



## **Environmental Report April 2025**

### Glashaboy Flood Relief Scheme

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**Date of issue:** 06/2025

**Document code:** FFEC-GFRS-2025-004

The following is the clients Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) monthly review of the Glashaboy River (Glanmire/Sallybrook) Drainage Scheme. It details observations made on site regarding environmental and ecological factors involved in the scheme. This formulates a monthly review to be submitted to the Environmental Monitoring Group (EMG).

**The environmental concerns for work areas for April 2025 included:**

- **Area 1 - The construction of the earth embankment** in Sallybrook continued. Environmental concerns primary includes biosecurity measures for JKW (Japanese Knotweed).
- **Area 2 - Shopping Centre Bridge.** Enabling works. Environmental concerns included vegetation clearance, bird nesting, biosecurity measures.
- **Area 2 – Overflow culvert.** Environmental concerns include sediment prevention to Glashboy waterway and ground water pumping management during further excavation, Backfilling pumping management.
- **Area 3 – New line** – Ground water pumping management.
- **Area 1, 2 & 3** – Dust arising from various works - Environmental concerns – dust control.

**Table 1. Outstanding items to be addressed by Sorensen Civil Engineers (SCE)**

Item No.	Issue	Action
7.48	Contaminated boulders temporarily stored at Sallybrook to undergo treatment with Bioversal HC.	<b>April 2025 Update:</b> No change this month. The reuse of boulders on site has yet to be decided.

## General comments

April's weather was warm and sunny with record high April daily temperatures. It had a dry first half, and a wet second half.

Environmental Tour **No. 027** was conducted on 11/04/2025 between the Employer's Clerk of Works (ECoW) and Sorensen's Site Ecologist. This tour forms part of an ongoing collaborative arrangement designed to foster open communication, cooperation, and a positive working relationship between the Employer's representative (ER) team and the main contractor, Sorensen Civil Engineering (SCE). In addition, an Ecology What's App group allows direct communications between the client's and the main contractor's ECoWs.

There were no environmental incidents this month.

## Contamination at Sallybrook

Hydrocarbon contamination at Sallybrook House continued to be monitored throughout the month. The contamination remained largely contained through the ongoing use of oil booms, absorbent pads, and reapplication of Bioversal HC. Arup conducted testing in the area to better understand the nature of the contamination and to inform potential design changes, as the issue was unforeseen. No test results were available by the end of the month, and Arup is still progressing with any necessary design revisions. SCE's site ecologist and environmental team continued to implement control and treatment measures as required throughout April.

**Note:** Bioversal HC is an environmentally friendly remediation product designed to treat hydrocarbon contamination, such as oil spills. It works by accelerating the natural biodegradation of hydrocarbons through the activation of native microorganisms, without introducing foreign bacteria. Bioversal HC is non-toxic, biodegradable, and suitable for use on soil, water, and solid surfaces, making it ideal for environmentally sensitive areas.

### **Pumping Activities – April 2025**

During the month, three major locations operated under the Permit to Pump system. The following is a summary of the works undertaken and associated environmental considerations:

#### **1. New Line**

At the New Line site, dewatering was required for the construction of reinforced concrete (RC) walls upstream of the new structure. The contractor deployed a multi-stage silt filtration system that included:

- A siltation tank for initial settlement
- A manifold system feeding into multiple filtration bags
- Discharge onto adjacent terraced ground, well above the nearby watercourse


The system was supported by a vacuum tanker, which periodically emptied the siltation tank. Accumulated silt was also manually removed from the tank base as needed. Towards the end of the month, the discharge location was relocated to a nearby wooded area, resulting in a small amount of water pooling in an adjoining agricultural field. The landowner was notified and granted permission for this arrangement. Despite occasional high groundwater flows into the excavations, the setup was managed professionally, and no siltation events into the New Line River occurred throughout the month.



