



## **Environmental Report February 2025**

Glashaboy Flood Relief Scheme

**Prepared by:** Rory O' Connor

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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 main work areas for February 2025 included:

- Area 1 – Pump Station works including excavations, coffer dam and precast tank installations.
- R639 –Ducting. Road works. Kerbing. Footpaths.
- Meadowbrook estate – Gully ducting.
- Copper Valley Vue (CVV) – Gas works diversion. Bailey bridge decommissioning works commencing. Road surfacing.
- Springmount culvert – Cladding.
- New Line – RC walls works continued upstream and downstream of structure. Gabion baskets installed. Foot path installed.

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

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>7.48</b>	Contaminated boulders temporarily stored at Sallybrook to undergo treatment with Bioversal HC.	<b>February 2025 Update:</b> No change this month. The reuse of boulders on site has yet to be decided.
<b>12.3</b>	The tube dipper nest installed in the Cois na Gléan culvert was discussed during Environmental Tour 021 (ET21). It was agreed that it in its current state it is inadequate and either needs modification or replacement with alternative. To address predation risks, present due to insufficient height.	<b>February 2025 Update: Completed.</b> Dipper tube reinstalled to a high standard addressing ECOW's concerns.
<b>12.11</b>	Damaged tree limb at Meadowbrook estate requires delimbing for aesthetic, tree health and Health and Safety reasons.	<b>February 2025 Update: Completed.</b> Branches of concerned limbs cut and removed.
<b>1.1</b>	An updated Method Statement for Area 1 pump station is required before work resumes.	<b>February 2025 update: Completed.</b> RAMS-051 Area 1 Pumping Station Installation Rev04 was submitted and reviewed with all environmental considerations satisfactorily addressed.
<b>1.8</b>	A small area in Area 3 next to the M20 overpass required delineation to avoid any accidental encroachment into the adjacent natural area.	<b>February 2025 update: Completed.</b> This area received a shallow bund which delineated the area.
<b>1.9</b>	Erosion protection measures needed at the CVV between new bridge and Brooklodge culvert.	<b>February 2025 update: Completed.</b> Erosion protection coir mesh was installed on the riverbank.
<b>1.14</b>	Housekeeping at New Line	<b>February 2025 update: Completed.</b> Tall construction related waste was cleaned up early in the month.
<b>1.15</b>	Erosion protection measures needed a bank tying into the CVV bridge.	<b>February 2025 update: Completed.</b> Erosion protection coir mesh was installed at this section satisfactorily.

## **General comments**

February brought heavy rainfall, with Met Éireann reporting levels above the monthly average. Glanmire experienced two yellow rain events during this time. Despite the wet conditions, the ongoing works were unaffected and reported no significant impacts from the rainfall.

New Line was notably active from an ecological perspective this month. The primary works focused on the construction of reinforced concrete (RC) walls, which involved excavations, rebar fabrication, and concrete pouring. These activities required careful planning to align with both construction and ecological considerations.

Approximately 150 meters of wall pointing, located between Brooklodge and New Line, were inspected by the ER team. It was noted that no significant vegetation required removal—only minor delimbing, undergrowth clearance, and shrub management were necessary. Previously cut stumps show regrowth of willow and alder, with no major invasive species identified. The stumps should be cut back to ground level and left in place to help stabilize the soil.

Additionally, trees along the R639 were removed due to health and safety concerns, following a survey conducted by the ER team. Ivy-covered trees will remain in place for 24 hours post-felling. The path construction in this area will involve raising the ground level to the base of the trees, which can often lead to their decline over time. This is because the base is a particularly vulnerable part of the tree, and such alterations can impact its health and stability. The additional tree removed, not originally included in the design shall receive compensatory planting.

A look ahead to the 2025 E-Fishing season where a new License will be required for the perceived E Fishing that will be required on site. It was reported by the site ecologist that the license is being prepared under Sorcha Dale's (SD) name, with Ross Macklin designated as a backup if SD is unavailable. In such cases, a request will be made to update the license form accordingly. Clarification was sought on when it will be confirmed if Ross Macklin's involvement is required and how potential short-notice issues can be mitigated. The license application, a detailed programme is being developed, outlining the required electrofishing locations and approximate dates. This table will be shared with the license holder, and as much notice as possible will be provided for any e-fishing requirements as the works progress. The name on the granted license will also be updated ahead of the instream season.


