



Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

Newsletter 10 – June 2026

Project Overview

The Arklow Flood Relief Scheme has continued to progress through Stage III – Detailed Construction Design and Tender since the previous newsletter issued in March 2026. Work over the past three months has focused on advancing detailed design, progressing hydraulic modelling, coordinating with utility providers, developing cultural heritage and environmental requirements, and preparing documentation for the next stage of the construction tender process.

Key workstreams during this period included continued development of construction drawings and specifications, preparation of utility diversion and protection measures, and progression of the Cultural Heritage Strategy with statutory and specialist consultees. The project team has also continued to finalise Stage 2 tender documentation to support the future appointment of a main works contractor.

In this issue:

- Detailed Design Progress.
- Hydrology and Hydraulic Modelling.
- Cultural Heritage and Archaeology.
- Environmental and Construction Planning.
- Utility Diversions and Stakeholder Engagement.
- Procurement and Contract Preparation.



OPW Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



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Project Ireland
2040



Project Progress

Archaeological Investigations

Archaeology remains an important consideration for the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme due to the historic setting of the town and the proposed works in and around the Avoca River. Following the completion of underwater archaeological investigations, the project team has continued to progress the Cultural Heritage Strategy for the scheme. This strategy sets out how archaeological requirements will be managed during the construction phase, including appropriate procedures for investigation, monitoring, reporting and communication with relevant statutory bodies.

During the reporting period, the Cultural Heritage Strategy was issued to Wicklow County Council and relevant archaeological stakeholders for review. Feedback received is being considered by the project team, with further engagement planned with the National Monuments Service and other relevant bodies. This ongoing coordination will help ensure that archaeological risks are appropriately understood and that suitable measures are incorporated into the construction contract documents.

Hydrology and Hydraulics

Hydrology and hydraulic modelling work has continued to support the detailed design of the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme. Since the previous newsletter, the Hydraulic Modelling Review Report has been completed and further modelling has been progressed.

Additional modelling and flood extent outputs are also being progressed to support benefitting area mapping and the Scheme Climate Change Adaptation Report.

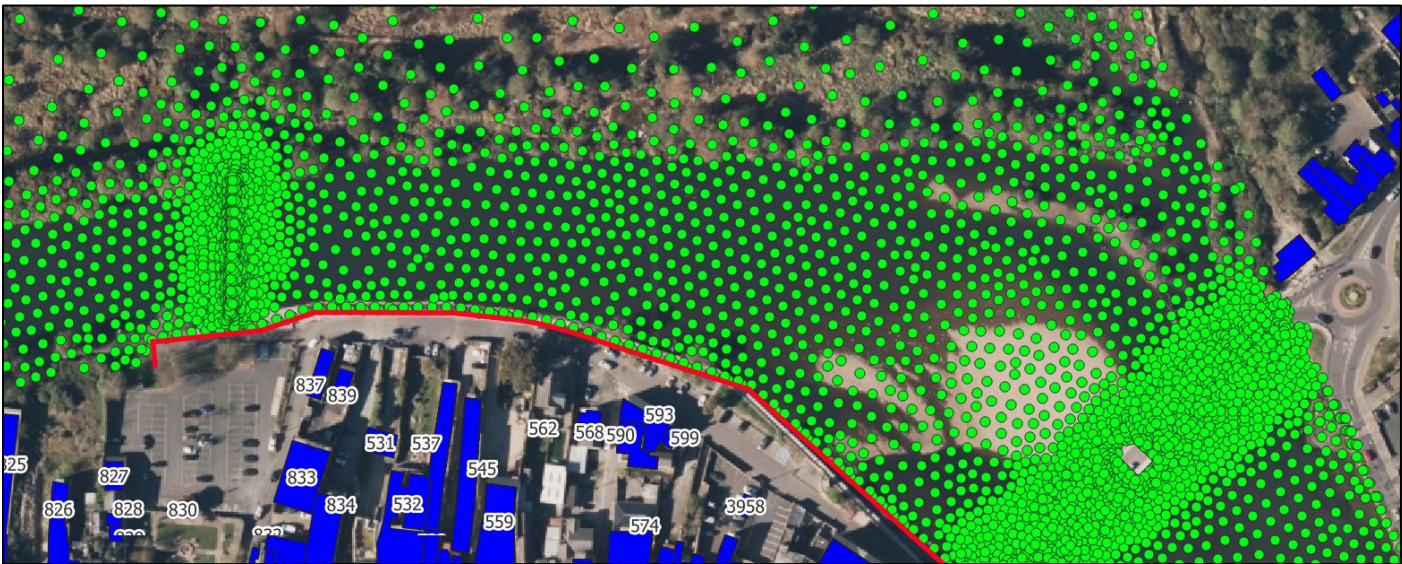


Figure 1. Hydraulic Modelling of Built-Scheme.

