishop McQuaid of Dublin and was opened and blessed by him on 22nd of July 1962. The triangular door design is based on the carvings of the west door of the ancient cathedral of Clonfert in County Galway. It was designed by architects Peppard and Duffy of Dublin.

4 Saint Assam's Catholic Church is situated across the Howth Road from the new church. It was the first Catholic Church built in Raheny since the Reformation. Designed by Patrick Byrne, it was dedicated on Sunday the 23rd of January 1864.

5 The Millenium Clock was erected at the crossroads on Raheny by the Federation of Raheny Residents, Raheny Business Association and Dublin Corporation in the year 2001.

6 St Assam's Church of Ireland. This ruined gable is all that remains of the former Church of St Assam. It was built in the year 1609, probably on the site of a suppressed 12th century chapel, and rebuilt in 1712. After the Act of Disestablishment in 1869 St Assam's Church, was in a state of disrepair. Lord Ardilaun built the new All Saints Church. The old church was maintained until 1920. The surrounding graveyard was in use until 1925.

All Saints Church can be seen just beyond Watermill Road and Howth Road junction. The gate lodge marks the Raheny original entrance to St. Anne's Estate. The Church is a gem of Gothic Irish architecture. It opened on the 16th of December 1889 and remains in use today. It was designed by George Coppinger Ashlin and built at a cost of £9,000.

Lord and Lady Ardilaun are buried in a crypt here.

7 Dick's Charity School. (Currently a Restaurant) Dick's Charity School was a school for poor children of all persuasions. It is the oldest building in Raheny. It was built in 1787 by Samuel Dick of Violet Hill. This two storey building of stone and lime cost £150 to build.

8 The Village Forge. The Forge was owned by the Crowe family stood on Main Street from 1835 until the 1930s. It was the hub of family life where adults and children gathered to watch the activities and chat.

9 The Village Pump was erected in 2014 near the site of the original village pump which served the village prior to the introduction of mains water in 1948.

10 Estate Cottages. A detached cottage and two semi-detached cottages on Watermill Road mark the eastern boundary of the former St Anne's estate. They were built in 1880 and originally housed the workers of the estate.

11 Manor House convent and school were built in 1957 on the site of an earlier Manor House dating back to the latter part of the 17th century. In 1952 the house became the property of the Sisters of the Poor Servants of the Mother of God. The house was completely demolished in 1957 to allow for the building of a secondary school.

12 Saint Anne's Park. In 1835 brothers Arthur Lee and Benjamin Lee Guinness, bought a house and 50 acres of land at Blackbush Clontarf. Benjamin became the sole owner. He renamed the area St Anne's after the holy well on the estate. Major expansion was continued by his son Arthur Edward Guinness (Lord Ardilaun) until the estate reached a total of 496 acres by 1878. The Holm Oak Trees from the estate can be seen on Watermill Road. It is the 2nd largest park in Dublin.

13 Watermill Road /James Larkin Road. Dublin City Council has recently constructed a traditional stone wall at the boundary of St Anne's Park at this location.

14 Tree Sculpture. At the junction of Watermill Road and James Larkin Road, a Monterey cypress tree had to be cut down for health and safety reasons. In 2015, Dublin City Council decided they would engage Tommy Craggs, an award winning tree sculptor, to transform the tree into a 10 metre tall piece of art, celebrating the wildlife of the park and the biodiversity of the nearby North Bull Island.

15 The Causeway Road was built in 1962 and links Raheny to The North Bull Island. The saltmarsh and mudflats on either side of Causeway Road are home to many species of wildfowl and wading birds, particularly from October when over 30,000 birds arrive to spend the winter here. The area is designated as Special Protection Areas under the EU Birds Directive.

