



Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

Newsletter 04 – January 2025

Project Overview

The Arklow Flood Relief Scheme has progressed steadily since the previous newsletter was issued in September 2024. The scheme has seen advancements in surveys and data collection, hydrology and hydraulic modelling, site investigation works in the marsh, utility diversions, archaeological investigations, environmental inputs, CPO valuations and detailed scheme designs.

In this issue:

- Diversions of utilities within the scheme.
- Hydrology/Hydraulics review of the scheme.
- Updated progress on surveys & ground investigations.
- Environmental updates
- Advancement of valuations for compulsory purchase orders.
- Detailed designs
- Project Programme.
- What's Next



OPW Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Rialtas na hÉireann
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Project Ireland
2040



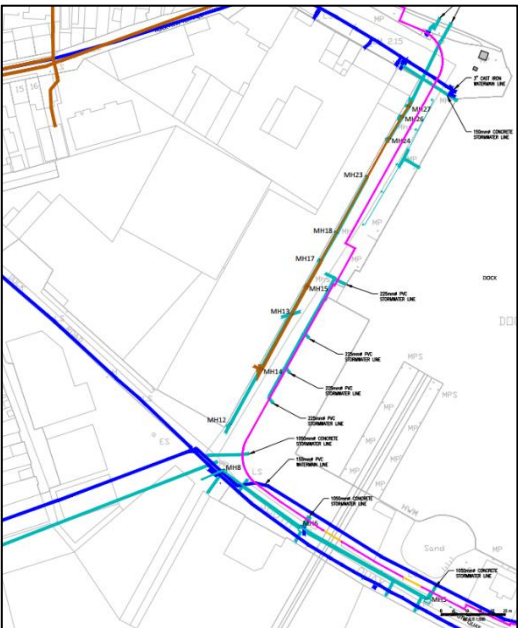
Project Progress

Utility Diversions

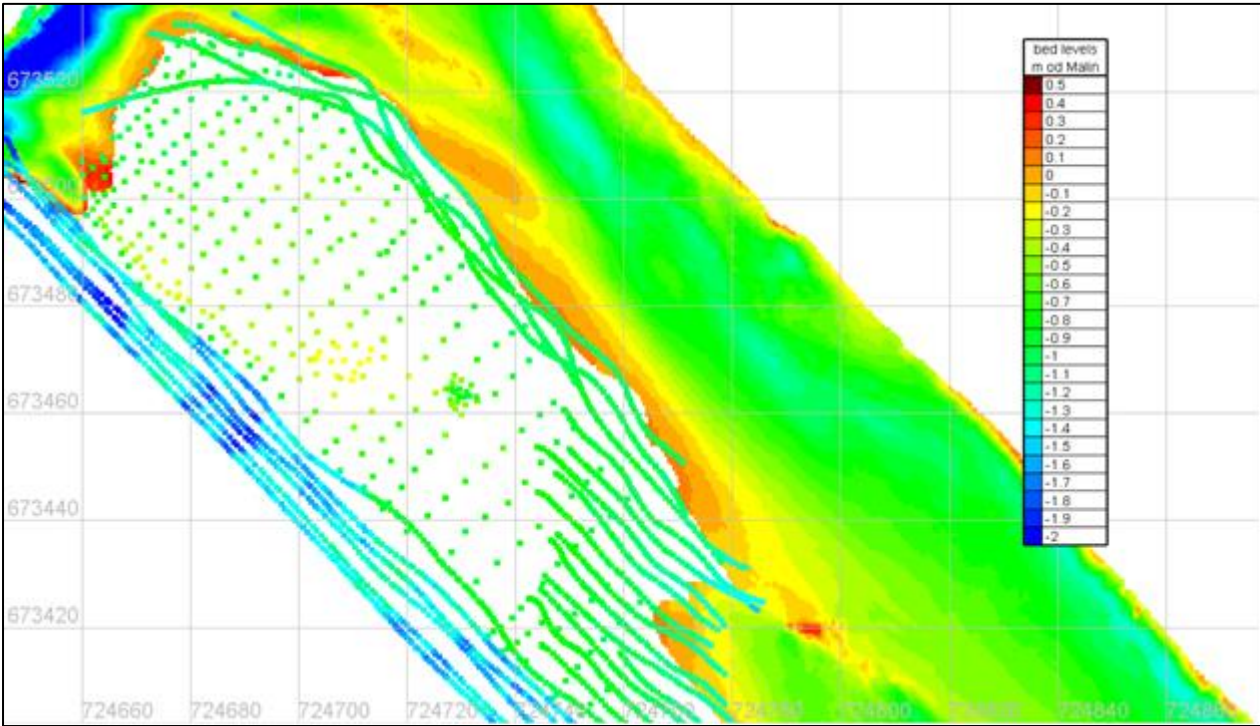
The project team has kept up constant efforts to progress the diversion of utilities within the scheme area. These works have been progressing through ongoing correspondence with respective utility asset owners (electricity, telecommunications, watermain, etc) and the results of utilities identified using ground penetrating radar surveys. In many instances the project team has delineated potential clashes and are awaiting quotations for diversions from the respective asset owner.

