Environmental Report June 2025

Glashaboy Flood Relief Scheme

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The following is the clients Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) monthly review of the Glashaboy River (Glanmire/Sallybrook) Drainage Scheme. It details observations made on site regarding environmental and ecological factors involved in the scheme. This formulates a monthly review to be submitted to the Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG).

The environmental concerns for work areas for June 2025 included:

- ***Area 1*** - ***The construction of the earth embankment*** in Sallybrook continued. Environmental concerns primarily included biosecurity measures for JKW (Japanese Knotweed).
- ***Area 2 - Shopping Centre Bridge****.* Enabling works. Environmental concerns included vegetation clearance, bird nesting, biosecurity measures.
- ***Area 2 – Overflow culvert.*** Environmental concerns include sediment prevention to Glashaboy waterway and ground water pumping management during further excavation, Backfilling pumping management.
- ***Area 3 – New line*** – Ground water pumping management.
- ***Area 1, 2 & 3*** – Dust arising from various works - Environmental concerns – dust control.
- ***Area 4 –*** Pump station and RC wall. Environmental concerns include invasive plant species hygiene measures, ground water pumping and water quality controls.

General comments

Weather Summary – June 2025

Overall, the weather in June was warm, with many days marked by cloud cover and high humidity. Rainfall levels were low, contributing to decreased flow in the Glashaboy and Glenmore rivers, which maintained a lower, more typical summer flow height.

Conditions were favourable for site works, with no significant weather-related disruptions or delays.

Environmental Tour No. 031 was conducted on 13/06/2025 between the Employer's Clerk of Works (ECoW) and Sorensen's Site Ecologist. This tour forms part of an ongoing collaborative arrangement designed to foster open communication, cooperation, and a positive working relationship between the Employer's representative (ER) team and the main contractor, Sorensen Civil Engineering (SCE). In addition, an Ecology What's App group allows direct communications between the client's and the main contractor's ECoWs.

There were no environmental incidents that occurred in June.

Contamination at Sallybrook

Hydrocarbon contamination at Sallybrook House continued to be monitored throughout the month. The contamination was not observed. Hydrocarbon control measures remained in place with ongoing use of oil booms, absorbent pads, and reapplication of Bioversal HC as necessary. SCE's site ecologist and environmental team continued to implement controls and treatment measures as required throughout June.

Note: Bioversal HC is an environmentally friendly remediation product designed to treat hydrocarbon contamination, such as oil spills. It works by accelerating the natural biodegradation of hydrocarbons through the activation of native microorganisms, without introducing foreign bacteria. Bioversal HC is non-toxic, biodegradable, and suitable for use on soil, water, and solid surfaces, making it ideal for environmentally sensitive areas.

Pumping Activities – June 2025

During the month, three major locations operated under the Permit to Pump system:

1. Area 1, Sallybrook Pump Station.

Dewatering of the pump station was required during the month. The extracted water was generally clean, and although a siltation tank and filtration system had been set up as a precaution, they were not required. The water was discharged into the storm line through a mesh screen and silt curtain at the outfall to control any potential silt contamination. Pumping operations continued throughout the month without issue.

2. Area 4, dewatering trench to facilitate installation of drain line

This pumping was directed to the nearby foul system. Pumping operations continued throughout the month without issue.

3. Area 4, dewatering of coffer dam excavations

A temporary coffer dam was installed as excavation progressed for the Area 4 pump station. A sump was installed to minimise silt loading of ground water. The water was directed into the foul line. Pumping operations continued throughout the month without issue.

Main table of the months ecological and environmental related activities

Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
6.1	03/6/2025	Significant oil spill caused by third party on road at entrance to Hazelwood Shopping Centre.		Informed of incident by site ecologist.	No action required by SCE. The local fire brigade responded to the incident and implemented appropriate control measures to address the fuel spill.
6.2	03/6/2025	Rotary pile driving operations are ongoing at the Hazel Shopping Centre. Saturated, muddy material is being contained within the designated work area through the use of a temporary bund.		Monitored ongoing works for implementation of environmental mitigations to protect the adjacent	The material was subsequently scraped and removed from the work area and transported to an appropriate designated location.

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			 	watercourse in particular.	

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6.3	03/6/2025	The gravel and earth bund were maintained throughout the pile driving. Timber panels were put in place as well as an additional bund established along the riverbank. All measures aimed to prevent the risings from entering the Glashaboy river.	 	Monitored ongoing works for implementation of environmental mitigations to protect the adjacent watercourse.	Effective silt control measures were implemented throughout the piling operations.

