

## River Dodder FAS Ph 3 - News Article No.16 - July 2024

Update on project activities from February 2024 to July 2024 below:

### **Scheme Development & Engineering Design**

Scheme development has continued with stakeholder consultation being held with a number of stakeholders to ensure there is cohesion with other projects ongoing in the area. As well as this, internal stakeholders of both Dublin City Council and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, landowners, local resident groups and local sports groups have been inputting into the preliminary design.

Two presentations on the proposed scheme were done to the South East Area Committee and the Dundrum Area Committee respectively during April 2024. These presentations are available on the project website.

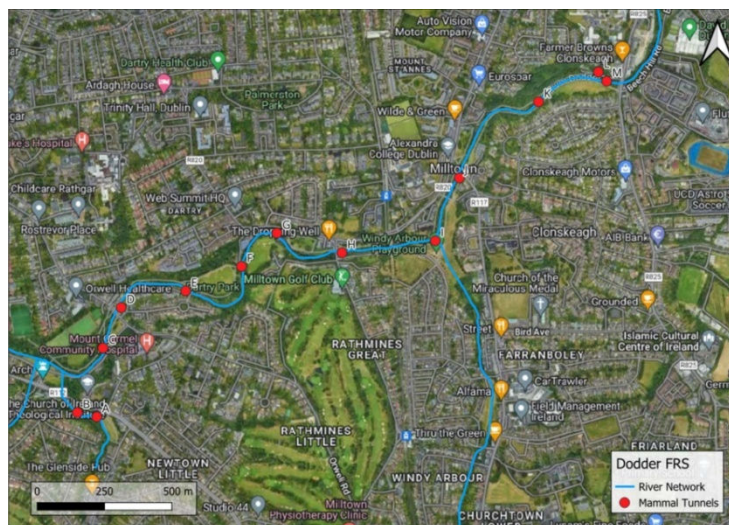
Once preliminary designs are finalised, a final Public Participation Event will be held to present the proposed scheme to the public prior to submission of the planning application. This Public Participation Event is expected to take place in early Autumn 2024. The scheme design can be finalised following this event as public feedback is incorporated into the design.

The final scheme design has been broken up into 7 separate design areas. Of these 7 areas, the scheme has well advanced in 5 areas. Ongoing discussions are taking place to inform the final designs in Dartry Park/Dodder Walk location where further consultation with particularly the Dodder Greenway and DCC Parks are ongoing. A further stakeholder engagement is planned for the Strand Terrace residents to finalise acceptance on the proposed scheme design in this location.

Landscape design of agreed defences is ongoing to ensure that the engineered design is appropriate for the current landscape.

### **Environmental Surveys**

At the start of the project, a number of environmental surveys were undertaken. These originally occurred in 2020, during the covid-19 pandemic lockdown. A number of these, such as the air quality monitoring and noise surveying have been updated. The additional information will help to ensure accuracy as these original surveys were potentially influenced by the lockdown. The specialists will provide their opinion on this in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report.



Ecological surveys are ongoing. Mammal and wintering bird surveys were complete in winter 2023/24. The findings of these surveys further reiterate the importance of the River Dodder as foraging and habitat land for otters. This is considered in the scheme design where works will be kept away from the riverbank where possible. Moreover, wintering bird surveys found the

river to be a key habitat for Kingfisher birds and is utilised by a large number of wintering/water birds such as cormorants, dippers and herons.

