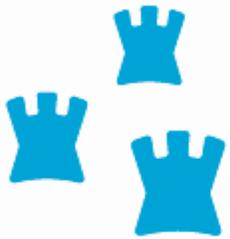


Being responsible on Bull Island



Comhairle Cathrach
Bhaile Átha Cliath
Dublin City Council



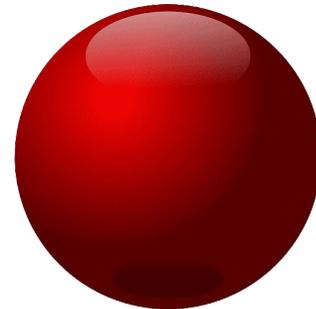
Please don't chase the birds!



**You know it's a game,
Your dog knows it's a game,
But the birds don't
They will react like they're being attacked**



**Play chase with a ball, not
with the birds!**



If you or your dog frightens a bird in the saltmarsh –

- **You have wasted its limited energy reserves by making it fly away**
 - **Increased its stress levels**
 - **Stopped it from feeding or resting**



You may not see the impact that has, but it reduces the likelihood of the bird surviving migration and successfully breeding.

Give birds a chance by keeping out of the saltmarsh.



This is a Grey Plover. Flocks of over 300 birds regularly feed and roost right beside Causeway Road. That's around 95% of all Grey Plovers in Dublin Bay, or 7% of all Grey Plovers in Ireland.

When you disturb a flock like this, it's not 'just a few birds'.

It's a significant impact on the national population. Please take action to minimise your risk of disturbance.



These birds are Knots. Up to 3,500 feed and roost in the same location as Grey Plovers beside Causeway Road – that's almost 80% of all Knots in Dublin Bay.

These can also be negatively affected by disturbance.





In fact, there are 3 types of birds that regularly feed and roost on Bull Island in numbers considered to be Internationally significant – over 1% of the world’s population.

And 14 more occur in numbers considered to be nationally important – over 10% of the Irish population.

And over 80 different types of birds have been recorded on the Island in total – it’s an important place!

And the biggest challenge they face is disturbance from people and dogs.



If you are walking your dog off-lead through the Bull Island sand dunes, and you see a small bird flying out of the grass THINK!

- **Was it trying to nest?**
- **Will the parents return before anything happens to the eggs or chicks?**

You can reduce the risk of disturbing ground-nesting birds by keeping your dog on-lead and sticking to existing trails.



Give them a chance by keeping your distance.

Imagine never being allowed to rest!

Seals can't stay in the water all the time. They have to come onto land regularly to rest.

On land they're clumsy and vulnerable, and any kind of disturbance will cause them to return to the water, depriving them of the chance to rest and recover.



Seal pups are born on land, and on Bull Island. You might want to get a closer look, but you've scared the mother away and left the pup vulnerable. They need their mother to feed them and care for them.

Give seal pups the best chance by keeping your distance.



Do you like the orchids of Bull Island? They, and many of the Island's rarest flowers, grow here because the dunes are naturally nutrient poor.

Your dog poo is not!

When you leave your dogs poo on the dunes, you change the nutrient composition of the ground, which changes the types of flowers that grow here.



Help protect the flowers and dispose your dog poo correctly.



Bull Island is here to be enjoyed by everyone so remember...

- **Take all your rubbish home**
- **Pick up and dispose of your dog poo properly**
 - **Keep your dog under control**
- **Respect the wildlife and other people**