The recent otter report indicates the presence of possible active otter holts near the works at Meadowbrook. Although sheet piling is still required at this location, it will involve only a small amount of work, expected to last a few days. Prior to commencing these works, a derogation license must be obtained. This license was applied for earlier this month from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).


Additionally, a camera license will need to be secured through the NPWS to monitor the active holts as part of the mitigation measures. Monitoring will help determine whether either of the two holts are natal holts, as this may influence the conditions of the derogation license issued. Such findings could also necessitate adjustments to the sheet piling schedule in this area.

Regarding the sheet piling works at Meadowbrook, the area has historic kingfisher burrows, which were closely monitored last year during the breeding season to determine if any nesting activity was present. The results indicated no nesting, as the conditions had become suboptimal due to natural erosion and vegetation collapse around the preexisting burrows. This year, Sam Bailey from NPWS was consulted and provided a cut-off date of March 15th for works. Former burrows have collapsed naturally and been removed, while the remaining burrows, now covered with dense ivy, also exhibit suboptimal conditions. Despite no nesting activity being recorded last season, there is still a possibility of nesting occurring this year. Monitoring for breeding kingfishers is planned for after March 15th if the sheet piling works are not completed by this time. However, it is anticipated that these works will be finished by the deadline, as the ESB diversion, which had been delaying progress, is scheduled for completion in the first week of March. The remaining sheet piling works are expected to commence shortly thereafter.


Local works by the main contractor in an area outside the scheme included the erection of hoarding at Dooley's Lane. This area had undergone substantial tree clearance as part of the CCiC Glanmire Roads Improvement Scheme. It was reported by the CCiC that an Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) and a specific Bat Survey were conducted for this area. The Bat Survey confirmed that no bats or signs of bat activity were detected in the trees surveyed along Dooley Lane. It also noted that the trees lacked the structural features or Potential Roosting Features (PRFs) necessary to serve as suitable bat roosts.

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



Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
2.1	04/02/2025	New Line: Works have commenced on the RC wall, with a cofferdam installed and excavations underway. Minor groundwater was encountered, which is being pumped out using a 2-inch pump. The dewatering plan includes a settlement tank and a manifold system positioned on terram. Dewatering plan also includes use of tanker to transport discharged water to attenuation area at Sallybrook.		Liaised with site ecologist about silt control measures for current pumping and future pumping at his location.	Silt mitigations measures installed correctly.




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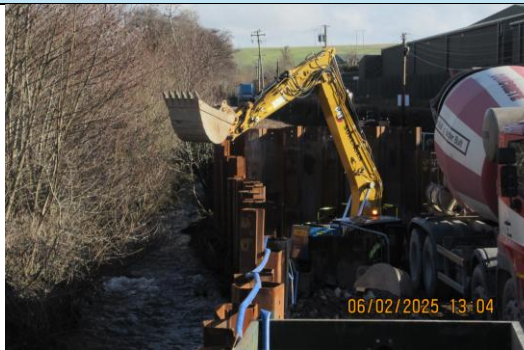

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2.2	04/02/2025	Works to widen the R639 required earth removal and minor vegetation removal consisting of verge side plants. No invasive were identified or reported.		Check for invasive plants as three-cornered garlic known to grow in some places locally.	Area was checked prior to works by site ecologist. No invasives plants were reported or identified.





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2.3	05/02/2025	Grading works at Copper Valley Vue (CVV).		Follow up with coir mesh as erosion control.	Erosion control coir mesh installed where riverbank regrading was carried out. This is part of temporary works to control surface run off in the short term. During the open instream season this year, the bank will be regraded and erosion membrane added and seeded as part of the final design.
2.4	06/02/2025	Archaeology delay continues at Area 1 where pump station works are due to resume shortly.		Kept in touch with site ecologist and ER team about most recent developments.	No action required.


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2.5	06/02/2025	Housekeeping at Sallybrook, minor amount of waste present, empty sandbag and Styrofoam.		Raised housekeeping with site ecologist.	Waste was promptly cleaned up by the contractor following communication to site ecologist.
2.6	06/02/2025	At Sallybrook, the point of discharge for the tanker from New Line was inspected. It is bunded on three sides, with water allowed to percolate through the ground achieving effective attenuation of any silt present in discharged water.	 	Inspected the discharge location, and everything was in order.	No further action required apart from the standard upkeep of discharge location as necessary.




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2.7	06/02/2025	Pumping continues at New Line using settlement tank which is being tanked out to discharge location previously mentioned located at Sallybrook.		Inspected pumping set up and spoke with driver to confirm discharge location.	No further action is required other than maintaining the existing silt management setup.

