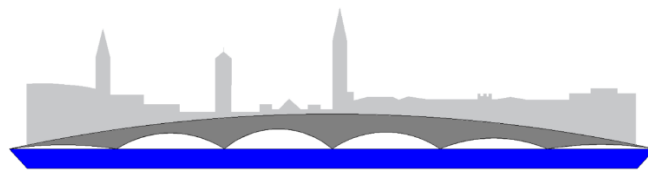


Newsletter

Wexford Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme



Wexford Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme

WEXFORD TOWN AND ENVIRONS FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Newsletter No. 05 | October 2025



OPW

Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



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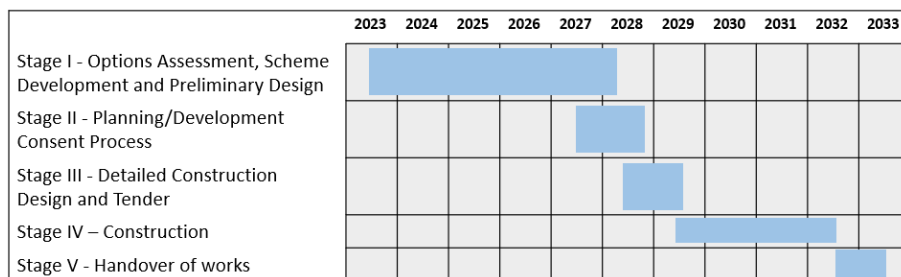
SCHEME BACKGROUND

Wexford Town is a medieval town constructed on the estuary of the River Slaney, on the west side of Wexford Harbour. The town is home to notable landmarks such as the historic Selskar Abbey, the National Opera House, and the Irish National Heritage Park. North of Wexford Bridge is the Wexford Railway Station on the Dublin-Rosslare rail line which was constructed in the 1870's and follows the coastline through the town.

In 2023, Nicholas O'Dwyer Limited (NOD) was commissioned to carry out the Wexford Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) by Wexford County Council (WCC), working in partnership with the Office of Public Works (OPW).

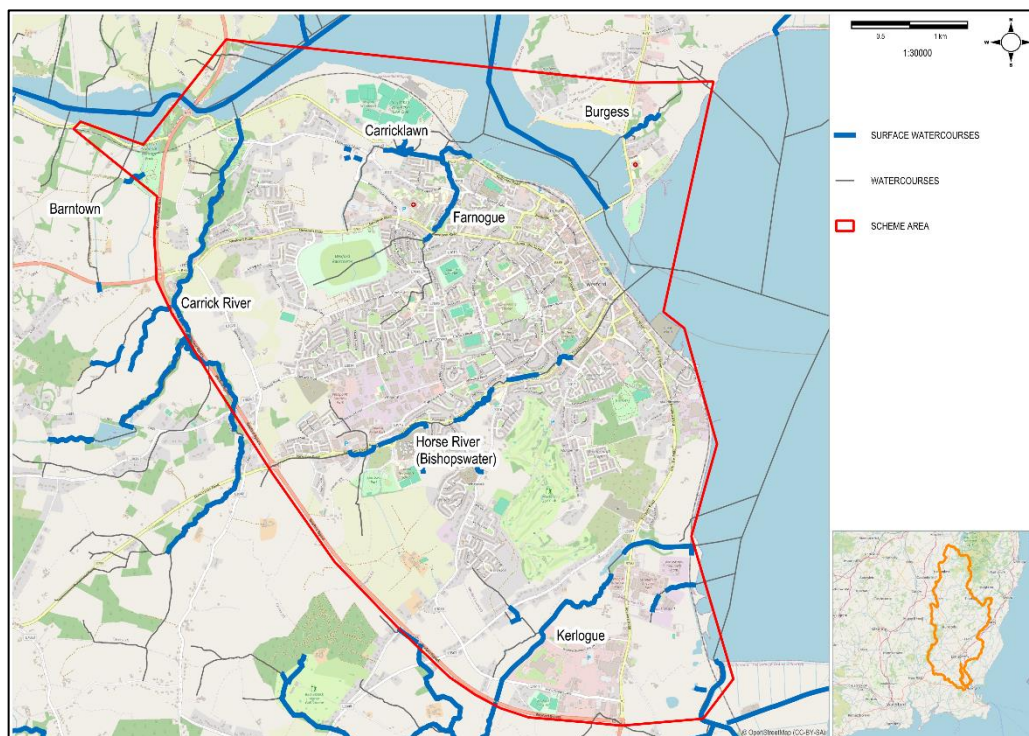
The overall objective of the project is the identification, design, and preparation of the FRS through planning, which is technically, socially, environmentally, and economically acceptable, to alleviate the risk of coastal and fluvial (river) flooding to the environs of Wexford Town to a defined Standard of Protection.