Pumping operations at this location ceased around the middle of the month as the RC wall works were largely completed. The pumping was carried out professionally and without incident. The adjoining landowner's field was returned to them, and a field inspection observed no negative impacts, aside from a minor amount of deposited silt, which is considered negligible.



## 2. Hazelwood Overflow Culvert

Due to the site's proximity to the river, dewatering was necessary to manage river water ingress into the excavation zone. The main contractor initially discharged water into a nearby amenity grassland area, employing silt screens and gravel to enhance attenuation. However, due to pooling on a public walkway within the grassland, a secondary discharge point was established. This also used silt screens to ensure effective filtration. While effective, this discharge point was uphill from the excavation, placing additional demand on the pump. As a contingency, a stormwater drain located downstream at the local funeral home was utilised. Though it lacked attenuation, it was used only during non-intrusive periods, when no excavation, sheet piling, or ground disturbance was occurring which ensured clean water at discharge. This location was also periodically monitored. The system remained well-managed, and no incidents were recorded or reported during the month of April.


**Table 2. Main table of the months ecological and environmental related activities**

Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
4.1	01/04/2025	Tree delimbing was required along the R639 to facilitate paving works. This was undertaken in accordance with the permitted vegetation clearance protocol, which included involvement of the site ecologist from planning through to execution. The ecologist supervised the works and carried out a nesting bird survey prior to any tree delimbing activities.		Liaised with the site ecologist prior to commencement of works to ensure all ecological considerations were appropriately addressed.	Works were carried out professionally and in good regards for the commenced bird nesting season.




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4.2	02/05/2025	Silt fencing was installed at Circus Field as an additional precautionary measure due to the stockpiling of earth material adjacent to the riverbank. An earth bund and a vegetated riverbank were already in place acting as a buffer however works upstream of Hazelwood Road bridge required removal of a section of earth bund and riparian vegetation.		The added silt fencing was good practice and a well-considered approach to minimising possible sediment runoff risk.	The silt screen was installed. It required minor adjustment which was completed in the following days once identified.
4.3	02/05/2025	A buildup of general rubbish in the Cois na Gleann culvert originating upstream outside the scheme was identified and scheduled for clean-up.		Waste should be cleaned up as soon as possible before next heavy rains.	The waste material was removed on May 6 <sup>th</sup> .



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4.4	02/04/2025	The attenuation area associated with the Hazelwood overflow culvert pumping continues to be monitored during periods of use. The two discharge locations are alternated as needed, based on ground infiltration and percolation capacity.		Liaised with site ecologist regards pumping activities and monitoring.	The site ecologist regularly communicated site updates and the latest pumping arrangements through the Ecology WhatsApp group.
4.5	02/04/2025	The preexisting hydrocarbon contamination present within the sediment of Sallybrook stream that was activated during excavation works to install drainage line is leaching into the main channel. The pollution is receiving ongoing treatment using Bioversal HC to support the natural breakdown of pollutants.		The site ecologist was regularly consulted regarding the monitoring and treatment of the affected area.	<p>Treatment was applied based on daily visual inspections, with Bioversal HC used promptly whenever signs of contamination were observed.</p> <p>The solution to stop this contamination, which originates outside the scheme, may require an interceptor be installed on the drainage line.</p>






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		The presence of pollutants in the water has been sporadic—at times quite pronounced, and at other times nearly absent. This variability may be influenced by precipitation events and/or changes in groundwater flow patterns.			








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4.6	03/04/2025	A mature birch tree was removed from the Credit Union grounds to facilitate the overflow culvert works at Hazelwood Bridge. This was agreed in advance with the landowners. A replacement tree will be planted upon completion of the works, as part of the reinstatement and landscaping of the grounds.	 	Tree removal was discussed with the site ecologist. Although efforts were made to retain the trees, this was ultimately not possible due to the need for temporary works in the immediate area.	All efforts were made to retain the tree. Once its removal became unavoidable, the landowner was consulted, and compensatory planting was agreed upon.