16 North Bull Island Nature Reserve is a coastal sand spit that is managed by Dublin City Council. Its location in such close proximity to Dublin City Centre, makes it an important public amenity, and it is used daily by local residents, walkers, bathers, scouts, kite-surfers, bird-watchers, nature enthusiasts and many others. The Island also has several nature conservation designations, and supports a range of species protected under European and Irish legislation, including petalwort (a species of liverwort), marsh fritillary butterfly, harbour and grey seals, at least three species of bat, three species of moss, and one plant (Lesser Centaury). It also supports a range of overwintering wildfowl and wading birds, including three species that regularly occur in internationally important numbers (Light-bellied Brent Goose, Black-tailed Godwit and Bar-tailed Godwit), and fourteen species that regularly occur in nationally important numbers (Shelduck, Teal, Pintail, Shoveler, Oystercatcher, Grey Plover, Golden Plover, Knot, Sanderling, Dunlin, Curlew, Redshank, Turnstone and Black-headed Gull). The Island is also an integral part of the Dublin Bay Biosphere.

17 The Beach. Going left towards the end of the island is a beautiful sandy beach where panoramic views of Howth and the Dublin and Wicklow mountains can be enjoyed.

18 The Sand Dunes. Between the beach and the lagoon is an area of sand dunes. Here you can enjoy the flora and fauna native to the area. We ask you to be respectful of this wonderful area and not to disturb the wild life.

19 Raheny Library was opened in 1972. It is the 2nd busiest library in Dublin.

20 Celtic Cross. A monument to commemorate Doctor Marie Elizabeth Hayes is to be found in front of the Rath. Doctor Marie Hayes was born in 1874 at Raheny Rectory. She came from a family very involved with the missions. She went to India to work in a mission hospital. However, after only two years in India she sadly died.

21 Raheny Infant School was built about 1838 on land donated by the Earl of Howth. In 1875 a new school was built on the site. The school is currently used as a Montessori School.

the
RAHENY WAY
Village and Coastal Walking Guide with Map

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Appleyard D. (1989). In and out of school: Over two centuries of Coolock and Raheny schools. The Governors of Coolock and Raheny Schools, Dublin.

Garrett A. (1990). Through Countless Ages: The story of the church and parish of All Saints. Select Vestry of All Saint's Church, Dublin.

Raheny Heritage Society (2014). Raheny Heritage Trail. Raheny Heritage Society, Dublin.

Ussher Sharkey J. (2002). Saint Anne's : the Story of the Guinness Estate. The Woodfield Press, Dublin.

OTHER USEFUL REFERENCES

www.dublincity.ie
www.askaboutireland.ie
www.birdwatchireland
www.northbullisland.com
www.unahealydesign.com - Graphic Design
www.irishtrails.ie
www.irishheart.ie/slinaslainte
Forde D. (1999). The Wild Flowers of North Bull Island. Dublin Corporation Parks and Landscapes Services, Dublin

Dublin City Council
Comhairle Cathrach Bhaile Átha Cliath

Close Up of Village Section of Walk

PLACES OF INTEREST NEAR THE THREE WALKING ROUTES:

All Saints Church
All Saints' Church is situated just beyond Watermill Road and the Howth Road.