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2.8	06/02/2025	Excavator observed manoeuvring bucket of concrete above the water course. Obvious risks exist should cementitious material accidentally fall into the river.		Spoke with driver who demonstrated an understanding and awareness of about the environmental risks.	The driver was aware and demonstrated appropriate caution. The bucket was only half filled. And rotations were preformed slow and steadily. The returning bucket was positioned upwards. No concrete entered the watercourse. However, this was not best practise and will be avoided going forward.
2.9	06/02/2025	At the M8 overpass at New Line, a berm was established at a wooded section to prevent encroachment from personal or plant.		This action was discussed with the site ecologist.	Bund installed following a request from the ECoW. Bund sufficient to address the issue of possible encroachment.






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2.10	07/02/2025	Works start at New Line to remove wall down to road level to enable RC wall construction. Risks off material entering watercourse.		Liaised with site ecologist about possible silt control measures.	The grounds crew and driver, especially, took care to prevent material from entering watercourses. The bucket moved from the wet side to the dry side, ensuring that all material remained on the dry side. The finished level left a step between the work area and the river created a deflector and container for possible run off.
2.11	06/02/2025	Pumping commences at Hazelwood where a two-inch pump will be used to dewater open excavations while works continue. A permit to pump has been issued by the site ecologist.		Review Permit to Pump. All was in order.	Periodic monitoring was carried out for the duration of pumping at this location.


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2.12	06/02/2025	Works to widen the R639 required some minor hedge cutting.		If possible, carry out hedge cutting outside the bird nesting season.	The works were carried out efficiently and to a high standard outside the bird nesting season.


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2.13	12/02/2025	Spot checks of some spill kits on site showed they were well stocked with appropriate material inside.		Noted.	Spill kits continue to receive regular inspection and replenishment under the direction of the site ecologist in partnership with SCE's environmental unit.
2.14	12/02/2025	Trees to be removed at Meadowbrook estate to facilitate OPW weather station were inspected. These trees were overlooked as part of clearance works.		Remove before March 1 <sup>st</sup> .	Trees were inspected and removed prior to the bird nesting season. Trees were removed under the supervision of the site ecologist.
2.15	12/02/2025	Good use of spill matting with small generator in use at Area 1 Pump Station works area in case of a leak or spill event.		Noted.	No action required.




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2.16	14/02/2025	RC wall construction at New Line required delimbing of trees. Work carried out with a Permit to Clear Vegetation in place.		Liaised with the site ecologist regarding the works before they were carried out.	Permit to clear vegetation was issued to the ER team addressing all ecological concerns appropriately.



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2.17	14/02/2024	A yellow rainfall event affected all watercourses in Glanmire. No environmental issues occurred as a result.		The event was recorded, and preparations were discussed with the site ecologist prior to the arrival of heavy rainfall.	The entrance to the diversion pipe at New Line was exposed due to erosion. The entrance was subsequently blocked off.
2.18	14/02/2025	New Line: The former diversion pipe, which remains in place, has become uncovered, creating the possibility for fish to enter. There is a risk of fish becoming trapped, as the pipe is blocked at the other end.		Liaised with site ecologist.	The situation was promptly actioned by positioning a silt fence and rocks in front of pipe. This was carried out as a temporary measure.



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2.19	14/02/2025	Concrete wash out being used at New Line		Continue to use concrete washout system for each pour at this location to manage concrete waste.	Concrete wash out wash used and maintained at this location.

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2.20	14/02/2025	Hydraulic hose burst on excavator in Circus Field. Spill was promptly contained. No environmental impact occurred.		Discussed event with site ecologist.	Such an event is unavoidable on-site, even with regular vehicle inspections. What is important is that spill kits are readily available, and personnel are trained to respond promptly and effectively, which is exactly what occurred in this instance.



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2.21	18/02/2025	Road surfacing at CVV. Risks to storm water during wet conditions.		Recommended to implement measures to protect storm water gullies.	Measures were implemented to channel surface water into the stormwater gully, ensuring it does not come into contact with the freshly laid bituminous surface material.







