



Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

Newsletter 07 – September 2025

Project Overview

The Arklow Flood Relief Scheme has progressed steadily since the previous newsletter was issued in June 2025. The scheme has seen advancements in surveying, hydraulic modelling, archaeological Investigations, utility diversions, environmental inputs, Technical Workshops, bridge remediation specifications and detailed scheme designs.

In this issue:

- Diversions of utilities within the scheme.
- New entrance to the Marsh
- Hydrology/Hydraulics review of the scheme.
- Updated progress on Archaeological Investigations.
- Public Realm & Landscaping
- Environmental Updates.
- Bridge Remediation.
- Project Programme.
- Detailed Designs.
- Technical Workshops.
- What's Next.



Project Progress

Marsh Entrance

Contractors have recently completed the installation of a new access route and entrance to the Marsh area. The entrance is located along Dublin Road and is intended to facilitate access to the marsh for future construction of the Marsh Embankment and further maintenance following completion of the scheme.



Figure 1. Newly constructed entrance to the Marsh Area.

Site Surveying

Surveying works are due to take place from mid-September through to early October throughout the town of Arklow. Surveyors will be measuring elevations of the Bandstand Carpark and section of South Quay to inform detailed design of the scheme. Further, surveyors will be surveying the threshold levels (level with which flood water enters) of an estimated 500 properties throughout the town. Residents and business owners can expect to be contacted by surveyors over the next few weeks. Residents and business owners should note that surveyors may require access to certain properties.

Utility Diversions

Work has continued with utility providers across the project area. Designs for diverting ESB conduits and ducts across the river have advanced, while coordination is ongoing with other providers including SIRO, Gas Networks Ireland, and Uisce Éireann to ensure future flood wall alignments are compatible with existing services.

Environmental Updates

The programme of baseline water quality monitoring is nearing completion, with the fourteenth round of samples taken in August. These results will support the finalisation of a baseline report, ensuring the condition of the Avoca Watercourse is understood ahead of construction. The team is also reviewing specifications for biodiversity enhancements identified at recent technical workshops, which will be integrated into the scheme’s design.

Hydraulic & Hydrology Modelling

Hydraulic modelling reviews have progressed significantly over the summer. Current work includes modelling construction sequences for underpinning the bridge. Reporting is anticipated in the near future which will support the advancement of detailed design items such as the rock armour, flood walls, and channel works.



Figure 2. Public Realm improvements as per project photomontage.

Public Realm and Landscaping

The design team has been reviewing public realm layouts in detail. Pedestrian walking routes, industrial access, urban drainage systems and open space improvements all form part of the current review process.

Detailed Designs

Detailed design work is progressing across several scheme elements. Flood wall alignments and tie-ins at the Nineteen Arches Bridge are under review, alongside the designs for pumping stations and drainage. The underpinning design for the bridge is advancing, while designs for the embankments, debris and gravel traps, and maintenance access are also being developed. These works remain key steps toward finalising tender documentation.

Bridge Remediation

Following earlier surveys, detailed work has continued on developing methodologies for repairing and underpinning the Nineteen Arches Bridge. Recent hydraulic modelling has been used to inform construction approaches, ensuring safe sequencing during works. The remediation specifications are undergoing detailed review and will be carried out in conjunction with the underpinning at the start of construction.



Figure 3. Drone photography of Nineteen Arch Bridge taken during condition survey.

Archaeological Investigations

Mizen Archaeology have been carrying out detailed underwater investigations in the Avoca River. Test trenches in the debris and gravel trap areas found no archaeological material, while timber structures and remains located upstream of the bridge were assessed and recorded. An identified wreckage has been mapped and sampled, with timbers preserved for analysis. These works have since concluded, providing important insights for heritage protection within the scheme.



Figure 4. Archaeological Investigation Trenches undertaken in the Avoca River.

Technical Workshops

Technical Workshops continue to support the scheme design process. Buildability workshops were recently held to discuss flood walls, embankments, drainage design, pumping stations and biodiversity enhancements. Preparations are also underway for a forthcoming Operation and Maintenance workshop, which will help guide how the scheme will be managed once completed.

Project Programme

The scheme is being implemented in three different stages. Stage 3 commenced in January 2024 with a view to begin the construction stage in Q3 2026. The figure below shows the project programme for the three stages as briefly described below:

- Stage 3 – Detailed Construction Design and Tender.
- Stage 4 – Construction.
- Stage 5 – Handover of Work.

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

What's Next

Most of the current project activities will continue over the next few months, including, but not limited to:

- Detail Design to be progressed
- Stakeholder Engagement.
- Continued engagement with Utility Providers.
- Technical Workshops to discuss the Services and Operation & Maintenance of the scheme.
- Review of Hydraulic and Hydrology Modelling Review to Conclude.
- Contract Documents to be Assembled.



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/>