

Hillwatch
Seabarm, Strand Road Howth

Suggestions for Fingal Development Plan 2023-2029 for Howth/Sutton area

1. Proposal to include specific man-made landscape features, located within the HA High Amenity of Howth/Sutton area, as Protected Structures.

The HA High Amenity area has an objective to ‘Protect and enhance high amenity’.

There are numerous legacy man-made structures in situ that contribute directly and instantly to the cultural heritage and less obviously to the natural heritage. Some are instantly recognizable, while others are embedded in the landscape and are easily overlooked until they are removed, when their absence becomes apparent.

These structures clearly are integral to the fabric of the landscape in high amenity areas, and many have been in place for hundreds of years. They include local stone walls, earth banks and ditches of old field and property boundaries. Others linear features are paths tracks and stream with associated earth banks and walls. Additionally there are many specific structures unique to Howth that contribute to the landscape.

It is worth noting that these structures not only provide cultural heritage but also enhance the natural heritage, by protecting habitats for multiple specie. Many boundaries protect both against climatic erosion and erosion caused by physical footfall. A path with low walls alongside may also provide a fire break in areas of gorse, dry grasses, heather and bracken.

These HA High Amenity Areas are listed in light green on Fingal development Plan 2017-2023 Sheet 10 Baldoyle-Howth. They include the SAAO ‘Other Areas’ and ‘Buffer Zone’ areas as Howth SAAO Map A. This proposal generally does not focus on structures within Residential areas, such as within gardens and boundaries immediately adjacent to houses, where the normal planning applications provide protection.



The structures themselves are of historical, archaeological, social, cultural and technical interest.

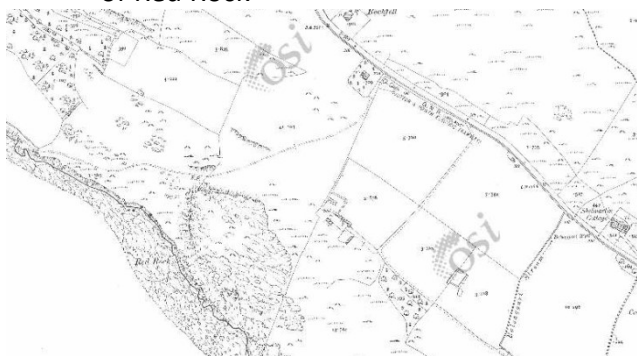
Proposal to list specific 'old' landscape features as protected structures within High Amenity areas. This could include:

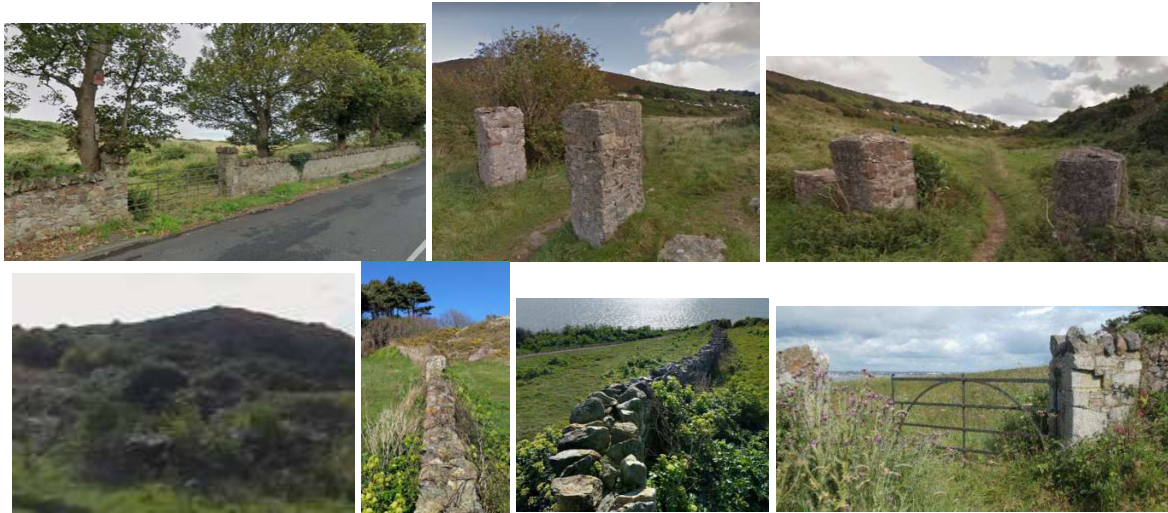
- walls and earth banks of existing and pre-existing field boundaries
- walls, ditches or earth banks along paths, tracks, old roadways streams throughout Howth
- old field boundaries marked by trees, hedges, ditches, banks and walls
- gate posts, gate piers, gates and entrances
- marker stones and boundary stones
- agricultural remains such as possible potato beds
- agricultural buildings ruins, farm cottages and keepers cottages
- paths and tracks
- other specific structures