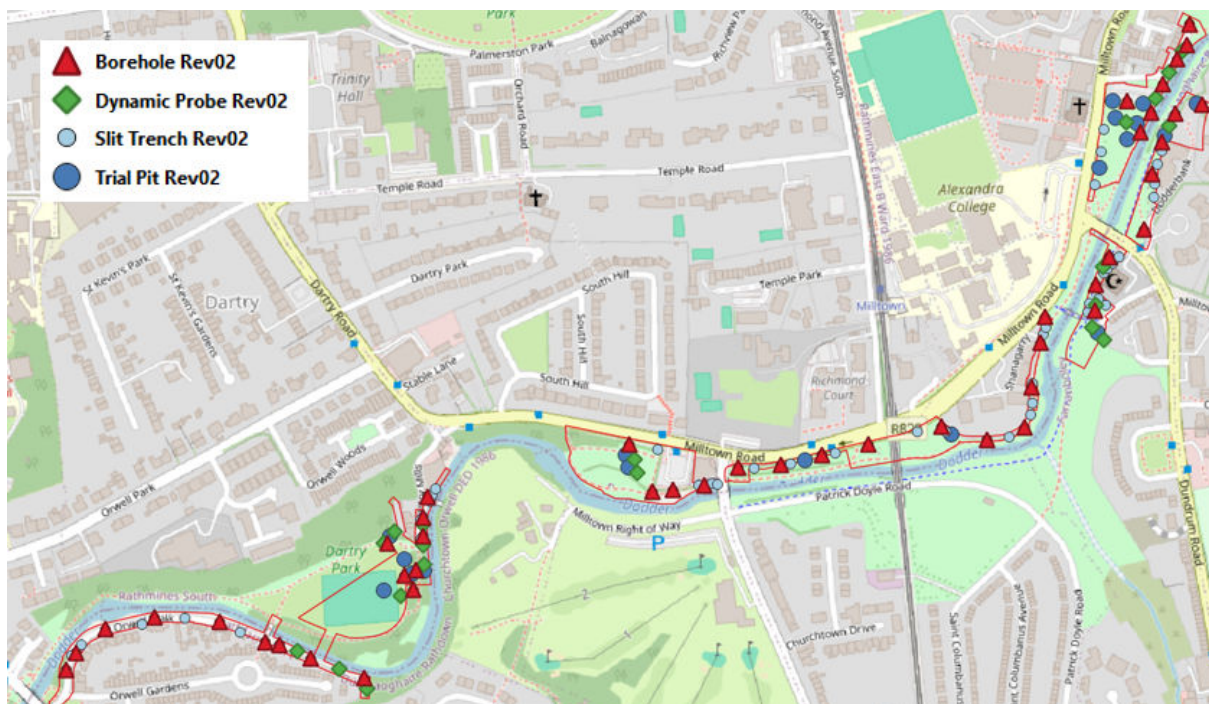
Two out of a planned three breeding bird surveys have taken place. It has been found that the wider Dodder area is utilised by many species of bird for breeding. A final survey will be undertaken in August 2024.

Veon was appointed as a bat survey specialist in March 2024. They have undertaken a number of bat surveys to confirm the data collected in the 2020 survey. The ongoing wet weather delayed the surveys. However, when completed, the surveys have found a large number of bats utilising the area for foraging. The reporting of this survey is ongoing, and this report will confirm the presence of the Daubenton's bat in the scheme area. A Daubenton's bat specialist will then undertake trap and track surveying to map the habitats of these species and assess the impact of the scheme on them.

The results of all ecology surveys will be incorporated into the Biodiversity chapter of the Environmental Impact Assessment Report as part of the planning application.

### **Ground Investigation Works**

The final scheme design will also be informed by Ground Investigation works which will be ongoing this summer. The Contractor, IGSL, has been appointed to carry out Ground Investigation works. These works are an intrusive investigation to establish the soil and rock profile and parameters for Geotechnical and Environmental purposes. These works are expected to conclude in September 2024.



### **Invasive Alien Species Treatment Contract**

Treatment works for Invasive Species in the scheme area, including Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam, is ongoing. Knotweed Solutions are carrying out the third year of treatment works to ensure the scheme does not spread invasive species in the scheme area. Good progress has been achieved through treatment and is evident in the declining occurrence of IAS in the project area.



### **Next Steps**

- Ground Investigation works starting on site soon.
- Finalise designs for flood protection in defined areas.
- Continue with landscape designs and photomontages for defined areas.
- Management of last few ecology surveys.
- Public Consultation Meeting.

### **Project Programme**

		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
Stage 1	Scheme Development & Preliminary Design	■	■	■	■	■	■	■							
Stage 2	Planning							■							
Stage 3	Detailed Design							■							
Stage 4	Construction								■	■	■	■	■	■	
Stage 5	Handover of Works													■	■