



Environmental Report October 2025

Glashaboy Flood Relief Scheme

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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 key environmental considerations associated with the work areas in October 2025 were as follows:

Area 1 – (Flood embankments and JKW storage)

- Ongoing storage of JKW and other invasive plant material in the Sallybrook Temporary Holding Cell.
- Flood Embankments works to tie into permanent sheet pile wall.

Area 2 – Hazelwood (SC Bridge Construction Works and Flood Defences Walls at Credit Union)

- Dewatering of excavations requires silt management.
- In-stream works at this location require ongoing monitoring and management of water quality.
- Installation of the two deflectors requires ecological supervision.
- Riverbank clearance and excavations require:
 - Silt run-off management, biosecurity measures and checks for bat species.

Area 3 – Brooklodge (step pool construction)

- Works require supervision, monitoring, and management to control water quality and minimise impacts to the aquatic environment

General comments



An extension to carry out works in the river beyond the July–September window was granted to the main contractor, SCE. This extension was approved under the Arterial Drainage Act following consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland. The approval applied only to the Hazelwood section of the river and a small section of the Glenmore River above the Brooklodge culvert. All instream works completed by 20th October, 2025.



Main instream works included:



- Remedial works to the step pool arrangement and Brooklodge to further facilitate fish passage.
- Installation of deflectors between Hazelwood Road Bridge and the new Hazelwood Shopping Centre Bridge.
- Installation of rock armour at permanent sheet pile wall along the Credit Union at Hazelwood.


A joint environmental tour took place on the 17/10/2025. This was undertaken together with the clients and main contractor ecology. Main findings were some instream housekeeping issues, silt management and biosecurity clarifications.



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



Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
10.1	01/10/2025	Works commenced within a private garden adjacent to Springmount culvert to complete the remaining drainage installation. A mature tree and the presence of invasive species were noted within the works area.		Discussed works methodology and environmental aspects with site ecologist.	The works were carried out while minimising disturbance of tree roots while installing the necessary drainage line. Invasive species were addressed during the works. See Item 10.6.
10.2	01/10/2025	Capital Water Systems Ltd. (CWSL) were retained to monitor water quality parameters during the extension period. A technical issue was reported with the upstream Hazelwood sondes.		Monitored the sondes transmissions via the online application during instream works.	CWSL were onsite promptly to resolve the technical issue. Services were not impacted. CWSL services continued until all instream works were completed successfully.



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10.3	02/10/2025	Works at the Credit Union in Hazelwood involved ground works on dry side of the sheet piles, including the excavation of material and tree roots within a Japanese Knotweed area.		Carry out works in line with the biosecurity management plan which outlines all steps and protocols to prevent spread of JKW.	Works were carried out under the supervision of the site ecologist and in line with the Biosecurity management plan.
10.4	03/10/2025	Tree stumps recovered from the Japanese knotweed (JKW) exclusion zone at the Credit Union site, which had been temporarily stored on terram sheeting, were transported to the Temporary Holding Facility in Sallybrook.		Carry out works in line with the biosecurity management plan which outlines all steps and protocols to prevent spread of JKW.	Good application of biosecurity measures throughout the ground work operations at this location.




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10.5	03/10/2025	Installation of rock armour along the downstream face of the Hazelwood Road Bridge required localised excavation into the riverbed, resulting in temporary sediment disturbance. Some sedimentation was unavoidable.		The NTU parameter was monitored via the downstream sondes and communication made with site crews.	The duration of works was limited. Turbidity spikes were short-lived. Overall, the activity was undertaken in an acceptable manner and was necessary to facilitate the implementation of the approved design.


Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
			 <p>15/10/2025 12:27</p> <p>03 October 2025 11:43</p>		



Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
					
10.6	06/10/2025	Works on the filter drain at Springmount culvert were being carried out under ecological supervision due to the presence of Spanish bluebell (<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>) – a plant species listed under the Third Schedule of S.I. No. 477/2011 (European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011) and/or the Union List of Invasive Alien Species under Regulation (EU) 1143/2014.		Discussed works methodology and environmental aspects with site ecologist in advance of works.	Spanish bluebell bulbs were recovered at the Springmount site and relocated to the temporary Holding Facility in Sallybrook.



