



Environmental Report June 2024

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 main work areas for June 2024 included:



- Meadowbrook – enabling works for sheet piling in the river channel
- Circus Field – watermain diversion
- New Line – enabling works for river diversion.
- Copper Valley Vue – Bridge abutment installation and enabling works for overpumping of river for culvert removal.
- Grandon's & Gym – Sheet piling and enabling works for sheet piling.
- Cois na Gleann culvert - Overpumping of the stream continues, while the replacement culverts are installed.



Summary -



- The various work sites were slightly quieter this month, due to preparations for instream works which commence on 1st July.
- Some tree felling occurred at Grandon's; mostly non-native hornbeams and some young ash and other natives. These native plants were not included in the drawings and therefore have been added to the total number of trees to be re-instated.
- Little robin and hybrids rescued and established at receptor sites, some lost due to drought. More plants discovered at New Line
- Site tour with Tony Nagle on 21st to discuss protected bird species, rare plant discovery, otters and proposed tree removal.



Table 1: Audit items June 2024

Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
6.1	10/06/2024	Layflat hose carrying overpumped water from the Springmount stream was leaking. This small supply of water seemed to attract a single eel which remained in a small pool here. The eel was removed and placed in the main channel by the ECoW.		Hoses must be inspected and maintained regularly to prevent leaks. Given the proximity to the main channel in this case, leaks may attract eels, which are known to travel considerable distances across land.	The hose was repaired promptly.
6.2	11/06/2024	Tree stumps and vegetation removed from Springmount stream bank. Regrettably this resulted in a removal of habitat at this location. Clearance of trees and vegetation was included in the design as it was necessary to enable works.		While the primary focus remains on completing the works, efforts should still be made to retain existing trees and vegetation, even if their clearance is specified in the design, as opportunities to preserve them can sometimes arise during on-site supervision, particularly at the clearance stage of each individual work site.	The site ecologist agrees on the importance of retaining trees and vegetation wherever possible and to continue efforts going forward.

Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
6.3	12/06/2024	Dust suppression being carried out at Circus Field.		Action carried out in line the Work Requirements, Appendix 1/9 Clause 3, as it pertains to the control of dust.	Dust control measures should be implemented as necessary, based on prevailing weather conditions.
6.4	13/06/2024	An uncommon native geranium plant was identified within the project footprint. To preserve it, the specimen was transplanted to a receptor site at St. Joseph's Church. While this individual survived, approximately 30% of the other transplanted plants did not survive due to drought conditions.		Recommendation: Rescued plants should be placed in containers and watered until established. They can then be transplanted to the designated location at St Joseph's church.	Subsequent plant translocations were placed in containers with damp soil and watered immediately.

Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
6.5	18/06/2024	Coconut coir installed at Copper Valley Vue to prevent silt run-off in rainfall.		This installation is necessary and satisfactory.	No further action required.
6.6	18/06/2024	Culvert at New Line with the rare <i>Geranium</i> sp. removed		These rare species were successfully conserved, preserving this valuable species for the future.	No further action required, except to remain vigilant and survey for <i>Geranium purpureum</i> and <i>Geranium purpureum X robertianum</i> in suitable habitats which may be impacted by works.

Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
6.7	19/06/2024	During the vegetation clearance along the Glashboy to facilitate sheet piling works, bird eggs, likely belonging to a mallard, were unintentionally damaged. This occurred despite the area undergoing two breeding bird surveys conducted by the site ecologist prior to the clearance. Unfortunately, the nest was concealed beneath a large fern and was inadvertently overlooked during the surveys.		<p>Recommendation: During surveys, the contractor must ensure that the bird surveys are performed at a high standard. For example, the document from TII: “<i>Ecological Surveying Techniques for Protected Flora and Fauna during the Planning of National Road Schemes</i>” offers useful guidance.</p> <p>This issue is not in breach of the work requirements as the survey was completed ahead of the works.</p>	An Environmental Incident Report was subsequently issued by Sorensen.
6.8	19/06/2024	c. 18m stand of trees proposed to be felled to facilitate works at Meadowbrook adjacent to the Riverstown Bridge. Note the rare species black poplar (<i>Populus nigra</i>) on the left.		<p>Recommendation: These trees were surveyed for nesting birds several times, as there was high nest potential due to the high value habitat close by and birds displaying nesting behaviour.</p> <p>The potential black poplar was recommended to be protected from felling.</p>	Contractor ensured this stand of trees was free of nesting birds before the gradual felling under the supervision of the site ecologist. The potential black poplar was left standing.

Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
6.9	20/06/2024	Attenuation area at New Line set up to ensure pumped groundwater is allowed to settle before entering the river.		This set up was prudent, though ultimately not necessary as there was very little groundwater in the excavation at this location.	No further action necessary, except to continue to set up attenuation areas when needed.
6.10	24/06/2024	Himalayan balsam (<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>) discovered at Meadowbrook gravel deposit which will be disturbed during instream works.		Recommendation: Remove these plants by pulling up by hand. Hand pulling is recommended as long as the plant is not setting seed.	Contractor removed these plants successfully.


Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
6.11	25/06/2024	Siltation event occurred; sonde alarms triggered at New Line. Source of the turbidity was unrelated to the Glanmire Flood Relief Scheme Works. The source of the silt was found to be earth works and rock armour placement upstream at a farm.		The source of the pollution was found, earthworks and rock armour at the bank of the river in a private field, unrelated to works.	No response required.

Table 2: Ongoing issues from previous audits listed.

Item no.	Issue	Action to be carried out.	Updates	Resolution
4.32	Scheduled works at Grandon's necessitate the implementation of mitigations to prevent further harm to the waterway from preexisting contamination.	Sorensen to revert with works method and mitigation measures to control risk from contamination for the scheduled sheet piling and rock armour works.	Sorensen included measures to control risks from contamination for these works at Grandons in their RAMS.	Resolved.
4.36	Diversion pipes installed on Glenmore river could benefit from additional erosion control measures.	Contractor to consider additional erosion protection measures such as the use of rip rap or sandbags around the outlet pipes.	EcoW requested Sorensen to add more scouring protection.	Additional material added. Resolved
5.1	The original stone culvert at Cois na Gleann was providing a nesting	Add dipper nest box to new culvert once complete to maintain the habitat for this species.	Artificial dipper nesting was not yet	Not resolved.

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	habitat for Dipper (<i>Cinclus cinclus</i>). The new replacement culvert will not provide a habitat for this bird as there will be no ledges or platforms in the interior.		installed in the new Cos na Gleann culvert.	
5.2	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 the water is stagnant and disconnected.	Contractor to survey this habitat for aquatic species before replacement with underground pipe, though potential for species abundance and diversity is low.	Works not yet completed.	Not yet resolved.
5.9	Excavation has appeared at Grandon's. 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.	Continue to monitor this legacy issue.	Leaking of oil into the Glashaboy river to be rectified by Grandons.	Not yet resolved.

Appendix A. Sorensen's Environmental Audit 30/05/24 To 26/06/24:

Attached separately.

Appendix B. Comments on Sorensen's June 2024 Environmental Audit:

The audit covered the main environmental and ecological events on site throughout the month. The audit notes the discovery of a mallard nest on 19/06/24 but did not address the associated damage or significance. However, this oversight was subsequently addressed through the issuance of an Environmental Incident Report, which provided a more detailed account of the event.