



## **Environmental Report July 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 July 2024 included:**



- Hazelwood bridge – Vegetation removed, sheet piling for coffer dam, E fishing.
- Sallybrook - JKW (Japanese knotweed) management, flood defence bund, headwall installations.
- Meadowbrook – Instream works, JKW management, river diversion, sheet piling, regrading of bridge eye.
- Copper Valley Vue (CVV) River diversion, Glenmore river over-pumping, abutment works.
- New Line – river diversion, culvert demolition, fish rescue, abutment works.
- Funeral home – RC wall construction, ground water pumping.



**General Comments**



July marked the start of the main instream works period (July to September inclusive), with multiple instream work areas becoming operational. The main instream works areas included Cois na Gleann, Meadowbrook, Copper Valley Vue/Brooklodge, New Line, and Hazelwood Bridge. The primary ecological concerns in these areas were sediment control and fish protection. Fish rescues were conducted multiple times throughout the month with a Section 14 license. The results were recorded and sent to Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI).

Two site ecologists were present full-time for most of July. Additionally, a dedicated environmental team of two general operatives was available full-time to carry out tasks such as installing silt curtains and silt fences. Collaboration between the main contractor's ecology team and the client's ecology team was enhanced through two Environmental Tours conducted on July 10th and 23rd, as well as improved communication via a shared WhatsApp group.



No otter sightings from the camera monitoring were reported over in July at the following target locations: N2, C2, N6C and N6D.




Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
7.1	01/07/2024	Poor fish protection at CVV with over pumping. A fence was installed instream above the pumps which consisted of a single layer of wire netting.		Discussed with site ecologist.	The fish guards underwent numerous improvements until reaching a satisfactory level of performance.
7.2	01/07/2024	At Meadowbrook, the river was diverted to facilitate sheet piling works. An erosion membrane was placed along the exposed Japanese Knotweed (JKW) stands to prevent the possibility of JKW entering the river and washing downstream.		Performance of the erosion membrane and barriers were monitored throughout the month of July.	Biosecurity measures for JKW at the Meadowbrook works area were maintained throughout July.



Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
7.3	02/07/2024	Improved fish protection at CVV – double layer of wire netting.		Inspected Fishguard fencing and discussed with site ecologist.	Fencing improvements continued with the installation of additional wire netting fence downstream from the initial installation.
7.4	01/07/2024	Tree stumps and trees at Meadowbrook needed to be removed to facilitate flood protection sheet pilings. Most of these trees and stumps were part of the original clearance design, except for one additional mature ash tree that posed potential health and safety issues for the landowner. The tree and surrounding vegetation were surveyed for nesting birds and bat roosting potential (BRP), but none were found.		Recorded activities and ecological mitigations that were utilised to carry out works.	Vegetation clearance works carried out in line with the Work Requirements regarding protection to birds and bats. Sediment controls could have been improved during stump removal, however downstream sondes, which were working correctly at the time of works, did not record levels above the threshold.

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7.5	01/07/2024	Silt mitigation measures were implemented during the activities mentioned in Item 1. However, despite these efforts, high levels of silt were generated for a period of time during the day.		Discussed with site ecologist.	Turbidity levels were monitored using downstream sondes. The turbidity levels did not exceed the established limits.
7.6	01/07/2024	A hawthorn tree was removed to facilitate access for the piling rig into the river at Meadowbrook. The tree was not part of the original design however prior to its removal a request was made by the contractor which was agreed. Compensatory planting is to take place. The tree and surrounding vegetation were surveyed for nesting birds and bat roosting potential which found none. The tree was professionally cut by a tree surgeon.		Recorded activities and ecological mitigations that were utilised to carry out the work.	Tree removed was recorded for later compensatory planting.







Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
7.7	02/07/2024	Fish rescue was carried out at CVV following the drying out of the culvert prior to its demolition and replacement with a new bridge.		Ecological mitigation activities were supervised by the ECoW.	Fish rescue carried out under license Section 14 license. Fish measured and record sent to IFI.
7.8	02/07/2024	Excessive turbidity was generated when scouring occurred at the intake to the over pumping location at CVV.		The ECoW discussed the situation with the site ecologist and the site foreman.	All but one pump was switched off, immediately reducing the flow and stopping the scouring. Meanwhile, additional stones and boulders were added at the erosion points to prevent a recurrence of scouring before all pumps were put back into operation.