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4.7	03/04/2025	Pumping from the Hazelwood overflow culvert was subject to ongoing monitoring. The outlet was only used during non-intrusive works, and visual inspections throughout the day consistently confirmed that the discharged water was clean and clear.		This pumping arrangement was previously discussed with the site ecologist and the grounds crew.	The discharge point was regularly monitored to good practise.
4.8	03/04/2025	The Bailey bridge was removed today. Good care was taken to remove all loose stone and silty material prior to lifting, as the bridge sections were being moved across a watercourse.		Part of the works was supervised to ensure best practice was followed throughout.	The bridge removal was carried out in a clean, controlled, and professional manner, with appropriate measures in place to prevent environmental impact.

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4.9	03/04/2025	Pumping operations at the New Line works area are ongoing and continue to be conducted in a controlled and professional manner. Daily NTU readings are being recorded, and attenuation through the settlement tank, manifold system, and adjacent wooded and agricultural field area is functioning effectively. The landowner was consulted and granted permission for a small section of the field to be temporarily used for attenuation purposes.	 	The pumping arrangement was discussed on multiple occasions with the site ecologist, particularly whenever any modifications or adjustments were proposed.	The pumping was carried out to a high standard, with no silty water entering the Glashaboy River at any point during the operation—an effective and well-executed outcome.







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4.10	03/04/2025	Earth material was deposited around the base of number of trees at New Line. This is not good for the long-term health of the trees.		Discussed the situation with site ecologist.	<p>The earth material was carefully removed from around the base of the affected trees, and no long-term negative impacts are expected, given the short duration of the issue.</p> <p>The site ecologist included in toolbox talk for workers best practise when working around trees to avoid a possible repeat incident in the future.</p>
4.11	03/04/2025	New Line dead wood was consolidated and positioned into two piles. This is a biodiversity action that will be of benefit to insects that utilize decaying wood as part of their life cycle.		Discussed with site ecologist.	Wood was put into position in conjunction with the reinstatement works in this area.

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4.12	09/04/2025	Works on the Sallybrook embankment are required to finalize the flood protection structures. The material to be removed is contaminated with Japanese Knotweed. Due to limited space in the holding area, the wheel wash has been relocated to just outside the holding area.		Discussed works with site ecologist prior to start to ensure all biosecurity measures were incorporated into the plan.	The operation was carried out under the supervision of the site ecologist. All contaminated materials were placed in the holding cell, and all biosecurity measures were successfully followed. The wheel wash will be on hand for future works that would require its use on the scheme.
4.13	09/04/2025	Works begin on Sallybrook embankment under supervision.		Discussed works with site ecologist prior to start ensure all biosecurity measures were incorporated into the RAMS.	A comprehensive RAMS was submitted for these works. The works were carried out under supervision. All biosecurity measures were successfully followed.



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4.14	09/04/2025	<p>Bat Boxes, installed as part of the design last year, were inspected by a Bat Specialist. Bat Box A was examined using a fibre optic scope. No bats or droppings were detected. The bat specialist advised leaving the box in its current position, as it has only been in place for one summer season and may require more time to be utilised.</p> <p>Bat Box B was obscured by a young hawthorn tree and could not be inspected using the fibre optic scope. Due to the dense vegetation, it is considered unlikely that bats are currently using the box. The hawthorn tree is scheduled for removal, which will improve visibility and increase the likelihood of future bat roosting.</p>		<p>Liaised with SCE site ecologist to locate bat boxes. Inspection by bat specialist organised in collaboration also.</p>	<p>The consultation with the bat specialist was best practice. The young hawthorn tree to be removed to encourage uptake.</p>