The project shall be carried out in five stages:



SCHEME AREA

The scheme area (red outline below) includes approx. 10km of coastline and 7 main watercourses. It comprises Wexford Town east of the N25, plus the Irish National Heritage Park, Ferrycarrig Hotel, and Ferrybank area.



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WHAT STAGE IS THE SCHEME AT?

The scheme is currently in Stage 1 – Option Assessment, Scheme development and Preliminary Design. Progress since the last newsletter includes the following.

Hydrological & Hydraulic Analysis:

Draft Fluvial and Coastal Hydraulic Reports have been prepared, providing a preliminary identification of areas at potential risk of flooding.

Surveys:

Key surveys for the project have been completed, including short-term flow monitoring, topographic and cross-section surveys, CCTV inspections of culverts, and structural assessments of bridges and open channels. Additionally, a LiDAR survey of the shoreline and property threshold measurements in Wexford Town have been carried out.

Most recently, a condition assessment of the soft banks along the Horse River was conducted to evaluate erosion and bank stability in sensitive areas, providing important insights for flood risk management.

Environmental Assessment:

The following surveys and assessments have been carried out to date:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (Spring 2024)
- Invasive species survey (Spring 2024, Spring 2025)
- Wintering bird survey (Spring 2024, Winter 2025)
- Breeding Bird survey (Summer 2024, Summer 2025)

Scoping for additional targeted environmental surveys, not limited to including benthic, and fish assessments, is ongoing and it will continue to be reviewed during the optioneering stage to determine if additional surveys are needed to support the Environmental Impact Assessment and Planning process.

Public Engagement:

The First Public Consultation Day (PCD) was held in December 2023 to seek people's initial views in relation to the key issues that the Scheme should address and gain additional information on any recent flood events.

A second PCD is expected take place in 2026, Q3 (Jul – Sept) once potential options have been developed. This will be to engage public opinion, and to identify any constraints.

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NEXT STEPS

The following steps are planned for the next months:

Environmental Surveys:

The Invasive Species Management Plan is pending the identification of a range of options to determine potential work areas. In the meantime, The Environmental Team, supported by the ecologist, has identified the watercourses requiring fish surveys and is now engaging with contractors to scope and deliver the work.

Flood Relief Options Assessment:

Following feedback from OPW, the Coastal and Fluvial Hydraulic Reports will be merged into a single comprehensive Hydraulic Report, after which the optioneering process will begin to identify a shortlist of potential flood relief measures.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The data from the water level monitors and rain gauges installed by the OPW for the scheme can be viewed on the OPW Hydro-Data website at:

<https://waterlevel.ie/hydro-data/>

Historic 6" and 25" mapping of Ireland can be viewed on the Tailte Eireann (formerly Ordnance Survey of Ireland) platform:

[GeoHive Map Viewer](#)

Contact Us:

Please have your say – speak to the project representatives today.

Further questions can be directed to:

Wexford County Council or to Nicholas O'Dwyer Limited

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