

## Scenic routes in County Kildare

Refer to Chapter 14. Section 14.6 Table 14.2

### 1. Views of Old Kilcullen, from the N78 Motorway Interchange to South of Moortown House.

Location: Knockbouse, Old Kilcullen, Hacklow, Halverstown

Extensive and open views of the undulating lands are available from the N78, when looking north towards Old Kilcullen village. The commonly smooth terrain of the area allows for long-distance vistas of this part of the County, whilst the existing topography and vegetation (e.g. hedgerows and scattered trees) add complexity to the views and partially screen the highly scenic vistas. Nevertheless both the hill south of Old Kilcullen and the Wicklow Mountains in the distance to the east remain always visible, defining the skyline when viewed from any section along the designated road. Although scattered housing is located along the local roads, vistas remain generally unaffected.

### 2. Views to the East of Yellowbogcommon, from the N9 Motorway Interchange to Halverstown Cross Roads.

Location: Yellowbogcommon, Glebe South

As a result of the flat topography in this area of the County, extensive vistas are available along the designated section of the N9. The generally smooth terrain and the low-lying vegetation provide little screening and thus allow open and long-distance visibility. The ridgelines of the Wicklow Mountains define the skyline and the extent of the available views. The rural landscape character of the area and the limited number of occurring development, prove to be the key for the scenic and visual amenity value of the views obtained from this section of the N9.

### 3. Views of the Curragh Plains, from the M7 Interchange to St. Ledgers Bottoms.

Location: St. Ledgers Bottoms, Curragh

Extensive and open views are available from the N7 national road that runs through the Curragh racecourse, east of Kildare town. The generally smooth terrain and the lack of hedgerows allow for long-distance vistas, the extent of which however is restricted by the softly undulating topography. Existing conifer tree plantations add complexity to the otherwise smooth terrain and plain vistas.

### 4. Views of the Curragh Plains including Little Curragh; County Road from Kildare Town boundary to Military Ranges, R413 from Kildare Town Boundary to the Motorway Interchange.

Location: Curraghfarm, Strawhall, Curragh, Little Curragh

Local roads south of the Curragh allow vistas onto the racecourse lands as well as the military camp and ranges. The land softly undulates throughout and gently rises on the eastern section of the road, limiting the extent of the views. Scrub vegetation (i.e. gorse) and conifer forests add complexity to the otherwise smooth terrain.

### 5. Views of Moat and Ardscull, N78 from Russelstown Cross Roads to Kilmead.

Location: Tullygorey, Aghanure, Ardscull, Youngstown

Long distance views towards Moate and Ardscull are available from the N78 national road (north of Athy). The flat topography of the area and the apparent elevation of the N78, allow for extensive and long-distance visibility of the surrounding environs. The existing vegetation throughout the

agricultural lands and the hilltops that define the skyline to the west, add complexity to the high scenic quality of the available views.

#### **6. Views of Robertstown Countryside and Views across the Canal.**

Location: Mylerstown, Lowtown, Littletown, Derrymullen, Robertstown East

The local road running parallel to the Grand Canal when approaching Robertstown, allows scenic views onto the surrounding countryside. The rural character of the landscape and the existing bog remnant in the outskirts of the town provide visual amenity and remain unaffected by the development that exists in the vicinity. The local roads also allow open and extensive vistas of the surrounding countryside. These local roads are signposted as Kildare tourist routes.

#### **7. Views of Blessington Lake; N81 from Poulaphuca Bridge to County Boundary at Bishopslane and from the County Boundary at Glassing to County Boundary at Glebe.**

Location: Bishopslane, Crosscoolharbour, Pipershall, Hempstown, Common Glebe East,

Glemore, Barrettstown

Open and extensive views of Blessington Lake are available from the N81 national road that runs near to the eastern County boundary. The highly scenic vistas to the lake are framed by the Wicklow Mountains, which define the skyline in the distance. The gently undulating topography of the area and the significance of the water feature at Poulaphuca Bridge provide high scenic and amenity value to this viewpoint.

#### **8. Views of Bogland Plains; L3002 from Kilmoney Cross Roads to FeighCullen Cross Roads at Boston Hill.**

Location: Bostoncommon, Drinnastown, Kilmoney North

Extensive views are available from the L3002 local road that runs on the western slopes of Boston Hill. The elevated nature of the road allows open and long-distance vistas of the Kildare bogland and agricultural plains.