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4.15	10/04/2025	Reshaping of the embankment at Sallybrook was successfully completed today.		Discussed works with site ecologist prior to start ensure all biosecurity measures were incorporated into the RAMS.	The works were carried out under supervision. All biosecurity measures were effectively followed.
4.16	11/04/2025	As part of last year's conservation and protection measures, specimens of the nationally rare plant <i>Little Robin</i> ( <i>Geranium purpureum</i> ) were collected from an old stone wall that was removed during construction works. The plants were temporarily placed outside the compound's fire escape door. Given the species' annual lifecycle and its tendency to self-seed in the area where it was last growing, relocating the plants further was no longer considered the best		Discussed during Environmental Tour 027.	SCE have delineated the area and removed any materials and equipment from the doorway to protect emerging seedlings. Signage has been installed both inside the meeting canteen and outside the entrance to raise awareness of the sensitive area. The extent of seedling emergence has been marked with blue spray paint. SCE have also advised personnel who regularly use this rear entrance to exercise caution and avoid trampling the seedlings.



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		option. Although the location is not ideal, plants now germinating in this area may potentially be <i>Little Robin</i> . As a result, the area has been designated an ecologically sensitive zone. It should be protected from disturbance until it can be confirmed whether the emerging plants are indeed the rare species.			
4.17	11/04/2025	Hazelwood Shopping Centre Bridge Enabling Works: The ecological components included silt control measures, riparian vegetation removal, and the implementation of biosecurity protocols.		Discussed during Environmental Tour 027.	Vegetation clearance was carried out under a valid permit, and silt fencing was installed both as a sediment control measure and to clearly delineate the site boundary. All enabling works were undertaken under the supervision of the site ecologist to ensure compliance with environmental protection measures.

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4.18	11/04/2025	<p>Springmount – Site Reinstatement: Ground reinstatement works have been completed at Springmount. It was positively noted that a section of wildflowers and native vegetation has been retained as part of the restoration efforts, contributing to local biodiversity.</p> <p>However, it was observed that mature ivy surrounding several trees at the site has recently been cut. As a result, the ivy is now decaying and appears unsightly. This action is considered a setback in terms of biodiversity value</p>		Discussed during Environmental Tour 027.	<p>Reinstatement was carried out with sensitivity to existing native plants which were safeguarded.</p> <p>It was observed that mature ivy surrounding several trees at the site has recently been cut. As a result, the ivy is now decaying and appears unsightly. This action is considered a setback in terms of biodiversity value. The ivy removal was not carried out by SCE, but rather by an unknown third party who entered SCE's designated works area without authorisation.</p>
4.19	11/04/2025	<p>Dust Control Measures: During today's inspection, there was clear evidence of recent watering at the locations of Circus Field, New Line, and Sallybrook,</p>		Discussed during Environmental Tour 027.	Ongoing dust suppression is being carried out at all relevant work areas through regular wetting down using a tractor and water tank.





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		confirming that dust control measures are actively being implemented.			
4.20	11/04/2025	SCE's Environmental Unit identified a potential risk of loose material entering the Glashaboy River due to stockpiling activities in Circus Field.		Discussed during Environmental Tour 027.	SCE proactively installed a silt fence to contain loose material.
4.21	11/04/2025	Cos na Gleann Reconnection Area – JKW Inspection: The area cleared last September to facilitate the Cos na Gleann reconnection was inspected for Japanese Knotweed (JKW). No signs of actively growing JKW were observed.		Discussed during Environmental Tour 027.	SCE are actively monitoring the area for any regrowth of Japanese Knotweed (JKW). If any growth is observed, it will be included in the next scheduled herbicide spraying campaign.

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4.22	11/04/2025	New Line – Reinstatement Works: During reinstatement works at New Line, dead wood piles were observed to have been created. This is considered a positive outcome for biodiversity, as such features provide valuable habitat for invertebrates.		Discussed during Environmental Tour 027.	Dead wood was gather into two piles which will be left in place for its biodiversity value.
4.23	14/04/2025	Enabling works for the Hazelwood SC Bridge, including the installation of a temporary Bailey bridge and service diversions, required vegetation clearance. This clearance was supervised by the site ecologist and was informed by ecological surveys, including a breeding bird survey, an invasive plant species survey, and a small mammal survey. The vegetation clearance was carried out in phases to		Discussed works and the relevant ecological concerns with site ecologist prior to clearance.	All clearance works were conducted with due professionalism and with full regard for the significant ecological sensitivities of the site.