The Gate Lodge
This very attractive Gate Lodge is to be seen at the entrance to All Saints' Church. It marks the original Raheny entrance to St Anne's and for many years was the residence of the Church Sexton.
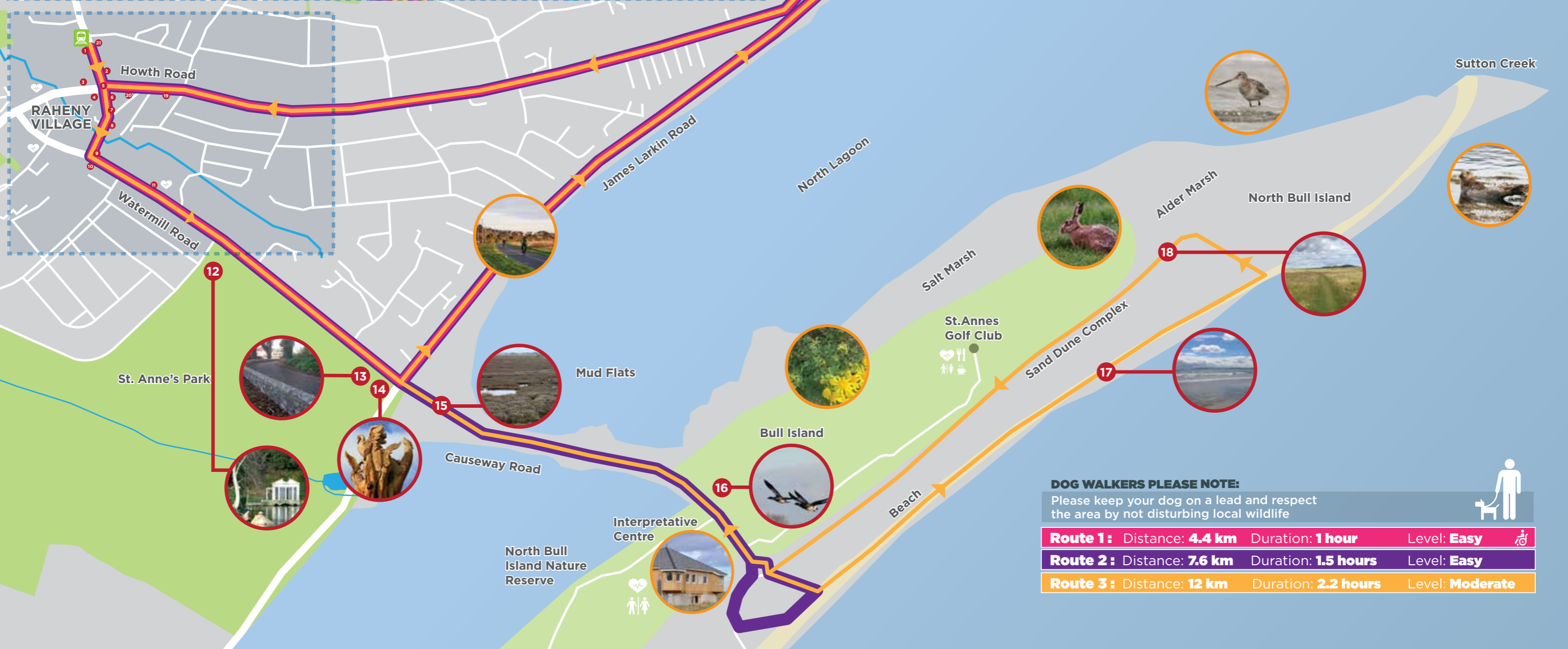
The Thatch Cottage
A fine example of a well maintained thatch cottage can be seen on Fox's Lane.

The Interpretative Centre
The Interpretative Centre is situated at the end of Causeway Road on the right hand side. There are marvellous displays of the flora and fauna of Bull Island here.

Phone (01) 8338341

Howth Road
Main Street
Watermill Road

RAHENY VILLAGE
Howth Road
Watermill Road

James Larkin Road

North Lagoon

Sutton Creek

Alder Marsh

North Bull Island

Salt Marsh

St.Annes Golf Club

Sand Dune Complex

St. Anne's Park

Mud Flats

Bull Island

Causeway Road

Beach

Interpretative Centre

North Bull Island Nature Reserve

DOG WALKERS PLEASE NOTE:
Please keep your dog on a lead and respect the area by not disturbing local wildlife

Route 1 : Distance: **4.4 km**   Duration: **1 hour**   Level: **Easy** ♿

Route 2 : Distance: **7.6 km**   Duration: **1.5 hours**   Level: **Easy**

Route 3 : Distance: **12 km**   Duration: **2.2 hours**   Level: **Moderate**