Although the scenic quality of the views can be classified as high, an existing quarry affects certain sections of the designated scenic road. Nevertheless, due to the extensive nature of the views and the generally rural character of the area, the visual amenity obtained from this drive remains generally unaffected.

#### **9. Views of the River Liffey; R411 Liffey Bridge at Ballymore Eustace to Cross Roads Boundary at Silverhill Upper Townland.**

Location: Broadleas Commons, Bishopslane

The existing vegetation along the riverbanks generally screens views to the River Liffey from the R411 regional route. Nevertheless, vistas to the river valley can be described as scenic.

The R411 also allows scenic vistas to the Wicklow Mountains when looking to the east. The mountains determine the extent of visibility as well as defining the skyline. The land gently slopes towards adjacent hills dominated by pasturelands with low hedgerows and scattered trees. The road continues east of Ballymore and long distance views of the Poulaphuca Lake and the Wicklow Mountains can be obtained at certain points.

**10. Views of the West Plains on the Oughterard Road (L2009).**

Location: Bishops court Lower, Boston

Extensive vistas of the Kildare plains are available from L2009 local road that runs through Oughterard. The elevated nature of the lands in the area allows open and long-distance vistas of the lowlands to the west. An existing powerline significantly, however locally, affects the quality of the views. Nevertheless, and despite the scattered housing that occurs throughout the plains, the extensive character of the views provides highly scenic vistas.

**11. Views of the Upland Areas on the Oughterard Road (L6018).**

Location: Pluckerstown, Oughterard, Castlewarden North

The L6018 local road that runs through Oughterard provides scenic vistas of the undulating lands at the County Boundary, as well as views of the Wicklow Mountains in the distance. The elevated nature of the road and the existing low vegetation of the agricultural lands allow long-distance visibility. The generally smooth terrain is interrupted by hedgerows and conifer forests. Although scattered housing occurs throughout the area, these are partially screened by existing vegetation. Thus, the vistas available from the road remain generally unaffected.

**12. Views West of the Kildare Plains from Redbog Area and Views towards Caureen; from Rathmore Cross Roads to Pipershall.**

Location: Greenmount, Redbog, Pipershall, Rathmore West

The local road that runs through Rathmore provides scenic vistas of the Kildare plains to the southwest and the undulating lands at

the County Boundary to the southeast. The elevated nature of the road and the generally low hedgerows and vegetation of the agricultural lands allow long-distance visibility. Although scattered rural housing is located in the area, these are partially screened by existing vegetation. The views available from hedge opening along the road remain unaffected.

**13. Views to the River Liffey on the R413 from Brannockstown Cross Roads to Ballymore Eustace.**

Location: Rochestown, Gaganstown, Ardenode East, Ballymore Eustace West.

Vistas on the R413 Regional Road towards Ballymore Eustace remain highly scenic and unaffected as no development disrupts the available views. The rural character of the area provides scenic amenity value to the route. The gently sloping lands of the River Liffey Valley indicate the presence of the river corridor, which is disguised behind the vegetation growing along its banks.

**14. Views to and from Red Hill and Views of two Central Kildare Plains and Boglands on the R401 and adjoining Roads.**

Location: Redhill, Loughandys, Water Grange, Knocknagalliagh, Rathwalkin

Open and extensive views of the central Kildare plains are available from the local and regional roads (i.e. R401) that run along the environs of Redhill. The smooth terrain of the dominating pasturelands - with low and well-maintained hedgerows and some scattered deciduous mature trees - and the boglands provide for long-distance vistas to the undulating lands. The rising slopes and the hilltop of Redhill as well as the hilltops in the vicinity, define the skyline.

**15. Views to and from Dunmurray and Views of Central Kildare Plains and Boglands on the R401 and adjoining roads.**

Location: Kilmoney South, Carrickanearla, Guidenstown, Dunmurray

The hilltops of Dunmurry and Red Hill define the skyline in this part of the County. Due to the generally flat nature of the surrounding landscape, Dunmurray Hill is visible over a wide area and long-distances. Extensive open views of the surrounding Kildare plains and boglands are available from the R401 regional road that runs between Dunmurry and Red Hill.