Hydraulic & Hydrology Modelling

The review of hydrology and hydraulic modelling has been progressing steadily. The hydrology review is ongoing with an aim for completion early this year. Hydraulic modelling of the Avoca River watercourse has been aided after undertaking updated bathymetric level surveying.



Identification of utility clashes with flood defences.



Ongoing Hydraulic Modelling of the Avoca watercourse.

Topographical & Ground Penetrating Radar Surveys

Surveyors have returned to commence with elevation surveying in the Marsh area along the embankment chainage. The levels obtained from this surveying will aid in the detailed embankment design and the required fill volumes of imported soils.

Ground Investigations

Ground investigations for the flood relief scheme have been progressing steadily. A temporary access route has been setup in the marsh area, allowing contractors entry for vegetation clearing and to progress investigations. Boreholes, archaeological test trenches, cone penetration testing, trial pits and geophysical surveys have commenced with reporting to be completed in due course. Slit trenching has been completed along River Lane and River Walk and 80% of slit trenches along South Quay have been completed.



Temporary Access Route into the Marsh and ongoing vegetation clearance.

Environmental Updates

Ongoing water quality monitoring of the Avoca Watercourse is being conducted to understand the baseline condition of the river. To-date, 5 sampling events have been undertaken from an initial 1-year period.



Protected species (Moore's Horsetail) identified on site.

The project environmental team has completed the survey and report on rare plants and invasive species within the scheme. The results will be used to plan construction activities in a way that minimizes environmental impact.

Mammal surveying has been conducted for the summer months with Winter surveying to continue in February. Environmental inputs are being considered in every aspect of the scheme design.

Detailed Designs

Detailed designs of the scheme are currently ongoing and the following are in various stages of development:

- A Gravel Trap upstream of the bridge which has been completed and a Debris Trap upstream of the bridge.
- Underpinning of the Nineteen Arches bridge which is near completion with designs being reviewed.
- A flood defence embankment in the Marsh. Current ground investigations, elevations and soil testing is ongoing to aid design
- Flood Walls along River Walk/ South Quay. The design of which is ongoing.
- Stormwater pumping stations behind flood defence walls are to be designed after stormwater piping has been delineated.
- Layouts of the Public Realm are ongoing.
- Riverbank defences and avian roosting platforms in the watercourse which are near completion.

Archaeological Investigations

The Underwater Archaeological Investigations and Dive Surveys have been completed in the Avoca watercourse. Additional surveying may be required to identify items of interest. This will be reviewed by the archaeology team and National Monument Services (NMS) in due course.



Dive Surveying in Progress.

Project Programme

The scheme is being implemented in three different stages. Stage 3 commenced in January 2024 with a view to begin construction stage in Q3 2025. The figure below shows the project programme for the three stages as briefly described below:

- Stage 3 – Detailed Construction Design and Tender.
- Stage 4 – Construction.
- Stage 5 – Handover of Work.

		2024		2025		2026		2027		2028		2029		2030		2031	
Stage 3	Detailed Construction Design and Tender																
Stage 4	Construction Supervision																
Stage 5	Handover of Works																

Compulsory Purchase Orders (CPO)

Avison Young, Wicklow County Council and Ayesa are engaging over valuations and compensations of CPO'd properties for landowners who will be affected by the scheme. Landowner engagement has begun and the initial valuations are being reviewed by the project team.

What's Next

Most of the current project activities will continue over the next few months, including, but not limited to:

- Ground / Archaeological Investigations to continue.
- Environmental Surveys to continue.
- Detail designs to be progressed
- Stakeholder Engagement.
- Continued engagement with authority bodies for the diversion of utilities located in the site.
- Water Quality Monitoring to continue.
- Progression of planned construction programme.



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/>