Detailed Design Progress

The detailed design of the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme has continued to advance during the reporting period. Design work has focused on refining the construction drawings, specifications and technical documentation required to support the next stage of the tender process. This includes continued development of flood defence walls, embankments, drainage infrastructure, bridge-related works, utility interfaces and public realm elements.

A design review workshop was held during the reporting period to review comments on the design submission register and previously issued contract drawings. This workshop helped to address a significant number of design comments and supported the ongoing refinement of the tender documentation. The project team is continuing to update the relevant drawings and specifications.

Utility Diversions and Stakeholder Engagement

Coordination with utility providers has continued during the reporting period to support the detailed design and tender preparation for the scheme. The proposed flood defence works interact with a number of existing services, including electricity, water, gas, telecommunications and public lighting infrastructure. The project team has continued to develop utility diversion and protection drawings so that these works can be appropriately incorporated into the construction documentation.

Engagement has continued with ESB, Uisce Éireann, Gas Networks Ireland, Eir, SIRO, Virgin Media and public lighting specialists. Recent work has included progressing ESB connection designs for the proposed pumping stations, developing Uisce Éireann diversion and build-over drawings, incorporating public lighting ducting into the utility diversion works, and continuing discussions on gas and telecommunications infrastructure. This coordination will continue to be important as the project moves towards the next stage of the tender process.

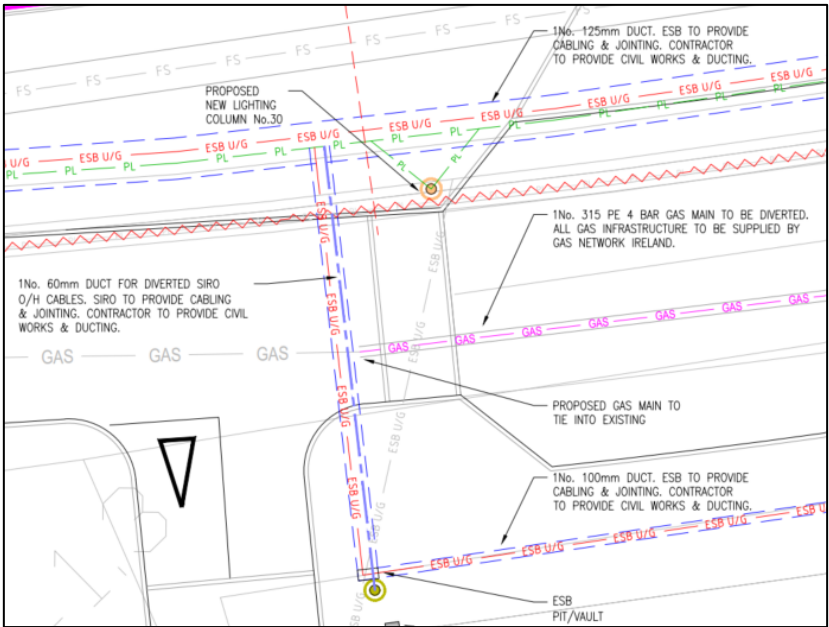


Figure 2. Utility Diversion and Build-Over Designs.

Environmental and Construction Planning

Environmental management remains a key consideration as the scheme progresses through detailed design and tender preparation. The project team has continued to develop construction-stage environmental requirements relating to water quality, biodiversity, noise, dust, waste management and the protection of sensitive habitats. These requirements will be incorporated into the construction contract documents so that appropriate environmental safeguards are in place during the delivery of the works.

Construction planning has also continued during the reporting period, including the development of traffic management, waste management, operational and maintenance, and construction methodology requirements. These documents will help guide how the works are planned and managed during construction, with a focus on safety, environmental protection, access arrangements and minimising disruption to the local community insofar as reasonably practicable.

