

Chapter 19 Protected Views and Scenic Routes

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## 19 Protected views and scenic routes

### 19.1 Views to and from Water Corridors

Table 19.1 Views of the River Liffey from Bridges (map 19.1 refers)

View Reference	Bridge	Townland/Location
RL 1	Leixlip Bridge	Leixlip
RL 2	New Bridge	Coneyburrow
RL 3	Celbridge Bridge	Celbridge
RL 4	Straffan Bridge	Lodgepark Straffan
RL 5	Alexandra Bridge	Abbeyland
RL 6	Millicent Bridge	Castlesize
RL 7	Caragh Bridge	Halverstown/Gingerstown
RL 8	Victoria Bridge	Moortown/Yeomanstown
RL 9	New Bridge	Droichead Nua (Newbridge)
RL 10	Athgarvan Bridge	Rosetown/Athgarvan
RL 11	Kilcullen Bridge	Kilcullen
RL 12	New Bridge	Cramersvalley/Carnalway
RL 13	Ballymore Bridge	Ballymore Eustace

For a detailed description and images of each designated view, see section 19.6, page 68-72

Table 19.2 Views of the Rye Water River from Bridges (map 19.1 refers)

View Reference	Bridge	Townland / Location
RW1	Black Bridge	Kellystown / Blakestown
RW2	Carton Bridge	Carton Demesne
RW3	Sandfords Bridge	Carton Demesne
RW4	Kildare Bridge	Carton Demesne

For a detailed description and images of each designated view, see section 19.7, page 73

Table 19.3 Views of River Barrow from bridges, adjacent lands and roads (map 19.1 refers)

View Reference	Bridge	Townland / Location
RB 1	Greese Bridge	Jerusalem / Newtownpilsforth
RB 2	Maganey Bridge	Maganey Lower
RB 3	Tankardstown Bridge	Grangemellon
RB 4	Bert Bridge	Tyrellstown
RB 5	Dunrally Bridge	Lowtown
RB 6	Pass Bridge	Passlands
RB 7	Mill Bridge	
RB 8	Baylough Bridge	

For a detailed description and images of each designated view, see section 19.8, pages 74-76

#### 19.1.1 Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Council:

- RV 1 To restrict further development on the river shores that could present a visual intrusion thereby, potentially affecting the quality of this viewpoint.
- RV 2 To preserve views and to ensure that further development does not disrupt available vistas or impact on the landscape quality and scenic value of the river corridor.
- RV 3 To preserve the visual amenity value of the designated viewpoints and protect the landscape vulnerability and quality of the river corridor, through restricting further development on the shores of the river that could present a disproportionate visual effect or disrupt the vistas available.

Sections 19.6, 19.7 and 19.8 (page 68-76) contain a short comment and photographic record of these scenic views to outline their current status and significance. *The photographic record represents a sample of the view and is not to be taken as definitive.*



Views of the River Liffey to the west and east respectively from Leixlip Bridge



## 19.2 Views to and from Canals

Table 19.4 Views to and from all bridges on the Grand Canal (map 19.1 refers)

View Reference	Bridge	Townland / Location
GC1	Old Grange Bridge	Old Grange
GC2	Henry Bridge	Clonaghtris
GC3	Ponsonby Bridge	Barrowrath
GC4	Devonshire Bridge	Sherlockstown Common
GC5	Digby Bridge	Aghpaudeen
GC6	Ladenstown Bridge	Ladenstown
GC7	Connaught Bridge	Newtown
GC8	Cock Bridge	Goatstown
GC9	Bonyng Bridge	Moods
GC10	Binns Bridge	Robertstown
GC11	Fenton Bridge	Lowtown
GC12	Bond Bridge	Derrymullen
GC13	Hamiltons Bridge	Killinagh Lower
GC14	Ticknevin Bridge	Ticknevin
GC15	Harberton Bridge	Littletown
GC16	New Bridge	Littletown
GC17	Skew Bridge	Ballyteige North
GC18	Huband Bridge	Grangeclare West
GC19	Pim Bridge	Newpark
GC20	Pluckerstown Bridge	Pluckerstown
GC21	Milltown Bridge	Milltown
GC22	Ballyteige Bridge	Ballyteige
GC23	Glenaree Bridge	Glenaree
GC24	Rathangan Bridge	Rathangan
GC25	Wilson's Bridge	Kiltaghan North
GC26	Ummeras Bridge	Ummeras More
GC27	Aylmer Bridge	Kearneystown Upper
GC28	High Bridge	Old Grange
GC29	Milltown Bridge	Moatstown
GC30	Tandy Bridge	Naas