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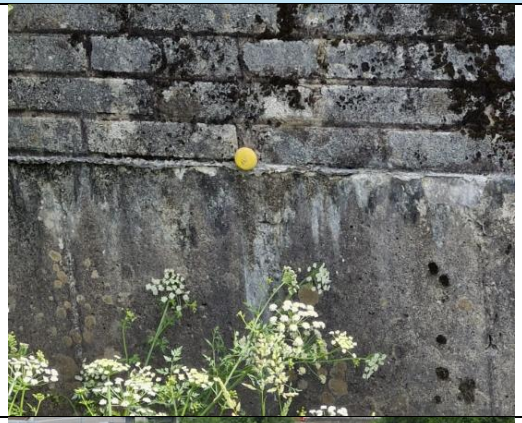
6.4	04/6/2025	Two additional weep holes were blocked as a precautionary measure to prevent sand martins from nesting. Prior to blockage, the holes were inspected and confirmed to be free of any nesting birds. Subsequently, the holes were sealed.			A positive and proactive measure was undertaken to mitigate the risk of potential delays to the scheduled wall demolition and flood defence construction activities.
6.5	05/6/2025	The area was bunded in advance of the planned concrete pour into pile holes scheduled for tomorrow. This precautionary measure was implemented to contain any potentially sediment-laden water that may be displaced during the pour, a common occurrence when concrete displaces water within the pile holes.		Discussed potential risks and mitigations with site ecologist prior to concrete pour.	This was an effective action to contain potentially silty material and prevent it from entering the Glashaboy river.

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6.6	06/6/2025	A sand martin was observed today actively accessing its nest within the weep hole of the Bean and Leaf revetment wall. This marks the second confirmed use of this particular weep hole as a nesting site during the current breeding season.		Checks were carried out to determine the status of the weep holes and assess whether they are currently being used for nesting.	Regular monitoring at Hazelwood Bridge is being carried out by the Site Ecologist in consultation with NPWS Ranger Sam Bayley, to block weep holes once each brood has fledged.
6.7	06/6/2025	Weep holes in the Bean and Leaf revetment wall were blocked off to facilitate works in accordance with the approved design, which includes the demolition of the wall. These weep holes were regularly monitored and inspected prior to final blocking to guarantee nest hole unoccupied.		Supervised the blocking off of 5 of the 8 weep holes.	The Site Ecologist, in consultation with NPWS blocked 5 out of 8 weep holes after inspection and survey confirmed they were no longer active.

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6.8	06/6/2025	Concrete is being poured into the rotary holes, displacing water upward, which is then collected by a tanker. The area is partially bunded to contain runoff while allowing access, with gravel stockpiles placed on either side for rapid deployment in case additional containment is needed.		Partial supervision of the concrete pour was undertaken, with checks carried out on the effectiveness and implementation of mitigation measures.	Silt control mitigation during rotary pile driving works was well planned and effectively implemented. The inclusion of contingency measures, such as additional gravel stockpiles, provided a robust and reliable failsafe.
6.9	06/6/2025	A concrete washout area was established on-site prior to the commencement of rotary piling. It was used for cleaning the funnel and casing equipment. The setup remained in place at the designated location throughout the works. Concrete waste and slurry residue were scraped and removed from around the bore hole locations.		Partial supervision of the concrete pour was undertaken, with checks carried out on the effectiveness and implementation of mitigation measures.	Sound control measures for managing siltaceous materials during concrete pouring operations were well implemented and consistently maintained throughout the works.

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6.10	10/6/2025	American Skunk Cabbage (*Lysichiton americanus*), an invasive non-native species in Ireland and listed as an invasive alien species of Union concern under EU Regulation 1143/2014 was identified on site.		Informed site ecologist after observation was made who liaised with plant specialist in BSBI (Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland) to confirm the plant's identification.	A buffer zone was established around the plant. Good biosecurity control methods deployed to prevent accidental disturbance and spread.
6.11	10/6/2025	Demolition of the wall in Area 4 commenced as planned. Biosecurity measures were followed throughout, including pre-demolition surveys. The wall was inspected for *Geranium purpureum*, but none was found on this section of wall.		Discussed mitigations with site ecologist prior to demolition works.	All activities were carried out in accordance with biosecurity protocols to prevent the spread of invasive or protected species.

