



## **Environmental Report October 2024**

Glashaboy Flood Relief Scheme

**Prepared by:** Rory O' Connor

**Date of issue:** 02/2025

**Document code:** FFEC-GFRS-2024-010-Rev02

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 main work areas for October 2024 included:**

- Cois na Gleann – Installation of parapet wall and stonemasonry cladding.
- Area 1 – Capping beams installations.
- Eurofins – 1050 Flap valve and pipework.
- Circus field - Stonemasonry cladding.
- Hazelwood bridge – Bridge deck and parapet wall installed.
- Meadowbrook – Ducting and drainage. Silt trenches.
- Copper Valley Vue (CVV) – Parapet edge beams installed. Waterproofing bridge deck.
- Brooklodge culvert – Filter drain. Drainage line 6/S1.
- New Line - Parapet edge beams installed. Waterproofing bridge deck.
- Grandons – Ducting and Drainage.
- Gym – Concrete slab reinstatement.

## **General Comments**

In October, work sites scaled down following the busy three-month in-stream season, leading to a reduction in environmental and ecological issues. Consequently, there was also a decreased ecological presence on-site. The site ecologist was absent due to sick leave throughout the month, which resulted in some delayed reporting and slower turnaround on certain actions. The ECOW was also on leave for the first two weeks of October. The works sites were monitored by the Client's Site Team during this time for any immediate or pressing ecological related issues.



Environmental Tour 019 (ET019) took place 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2024 between the site ecologist and client's ecologist (ECOW).



The NPWS issued license to Photograph or Film a Protected Wild Animal or Bird, in use on the project for Otters expired on 31/10/2024. None of the monitored holts/couches were active during the monitoring period. The license will be reapplied for with the NPWS, as further monitoring will be required. The extent of this monitoring will be determined based on the results of an updated otter survey scheduled for January 2025.



**Table 1. Outstanding items to be addressed by Sorensen**

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>5.2</b>	Drainage ditch at Sallybrook House, Area 1. This is due to be filled in and replaced with an underground porous drainage pipe. Ecological potential here is low as it is disconnected from the Glashaboy river via a pipe fitted with a non-return valve.	Dewatering of this drainage ditch or filling it in is not scheduled as part of works. Once the new drainage line is activated the drainage ditch will receive less water. Drainage ditch to remain in place post works.
<b>5.9</b>	Hydrocarbon pollution leaking into the Glashaboy river emanating from underneath Grandon's forecourt. The black liquid on the surface of the water is used motor oil which has escaped from a faulty holding tank beneath the car showroom. This type of pollution is especially damaging as it contains polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, heavy metals and residual fuels.	<p>The responsibility for this pollution is with Grandons and not the main contractor Sorensen however it is still a responsibility that the contractor ensures they don't worsen the situation or cause further pollution during construction. Mitigation measures such as the use of oil booms and silt curtains were successfully implemented and monitored during works in this sensitive area during 2024.</p> <p><b>October Update:</b> The area with a long-standing hydrocarbon leak, present for over a year, shows signs of improvement. While it is too early for a definitive conclusion, three inspections from mid to late October suggest that the leakage may have ceased. Given that Grandons has not taken direct action to address the leak, it is assumed that the installation of the sheet pile wall, part of the flood relief works, may have intercepted the pollution source beneath the showroom and forecourt, preventing further contamination into the Glashaboy River. Monitoring will continue through November to confirm the status.</p>
<b>7.19</b>	Little robin Geranium purpureum discovered on old stone wall nearby circus field.	Stone material inclusive of seedbank was reused in cladding for RC wall located at the same location.
<b>7.48</b>	Contaminated boulders temporarily stored to undergo treatment with Bioversal HC.	Boulders still due to receive treatment with Bioversal HC.
<b>8.16</b>	Contaminated material placed on riverbank, Area one. Material can be relocated to the temporary holding facility once extended.	Material to be monitored for JKW and sprayed if required.