Table 19.4 Views to and from all bridges on the Grand Canal (map 19.1 refers) - continued

GC31	Abbey Bridge	Naas
GC32	Ploopluck Bridge	Naas
GC33	Limerick Bridge	Naas
GC34	Milltown Old Bridge	
GC35	Clogheen Bridge	
GC36	Bunberry Bridge	

For a detailed description and images of each designated view, see section 19.9, pages 77-88

Table 19.5 Views to and from all bridges on Royal Canal (map 19.1 refers)

View Reference	Bridge	Townland / Location
RC1	Baileys Bridge	Maws
RC2	Cope Bridge	Newtown / Leixlip
RC3	Louisa Bridge	Easton / Leixlip
RC4	Deey Bridge	Collinstown
RC5	Pike Bridge	Railpark / Donaghmore
RC6	Mullen Bridge	Railpark / Maynooth
RC7	Bond Bridge	Maynooth
RC8	Jacksons Bridge	Laraghbryan East
RC9	Chambers Bridge	Maws
RC10	Shaw Bridge	Kilcock
RC11	Allen Bridge	Boycetown

For a detailed description and images of each designated view, see section 19.10, pages 89-92

### 19.2.1 Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Council:

- CV 1 To prohibit any development on the canal shores that could present a visual intrusion and affect the quality of designated views.
- CV 2 To ensure that further development along the canal shores does not disproportionately affect the quality of the available views.
- CV 3 To preserve and enhance the scenic amenity of the canals by restricting development along the canal shores and ensuring that illegal dumping is controlled, since these could affect the quality of the vistas available from designated views.
- CV 4 To ensure that further development along the canal shores does not affect the quality of both the scenic viewpoint and the waterways amenity.
- CV 5 To ensure that any further urban development does not disrupt or affect the views available from designated views.
- CV 6 To curtail any further development along the canal shores that could cumulatively affect the quality of a designated view.

Sections 19.9 & 19.10 (pages 75-90) contain a short comment and photographic record of these scenic views to outline their current status and significance. The photographic record represents a sample of the view and is not to be taken as definitive.

### 19.3 Views to and from the County Waterways: Grand Canal, Royal Canal, River Liffey, River Barrow and the Rye Water River.

Both the rivers and the canal corridors are linear water features and represent a conspicuous attribute of the natural landscape. They provide a contrast of form and colour on the landscape, where the land and the water make contact.



Views to the Royal and Grand Canals



The Grand and Royal Canals' width as well as that of the Rivers Liffey, Barrow and Rye Water varies throughout the corridor, stretching at some sections and widening at others (see samples above and below). The visual amenity also varies along the course. In the case of the canals, some areas present a well-canalised watercourse where vegetation has been cleared along the shores and pasturelands characterise the surrounding landscape whilst at other points debris and colonising vegetation (i.e. commonly reeds) cover the canal banks. Similarly occurs in the case of the rivers, natural vegetation generally occurs along the river banks screening



Views to the Liffey and Barrow Rivers



Views to the Royal and Grand Canals

the surrounding environs. However, these have been cleared at certain areas where pasturelands follow the river shores. Debris material affects both the quality of the waters and the scenic views at some locations.

Urban and rural development takes place along some sections of the canals and rivers, interrupting the integrity of these linear landscape features and affecting their scenic amenity value.

As with other natural linear features such as shorelines and ridgelines it is important that development does not interrupt the integrity of river and canal corridors as development can appear insubordinate to the landscape in which it sits, affecting its character.



Views to the Royal and Grand Canals



#### 19.3.1 Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Council:

- WW 1 To prevent inappropriate development along the canal and river shores and to preserve these areas by creating a buffer zone, where development should be avoided. In any case, measures shall be taken to ensure that the integrity of the canal and river corridors is not disrupted or affected by development and wherever possible efforts shall be made to improve the landscape quality of these landscape features.

