



Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

Newsletter 05 – March 2025

Project Overview

The Arklow Flood Relief Scheme has progressed steadily since the previous newsletter was issued in January 2025. The scheme has seen advancements in surveys and data collection, hydrology and hydraulic modelling, archaeological and ground Investigations, utility diversions, environmental inputs and detailed scheme designs.

In this issue:

- Diversions of utilities within the scheme.
- Hydrology/Hydraulics review of the scheme.
- Updated progress on Archaeological and Ground Investigations.
- Environmental Updates
- Detailed Designs
- Project Programme.
- What's Next



Project Progress

Utility Diversions

Utility diversion 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. To-date, many of the required diversions and clashes have been established and will be undertaken either by the utility owner prior to construction or during the construction stage.

Hydraulic & Hydrology Modelling

The review of hydrology and hydraulic modelling is close to completion with reporting expected in the near future. The results of this review will aid the level of detailed designs of flood defences, bank protection and construction methodology throughout the scheme.

Ground Investigations

Ground investigation works in the marsh have progressed well and all testing has been completed. Slit trenching investigations to identify utilities along the roads throughout Arklow have been completed with minor road reinstatements to be finished. The results of these investigations will aid detailed designs of flood defence walls

and the marsh embankment. Temporary heras fencing is currently installed on the Dublin Road, with plans to replace it with a permanent gated entrance in the coming months.



Marsh with access road.

Environmental Updates

Ongoing water quality monitoring of the Avoca Watercourse is being conducted to understand the baseline condition of the river. To-date, 8 sampling events have been undertaken from an initial 1-year period.

The project environmental team has finished the surveying of rare plants and mammals throughout the scheme area. Mitigation measures are being considered at every stage of the project.

Detailed Design

Detailed design of the scheme is steadily progressing, and the following are in various stages of development:

- The Gravel Trap upstream of the bridge is complete, and the design for the Debris Trap upstream of the bridge is ongoing.
- Underpinning of the Nineteen Arches bridge which is near completion with designs being reviewed.
- A Flood Defence Embankment in the Marsh. Subject to the return of ground investigation results.
- Flood Walls along River Walk/ South Quay. The design of which is ongoing.
- The design of stormwater pumping stations behind the flood defence walls will follow the completion of the stormwater piping design.
- Layouts of the Public Realm are ongoing.
- Riverbank defences completed.
- Avian Roosting platforms in the watercourse have been completed and are under review.

Archaeological Investigations

The Underwater Archaeological Geophysical Investigations and Dive Surveys in the Avoca watercourse have identified items of archaeological significance. The project team is currently undertaking the necessary steps to develop a methodology for further investigations. Consultations are ongoing with the National Monuments Service (NMS) and National Museum of Ireland (NMI).



Remains of identified shipwreck in the Avoca watercourse.

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 Q4 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																

What's Next

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

- Archaeological Investigations to continue.
- Environmental Surveys to continue.
- Detail Design to be progressed
- Stakeholder Engagement.
- Continued engagement with Utility Providers.
- 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/>