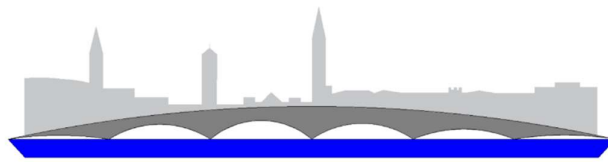


Newsletter

Wexford Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme



Wexford Town & Environs Flood Relief Scheme

WEXFORD TOWN AND ENVIRONS FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Newsletter No. 02 | July 2024



OPW Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



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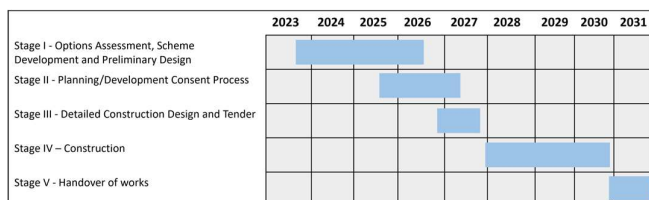
SCHEME BACKGROUND

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 Flood Relief Scheme 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 Heritage Park, Ferrycarrig Hotel, and Ferrybank area.



WHAT STAGE IS THE SCHEME AT?

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

Hydrological Analysis:

The Hydrology Report containing detailed assessment of river flows and tidal level estimates for input to hydraulic models has been prepared.

The hydraulic modelling process has begun, and this will help to quantify coastal processes, tidal and river flood risk.

Surveys:

The following surveys have been carried out:

- Long-term water level monitors have been installed at Racecourse Pond, Horse River, and the Irish National Heritage Park. Short-term flow monitors have been installed at surface water culvert outlets along the Horse River.
- Topographic surveys have been completed and Cross-sections surveys are ongoing within the scheme area to gather additional data for rivers modelled in the previous CFRAM study, and to survey those not included in CFRAM, such as Barntown River.

Environmental Assessment:

Environmental Constraints Study was completed in March 2024, which highlighted environmental sensitivities in the study area and has identified where further habitat and species surveys are required for the coming seasons.

Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and Invasive species survey reports have been prepared

The second Wintering Birds survey has been completed in April 2024 and summer breeding birds surveys are ongoing.

Public Engagement:

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

A second PCD is expected take place in 2025, Q2 (April – June) once a draft Scheme has been developed. This will be to engage public opinion, and to identify key issues and constraints.

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NEXT STEPS

The following additional surveys are planned for the next three months:

- | | |
|--|--|
| CCTV and Culvert Surveys: | CCTV and culvert surveys will be carried out to assess the culverted watercourses, including extents, locations, inlets, and outlets. |
| LIDAR Survey of the of the coastal overtopping areas: | LIDAR survey along the embankments where overtopping could be an issue will be carried out by a light aircraft to inform the coastal hydraulic modelling |
| Environmental Surveys: | Breeding birds survey are ongoing until September 2024. |

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:

<https://webapps.geohive.ie/mapviewer/index.html>

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

Wexford Town and Environs Flood Relief Scheme Project Team

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