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		support and align with these targeted surveys. To mitigate potential, prevent sediment runoff, silt curtains were installed, particularly where bare ground was exposed adjacent to a watercourse.			
4.24	16/04/2025	An inspection of the Sallybrook Stream contamination incident found evidence of minor ongoing leakage. The POD drainage line, located immediately downstream of the absorbent pads and oil retention booms, showed		The level of sediment was considered minor, and as such, it was not deemed necessary to report the incident to	<p>No action required regarding the sediment release.</p> <p>SCE are performing ongoing monitoring and maintenance of containment measures.</p>


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		signs of a small amount of sediment entering the main Glashaboy channel. This sediment release was traced to third-party roadworks being conducted today at the junction between the R639 and L2973. These works were not related to the Flood Scheme.		Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) or Cork City Council.	
4.25	17/04/2025	NTU levels at the overflow culvert near Hazelwood Bridge were monitored today and recorded as consistently low, indicating minimal turbidity. Water continues to be pumped into the stormwater drainage network under normal conditions. However, during periods of disturbance works that may generate silt, pumping is redirected to the attenuation area located at the basketball court field. measures.		Liaised with site ecology regarding the ongoing monitoring and adjusting of silt controls at Hazelwood Overflow culvert works.	An adaptive approach helps mitigate potential sediment runoff and supports environmental protection measures.

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4.26	17/04/2025	<p>Temporary supports were installed for the Bailey Bridge over the Glashaboy River. Importantly.</p> <p>The works necessitated the removal of regenerating tree growth, which had originally been cut back to facilitate earlier phases of the project. This clearance was carried out carefully and with due consideration for the adjacent watercourse. No sediment disturbance or in-stream activity occurred during the process.</p>		<p>Site inspections. Discussions with site ecologist regarding the proposed works. Mitigation measures developed.</p>	<p>The works were completed with appropriate environmental safeguards in place.</p>


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4.27	24/04/2025	Sallybrook contamination was again visible today observed dissipating in small amounts from the rock armour area.		Liaised with site ecologist re ongoing monitoring and containment measures.	<p>Containment measures remain in place, including booms and absorbent pads, which were renewed as part of ongoing response efforts. Bioversal has been regularly applied in this area whenever contamination is detected.</p> <p>SCE are waiting for the final design from ARUP at this location that will address lingering contamination issue.</p>

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4.28	24/04/2025	Concrete waste has been observed near the watercourse at the New Line RC wall. While the material is not fresh and therefore poses only a minor risk to the watercourse, its presence is not in line with best practice, particularly in such a sensitive waterway environment.		Discussed with site ecologist.	<p>The area is scheduled for completion in July 2025, coinciding with the start of the 2025 in-stream works season. At that time, all material will be removed and transported to an appropriate licensed waste facility.</p> <p>Until then, the risk of material entering the watercourse remains minimal, with only a marginal possibility due to exceptionally high-water levels.</p>

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4.29	24/04/2025	Bailey bridge pedestrian crossing installed as part of enabling works for the demolition and construction of Hazelwood shopping centre bridge.		Inspections and discussion with SCE.	Works carried out professionally with regard to ecology of the immediate surrounding area.
4.30	24/04/2025	The fire escape area at the compound kitchen is currently under monitoring for the possible presence of the rare plant species Little Robin ( <i>Geranium purpureum</i> ). Following recent rainfall, the designated area appeared somewhat faded but remains under active observation.		Monitoring is being conducted by both the client and the contractor's ecologists.	<p>If little robin is confirmed on site following identification of its floral characteristics when the plant comes into bloom, any required vegetation clearance will be carried out carefully, with seed material recovered and preserved in accordance with best ecological practice.</p> <p>Designated area received further delineation and signage.</p>