**Table 2. Main table of the months ecological and environmental related activities**

Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
10.1	1/10/24	Unsatisfactory pumping set up at Meadowbrook caused siltation in Glashaboy river.		Spoke to site ecologist about unacceptable siltation levels. Recommended to cease pumping until silt mitigation measures are in place before recommencing pumping.	Pumping set up was changed the following day avoiding any further siltation. Cause of event attributed to heavy rains on September 30 <sup>th</sup> that flooded works areas and nonactive drainage lines in the Meadowbrook estate prompting hasty dewatering to prevent possible water damage to nearby houses.
10.2	22/10/24	The area in front of the cabinet makers, which includes concrete waste, has not yet been cleaned following the shotcrete test on 09/09/2024.		Issue raised in ET019.	Cleaning completed 02/11/2024 -reported by Sorensen's site ecologist when returned from sick leave.



Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
10.3	22/10/24	The storage of contaminated material from Eurofins requires improvement, as the material is currently uncovered and the pile openly exposed on the side nearest the compound access road.	 22/10/2024 12:00	Issue raised in ET019.	Bunded 01/11/24 as reported by Sorensen's site ecologist on 29/11/24. Delay in reporting by site ecologist because of absence due to illness.
10.4	22/10/24	Boulders removed from Grandons, coated with contaminated material, to undergo repeated treatment with Bioversal HC until they are fully cleaned.	 22/10/2024 12:12	Issue raised in ET019.	The planned treatment of the material for this month was not initiated, and its reuse within the project has now been cancelled. As a result, the need for material treatment will now depend on whether it is classified as hazardous or non-hazardous and its potential use elsewhere off-site.



Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
10.5	22/10/24	The wheel wash at the holding cell noted as being full and overflowing.		Issue raised in ET019.  Construction staff should be instructed to ensure that this does not overflow.	Water levels were lowered in the following days.
10.6	22/10/24	The pumping setup, as discussed at the open excavation between the holding cell and Glashaboy, needs improvement. Enhanced use of the vegetated embankment area is recommended.		Issue raised in ET019.	Sorensen accepted the recommendation and plans to utilise the vegetated area to its fullest potential. When pumping resumes, the discharge hoses will be arranged to maximise flow through vegetation, enhancing natural attenuation and mitigating potential impacts on water quality.







Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
10.7	22/10/24	<p>Trench excavations at Sallybrook House may potentially encounter contaminated water. Regular checks should be conducted during digging to identify any signs of contamination. If encountered, precautionary measures must be implemented to prevent any contamination from entering the Glashaboy River.</p> <p>No contamination of groundwater was observed during the inspection while the ET019 was in operation. Excavations were dry.</p>		Issue raised in ET019.	No ground water was encountered during excavation works.
10.8	22/10/24	<p>The drainage line excavations at Grandon's were inspected for signs of contamination. The materials and water within the trenches were observed to be free of contamination during the Environmental Tour.</p>		Issue raised in ET019.	No further contamination within ground water was reported by Sorensen.





Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
		It was confirmed that the excavated material from this work site was removed to the Sallybrook compound for storage and subsequent testing.			
10.9	22/10/24	The newly created embankment above Riverstown Bridge to be seeded with grass seed and covered with coir mesh.		Issue raised in ET019.	Action completed 02/11/24 – reported by Sorensen's site ecologist on 29/11/24. Delay in reporting by site ecologist because of absence due to illness.
10.10	22/10/24	Waste materials piled at Meadowbrook to be cleaned up. JKW located in the immediate area.		Issue raised in ET019.	Area received a clean-up before the end of the month at this location.


Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
10.11	22/10/24	The drainage line extending from Pat O'Donnell to its exit at Eurofins was discussed. It was agreed that, following the contamination of the pipe with polluted water, cleaning is required before final activation. The methods for cleaning the pipes are still under consideration.		Issue raised in ET019.	The drainage line was pressure washed by McBreen Environmental and water samples tested by BHP Laboratories. Results showed no hydrocarbons were present.
10.12	30/10/24	Material removed from Grandons during drainage works is now stored at the Sallybrook compound, where it is exposed to rain and runoff, increasing the risk of contamination spread. This risk is exacerbated by the lack of bunding or sandbagging where the material is exposed.		Requesting to securely cover exposed sections and consider adding sandbags or bunds to prevent runoff.	Completed 01/11/24 – reported by site ecologist 04/12/24. Delay in reporting by site ecologist because of absence due to illness.  Monthly environmental toolbox planned to cover storage procedures and maintenance of possible contaminated material.



Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
					
10.13	30/10/24	Sallybrook house stream/drain – when the drainage line at this location becomes active (when drainage line is cleaned following the storage of contaminated ground water last October) will this waterbody be permanently dried out?		Enquired as to the permanent plans for this stream?	Dewatering of this drain is not scheduled as part of works. Drain to continue to receive water from surface drains located in adjacent business premises.

Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
10.14	30/10/24	Storage of Eurofins contaminated material at Sallybrook lacks bunding on the side nearest the access road.		Made enquires as to why has the contamination material not been bunded on this side?	Bunded 01/11/24 - reported by Sorensen's site ecologist on 29/11/24. Delay in reporting by site ecologist because of absence due to illness.  Monthly environmental toolbox planned to cover storage procedures and maintenance of possible contaminated material.
10.15	30/10/24	The drainage line at Grandons was observed to contain suspicious material settled within the open trench and at the outfall on the wet side of the sheet pile wall. The presence of an oil boom within the excavation area further suggests the possible presence of hazardous material.		Enquired about the nature and origins of this material, if it were tested and if it poses any environmental risks.	Site ecologist reported that pH reading of 7.81 taken 31st October. Unknown material present, however, the pH reading confirms that it is not cementitious in origin. The material is likely a natural limnic depositional layer such as marl in the existing ground water. Oil booms added initially as a precautionary measure.






Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
					
10.16	30/10/24	The sandbag positioned in the Glenmore River at New Line shows signs of wear, which could eventually lead to its collapse, potentially causing the one above it to collapse as well. This would likely result in the release of sediment material into the watercourse.		Requested information on the steps to avoid the potential release of sediment into the Glenmore River from these sandbags.	Site ecologist reported the sandbags will be monitored daily by site personnel, should a perceived risk of collapse be observed a silt curtain will be installed. A curtain will only be installed if the risk of collapse appears likely and imminent as we are outside the instream works period.

Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
10.17	30/10/24	Waste and traffic cone in Glenmore river a Copper Valley bridge.		Requested items be removed from watercourse asap.	Completed the 02/11/24 reported by site ecologist 04/12/2024. Delay in reporting by site ecologist because of absence due to illness.

Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
10.18	30/10/24	The generator used for the concrete pour at CV yesterday did not have a spill mat / drip tray placed underneath. This is particularly concerning, as the generator was positioned on a hard surface above the watercourse. In the event of a leak or spill, access to the watercourse would likely have occurred.		Advised that spill trays and spill matting should be used as failsafe in situations such as this. Operatives to receive instruction as such.	Sorensen accepted slip tray should have been used in this case and this was an oversight to avoid in the future when similar work is being carried out.  Use of spill matts to be revisited in planned toolbox talk.
10.19	30/10/24	Eroding earth bank located between the Brooklodge and Copper Vally Vue structures.		Enquired as to the action required to prevent further erosion from this exposed bank.	Site ecologist reported on 04/12/24 that a watermain needs to be diverted prior to the riverbank being regraded locally and erosion control being installed with works scheduled for Dec. 2024. Delay in reporting by site ecologist because of absence due to illness.



Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
10.20	30/10/24	Meadowbrook, located just upstream from Riverstown Bridge, has trapped water that could potentially serve as a point where fish might become stranded during a flood event.		Advised that action was required to avoid a possible fish trapping situation occurring.	Site ecologist reported on 04/12/24 that a channel was dug through the stone bund 29/11/24 to allow fish passage. Channel was dug from the dry with excavator bucket not entering the main channel.
10.21	30/10/24	Housekeeping along Cois na Gleann at rear of compound.		Requested clean up.	The waste was removed and was completed 02/11/24.
10.22	30/10/24	Coir mesh slippage at Cosi na Gleann stream rear of compound. Vegetation has not yet become established.		Requested mesh be pegged in place where slippage has occurred.	Coir mesh received additional wooden pegs to hold it in place. Completed 02/11/24.

**Appendix A.** Sorensen's October Environmental Audit. Dated 01/10/24 To 25/10/24.

This month's audit adequately covered the primary environmental concerns aimed at alignment with project standards and environmental obligations.