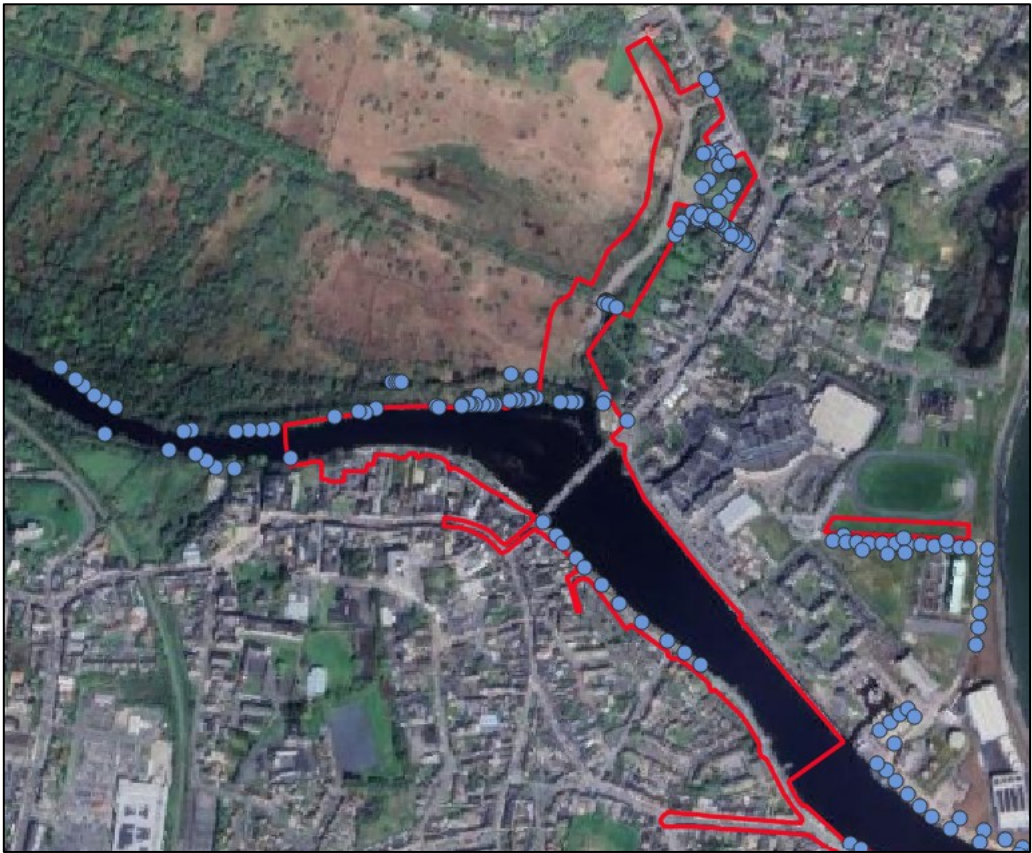


Figure 3. Invasive Alien Species Mapping in the Scheme Boundary

Procurement and Contract Preparation

The project team has also continued to prepare the documentation required for Stage 2 of the tender process. This includes the development of tender instructions, quality criteria, construction drawings, specifications, environmental requirements and other contract documents. These documents will set out the technical, environmental and construction requirements that the appointed contractor will be required to follow during delivery of the scheme.

Project Programme

The Arklow Flood Relief Scheme remains in Stage III – Detailed Construction Design and Tender. During this stage, the project team is continuing to finalise design information, develop tender and contract documents, and coordinate with statutory bodies, utility providers and project stakeholders before the scheme progresses to construction.

The project programme continues to be reviewed and updated as design, utility, environmental, archaeological and procurement workstreams progress. Key activities over the coming period include continued advancement of utility diversions, further development of specifications and construction documentation, progression of public realm and landscaping inputs, and completion of technical reports required to support the next stage of the tender process.

		2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Stage 3	Detailed Construction Design and Tender									
Stage 4	Construction Supervision									
Stage 5	Handover of Works									

What's Next

Over the coming months, the project team will continue progressing the remaining detailed design and tender preparation activities required to support the next stage of the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme. This will include:

- Continued development of construction specifications and contract documents.
- Further progression of utility diversion and protection requirements.
- Continued engagement with statutory bodies, utility providers and project stakeholders.
- Progression of public realm and landscaping inputs.
- Advancement of traffic management, waste management and operational planning documents.
- Completion of technical reports, including climate change adaptation and benefitting area mapping.
- Continued preparation for the next stage of the main works tender process.



Contact Us

If you would like to contact our Project Team about any matter relating to the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme you can do so through the following:

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If you would like any further information on the Scheme, please visit our website:

<https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/arklow/home/>