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2.22	18/02/2025	Preparatory works underway at Sallybrook to use nearby drain as an attenuation area for dewatering from pump station excavations.		Deploy a range of silt measures and ensure outlet pipe is not blocked prior to discharge into this area.	The silt management setup included silt fences, silt socks, a settlement tank, and gravel check dams. Pumping was periodically monitored, and NTU testing was conducted at a location agreed upon with the ECOW.
2.23	20/02/2025	Adjustments to rock armour at New Line required the temporary removal of silt mitigation measures coir mesh.		Reinstate erosion mesh when rock armour works finished.	Measures reinstated soon after works completed.

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2.24	21/02/2025	Elevated flows were observed in all Glashaboy and Glenmore rivers following heavy rainfall. No environmental issues were reported.		The event was recorded, and alerts were issued to the SCE environmental unit as a precaution.	Sand bags were reported as having been washed in the Glenmore channel which will be retrieved when safe to do so.
2.25	21/02/2025	The dipper nest, originally installed in the Cois na Gleann culvert as compensation for the loss of habitat during construction, was removed and reinstalled with modifications to enhance its height and provide better protection for potential dipper chicks that may use it.		Modifications made following ECOW observations to previous installation that posed risks to dipper chicks.	The chosen location is suitable; however, a temporary pedestrian bridge is located in close proximity and may influence uptake during the 2025 breeding season. Given the dimensions of both the culvert and the tube, including its height, there is very limited potential for it to become a snag point for debris. Larger debris is likely to accumulate at the culvert entrance, while smaller







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					objects would be deflected to either side of the tube.
2.26	21/02/2025	A biodiversity initiative involving the removal of approximately 18 meters of concrete pipe to reconnect the CNG stream into the Glashboy River last September has been revisited. The progress of reinstatement looks promising with embankments greening up and riverbed properly gravelled up.		Noted	No action required.
2.27	21/02/2025	The dewatering setup at the Sallybrook pump station was inspected. The silt curtains were functioning effectively, and the silt sock had recently been replaced with an empty one. Additionally, the check dam contributed to filtration.		Inspection of attenuation area.	Monitoring and NTU testing of the attenuation area while pumping continued.


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2.28	21/02/2025	Concrete waste was observed at New Line with a possible route to the adjacent water course if heavy rains were to occur.		The area should be cleaned up immediately and access point sandbagged.	This was actioned promptly. No concrete waste entered the waterway. The area was scrapped with concrete wash deposited into the nearby concrete wash out receptor.
2.29	21/02/2025	Coir mesh reinstated at New Line.		Noted.	SCE to maintain temporary erosion protection until final works are carried out.

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2.30	25/02/2025	The vegetation clearance in Area 4 was conducted under the supervision of the site ecologist.		Discussed surveys required with the site ecologist prior which included a joint inspection together for ecological appraisal.	Japanese Knotweed (JKW) biosecurity measures were implemented, and the area was surveyed for mammals, birds, and frogs to ensure proper ecological possibilities were addressed.
2.31	26/02/2025	Concrete wash out at New Line when inspected was full.		Empty concrete wash area to facilitate next concrete pour.	Concrete wash was emptied the following day.



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2.32	26/02/2025	Enabling works to allow for wall repointing from Brooklodge culvert to New Line overpass required minor amount of tree limbs to be removed.  Permit to clear vegetation was in place (GFRS-PTCV-009)		Pre-inspection prior to delimbing. Invasives plant species were identified.	Repointing works did not occur this month.
2.33	26/02/2025	At the same location previously mentioned, invasive plant species, including Buddleia and Cherry Laurel, were successfully removed following the use of effective biosecurity measures.		Liaised with site ecologist about biosecurity protocols.	Seed heads were removed from the Buddleia, and the single small Cherry Laurel plant was entirely grubbed out. All material was safely transported to the holding cell in Sallybrook for proper containment and disposal.

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2.34	26/02/2025	Over-pumping of the O'Connell Transport drainage line, which passes through the New Line RC wall works upstream of the bridge, was required. To prevent erosion and maintain bank stabilisation, coir mesh was positioned at the outflow.		Carry out periodic checks of coir mesh.	To prevent erosion and maintain bank stabilisation, coir mesh was positioned at the outflow.
2.35	27/02/2025	Upon inspection at New Line it was observed what appeared to be a heavily leaking genny at New Line works area.		Liaised with site ecologist about the pollution risk of generator No.319 and requested it receives service before further use on site.	The generator showed no signs of leaking. However, in response to a small fuel spill, two absorbent pads were placed—one beneath the generator and another under the fuel can. The spill occurred during refuelling. To address this, a larger absorbent pad will be positioned underneath,

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					and granules will be applied to the spill zone for effective clean-up.