## 19.4 Scenic Routes

Scenic routes heighten public awareness of the County's landscape and present a permanent but mobile sensitive receptors to development.

### 19.4.1 Policy Statement

It is the Council's policy to:

**SR 1** To protect views available from designated scenic routes by avoiding any development that could disrupt the vistas or disproportionately impact on the landscape character of the area thereby affecting the scenic and amenity value of the views provided along this route.

**SR 2** To secure the protection of the views by ensuring that future development in the vicinity of the Hill of Allen or throughout Kildare plains does not disrupt the available vistas, present a disproportionate visual impact neither affect the landscape character of the area.

**SR 3** To ensure that all views from Castletown House and along the paths within the demesne are preserved and protected

**SR 4** To ensure that all views within Castletown Demesne towards the River Liffey are preserved and protected.

Table 19.6 Scenic Routes (map 19.1 refers)

Scenic Route no.	Description	Location
1.	Views of Old Kilcullen, from N78 Motorway Interchange to South of Moortown House	
2.	Views to the East of Yellowbogcommon, from N9 Motorway Interchange to Halverstown cross roads	
3.	Views of Curragh Plains, from the M7 Interchange to St. Ledgers Bottoms	St. Ledgers Bottoms, Curragh
4.	Views of Curragh Plains including Little Curragh; County Road from Kildare Town Boundary to Military Ranges, R413 from Kildare Town Boundary to Motorway Interchange Curraghfarm, Strawhall, Curragh, Little Curragh	
5.	Views of Moat and Ardscull, N78 from Russelstown cross road to Kilmead	Tullygorey, Aghanure, Ardscull, Youngstown
6.	Views of Robertstown Countryside and Views across the Canal	Mylerstown, Lowtown, Littletown, Derymullen, Robertstown East
7.	Views of Blessington Lake; N81 from Poulaphuca Bridge to County Boundary at Bishopslane and from County Boundary at Glassing to County Boundary at Glebe	Bishopslane, Crosscoolharbour, Pipershall, Hempstown, Common Glebe East, Glemore, Barrettstown
8.	Views of Bogland Plains; L3002 from Kilmoney cross roads to FeighCullen cross roads at Boston Hill	Bostoncommon, Drinnastown, Kilmoney North
9.	Views of River Liffey; R411 Liffey Bridge at Ballymore Eustace to Cross Roads Boundary at Silverhill Upper Townland	Broadleas Commons, Bishopslane
10.	Views of the West Plains on the Oughterard Road (L2009)	Bishopscourt Lower, Boston
11.	Views of the Upland Areas on the Oughterard Road (L6018)	Pluckerstown, Oughterard, Castlewarden North
12.	Views West of Kildare Plains from Redbog Area and Views towards Caureen; from Rathmore Cross Roads to Pipershall	Greenmount, Redbog, Pipershall, Rathmore West
13.	Views to the River Liffey on the R413 from Brannockstown cross roads to Ballymore Eustace	Rochestown, Gaganstown, Ardenode East, Ballymore Eustace West.
14.	Views to and from Red Hill and Views of Central Kildare Plains and Boglands on the R401 and adjoining Roads	Redhill, Loughandys, Water Grange, Knocknagalliagh, Rathwalkin
15.	Views to and from Dunmurray and Views of Central Kildare Plains and Boglands on the R401 and adjoining roads	Kilmoney South, Carrickanearla, Guidenstown, Dunmurray
16.	Views of Chair of Kildare and Views of Central Kildare Plains and Boglands on the R415 and adjoining roads	Grange Common, Blakestown, Conlanstown, Canonstown, Carrickanearla