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10.7	07/10/2025	A survey was carried out in the Temporary Holding Facility in Sallybrook. All visible and confirmed invasive plants species, in particular, Japanese knotweed, were marked with spray paint for later treatment.		Carry out works in line with the biosecurity management plan which outlines all steps and protocols to prevent spread of JKW.	Invasive plant species JKW were treated with a chemical herbicide during dry conditions, when application success is improved.




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10.8	10/10/2025	Dipper nest tubes were installed on various structures within the scheme.		Discussed actions and locations with site ecologist.	<p>The artificial dipper nests were installed as a positive biodiversity enhancement measure.</p> <p>The dipper tubes were installed by the site ecologist in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service area ranger. The locations and design were agreed and were based on a proven and successful design used in the Duhallow LIFE project.</p>



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10.9	13/10/2025	Gravels were placed on rock armour at Hazelwood.	 	Liaised with grounds crew to ensure all rock armour received gravels.	This action will accelerate the greening up of the rock armour, providing more medium for naturally deposited seeds to begin colonisation.




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10.10	14/10/2025	<p>Installation of two alternating deflectors between Hazelwood Road Bridge and the new Hazelwood Shopping Centre Bridge.</p> <p>This section of the river has been straightened and lost the heterogeneity of flow habitats as part of instream works 2025 to install the two flood defence walls and construct new bridge as part the approved flood defence scheme.</p> <p>To restore some immediate habitat diversity and encourage river sinuosity, two flow deflectors were installed.</p>		Designed and supervised works in consultation with site ecologist and grounds crew.	<p>The deflector was installed at per the agreed design change.</p> <p>The deflector had an immediate positive effect of diversifying the flow within this stretch of river.</p>




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10.11	15/10/2025	Preparation works have commenced at the Circus Field stockpile site, where the permanent cell for the burial of invasive plant species and contaminated material has been agreed. Initial earthworks were encroaching upon the root zones of the riverside trees, all of which are to be retained.		Establish a root protection zone without delay. Spoke with Forman and driver.	No more earthworks took place on this day. The next day an earth bund was established and root protection zone designated.
10.12	15/10/2025	Rock armour works were carried out downstream of the headwall at Hazelwood. Unfortunately, a section of an alder tree had to be removed to facilitate the works. Seeding of the rock armour with gravel was also undertaken.		Works were partially supervised and monitored remotely throughout the works.	Works were carried out professionally with all tracking kept to a minimum. Silt control measures were in place for the during of the works.


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10.13	15/10/2025	Additional coir mesh was installed downstream of the Hazelwood Road bridge overflow culvert to act as a matting layer over the soil while vegetation becomes established.		Discuss ongoing works at this location with site ecologist and foreman regarding silt control measures.	Works carried out to minimise mobilisation of silt into the adjacent watercourse.


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10.14	15/10/2025	A silt curtain remains in place in the river at Sallybrook. In-stream silt control measures should be removed when they are no longer required. Although the curtain is not causing notable environmental harm, best practice would be to remove it.		Informed site ecologist who organised its removal.	The silt curtain was removed within a few days of notifying the site ecologist.
10.15	15/10/2025	Sallybrook House swale requires additional works to control hydrocarbons that are present.		Works should be carried out to minimise impact on nearby trees and control invasive plant species.	Works are still being planned with environmental measures in place to protect nearby trees in the area and safeguard against invasive plants.
10.16	16/10/2025	Adding river gravels to rock armour continuing at Hazelwood today.		Works were supervised.	Works were carried out professionally while keeping tracking in the river to a to a minimum. Silt control measures were in place during of the works. Siltation was intermittent and low in overall quantities.



Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
			 16/10/2025 11:33		
10.17	16/10/2025	Sheetpiles around the remaining cofferdam at Hazelwood Shopping Centre Bridge were removed which required an excavator with the movax attachment to work from within the river.	 15/10/2025 11:42	Works were partially supervised and river parameters monitored throughout the works.	Sheet pile removal was carried out successfully with minimum disturbance to the river and minor siltation.


