



Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

Newsletter 09 – March 2026

Project Overview

The Arklow Flood Relief Scheme has continued to progress steadily since the previous newsletter issued in December 2025. Work over the past three months has focused on advancing detailed engineering designs, completing archaeological investigations within the Avoca River, coordinating with utility providers and preparing documentation for the construction tender process.

The scheme is currently progressing through Stage III – Detailed Construction Design and Tender, where engineers, environmental specialists and project partners are finalising designs and preparing the documentation required to appoint a contractor. This stage ensures that all technical, environmental and stakeholder requirements are fully integrated before construction begins.

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Project Progress

Archaeological Investigations

Underwater archaeological investigations within the Avoca River have now been completed as part of the project’s cultural heritage programme. Specialist archaeological divers carried out targeted test trenching at several in-stream locations, including areas where future construction works such as the proposed gravel and debris trap will take place.

The investigations identified several historic features within the riverbed. The works confirmed that no archaeological material was present within the footprint of the proposed gravel and debris trap, and the findings will inform how archaeological features are recorded and managed ahead of construction.

Environmental Updates

Environmental specialists have continued to work alongside the engineering design team to integrate biodiversity enhancements and environmental protection measures into the scheme. These measures include habitat improvements, ecological safeguards and environmental management procedures that will help protect the Avoca River and surrounding habitats during construction.

Work has also progressed on environmental management documentation that will guide construction activities once a contractor is appointed. These measures will form part of the construction contract to ensure environmental commitments are implemented throughout the delivery of the project.



Figure 1. Central arch of Nineteen Arch Bridge.

Public Realm and Landscaping

Design development for the public realm and landscaping components of the scheme has continued during the previous period. These elements aim to ensure that the flood defences integrate well with the town’s riverside environment while improving public access and amenity along the Avoca River.

Proposals include improved riverside spaces, landscaping and planting that will enhance the visual character of the area while supporting biodiversity. The public realm and landscaping design information has recently been issued to the project quantity surveyor to support the preparation of construction cost estimates.



Figure 2. Envisaged Public Realm of the Flood Scheme along River Walk.

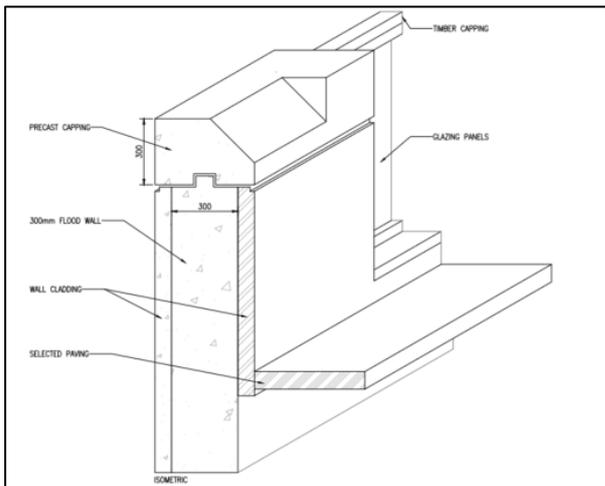


Figure 3. Ongoing Detailed Designs.

Detailed Designs

The detailed engineering design of the flood relief scheme has continued to advance as the project moves closer to the construction stage. The design team has been refining layouts for flood walls, embankments and drainage infrastructure while incorporating updated survey information and environmental requirements.

Regular coordination meetings between engineers, environmental specialists and project stakeholders have helped ensure that the designs are technically robust and ready to form part of the construction tender documentation.

Utility Diversions and Stakeholder Engagement

Engagement with utility providers has continued throughout the reporting period to coordinate potential diversions or protections of existing infrastructure within the scheme area. Discussions have taken place with several service providers including electricity, gas, water and telecommunications operators.

The project team has prepared drawings identifying areas where proposed flood defence works may interact with existing utility infrastructure. These have been shared with the relevant providers to support ongoing discussions and ensure that services can be safely maintained or relocated during construction.

Procurement and Contract Preparation

Work has continued on the procurement process to appoint a contractor to construct the flood relief scheme. This is an ongoing process with a view to appointing the main construction works contractor in 2026.

Project Programme

The Arklow Flood Relief Scheme remains in the detailed design and tender stage of the project programme. During this phase the project team continues to finalise engineering designs, prepare construction documentation and coordinate with stakeholders to support the procurement process.

Once the tender stage is completed and a contractor is appointed, the project will progress to the construction phase. The overall scheme programme continues to move forward as these preparatory activities are completed.

		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

Over the coming months the project team will continue progressing the detailed design and tender preparation activities. This includes:

- Advancing Technical Reports.
- Refining Construction Specifications
- Continued engagement with Utility Providers.
- Review of Hydraulic and Hydrology Modelling to Conclude.
- Contract Documents to be Progressed.
- Stage 2 Tender Assessment.



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:

Email

ArklowFRS@Ayesa.com

Post

Project Manager: Arklow FRS
Ayesa
Building 2100
Cork Airport Business Park
Kinsale Road
Cork, T12 KV8R

Phone

+353 (0) 21 240 7988

If you would like any further information on the Scheme, please visit our website:

<https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/arklow/home/>