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7.9	02/07/2024	Vegetation at Meadowbrook next to the newly constructed underground pumphouse was removed to facilitate works to install an outlet. This vegetation had been overlooked during the initial clearance works but was called up for removal as per the original design.		The ECoW conducted independent checks for nesting birds and found none present.	The vegetation was surveyed by the site ecologist for nesting birds and BRP prior to clearance. No nesting or BRP was present.
7.10	05/07/2024	The culvert at New Line was dried out using the triple pipe river diversion. Fish rescues was carried out by site ecologist using a net as per agreements with IFI.		The ECoW did not supervise this activity due to a miscommunication error, which has since been rectified.	The fish netting operations and the results of which were reported to the EcoW . Fish rescue carried out under a Section 14 license. Records sent to IFI.
7.11	05/07/2024	In response to the ECoW's comments on fish guards for over-pumping at CVV, the intake at the pumps was fitted with a double layer of wire netting as a failsafe if fish were to get past the fencing located instream above the pumps.		Discussed with site ecologist	The wires around the pumps were added in addition to the two fences already placed upstream.




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7.12	05/07/2024	Work was halted due to inadequate silt control at Meadowbrook, as the works area and the diversion channel were not properly separated. Silt was washing out from the works area because it was not fully enclosed. Although a silt curtain was initially in place, it was removed to allow the track machine to move further downstream.		Work was temporarily halted. Silt protection measures were discussed with the site ecologist.	The site ecologist and site foreman quickly established improved silt control by repositioning and adding additional silt curtains around the work area. Work recommenced shortly thereafter.
7.13	08/07/2024	Protective wire netting removed from pumps at CVV.		Discussed with site ecologist.	The wire netting was removed due to the reported decrease in pump capacity. Additional wire netting fencing was installed instream above the pumps to compensate for the loss of wire netting around the pump intakes.






Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
7.14	09/07/2024	<p>Vegetation removal at the gym carpark was surveyed for birds and Bats prior to clearance.</p> <p>Effective silt control was established at this area prior to the sheet piling.</p>		Monitored and record works. Discussed with site ecologist and workers.	Mitigation measures were established and adjusted as works progressed in this area.
7.15	09/07/2024	At Meadowbrook instream works area: A hydraulic hose burst on sub-contractor Trench Control's piling rig releasing biodegradable hydraulic oil onto the gravels in close proximity to the Glashaboy River.		The ECoW was on site at the time of the occurrence to observe both the sub and main contractors response to the incident.	Oil booms were promptly deployed along the edge of the works to prevent the oil from entering the watercourse. Oil absorbent pads were utilised to remove oil from the machinery and the affected ground where possible. The entire area was then treated with Bioversal to prevent oil particles from adhering to the ground, plants, and animals, and to expedite the biological degradation of any remaining residue. An Environmental Incident Report was also issued by the main contractor.




Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
7.16	09/07/2024	At Meadowbrook, beside the road, sheet piling was being carried out. Sub-contractors inadvertently damaged hawthorn trees by striking them with machinery. Due to the proximity of the sheet piles to the trees, some damage was unavoidable.		Discussed with site ecologist. The site ecologist who reported that prior to sheet piling works, these trees were surveyed for nesting birds.	The site ecologist assured that any necessary tree branches would be cut cleanly with a saw. The need to avoid trees and minimise damage to trees was reemphasised to the sheet piling driver.
7.17	09/07/2024	At Meadowbrook, the silt curtain was damaged by subcontractors, leading to some silt escaping into the river.		Discussed with site ecologist.	The site ecologist agreed to address the issue, and the environmental champion subsequently repaired the silt curtain.




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7.18	10/07/2024	Damage to the silt curtains at Meadowbrook occurred due to subcontractor activities. Trench control sheet piling machinery tracked over the silt curtains and stakes.		This issue was highlighted for site ecologists to monitor and prevent potential silt curtain failure.	The site ecologists monitored the works at Meadowbrook, made repairs where necessary. No further damage was reported.
7.19	10/07/2023	Little robin <i>Geranium purpureum</i> discovered on old stone wall nearby circus field. Informed Site Ecologists of these plants which should be removed and transplanted before works commence here. Site ecologists agreed to remove these plants before works commence, through this will not be for some weeks.		Discussed with site ecologists.	Site ecologists agreed to remove these plants before works commence, through this will not be for some weeks.

Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
7.20	11/07/2024	Fish were netted at Sallybrook. A small number of fish had become separated from the main channel during the removal of temporary sheet pilings.	 11/07/2024 11:21	Discussed with site ecologist.	Fish rescue was supervised by the site ecologist. Actions were taken to minimise the negative impacts on fish from the works, in accordance with Work Requirements. Fish rescue carried out under a Section 14 license issued to the site ecologist and person(s) nominated by her.
7.21	11/07/2024	Sallybrook temporary sheet pile removal, former attenuation area dredged prior to sheet pile removal as part of silt management.	 11/07/2024 12:25	Monitored and recorded activities. Discussed with site ecologist.	Dredging was supervised by the site ecologist, who provided effective direction and ensured proper implementation of silt management practices.
7.22	11/07/2024	Tree limb accidentally damaged at Meadowbrook instream works area during piling works.	 11/07/2024 13:03	Discussed with site ecologist.	The tree was later clean cut using a saw. Subcontractor piling rig driver and banks man were ordered by the site ecologist to make greater efforts to avoid damage to trees surrounding the works area.





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7.23	11/07/2024	Good silt control at Meadowbrook instream works area.		Recorded.	Silt control was effectively maintained through the month of July.
7.24	11/07/2024	Fish protection measures in place above the pump inlet at CVV required maintenance and /or improvement.		Discussed with site ecologist	The wire netting was cleared of debris build up. The wire fences were improved in the following days with the installation nylon green coloured fencing which has finer mesh than the wire netting.
7.25	11/07/2024	Poor delineation of site boundary at New Line works area.		Discussed with site ecologist.	The constraints on site for storage have put pressure on the natural areas. Improvements were made throughout the month but still needs refinement.




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7.26	11/07/2024	Located immediately upstream of the diversion outlet at New Line, a bunded stagnant pool has formed. The water in this pool likely contains concrete dust originating from the culvert demolition and should not be allowed to enter the adjacent Glenmore River.		Discussed issue with site ecologist, who agreed that pumping will not occur directly into the Glenmore River.	The ecologist agreed to test the water using a handheld pH meter. Initially, the plan was to tank the water, but after further discussion, it was agreed to pump the water into the adjacent wooded land, which would not negatively impact the area.
7.27	11/07/2024	Silt control measures were effectively deployed at the sheet piling for the Hazelwood Bridge works on eastern riverbank. Coir mesh was used to prevent run off, and an in-stream silt screen isolated the silt disturbed by the vibrations of the sheet piling. This setup allowed for the gradual settling of silt into the main channel.		Recorded and inspected all silt mitigation measures employed by the Main contractor.	Silt mitigation measures were maintained for the duration of the works in July. Silt mitigation was additionally repeated for the coffer dam at the western riverbank.
7.28	12/07/2024	Trapped fish were discovered in isolated pools at the overpumping area for the Copper Valley Vue works. It appears this was caused by a natural drop in water levels due to a decrease in water volume.		Discussed with site ecologist. Agreements were made to reconnect the isolated pool to the main channel.	Works to reconnect the pools to the main channel were carried out promptly by digging a low flow channel with a spade following the phone call discussion.




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7.29	15/07/2024	Fish guards at CVV need maintenance.		Discussed with site ecologist	Wire netting received maintenance later that day.
7.30	15/07/2024	Groundwater from the funeral home works area, which came into contact with uncured concrete, was observed to have entered the main channel, exhibiting elevated pH levels. Despite being pumped through a sump, the pH levels remained high. However, the overall volume and duration of the incident were minimal.		Discussed with site foreman.	Pump was switched off.
7.31	16/07/2024	Despite previous conversation with the site ecologist regarding questionable waters located the New Line works area, grey water was pumped from an excavation site containing a new concrete wall into a section of the river above the diversion.		Discussed with foreman and notified site ecologist.	Pumping was ceased. Water was later pumped into adjacent woodland which would not negatively impact the area.







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		outlet. Sondes recorded the moderately elevated pH levels.			
7.32	17/07/2024	A high pH alarm was triggered at the sondes downstream of Cois na Glean. This was caused by the washout of stone material placed under the culvert.		Discussed with site ecologist. Sent follow up email.	Monitoring sondes were not recording accurate pH readings (16th – 17th July) issue assessed by sonde supplier 22/7/24 and rectified 24/7/24. pH monitored using a handheld monitoring was carried out during the interim.
7.33	17/07/2024	An existing oil leak at Grandons was observed to be contaminating the main channel. The mitigation measures that were already in place by Grandons to contain the contamination required maintenance and improvement at the time of inspection. The mitigation measures were later maintained and improved with additional oil booms by Sorensen when works began in this area.		Documented and discussed with site ecologist.	Preexisting contaminated conditions are not the contractor's responsibility to rectify. However, they are responsible for containing the contamination entering the Glashaboy River as a result of their works which was managed well through the use of additional oil booms during works at this location.