**16. Views of the Chair of Kildare and Views of Central Kildare Plains and Boglands on the R415 and adjoining Roads.**

Location: Grange Common, Blakestown, Conlanstown, Canonstown, Carrickanearla

Open and long-distance vistas of the agricultural lands and boglands of the central Kildare plains are provided from the R415 regional road and adjacent local roads. As a result of the generally smooth terrain and low hedgerows and vegetation, extensive views over the plains can be obtained. The Wicklow Mountains can be discerned in the distance. Although scattered housing occurs throughout the countryside, the landscape character of the area remains unaffected and the scenic quality of the available vistas remains to be significant due to the available extensive open views to this area of the County.

**17. Views of the Kildare Plains and Boglands from the Hill of Allen**

Location: Dunbyrne, Barnacrow, Baronstown West

Open and long-distance vistas of the lowland areas, both agricultural lands and boglands, are available from the roads - particularly the eastern local roads - around the Hill of Allen. The elevated nature of the road allows extensive views over the plains. Wicklow Mountains can also be discerned in the distance. Although scattered housing occurs throughout the countryside, the scenic quality of the available vistas remains to be significant.

**18. Views from the South/South-East Side of the Hill of Allen on the Milltown/Allen Road; R415 from Baronstown to Allen Cross Road.**

Location: Barnacrow

Extensive open views of the lowlands are available from the local roads that run on the south/south-eastern slopes of Allen Hill. The elevated nature of the road allows extensive views over the agricultural plains. The generally low-lying hedgerows (intertwined with mature trees) provided for long-distance visibility. Although scattered housing occurs throughout the countryside, these are partially screened by existing vegetation and the scenic quality of the vistas along these roads remains unaffected.

**19. Views of the Canal, River Slate and surrounding countryside from R414 at Rathangan**

Location: Bonaghmore, Kilmoney North, Mullantine, Mount Prospect, Newtown

The R414 Regional Road provides scenic views onto the Grand Canal, the River Slate and the surrounding countryside south of Rathangan village. The scenic and amenity value of both the water corridors and the landscape character of the surrounding countryside (which includes long distance vistas onto the Red Hill) are of significance.

**20. Views of Plains of Kildare and West Central Boglands. Views to and from Newtown Hills (including county roads 5027, 1007)**

Location: Newtown, Grange, Kilbridge, Ovidstown, Killickaneeny, Nicholastown.

The county roads that divert from the N4 towards Newtown (i.e. L5027, L1007) run west of and through Newtown Hills and thus provide scenic viewpoints to the surrounding hill slopes and lowland areas respectively. As the roads run along the ridgelines or hilltops, extensive views of the surrounding lowland rural lands are available at points where the occurring hedgerows are interrupted, and relatively large patches of deciduous woodlands can be seen. Small farms and deciduous trees along the low well trimmed hedges occur along these scenic roads.

**21. Views to and from Corballis Hills; county roads from Carrigeen to Sherrifhill Cross Road**

Location: Corballis, Tankardstown, Ballynacarrick Upper/ Lower, Sherrifhill, Alymerstown

Local roads throughout and in the vicinity of Corballis Hills provide scenic vistas of the adjacent hilltops and surrounding undulating lowlands. The generally smooth terrain is interrupted by low and well-trimmed hedgerows intertwined with some mature trees and vegetation, which add complexity to the vistas. Although these partially screen vistas along the designated routes, open and long-distance views are available for long sections along the scenic roads. Large concentrations of scattered housing occur along the local roads, affecting the quality of the vistas.

**22. Views to the North-West of the open countryside; from Killeel Village to Rathmore Village.**

Location: Furryhill, Killeel Lower, Rathmore East

Open and extensive views of the surrounding lowlands are available to the west, whilst views onto the hilltops are provided to the east. The undulating nature of the lowlands in this part of the County and the existing hedgerows with mature trees add complexity to the vistas, as well as partially screening views along the roads. Although scattered housing is located in the area, the landscape character remains unaffected and, similarly, the views along the road onto the lowlands maintain their scenic value. Although the hilltops to the west limit the extent of the vistas, these remain highly scenic.

**23. Views East at Brewel; L413 from Kingland Castle Ruins to Ballintaggart.**

Location: Brewel East, Ballintaggart

Extensive open views of Brewel Hill to the west and the Wicklow Mountains to the east are available from the L413 road. The generally flat topography of the area rises at Brewel Hill, which represents a focal landscape feature. The agricultural lands are bordered by generally low and well-trimmed hedgerows intertwined with some mature trees. The Wicklow Mountains to the east define the skyline and thus, extent of visibility.

