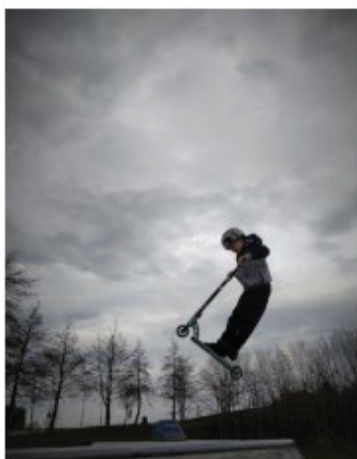
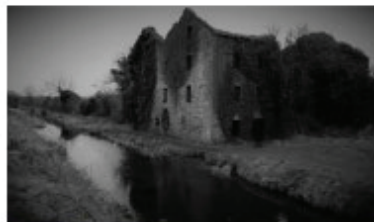


APPENDIX 7

SCENIC ROUTES



**OUR KILDARE
OUR PLAN**



1. Views of Old Kilcullen to the east and Dún Aillinne to the west, from the R418 Motorway Interchange to the south of Moortown House.

Location: Knockbounce, Knockaulin, Old Kilcullen, Glebe North, Moortown, Moortowncastle.

Extensive and open views of the undulating lands are available from the R418, when looking 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) adds 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 junction of R418/R448 to Halverstown crossroads.

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 R418/R448. 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 amount of occurring development, prove to be the key for the scenic and visual amenity value of the views obtained from this section of the R418/R448.

3. Views across Curragh Plains, north and south, along R445, from the junction of R413/R445 to Colgan's Cut.

Location: Curragh

Extensive and open views are available from the R445 that runs through the Curragh racecourse, south-east of Kildare town. The generally smooth terrain and the lack of hedgerows allow for long-distance vistas, the extent of which 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: Little Curragh, a county road, the L7034, the L3006 and the L6075, from the Kildare Town boundary to Donnelly's Hollow and the R413 from Donnelly's Hollow to the Kildare Town boundary.

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 the Moate of Ardscull along the R418 from Russelstown crossroads to Kilmead.

Location: Ardngross, Youngstown, Kilmead, Ardscull, Russellstown, Aghanure.

Long distance views towards Moate and Ardscull are available from the R418 (south of Kilmead). The flat topography of the area and the apparent elevation of the R418, 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, along the R415, L7075 and L7078.

Location: Kilmeague, Grangeclare east & west, Mylerstown, Lowtown, Littletown, 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 on 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 along the N81 from Poulaphuca Bridge to County Boundary at Bishopslane and from the County Boundary at Glassing to the County Boundary at Glebe East.

Location: Bishopslane, Horsepasstown, Bishopslane, Balymore Eustace East and Glebe east.

Open and extensive views of Blessington Lake are available from the N81 that runs close to a section of 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 along the L3002 from Kilmoney crossroads to Feighcullen crossroads at Boston Hill.

Location: Kilmoney north & south, Drinnanstown north & south, Boston common and Feighcullen.

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, 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 along the R411 from the Liffey Bridge at Ballymore Eustace to the junction of the R411/L5043.

Location: Broadleas commons, Bishopsland and Ballymore Eustace west.

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 and define the skyline. The land gently slopes towards adjacent hills dominated by pasturelands with low hedgerows and scattered trees. Long-distance views of the Poulaphuca Lake and the Wicklow Mountains can also be obtained at certain points.

10. Views of the West Plains on the Oughterard Road (L2009 and L2008).

Location: Bishops court lower and Boston.

Extensive vistas of the Kildare plains are available from the L2009 and the L2008 local roads 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 and L6021).

Location: Oughterard, Tuckmilltown, Blackchurch, Loyns and Pluckstown.

The L6018 and L6021 local roads 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 these roads remain generally unaffected.

12. Views west of the Kildare Plains from the Redbog Area and views towards Caureen from Rathmore crossroads to Pipershall along the L6038 road.

Location: Greenmount, Redbog, Pipershall, Wolfestown, Rathmore west and Punchestown lower.

The L6038 road that runs through Rathmore provides scenic vistas of the Kildare plains to the south-west and the undulating lands at the county boundary to the south-east. 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 occurs throughout the area, these are partially screened by existing vegetation. The views available at points where the occurring hedgerows are interrupted along the road remain unaffected.

13. Views to the River Liffey on the R413 from Brannockstown crossroads to Ballymore Eustace.

Location: Moorhill, Grangemore, Brannockstown, Rochestown, Gaganstown, Ardenode east & west, Longstown and 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 Dunmurry Hill and Red Hill and views of the Central Kildare Plains and Boglands on the R401 and adjoining roads from Thomastown crossroads to the Kildare Town Boundary.

Location: Thomastown west, Guidenstown south, Grangeclare, Killeagh commons, Redhills, Rahilla Glebe, Kildare town, Crockanure Glebe and Southgreen.

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 of the Plains of Kildare and West Central Boglands, to and from Newtown Hills (including county roads L5027, L50281, L5028, L1007).

Location: Newtown, Grange, Nicholastown, Cappagh, Corocoranstown, Ballynakill, Ballyvoneen and Cloncurry.

The county roads L5027, L50281, L5028, L1007 provides scenic viewpoints to the surrounding Newtown hills 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.

16.Views of the Chair of Kildare and views of the Central Kildare Plains and Boglands from the L7004 and L70061.