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6.12	10/6/2025	Concrete was poured for rotary piles. Additional timber hoarding was erected as a precautionary measure to prevent any potential sediment-laden water from entering the adjacent Glashaboy River.		Liaised with site ecologist regarding mitigations prior to concrete pour.	Preventive and control measures were effectively implemented and maintained throughout the works.
6.13	10/6/2025	Permit to Pump No. 136 has been issued for the dewatering of tanks at the Sallybrook Pump Station. The same procedure previously implemented at the Meadowbrook Pump Station is being followed. A vacuum tanker is being used to remove the bulk of the water as part of the dewatering process. Installation of erosion control matting on the embankment at Sallybrook is ongoing today.	 	Liaised with site ecologist.	Effective siltation control measures were put in place, with strong contingency plans established. Additional backup measures were available and ready to be deployed if required, ensuring robust management of any potential increase in silt levels.

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6.14	11/06/2025	Rotary bored piling commenced on Pile No. 5 at the East Abutment. Control measures to contain spoil from the boring tool included the use of a berm, timber hoarding, metal road plates, and 1200-gauge plastic sheeting. These measures were implemented to prevent spoil migration and maintain environmental compliance.		Partial supervision of the concrete pour was undertaken, with checks carried out on the effectiveness and implementation of mitigation measures.	Effective siltation control measures were put in place prior to the works and maintained and supervised throughout the works.
6.15	11/06/2025	Rotary bored piling on the East Abutment - Pile No. 5, 6 and 7. Concrete pour completed for No. 5		Partial supervision, with checks carried out on the effectiveness and implementation	

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		Berm, timber hoarding, metal road plates, and 1200 gauge plastic utilised as control measures to contain spoil from boring tool and displaced water during concrete pour.		of mitigation measures.	
6.16	12/06/2025	Concrete control measures at Hazelwood Shopping Centre Bridge for concrete pour		Partial supervision of the concrete pour was undertaken, with checks carried out on the effectiveness and implementation of mitigation measures.	

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6.17	12/06/2025	Sondes were installed in advance of the instream works season to monitor water quality. Two sets were deployed: one in the Hazelwood area (Area 2 works) and another at the New Line (Area 3 works).		Inspected installations for compliance with work specifications.	Sondes installed as per the contract to monitor the flowing parameters during instream works 2025: NTU, pH, Conductivity, Dissolved Oxygen and Temperature.

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6.18	12/06/2025	A visual inspection for contamination was carried out at Sallybrook. No observable signs of contamination were detected at the drainage outfall or along the rock armour. Control measures were found to be well maintained, and containment systems remained in good order.		Carried out inspection.	SCE's site ecologist and environmental team continued to implement control and treatment measures as required throughout June.
6.19	12/06/2025	Excavation is ongoing for the connection to the pump station outfall. Water continues to be pumped from the sump into the stormwater drainage system, discharging into the Glashaboy River. A settlement tank and manifold system are in place as a precaution to manage any potential increase in suspended solids in the pumped water.			Robust failsafe and backup measures have been established to ensure effective control throughout the works.

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			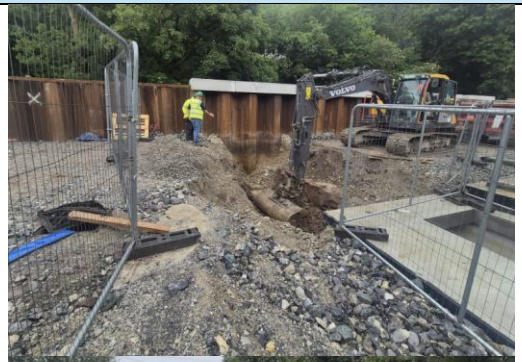 		
6.20	12/06/2025	The existing wall in Area 4 is scheduled for demolition as part of the design to replace it with a reinforced concrete (RC) wall. Prior to works, vegetation was inspected for signs of bird nesting. Additionally, the otter survey report from January 2025 was reviewed to identify any nearby active holts or related		Liaised with site ecologist to confirm environmental checks were carried out.	Bird survey and otter checks were carried out for the associated works in line with best practise.

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		activity; none were recorded in the vicinity.			
6.21	12/06/2025	Little robin surveys commenced today. Plants were carefully removed and translocated to the compound to preserve them before wall demolition.	 	Liaised with ecologist to confirm surveys were planned and carried out prior to the wall demolition.	Effective measures are being undertaken to protect potentially rare flowering plant species.
6.22	12/06/2025	Balsam bashing took place in Area 4 as part of standard practice to control the spread of Himalayan balsam. The method involves uprooting the shallow-rooted plants and leaving them to desiccate on-site. Crucially,		Surveyed the area in question for invasive plant species and discussed with site ecologist	Good biosecurity measures were implemented in relation to the management of Himalayan balsam, helping to prevent its spread during site activities.