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7.34	17/07/2024	Invasive plant Himalayan balsam observed in the zone of works at Grandons.		Discuss with site ecologist	Plant was removed and disposed of in line with Biosecurity measures.
7.35	17/07/2024	Silt curtains were installed at the Meadowbrook works area, where the eastern eye of the bridge was regraded.		The inspected silt measures were found to be effective.	Established and maintained silt protect during this phase of works.
7.36	17/07/2024	Additional fish protection measures deployed at CVV.		Fish protection measures were inspected and found to be effective at time of inspection.	Instream fencing received regular inspection and maintenance as needed.



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7.37	17/07/2024	Preexisting oil contamination encountered at Grandons during rock armour removal.		Recorded and discussed with site ecologist.	Works were stopped by site ecologist. A temporary storage area was created for the contaminated boulders in the Area 1 compound, which was bunded and lined with heavy duty plastic to contain contamination run off.
7.38	19/07/2024	Cois na Gleann: inlet into new culvert flowing through pipe.		Emailed site ecologist.	In response to pH concerns earlier in the week, a temporary pipe was installed to control the mobilization of silt from the stone placed at the entrance to the new culvert.
7.39	19/07/2024	During the site inspection, it was observed that the N2 otter holt had possible otter spraint outside its entrance. Otter camera monitoring records showed no otter activity at this holt in the past month. However, a mink was recorded here on the camera.		Emailed pictures to site ecologist. Requested a review of otter mitigation given the upcoming rock armour works planned adjacent to N2.	The site ecologist consulted with the otter specialist to discuss the current mitigation measures and the possibility of spraint. The otter specialist confirmed that the current mitigation measures were acceptable and noted that it was unlikely this otter sett would be used this season.



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7.40	19/07/2024	Diversion installed at Copper Valley Vue. The downstream sondes were not transmitted data at this time.		Email sent to contractor requesting environmental information on works carried out.	The site ecologist conducted handheld turbidity readings during the diversion works and shared the results with the ECoW. Since then, Capital Water Ltd. has been on-site to repair the sondes.
7.41	19/07/2024	Concrete bucket dumped on ash tree at New line caused damage of cracked branches.		Discussed with site ecologist.	The concrete bucket was later relocated. The damaged tree to be tidied up and cleanly cut with a saw. To prevent a recurrence, the works area will be clearly delineated from the vegetated non-work area.



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7.42	22/07/2024	Observation of thick layer of black oil on water surface at Grandon's.		Advised Sorensen on preparations for sheet piling due to take place here tomorrow. Advised additional oil booms, absorbant material etc	New oil booms in place, black oil still floating on surface of water, held by existing oil booms. Sheet piling delayed. Silt defences put in place for sheetpiling.
7.43	23/07/2024	Sheet piling at Copper Valley Vue was generating unacceptable turbidity levels due to the fast water flow rate past the sheet piles during installation.		Pumping was temporarily halted to explore sediment control methods.	Erosion protection with rock and flow redirection was used to control erosion.





Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
7.44	24/07/2024	Headwall installation in Area 1.		Discussed water quality mitigations with site ecologist.	The preparation work to contain concrete entering the river from the headwall installation was well executed. Concrete pouring activities were managed effectively, and supervised by ecologist during most sensitive parts of works.
7.45	24/07/2024	During sheetpiling works at Grandons, the Mill Race stream was cut off for a time with measures to control for contamination. Concerns were raised about the welfare of fish observed to be in the mill stream.		The ecologist and site ecologist thoroughly inspected the Mill Race stream. Sticklebacks were observed in one section of the stream.	Sandbags holding back water from entering the Mill Race were soon removed to return flow, however this raised concerns about the potential for turbidity and oil contamination. The sandbags were reinstated for a brief time while silt and oil booms were added to the Mill Race stream. Refer to item 7.49 for further information.
7.46	25/07/2024	Good on-going surface erosion control from funeral home work area pumping.		Inspected ground water pumping set up at funeral home works area.	Erosion controls were maintained throughout the month.




Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
7.47	25/07/2024	Sheet piling at Grandons – oil booms deployed.		Discussed with site ecologist. inspected oil booms for effectiveness.	Oil booms were maintained in place through the sheet piling works.
7.48	25/07/2024	Contaminated boulders stored at designated area at circus field.		Inspected temporary storage area.	Boulder due to receive treatment with Bioversal HC.



Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
7.49	25/07/2024	Sheet pile opening cut at Grandon's mill race to allow it receive water.		Monitor conditions in mill stream in stream	The fish in the stream were monitored throughout the month, and no adverse effects were reported.
7.50	25/07/2024	At Grandosn Mill race sheetpiling works area: During the period when this section of water was isolated it was necessary check for aquatic life.		Discussed with site ecologist.	Fish rescue was carried out here where a number of eels and a frog were netted and relocated into the main channel.