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10.18	16/10/2025	It was noted during a site inspection that rock around at Cois na Gleann (CNG) has not received river gravels.	 	Discussed with ground crew and foreman.	Gravels to be added in November. These are works that can be carried out from the dry without need to enter or disturb the CNG stream.


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10.19	16/10/2025	Formwork on the Credit Union side is continuing in the dry. A mobile elevated work platform (MEWP) was positioned in the river to facilitate surface finishing on the concrete face new overflow culvert. Temporary sheet piles were also removed. Rock armour continues to be covered with river gravels.	 	Monitored the sondes transmissions via the online workspace.	Works were carried out with minimal disturbance to the river.
10.20	17/10/2025	The coir mesh positioned immediately downstream of the overflow culvert at Hazelwood requires staking to secure it in place.		Discussed with site ecologist.	The coir mesh is undergoing continued adjustments until works are completed at this location, at which point it will be finally positioned and secured.



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10.21	17/10/2025	Works on the Brooklodge steps were carried out today. A silt curtain was in place. The activities generate some unavoidable silt but were short in duration. The works are necessary to improve fish passage.		Discussed works with site ecologist and grounds crew.	The works were carried out in accordance with the design changes. The works were completed prior to the end of the in-stream extension. Some siltation occurred during the works but was minor in extent overall. Fish passage has now been significantly improved at this location.



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10.22	18/10/2025	The slipway was removed at Hazelwood and rock armour placement carried out as instream works at this location are now completed. The remaining wall that connects to the new Shopping Centre Bridge can now be completed.		Monitored the sondes transmissions via the online workspace and kept in communication with ground crew and site ecologist.	Works were carried out from the dry with minimal disturbance to the river environment.

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10.23	20/10/2025	Artificial sand martin chambers have been designed and assembled for their installation at Hazelwood within the Credit Union flood defence wall concrete capping.		Liaised and consulted with all parties to finalise the design and oversee its implementation on site.	The NPWS were consulted by the site ecologist who have approved the Sand martin tubes design and placement.
10.24	23/10/2025	The first set of sand martin tubes were positioned and concrete poured.		Inspected units prior to concrete pour.	The sand martins unit were installed as per the design and to the specifications of the ER team. This remaining 22 chambers are to be installed next month.

Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
			 <p>23/10/2025 13:47</p> <p>29/10/2025 14:00</p>		

Item number	Date	Comment	Image	ECoW Action/Recommendation	Sorensens's Action response
10.25	23/10/2025	Checks were carried out on the New Line steps and Brooklodge steps regarding the previous fish passage issue.		Preformed inspections.	Both steps arrangements appear significantly improved with clear formation of low flow channels at graduated heights which are ideal for fish passage up and down stream.

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10.26	23/10/2025	The temporary holding cell at Sallybrook was inspected as it is planned in November 2025 to be relocated to Circus Field for its final burial in consultation with NPWS.		Carry out relocation and burial of all material in line with RAMS: Area 2 – Invasive Alien Plant Species (IAPS) Onsite Burial Cell.	Plans are ongoing with a detailed Method statement having been submitted. The root barrier has yet to be approved. Works are expected to commence next month.
10.27	29/10/2025	Form work is ongoing along the Credit Union side of Hazelwood. This involves the installation of a concrete front on the permanent sheet pile wall. Works are being carried out in the dry outside the river.		Carried out site inspections and ongoing monitoring.	Works are being carried out professionally with regard to the river environment.

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10.28	29/10/2025	Gravels were added to the stretch of river between Brooklodge Culvert and the Copper Valley Bridge. These gravels will hopefully be utilised by spawning trout during the upcoming spawning season, which typically occurs from November to December. The silt that initially covered the gravels following the in-stream works has been washed away by increased water flows during October.		Carried out inspections.	Works in this area are substantially completed. Ongoing monitoring will take place over the winter months to evaluate the developing river conditions.
10.29	29/10/2025	A silt curtain remains in place downstream of the Hazelwood pedestrian bridge. Instream works are now complete. This silt curtain should now be removed.		Raised to site ecologist who organised its removal.	The silt curtain will be removed when river conditions allow the works to be carried out safely.