Table 19.6 Scenic Routes (map 19.1 refers) - Continued

Scenic Route no.	Description	Location
17.	Views of Kildare Plains and Boglands from Hill of Allen	Dunbyrne, Barnacarrow, Baronstown West
18.	Views from South/South-East Side of the Hill of Allen on the Milltown/Allen Road; R415 from Baronstown to Allen cross roads	Barnacarrow
19.	Views of Canal, River Slate and Surrounding Countryside from R414 at Rathangan	Bonaghmore, Kilmoney North, Mullantine, Mount Prospect, Newtown
20.	Views of Plains of Kildare and West Central Boglands. Views to and from Newtown Hills (including county roads 5027, 1007)	Newtown, Grange, Kilbridge, Ovidstown, Killickaneeny, Nicholastown.
21.	Views to and from Corballis Hills; County Roads from Carrigeen to Sherrifhill cross roads	Corballis, Tankardstown, Ballynacarrick Upper/ Lower, Sherrifhill, Alymerstown
22.	Views to the North-West of the Open Countryside; from Killeel Village to Rathmore Village	Furryhill, Killeel Lower, Rathmore East
23.	Views East at Brewel; L413 from Kingland Castle Ruins to Ballintaggart	Brewel East, Ballintaggart
24.	Views across the Barrow Valley; L397 from Pinhill cross roads to Burton cross roads	Burton Big, Ballinadrum, Glassely
25.	Views to the North-West of Kildare Plains; N78 South of Moortown House to Tippeen Lower.	Moortown, Thomastown, Ballyshannon, Tippeen Lower
26.	Views to and from Hughestown Hill (L8052)	Hughestown, Carrigeen Hill, Ballynacarrick Lower, Davidstown
27.	Views to the south of open countryside; from L138 Kilmeague cross roads to Coolaght	Kilmeague, Coolaght
28.	Views from county roads (L5017 & L26) of Carbury Castle and Hill: Teelough road junction with the R402 and upland area at Mylerstown	Calfstown, Mylerstown, Knockcor, Carbury, Coolcor.
29.	Views of countryside and East Kildare Uplands from Bishopshill Commons	Carrigeen, Barrettstown
30.	Within Carton Demesne Walls: Views to and from Carton House, the Lake and Woodland Areas	Carton
31.	Views within Castletown - Donaghcumper Rural Area; Views to the South and North from Castletown House, including axial view to Obelisk	Castletown, Barrogstown, Barnhall, Rinawade, Crodaun
32.	Views of the River Liffey from the main avenue of Castletown House	Castletown
33.	Views to and from the Ridgeline on the East Kildare Uplands and Views of the Central Plains	Cromwellstownhill, Cupidstown Hill, Rathbane, Punchedown, Caureen, Hempstown Common, Pipershall, Crosscoolharbour
34.	Views towards Lyons Hill, Liffey Valley, Clonaghilis and Oughterard; R403 from Barberstown Cross Roads to Saint Patrick's Hill	Barberstown Lower, Ardrass Upper, Castledillon Lower, Friarstown
35.	Views of Dún Ailinne from the N78 - Moortowncastle to Knockbounce	Moortowncastle, Moortown, Old Kilcullen, Glebe North, Knockaulin, Knockbounce
36.	Views of the Gibbet Rath and the Curragh from the N7 at St. Legers Bottoms	St. Legers Bottoms
37.	Views to Pollardstown Fen	
38.	Allenswood to Lullymore Local Road	
39.	Lullymore to Rathangan Local Road	
40.	Ballynafagh Lake	

For a short comment and photographic record of each scenic route, see section 19.11, page 93-112

## 19.5 Views to and from Hills

County Kildare has a generally flat landform, with very little variation on its topography, and predominantly low vegetation. As a result extensive views can be obtained from hilltops, allowing vistas over long distances, and similarly from the lowland areas, the eyes are drawn to the primary and secondary ridgelines that define the skyline throughout the County. Ridgelines are conspicuous features of the natural landscape as they perform the important roles of providing an area with its identity, acting as dominant landscape focal points - presenting a strong contrast of form and colour where there is contact between the land and sky - and defining the extent of visual catchments. [Note also 18.5]

As with other natural linear features such as shorelines and river corridors, it is important that development does not interrupt the integrity of ridgelines. Due to the dominating influence of ridgelines, in instances where penetration does occur, development can appear insubordinate to the landscape in which it sits.

Furthermore, steeply sloping land provides both a potentially increased elevation and an immediate backdrop for development, intensifying its visual prominence over greater distances. Slope also provides an increased opportunity for development to penetrate primary and secondary ridgelines when viewed from lower areas of the public realm such as the roads in the vicinity. Slope often provides an area with its character, especially in County Kildare as it is dominated by smooth terrain, being therefore equally sensitive to development that might impact on that character.