**24. Views across the Barrow valley; L397 from Pinhill cross roads to Burton Cross Road.**

Location: Burton Big, Ballinadrum, Glassely

Extensive open views of the lowlands are available from the L 397 local road that runs almost parallel to the N78. The elevated nature of the road and the generally low-lying hedgerows (intertwined with mature trees) allow long-distance views over the agricultural plains and the Barrow Valley. Although scattered housing occurs throughout the countryside the scenic quality of the available vistas along this road remains unaffected.

**25. Views to the North-West of Kildare Plains; N78 South of Moortown House to Tippeen Lower.**

Location: Moortown, Thomastown, Ballyshannon, Tippeen Lower

Extensive and long-distance views of the Kildare plains are available from the N78 national road south of Kilcullen. The apparent elevated nature of the road, which runs through the plains, and the generally lowlying hedgerows provide for long-distance views over the agricultural plains.

**26. Views to and from Hughestown Hill (L8052).**

Location: Hughestown, Carrigeen Hill, Ballynacarrick Lower, Davidstown

Long distance views of the lowlands are available from the L8052 local road that runs on the western slopes of Hughestown Hill. Although the elevated nature of the road provides for long-distance visibility over the agricultural plains, views are limited due to the generally mature hedgerows along the road, which screen potentially scenic vistas. Local roads provide scenic views onto Hughestown Hill, which - together with Corballis Hill - define the skyline and presents a local landscape focal point. Although scattered housing is located throughout the

countryside (see photo above) the vistas available along hedgerow openings on this road remain highly scenic.

**27. Views to the south of the open countryside; from L138 Kilmeague cross road to Coolaght.**

Location: Kilmeague, Coolaght

Extensive views of the open countryside are available from the L138 road. Agricultural fields with low and well-maintained hedgerows intertwined with deciduous mature trees, provide for vistas to the environs of Kilmeague when looking to the south-east. The River Liffey is also discernible in the distance. Although scattered dwellings and farm buildings are located in the area, vistas along this section of the road remain unaffected.

**28. Views from the county roads (L5017 & L26) of Carbury Castle and Hill: Teelough road junction with the R402 and upland area at Mylerstown.**

Location: Calfstown, Mylerstown, Knockcor, Carbury, Coolcor.

Extensive views of the surrounding rural landscape are available along the R402 regional road from Kilshanchoe to Carbury. Scenic vistas can be obtained, particularly when approaching Carbury: the Ardrill bog and wildlife reserve dominated by birch trees, frame the Carbury Hill and Castle (Fortified House) views. The landscape can be described as historic and presents a high scenic amenity value. The local roads L5017 and L26 provide important viewpoints towards Carbury Fortified House on Carbury Hill. A number of local roads that set off from Carbury town are perceived as having scenic value as a number of extensive views - partially screened by deciduous trees and hedgerows - and historic landscape views were encountered during the site. Furthermore, the local road from Carbury to

Broadford is designated as a tourist route and also provides high quality vistas to the surrounding environs.

**29. Views of Countryside and East Kildare Uplands from Bishopshill Commons.**

Location: Carrigeen, Barrettstown

Extensive open views of the countryside and the Wicklow Mountains to the east are available from the local road that runs through Bishopshill Commons. The generally flat topography of the area undulates and rises towards the Wicklow Mountains, which define the skyline to the east of the County boundary. The generally low and well-trimmed hedgerows of the agricultural lands provide for long-distance visibility.

**30. Within Carton Demesne Walls: Views to and from Carton House, the Lake and Woodland Areas**

Location: Carton

Views to the Carton House and Demesne are not available from the R148 Leixlip to Maynooth Regional Road (classified as part of the North Kildare Tourist Route) nor from any other local roads due to the height of the stonewall boundary. The existing lake and deciduous woodlands within the estate and the open landscape character of the environs contained within the Demesne can be described as having high landscape and scenic amenity value. Due to the hilltop location of Carton House, views to the surrounding open countryside are available.