One solution would be to protect all the existing structures that were built or installed over a hundred years ago. Structures are evident on the historical maps available online from Ordnance Survey Ireland. One simple and comprehensive method would be to classify all structures included on the 25 inch 1897-1913 maps or earlier maps, AS PROTECTED within the HA areas.

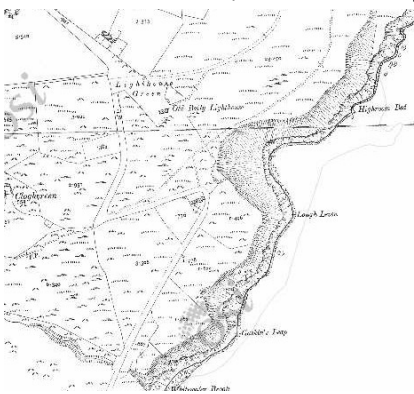
Examples below where 'field boundaries' on old maps and how they look today:

- Field walls, boundary walls, gate posts and piers, building ruins and agricultural ruins of Red Rock





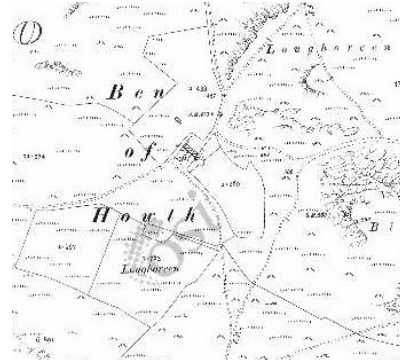
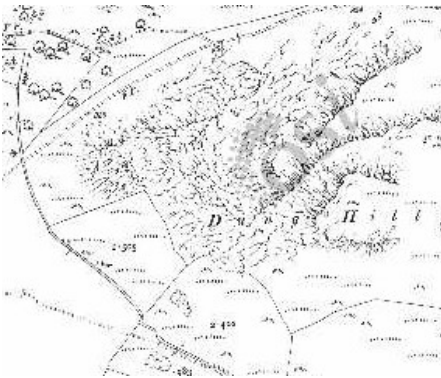
- Field walls and earth banks, of no longer used, agricultural areas of grazing and cultivation, numerous adjacent to the Cliff Path near The Summit and East Mountain



- Walls and earth banks at Howth Castle that are outside the ACA Conservation area



- Field walls and earth banks, of no longer used, agricultural areas of grazing and cultivation, on the Ben of Howth



Other historical features that are in danger of damage or removal include:

- Water pumps, wells and other streams may be buried underground. Well from south of Summit between Carrickbrack and Thormanby rd. Well from Castle and pump from old Carrickbrack rd.



- Marker stones, boundary stones and walkway bollards, numerous throughout Howth area



- Gates, gate posts and gate piers, numerous throughout Howth area



Recent structures, some built within the last one hundred years, some within Residential zone, could be added specifically by name and location. Examples include:

- Sea wall built along the southern extent of The Cliffs farm. Composed of sea shells, coarse sea sand, sea pebbles and topped with Howth stone. Built 1940's.



- Covent gate and walls of Stella Maris, built pre and along tram route



- Howth Eire 6 sign



- Junction of Nashville Park & Cowbooter Lane wall



- Sea wall at Tara Hall, Balscadden Road



- Telegraph Cable marker, Drumleck



- Original kerbstones, such as on Balscadden Road. (A number were removed and lost during construction of the Asgard Apartments)



2. Proposal to include street infrastructure with the Howth/Sutton area

Proposal to include street structures, built or installed in 20 Century or before.

Post Boxes, two are included on NIAH and c1905. Some built into private boundary walls and some on vulnerable structures.

Two are already listed on NIAH at Barren hill and The Summit, shown below with Ceanchor rd & Balkill rd.

