

19.11 Scenic Routes

Below is a short comment and photographic record of these scenic routes to outline their current status and significance. The photographic record represents a sample of the view and is not to be taken as definitive.

1. Views of Old Kilcullen, from the N78 Motorway Interchange to South of Moortown House- - Refer to section 19.4, Table 19.6

Location: Knockbounce, 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.



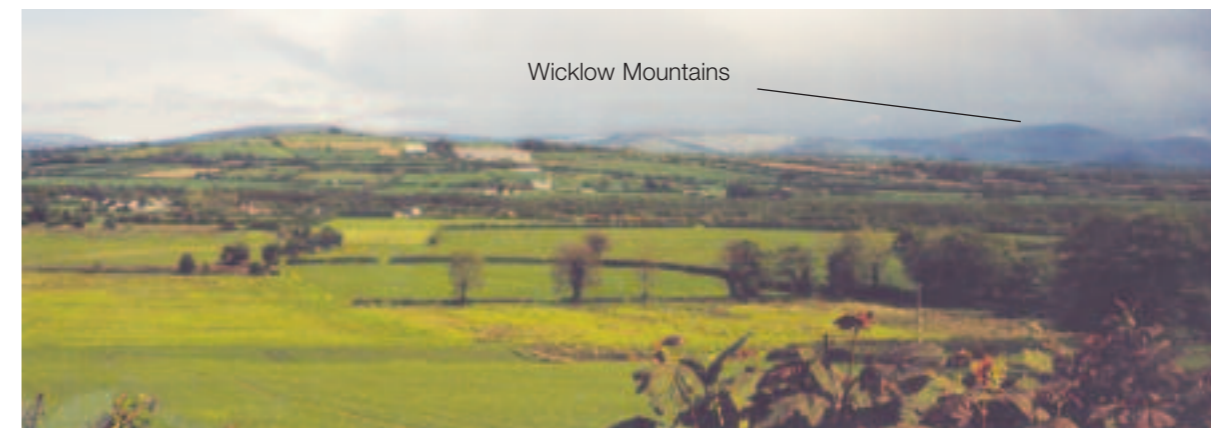
Views from the N78 looking onto Old Kilcullen Hill and environs



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.



Views towards Yellowbogcommon, and the Wicklow Mountains in the distance, from 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.



Views to the Curragh from the N7



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.



Views to the Curragh from the north and south



5. Views of Moate 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.



Long distance views to the west from the N78 (near Athy)



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.



Views across the Canal and the surrounding countryside near Robertstown



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.



Views of Blessington Lake - from the N81 near Glassing (above) and from Poulaphuca Bridge (below)



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 (see photo below). 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.



Extensive and long-distance views from a local road on the western slopes of Boston hill - Note the visual prominence of the existing quarry



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

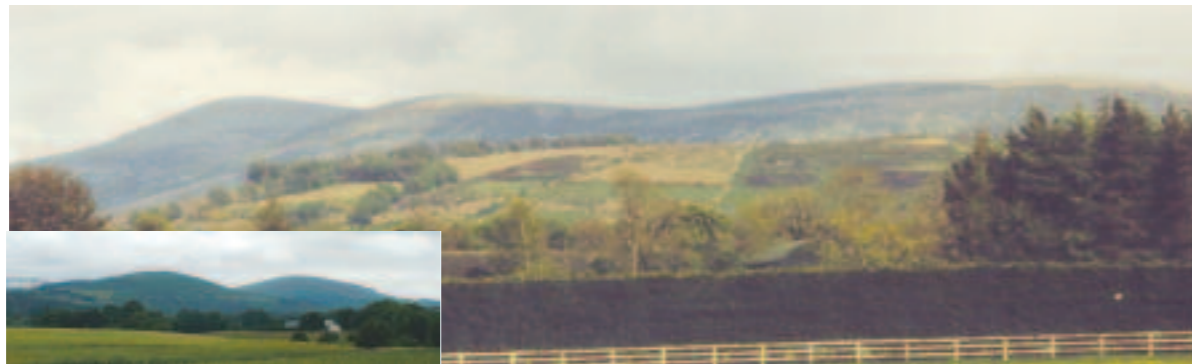
Location: Broadleas Commons, Bishopsland

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.



Views of the River Liffey Valley screened by existing vegetation (see left above) and views to Poulaphuca and the Wicklow Mountains along the local roads at Ballymore Eustace



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

Location: Bishopscourt 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 (see photo below). Nevertheless, and despite the scattered housing that occurs throughout the plains, the extensive character of the views provides highly scenic vistas.



Extensive views from Oughterard local roads



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.



Open views of the surrounding undulating lands and the Wicklow Mountains which define the skyline in the distance



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.



Views to the south west (above) and south east (below) from Rathmore local road



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.