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		this is carried out before the plant's flowers and/or set seed to prevent further propagation.		required control methods.	
6.23	13/06/2025	Embankment works continued today at Sallybrook. Biosecurity measures were discussed on-site and are being actively followed. Protocols include supervision of all activities, mapping of Japanese knotweed (JKW) rhizomes, use of Terram membrane, boot wash stations, and the placement of all excavated contaminated material into a designated temporary holding cell. Works were carried out during optimal conditions of dry weather.	 	Biosecurity measures were discussed on-site and continue to be actively implemented. These protocols are essential to prevent the spread of invasive species and ensure environmental compliance throughout the works.	Good biosecurity measures were implemented in relation to the management of JKW.

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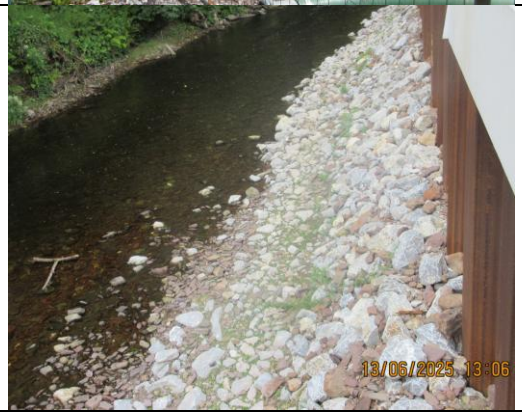
6.24	13/06/2025	The pumping arrangement at the Sallybrook Pumping Station was inspected, and adequate mitigation measures are in place to control potential siltation. However, periodic monitoring should be carried out to ensure there is no change in the condition of water entering the drainage system, as the current the drainage line offers no attenuation in the event of sedimented water.	 	Monitor pumping and manage accordingly.	No excavation works are taking place in the area of pumping, making siltation of the pumped water very unlikely.
6.25	13/06/2025	Himalayan balsam (HB) was removed along sheet piles at Sallybrook today. Plants were removed in good time prior to planting setting seed.		Discussed with site ecologist.	Positive proactive measures to control the possible spread of (HB).

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6.26	13/06/2025	Regarding the Change Order to replace a section of the flood embankment at Sallybrook with a sheet pile wall, the status of a nearby historic Otter Holt was discussed. Although the January 2025 otter specialist report recorded the holt as inactive, the specialist should be consulted again due to the time elapsed and the potential for disturbance if otters are now present.		Checks were conducted prior to vegetation clearance at this location to confirm the status of the holt. It was verified to be inactive at the time of inspection.	The holt was surveyed visually which yielded no signs the holt's status had changed. This was evidenced by the build up of leaf litter, cob weds and undisturbed ground at the entrance to the holt. There were also no markings around the holt or in the vicinity either. The otter specialist was consulted regarding the survey results.
6.27	16/06/2025	Clearing vegetation between Hazelwood Bridge and Hazelwood Shopping Centre Bridge– in advance of RC wall works.		Surveyed the area prior to clearance for signs of nesting birds and notable plant species.	Vegetation clearance included checks for nesting birds, none of which were found, and inspections for invasive plant species, which were also not present.

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6.28	16/06/2025	Further Little robin surveys along section of wall to be replaced by crash barrier.	 	Discussed with site ecologist.	Some plants were removed and relocated compound at Circus Field.
6.29	16/06/2025	Second phase of Balsam Bashing in Area 4 was carried out.		Surveyed the area in question for invasive plant species and discussed with site ecologist required control methods.	Good biosecurity measures were implemented in relation to the management of Himalayan balsam, helping to prevent its spread during site activities.

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6.30	18/06/2025	Demolition works commenced on the shopping centre bridge. Silt curtains were positioned directly beneath the expected line of falling debris, with an additional curtain placed downstream to capture any disturbed silt or dust particles from the works. Material that entered the river was removed by hand into an excavator bucket positioned above the water.	 	Advice was given on improving measures to prevent debris from entering the river in the first instance. This includes reinforcing containment strategies at the source, enhancing physical barriers, and adjusting work methods where necessary to minimise the risk of material entering the watercourse.	Efforts were made to retain material on the bridge deck by controlling the depth of the rock breaker during demolition works. However, not all debris was prevented from entering the river.