**31. Views within Castletown - Donaghcumper rural area; Views to the south and north from Castletown House, including axial view to Obelisk.**

Location: Castletown, Barrogstown, Barnhall, Rinawade, Crodaun

Views within Castletown Demesne have a high scenic value as a result of the landscape quality of the demesne lands. The open green areas and existing mature vegetation add to the visual amenity value. Views onto the River Liffey are also available.

**32. Views of the River Liffey from the Main Avenue of Castletown House.**

Location: Castletown

Views towards the River Liffey are available from the main road within Castletown Demesne. Although the river corridor itself is not visible due to the mature vegetation growing along its banks, the quality of the vistas is of significance.

**33. Views to and from the Ridgeline on the East Kildare Uplands and Views of the Central Plains.**

Location: Cromwellstownhill, Cupidstown Hill, Rathbane, Punchestown, Caureen, Hempstown Common, Pipershall, Crosscool harbour

Long-distance vistas of the central plains (i.e. lowlands agricultural and urban areas) are available from all the hilltops on the eastern boundary of County Kildare. Due to the open and extensive nature of the available views, these can be described as scenic. However, many views have been affected by development. Views to the upland areas are also of scenic value as ridgelines define the skyline as well as present conspicuous landscape features and focal points. Despite the fact that

industrial and infrastructure developments have affected some of the available vistas, the continuous designation and inclusion of these areas in the Development Plan is recommended.

**34. Views towards Lyons Hill, Liffey Valley, Clonaghilis and Oughterard; R403 from Barberstown Cross Roads to Saint Patrick's Hill.**

Location: Barberstown Lower, Ardrass Upper, Castledillon Lower, Friarstown

Extensive vistas of the undulating lowlands are provided from the R403. Views to the east include the river valley - the River Liffey corridor being screened by vegetation growing along its shores - and the hilltops around Oughterard, Lyons Hill, Clonaghilis and the lower elevation St Patrick's Hill, where the designated section of the road ends. The Wicklow Mountains in the next county, define the skyline and the extent of the views. Although some scattered housing is located and powerlines are visible, the extensive vistas and the landscape characteristics of the area provide scenic amenity when looking from the road, and therefore the vistas remain significant.

**35. Views of Dún Áillinne from the N78 - Moortowncastle to Knockbouce.**

Location: Moortowncastle, Moortown, Old Kilcullen, Glebe North, Knockaulin, Knockbouce

Open vistas of Dún Áillinne are available from the N78 national road. Although the undulating landform of the area determines the extent of visibility to the surrounding environs, extensive vistas to the undulating lowlands can be obtained along the N78. Scenic views are also available to the east, which include the undulating lowlands, St Patrick's Hill and the Wicklow Mountains in the far distance.

**36. Views of the Gibbet Rath and the Curragh from the N7 at St. Ledgers Bottoms.**

Location: St. Ledgers Bottoms

The elevated nature of the N7 national road when crossing through the Curragh allows extensive views of the Gibbet Rath, the racecourse lands and its environs. The generally smooth terrain and the lack of vegetation allow for long-distance visibility of the area.

**37. Views to Pollardstown Fen.**

The local road south of Pollardstown Fen provides extensive and open views to a unique bog formation landscape. The elevated nature of this road allows scenic vistas that include views to the Hill of Allen of which the rising slopes and hilltop are conspicuous in the otherwise flat terrain of this part of the County.

**38. Views of Allenwood to Lullymore Local Road.**

Extensive bogland and pastureland views are available along this local road. Although large areas along the road look onto cutaway bogland, intact bogland views can also be obtained. Therefore, the visual amenity value of the vistas obtained along this local road relays on the variety of bogland landscapes that can be viewed.

**39. Views of Lullymore to Rathangan Local Road.**

Extensive views of the intact bog at Lullymore can be obtained from this local road to the west. Agricultural lands and the ridgelines of Redhill, Boston Hill and Allen Hill defining the skyline, define the landscape to the east. The quality of the available open and long-distance views is perceived as significant.

#### **40. Views of Ballynafagh Lake**

Extensive and long-distance views of the Ballynafagh lake environs and lowland agricultural lands can be obtained to the west. Although conifer plantations in the area limit the extent of visibility, the elevated nature of the local road along this section allows long-distance views of the Kildare uplands to the east. Scattered housing is located throughout the area, however, the extensive open nature of the available views which include the lake feature, can be described as significant.