

Newsletter

Wexford Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme



WEXFORD TOWN AND ENVIRONS FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Newsletter No. 03 | December 2024



OPW Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

Tionscadal Éireann
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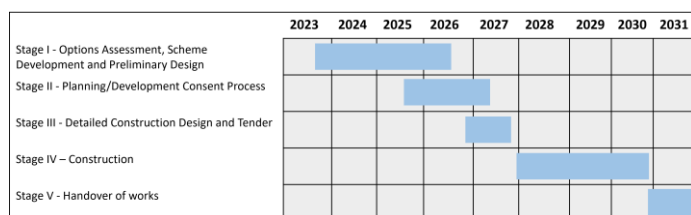
SCHEME BACKGROUND

Wexford Town is a medieval town constructed on the estuary of the River Slaney, on the west side of Wexford Harbour. The town is home to notable landmarks such as the historic Selskar Abbey, the National Opera House, and the Irish National Heritage Park. North of Wexford Bridge is the Wexford Railway Station on the Dublin-Rosslare rail line which was constructed in the 1870's and follows the coastline through the town.

In 2023, Nicholas O'Dwyer Limited (NOD) was commissioned to carry out the Wexford Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) by Wexford County Council (WCC), working in partnership with the Office of Public Works (OPW).

The overall objective of the project is the identification, design, and preparation of the Flood Relief Scheme through planning, which is technically, socially, environmentally, and economically acceptable, to alleviate the risk of coastal and fluvial (river) flooding to the environs of Wexford Town to a defined Standard of Protection.

The project shall be carried out in five stages:



SCHEME AREA

The scheme area (red outline below) includes approx. 10km of coastline and 7 main watercourses. It comprises Wexford Town east of the N25, plus the Heritage Park, Ferrycarrig Hotel, and Ferrybank area.



WHAT STAGE IS THE SCHEME AT?

The scheme is currently in Stage 1 – Option Assessment, Scheme development and Preliminary Design. Progress in the last three months includes the following.

Hydrological & Hydraulic Analysis:

Coastal computer modelling of sea levels and wave heights is ongoing to estimate extreme water levels and the potential extent of flooding that might occur as a result. The fluvial model build of the main watercourses of Wexford Town is also in progress: the 1D segments have been constructed and test runs completed. These will be expanded to include the 2D areas in the coming weeks.

Surveys:

The following surveys have been carried out:

- Short-term flow monitoring surveys have been completed. Long-term level monitoring surveys are ongoing.
- Topographic surveys and cross sections surveys have been completed within the scheme area.
- CCTV survey of culverts in the scheme area have been carried out.
- Structural surveys of the bridges and channels are underway.
- A LiDAR survey of the shoreline is underway.

Environmental Assessment:

The following surveys and assessments have been carried out to date:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Invasive species survey (Spring 2024)
- Wintering bird survey (Spring 2024)
- Breeding Bird survey (Summer 2024)

A further wintering birds survey for the winter 2024/2025 is now underway.

Public Engagement:

The First PCD was held in December 2023 to seek people's initial views in relation to the key issues that the Flood Relief Scheme should address and gain additional information on any recent flood events.

A second PCD is expected take place in 2025, Q2 (April – June) once a draft Scheme has been developed. This will be to engage public opinion, and to identify key issues and constraints.

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NEXT STEPS

The following additional surveys are planned for the next three months:

CCTV and Culvert Surveys:	CCTV and culvert surveys are ongoing to assess the culverted watercourses, including extents, locations, inlets, and outlets.
Structural Surveys:	Structural surveys are ongoing to assess the condition of the main structures along the watercourses and the open channels of the Horse River.
LIDAR Survey of the of the coastal overtopping areas:	LIDAR survey along the embankments where overtopping could be an issue is underway to inform the coastal hydraulic modelling. The survey is being carried out using drones whenever the combination of weather and low tides conditions are met.
Environmental Surveys:	The next season of wintering birds survey are ongoing.

The hydraulic modelling of the scheme area is continuing and will produce new flood mapping for the scheme area during 2025. This will determine the areas to be protected by the scheme.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The data from the water level monitors and rain gauges installed by the OPW for the scheme can be viewed on the OPW Hydro-Data website at:

<https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/>

Historic 6" and 25" mapping of Ireland can be viewed on the Tailte Eireann (formerly Ordnance Survey of Ireland) platform:

<https://webapps.geohive.ie/mapviewer/index.html>

Contact Us:

Please have your say – speak to the project representatives today.

Further questions can be directed to:

Wexford County Council or to Nicholas O'Dwyer Limited

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