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6.31	18/06/2025	Plans are underway to remove the temporary sheet pile wall at the New Line. The reinforced concrete (RC) wall has been successfully completed during 2024/25, eliminating the need for the sheet piles to remain in place.		Consult with IFI as works proposed are outside the instream works window.	Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) were consulted, and no issues were raised regarding the proposed works. Activities were carried out successfully with appropriate mitigation measures in place which functioned effectively.
6.32	19/06/2025	Vegetation cleared along Hazelwood Road to accommodate footpath works. A permit to clear vegetation was issued by the site ecologist. The clearance was undertaking after a bird survey found no breeding birds present.		Surveyed the area prior to clearance for signs of nesting birds and notable plant species.	All works were carried out in accordance with the required ecological measures and mitigation protocols.

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6.33	19/06/2025	A river survey was undertaken from Hazelwood Bridge to the Shopping Centre Bridge in advance of instream works planned for this section of the Glashaboy River. As part of the survey, enhancement measures were identified for future reinstatement, to be implemented following modifications to the riverbed and riverbank.		Conducted river survey of hydro morphology features and aquatic plants.	A topographic survey was carried out by the SCE to allow riverbed levels to be reinstated once the in-stream works at this section of the river are completed.
6.34	19/06/2025	Ongoing monitoring of the active sand martin nesting in the revetment wall at Bean and Leaf is being carried out.		Continue to monitor closely so weep holes may be blocked when birds have fledged, enabling works to proceed	Monitoring is continuing throughout this period.

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6.35	20/06/2025	Vegetation clearance in Area 4 was carried out under the supervision of the site ecologist. Biosecurity measures and breeding bird surveys were conducted prior to and during the clearance works.		Received input from the site ecologist on ecological considerations	Good practise demonstrated.
6.36	23/06/2025	In advance of the temporary sheet pile removal at New Line, a silt management arrangement was installed to control silt generated during the works. The works were carried out under the supervision of an ecologist. The silt curtains were adjusted as needed throughout the progression of the works. A start-stop procedure was implemented to manage sediment release, allowing for dilution and avoiding elevated NTU levels. Sheet piles were removed		Reviewed methodologies in consultation with the site ecologist.	Effective silt management was established, maintained, and supervised throughout the works.

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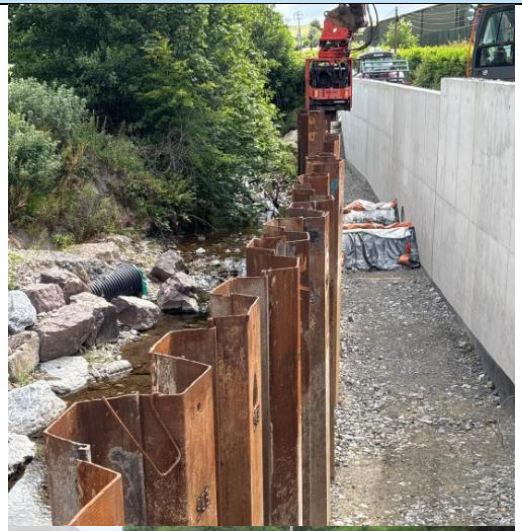
		primarily in a downstream-to-upstream direction to further reduce silt generation associated with the works.	 		

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6.37	26/06/2025	Hazelwood – Works commenced to remove vegetation along the riverbank to facilitate RC wall construction. However, silt mitigation measures were inadequate, and the site ecologist was not present to supervise or implement the necessary environmental mitigations. As a result, the works were instructed to cease until these issues were addressed.	 	Liaised with ER team to coordinate a unified response to SCE.	Works were promptly halted upon instruction. While no major incident occurred, the approach did not reflect best practice. Coir mesh was installed on exposed riverbank as a temporary measure. Works recommenced next day when site ecologist was on site to supervise and implement necessary ecological mitigation measures.
6.38	26/06/2025	Area 4 – The Japanese knotweed zone was inadequately demarcated, resulting in the encroachment of material into the area. This is not in compliance with the site's biosecurity protocols.		Notified site engineer and site foreman of situation. Coordinated with the site ecologist.	The following week, the material was removed, and additional signage and barriers were installed around the known Japanese knotweed stand. While the encroachment was not best practise, no disturbance to invasive plants species occurred.

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6.39	30/06/2025	Area 2 – Aquatic plants, including water crowfoot and common bur-reed, were removed and translocated in anticipation of later reinstatement. This was necessary to accommodate upcoming rock armour works. The intention is to replant these species once construction is complete. While success is not guaranteed, the measures were worthwhile, as the plants were due to be destroyed regardless.	 	Plants were relocated.	If instructed to do, facilitate the reintroduction of translocated plants.