



Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

Newsletter 11 – September 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 June 2026. Work over the past three months has focused on advancing the detailed design, progressing hydraulic and climate change assessments, developing cultural heritage and environmental requirements, coordinating utility diversions, and continuing preparation of the documentation required for the next stage of the construction tender process.

Key workstreams during this period have included further development and review of construction drawings and specifications, completion of benefitting area mapping, and continued development of the Cultural Heritage Strategy and archaeological works requirements. The project team has also progressed environmental mitigation measures, public realm and landscaping inputs, road safety considerations and coordination with utility providers as the scheme moves towards completion of the Stage 2 tender documentation.

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Project Progress

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 updating the construction drawings and associated documentation in response to design review comments, archaeological inputs, public realm and landscaping requirements. Additional contract drawings have also been issued to support progression of the Bill of Quantities and tender documentation.

Hydrology and Hydraulic Modelling

Hydrology and hydraulic modelling work has continued to support the detailed design and technical assessment of the Arklow Flood Relief Scheme. Modelling has been completed to inform the Scheme Climate Change Adaptation Report, while benefitting area mapping has been prepared and successfully passed the OPW compliance checks. In addition, preparation of the Section 50 Report for the Nineteen Arches Bridge is ongoing.

Cultural Heritage and Archaeology



Figure 1. Avoca River and Nineteen Arches Bridge.

Cultural heritage and archaeology have remained a key focus during the reporting period as the project team continues to develop the requirements that will apply during construction. The Cultural Heritage Strategy has been progressed alongside a review of the contract drawings and tender documentation, with ongoing coordination between Ayesa, Archaeological Management Solutions (AMS), Wicklow County Council, the Office of Public Works and relevant heritage bodies.

The archaeological requirements being developed cover terrestrial archaeology, underwater archaeology and built heritage. This includes proposed advance investigations and monitoring in identified areas of archaeological potential, measures associated with in-river works and known wreck locations, and requirements for the recording and protection of heritage features that may be affected by the scheme. These measures are being incorporated into the Cultural Heritage Strategy, Works Requirements and construction contract documentation to help manage archaeological risk during delivery of the works.

Environmental, Public Realm and Landscaping

Environmental requirements have continued to be developed alongside the detailed design and tender documentation. During the reporting period, the scheme's mammal survey and associated mitigation measures were reviewed with the project team and ecologist, with agreed measures being taken forward for incorporation into the construction-stage specifications. This work forms part of the wider environmental requirements intended to protect habitats and species during delivery of the scheme.

Public realm and landscaping proposals have also continued to progress, with coordination between Ayesa, Wicklow County Council and the landscape design team. Work has included review of planting proposals, landscaping treatments and finishes within the scheme area, together with updates to the relevant drawings and specifications. These inputs are being coordinated with the wider flood defence design so that the public realm and landscaping proposals can be appropriately incorporated into the final construction documentation.



Figure 2. Bird within the scheme atop revetments.

Utility Diversions and Stakeholder Engagement

Coordination with utility providers has continued during the reporting period as the detailed design and tender documentation are progressed. Engagement has included ongoing discussions with ESB, SIRO, OpenEir, Gas Networks Ireland and Uisce Éireann to better define existing assets, potential clashes, diversion requirements and associated works within the scheme area.

Recent work has included review of proposed ducting and diversion routes along Riverwalk and South Quay, further coordination on telecommunications infrastructure, progression of gas diversion proposals, and continued development of Uisce Éireann diversion and build-over requirements.

Procurement and Contract Preparation

Preparation of the Stage 2 tender and contract documentation has continued during the reporting period. Work has focused on progressing the contract specifications, construction drawings, Bills of Quantities and associated technical documentation required for the main works tender. The drawing package is also being updated to incorporate design review comments, archaeological requirements, landscaping inputs and other outstanding technical amendments before finalisation.

The project team has also continued to review the structure and content of the tender documentation to support a clear and coordinated procurement process. This has included consideration of specification updates, pricing and measurement requirements, and the sequencing of drawing and document reviews so that the tender package can be progressed efficiently towards issue.

Project Programme

The Arklow Flood Relief Scheme remains in Stage III – Detailed Construction Design and Tender. During the reporting period, the project programme has continued to be reviewed and updated to reflect progress across the detailed design, archaeology, public realm, utility coordination and tender preparation workstreams.

Programme focus over the coming period will remain on completing the outstanding design and contract documentation required to progress the scheme through the next stages of procurement. Key activities include finalising updated construction drawings, incorporating archaeological and landscaping inputs, advancing utility diversion requirements and completing the remaining technical reports and specifications.

The project team will continue to coordinate closely with Wicklow County Council, the Office of Public Works and relevant stakeholders as these remaining activities are progressed toward completion of the Stage 2 tender package.

		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:

- Finalisation of construction drawings and associated design updates.
- Continued development of contract specifications and Stage 2 tender documentation.
- Completion of outstanding cultural heritage and archaeological requirements for incorporation into the contract documents.
- Continued development of public realm and landscaping proposals.
- Further progression of utility diversion and protection requirements.
- Completion and update of key technical reports, including the Climate Change Adaptation Report, Operation and Maintenance Manual and Cost Benefit Analysis.
- Continued coordination with Wicklow County Council, the Office of Public Works, utility providers and other project stakeholders as the scheme progresses towards the next stage of procurement.



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/>