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7.51	25/07/2027	Concerns about oil and silt into the mill stream were present.		Documented.	Silt and oil measures deployed into the mill race stream.
7.52	25/07/2024	Boulders to be removed from main channel alongside Texico garage – silt measures put in place, willow and ranunculus plants were avoided, works supervised by site ecologist.		Discussed proposed work plans with site ecologist prior to start.	The work was carried out as planned.



Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
7.53	26/7/2024	Blinding for headwall at sallybrook, water quality measures in place throughout. The works were supervised by the site ecologist.	 26/07/2024 10:47	Discussed proposed work plans with site ecologist prior to start.	The work was carried out as planned, and no problems occurred.
7.54	29/07/2024	Construction debris in the river will need to be removed before flooding occurs or before the completion of in-stream work.	 29/07/2024 14:53	Spoke to head foreman who agreed to action it.	Item to be actioned.

Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
7.55	29/07/2024	Pump failed at CVV over pumping area. Bund put up and pump replaced. No evidence of overtopping. Spoke to site ecologist about pump backups etc. This area would cause a lot of silt if the works overtop.		Discussed with site ecologist and suggested back up pumps.	It was agreed that backup pumps would serve as a valuable failsafe in case the situation recurred. Backup pumps were put in place the following day and remained until over-pumping operations ceased and were relocated to above the Brooklodge culvert at the beginning of the next month.
7.56	30/07/2024	Excavation works continue in temporary cell. Wood mulch pile relocated.		Quired ecologist about biosecurity measures and plans for wood mulch pile.	Works were supervised by JKW specialist. Wood mulch pile continues to be monitored for JKW growth. The wood pile continues to naturally degrade and be broken down. It is yet not definite that this material will be added to the permanent burial cell.
7.57	31/07/2024	Drying out of coffer dam works area required fish rescue to be carried out.		Enquired site ecologist about fish rescue activities.	E fishing rescue was conducted at the eastern abutment of the Hazelwood Bridge works. One trout was reported.

Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
7.58	31/07/2024	A significant amount of turbidity was generated during the installation of a sump into the Glenmore River at Brooklodge. The downstream sondes reported a delay of approximately 45 minutes, indicating a nearly 800 NTU spike in turbidity. Although the work was brief, lasting 20-30 minutes, it resulted in substantial siltation. The site ecologist and ECoW were unaware of the delay in alerts. After lunch, the water was clear upon return.		It was suggested by the ECoW that work could be staggered to allow turbidity levels to decrease before proceeding with further digging; however, by that time, most of the digging had already been completed. Sondes delays should be examined.	Main contractor to investigate the delay to data transmission from the downstream CVV sondes. Handheld readings may be required in the interim.
7.59	31/07/2024	During the sump installation, the river gravel spoils were spread out as they were deposited by the excavator and monitored for aquatic life. Two small fish were rescued and returned to the river. No eels or lampreys were observed.		Supervised and inspected river gravels.	Gravel to be retained and stockpiled for later use.

**Table 2. Outstanding items to be addressed by Sorensen.**

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action to be carried out</b>
<b>5.1</b>	The original stone culvert at Cois na Gleann was providing a nesting habitat for Dipper ( <i>C. cinclus hibernicus</i> ). The new replacement culvert will not provide a habitat for this bird as there will be no ledges or platforms in the interior.	Add dipper nest box to new culvert once complete to maintain the habitat for this species. Not yet installed.
<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 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. This work is yet to be completed.
<b>5.9</b>	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.	The responsibility for this pollution is with Grandons and not the main contractor Sorensen. The ECoW will continue to monitor the situation.
<b>7.19</b>	Little robin <i>Geranium purpureum</i> discovered on old stone wall nearby circus field.	To be transplanted prior to work.
<b>7.41</b>	Tree damaged at New Line.	The damaged tree at New Line is to be tidied up and cleanly cut with a saw. To prevent a recurrence, the works area will be clearly delineated from the vegetated non-work area.
<b>7.48</b>	Contaminated boulders temporarily stored to undergo treatment.	Boulders due to receive treatment with Bioversal HC.
<b>7.54</b>	Rubbish in river at Area 1.	To be removed.
<b>7.58</b>	Downstream sondes at CVV have a delayed transmission time.	Investigate delay/check sondes supplier/ update ECoW accordingly.



**Appendix A.** Sorensen's Environmental Audit July Audit 1/10/2023 To 29/11/23:

Attached separately.

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

The contractor's audit this month was satisfactory, and representational of ecological issues occurring on site through July 2024.