### 19.5.1 Policy Statement

Taking into consideration the significance of elevated areas as described above, it is the policy of the Council:

- HV 1** To protect the hills of County Kildare and to ensure that development on or in the vicinity of the designated hills does not disproportionately affect views to and from the hills, or impact on the landscape character of the area as a whole.



*Hill of Allen when viewed from the south*



*Hill of Allen when viewed from the north - Note that the quarry has significantly affected the northern slopes of the hill*



## 19.6 Views to and from Water Corridors - River Liffey

Views of River Liffey from all Bridges Refer to section 19.1, Table 19.1

**RL 1 Leixlip Bridge - Location: Leixlip**



*Views of the River Liffey to the west and east respectively from Leixlip Bridge*



The River Liffey crosses through an urban environment at Leixlip; however, the views to the river from Leixlip Bridge are unaffected, as natural vegetation occurring on the riverbanks and shores screens and limits the extent of the vistas. Nevertheless, some urban fabric is partially visible in the distance when looking from the bridge to the west.

**RL2 New Bridge - Location: Coneyburrow**



*Views of the River Liffey from New Bridge: the reservoir to the north and the river flowing to the south*



Views from New Bridge to the River Liffey have maintained their scenic amenity value even though manmade infrastructure works have taken place in the vicinity - i.e. a reservoir is located immediately to the north of it. River and reservoir embankments are dominated by natural vegetation, which limits the extent of the views to the south. Extensive and open vistas of the water body and its environs are available to the north.

**RL3 Celbridge Bridge - Location: Celbridge**



*Views of the River Liffey at Celbridge*



The urban environment of Celbridge town affects the vistas available from the bridge. Nevertheless, views to the south provide scenic views of historic buildings. To the north, the visual amenity is interrupted by existing dwellings that contrast with the river corridor landscape.



RL4 Straffan Bridge - Location: Lodgepark Straffan

*Views of the River Liffey from Straffan Bridge*

Straffan Bridge, located at the outskirts of Straffan town, provides a highly scenic viewpoint. Views to the east allow vistas of the river corridor, which is framed by naturally growing vegetation. To the west, an old mansion house can be discerned in the distance, the trees planted along the river partially screening the demesne buildings.

RL5 Alexandra Bridge - Location: Abbeyland

*Views of the River Liffey to the North and South respectively from Alexandra Bridge*

Even though Alexandra Bridge is located on the environs of Clane town, the bridge offers open vistas of the River Liffey and the surrounding countryside. Although one-off dwellings have been established in its vicinity, the visual amenity of the river corridor has not been affected. The river curves to both north and south and therefore, limited river corridor vistas are available.

RL6 Millicent Bridge - Location: Castlesize

*Views of the River Liffey and the surrounding rural landscape from Millicent Bridge*

Millicent Bridge provides an excellent viewpoint of the River Liffey and the surrounding environs at this point. Extensive vistas of the river corridor and the rural environs are available, particularly when looking to the north. Although the natural riverbank vegetation limits the extent of visibility to the south, the scenic amenity remains unaffected.

RL7 Carragh Bridge - Location: Halverstown / Gingerstown



Views of the River Liffey and the surrounding rural landscape from Carragh Bridge



Open scenic vistas of the River Liffey can be obtained from Carragh Bridge. Although the river abruptly curves providing a limited view of the river corridor, high value scenic vistas of the rural environs are available. The natural vegetation occurring on the riverbanks adds complexity to the landscape and thus, to the views.

RL8 Victoria Bridge - Location: Moortown/ Yeomanstown



Restricted views of the River Liffey and the old mil from Victoria Bridge due to overgrown vegetation



Victoria Bridge has limited views of the river corridor as natural vegetation occurring on the riverbanks largely screens vistas. An old mill building is located adjacent to the northern banks of the river, partially visible from the bridge. Scattered dwellings also occur in the vicinity but vistas of the river corridor remain unaffected.

RL9 New Bridge - Location: Droichead Nua (Newbridge)



Views of the River Liffey from New Bridge



Although New Bridge is located within the urban environs of Newbridge (Droichead Nua) and both urban fabric and dwellings are visible from this viewpoint, the visual amenity of the river corridor has been maintained. Extensive vistas are available, particularly when looking to the south.