Location: Punchersgrange, Blakestown, Conlanstown and Canonstown.

Open and long-distance vistas of the agricultural lands and boglands of the central Kildare plains are provided from the L7004 and L70061. 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 vistas remains significant due to extensive open views in this area.

17.Views of the Chair of Kildare and views of the Central Kildare Plains and Boglands along the R415, from the junction of the R415/Mill lane for 1.5km towards the north.

Location: Dunbyrne, Barnacrow, Milltown, Barnacrow, Baronstown west.

Open and long-distance vistas of the lowland areas, both agricultural lands and boglands, are available from the R415. The elevated nature of the road allows extensive views over the plains. The Wicklow Mountains can also be discerned in the distance. Although scattered housing occurs throughout the countryside, the scenic quality of the available vistas remains significant.

18.Views of the Grand Canal, River Slate and surrounding countryside along the R414 from Rathangan Bridge to Spencer Bridge.

Location: Rathangan demesne.

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.

19.Views to and from the Corballis Hills, along the L8097, the L8095 and the L8053, from Carrigeen to Sheriffhill crossroads.

Location: Tankardstown, Corbalis, Ballynacarrick Upper, Ballynacarrick Lower, Aylmerstown and Sheriffhill.

Local roads 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.

20.Views to the north-west of the open countryside, from Kilteel Village to Rathmore Village.

Location: Furryhill, Kilteel upper & lower, Rathmore east & west and Segravescastle. 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 occurs throughout the countryside, 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.

21.Views east at Brewel, along the L6096 from Kingsland Castle Ruins to Ballintaggart.

Location: Brewel east, Brewel west, Ballintaggart and Usk.

Extensive open views of Brewel Hill to the west and the Wicklow Mountains to the east are available from the L6096 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, the extent of visibility.

22.Views across the Barrow valley, along the L8017 from Pinhill crossroads to Burton crossroads (N78).

Location: Burton Big, Ballinadrum, Glassely, Ballyadams and Lynamsgarden.

Extensive open views of the lowlands are available from the L8017 local road that runs almost parallel to the R418. 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.

23. Views to the north-west of the Kildare Plains along the R418, south of Moortown House to Tippeenán lower.

Location: Moortown, Thomastown, Ballyshannon and Tippeenán lower.

Extensive and long-distance views of the Kildare plains are available from the R418 regional road south-west of Kilcullen. The apparent elevated nature of the road, which runs through the plains, and the generally low-lying hedgerows provide for long-distance views over the agricultural plains.

24. Views to and from Hughestown Hill (L8052).

Location: Hughestown, Carrigeen Hill, Ballynacarrick lower and 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. Scenic views onto Hughestown Hill and Corballis Hill defines the skyline and presents a local landscape focal point. Although scattered housing is located throughout the countryside the views available at points where the occurring hedgerows are interrupted remains highly scenic.

25. Views to the south of the open countryside from the L7081 Kilmeague crossroad to the junction of the L7081/L7078.

Location: Kilmeague, Coolaght and Mylerstown.

Extensive views of the open countryside are available from the L7081 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.

26. Views from the county roads (L1005, L5019, L5018, L1006, L5017 and L5011) of Carbury Castle and Hill; Teelough road junction with the R402 and upland area at Mylerstown.

Location: Haggard, Calfstown, Mylerstown, Knockcor, Carbury, Coolcor, Ardkill, Balrinnet, Ballinderry, Nurney, Williamstown, Windmill and Freagh.

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 Ardkill 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 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 with number of extensive views (partially screened by deciduous trees and hedgerows) and historic landscape views. Furthermore, the local road from Carbury to Broadford is designated as a tourist route and also provides high quality vistas to the surrounding environs.

27. Views of the countryside and the East Kildare Uplands along the L6056 from Bishopshill Commons to Ballymore Eustace.

Location: Ballymore Eustace east and Bishopshill commons.

Extensive open views of the countryside and the Wicklow Mountains to the east are available from the L6056 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.

28. Views within the Carton Demesne Walls, to and from Carton House, the Lake and Woodland Areas.

Location: Carton demesne.

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.

29. Views of the River Liffey from the Main Avenue of Castletown House.

Location: Castletown demesne.

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.

30. Views to and from the Ridgeline of the East Kildare Uplands and views of the Central Plains along the L6030.

Location: Oldtown, Killeel upper, Rathbane, Punchestown upper & lower, Furryhill, Caureen, Slatequarries, Hempstown common and Pipershall.

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 presenting 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.

31. Views towards Lyons Hill, Liffey Valley, Clonaghilis and Oughterard, along the R403 from Barberstown crossroads to Saint Patrick's Hill.

Location: Barberstown lower and Barberstown.

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 of 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.

32. Views of Ballynafagh Lake along the L7095 from junction with L1021 to junction with L5072.

Location: Ballynafagh and Curryhills.

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 but the extensive open nature of the available views, which include the lake feature, can be described as significant.

33. Views of Pollardstown Fen along the L7032 from Father Moore's Well to the Pollardstown Fen carpark.

Location: Rathbride and Pollardstown.

The local road south-west 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.

34. Views along the R403 and R414 from Allenwood to Rathangan.

Location: Allenwood middle, Allenwood south, Lullymore east & west, Barnaran, Drunsru, Cappanargid, Killyguire and Newtown.

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 relies on the variety of bogland landscapes that can be viewed.