



Arklow Flood Relief Scheme

Newsletter 08 – December 2025

Project Overview

The Arklow Flood Relief Scheme has progressed steadily since the previous newsletter was issued in September 2025. The scheme has seen advancements in surveying, hydraulic modelling, archaeological Investigations, utility diversions, environmental inputs, Technical Workshops, Contract Documents and detailed scheme designs.

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- Public Realm & Landscaping.
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Project Progress

Site Surveying

Surveying activity across Arklow continued to support detailed design and planning for the flood defences. Work carried out earlier in the autumn included detailed measurements of property thresholds and key quayside locations, which helps designers understand existing ground levels and how water may interact with streets, buildings and public spaces during significant storms.

Survey teams also revisited areas along South Quay to obtain accurate information where previous access was restricted. This information has fed directly into design work being prepared over recent months.

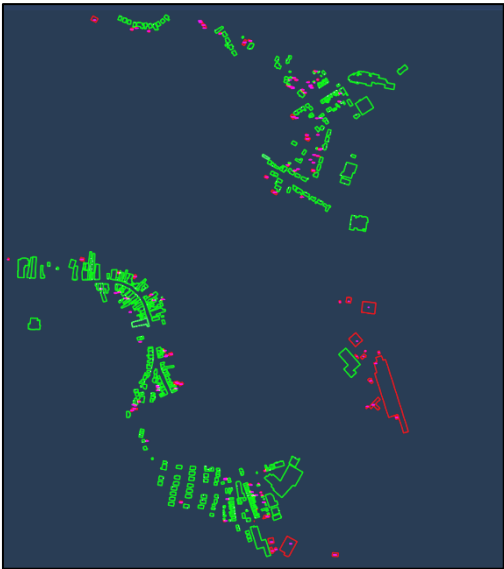


Figure 1. Site Property Surveying.

Utility Diversions

Progress has continued in coordinating future changes to utilities that run through areas affected by the flood relief scheme. Recent discussions have focused on watermain at Riverwalk and South Quay, with early engagement between engineers and utility providers helping to identify locations where pipes may need to be temporarily moved or protected during construction. These discussions are important to ensure service disruption is kept to a minimum and that works proceed safely once construction begins.

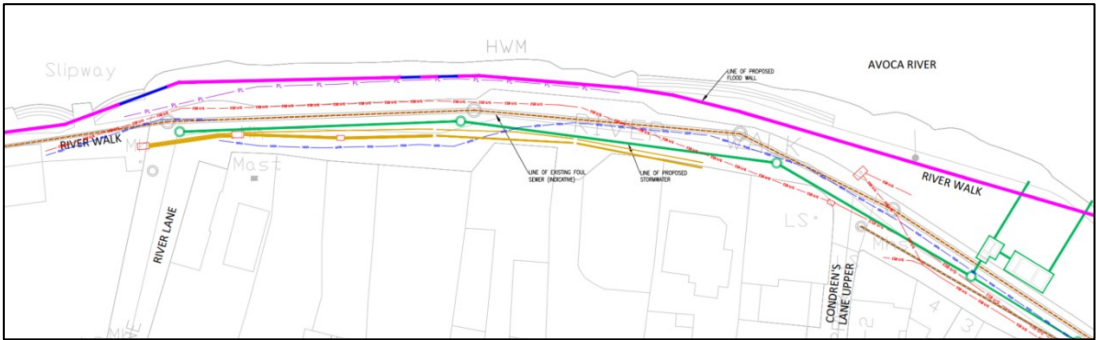


Figure 2. Existing utilities Mapping at Riverwalk.

Environmental Updates

Work has continued on integrating biodiversity enhancements and environmental protection measures into the design of the scheme. Specialists have been working collaboratively to ensure that habitat features, planting, and wildlife-friendly design measures are incorporated into future construction works. In parallel, planning has advanced on water quality monitoring during construction, which will help safeguard the Avoca River and surrounding habitats throughout the project's delivery phase.

Hydraulic & Hydrology Modelling

Extensive computer modelling of river and coastal flooding in Arklow has progressed over the autumn. Updated modelling has examined a range of possible flood events and the expected performance of proposed defences.

This work helps estimate potential damages, assess how extreme weather may affect the town in future, and demonstrate how the scheme will improve resilience. Updated model outputs have now been received and are informing final design decisions in preparation for tender.



Figure 3. Proposed Public Realm Improvements on Riverwalk.

Public Realm and Landscaping

The design team has continued to shape proposals for public spaces associated with the flood defences, including planting, streetscape improvements and recreational areas. These enhancements aim to complement the new infrastructure by making riverside areas more attractive, accessible and environmentally diverse. Discussions with landscape designers have taken place to finalise approaches and ensure that community benefits are embedded into the project from the outset.



Detailed Designs

The project’s detailed engineering designs have progressed significantly, with weekly design meetings held to review drawings, construction methods and survey results.

Work has included refining layouts for flood walls, drainage systems and embankments, as well as ensuring that plans reflect new survey information and feedback from specialist workshops. These designs will ultimately form the basis of documentation issued to contractors for construction.

Figure 4. Roosting Platforms considered in detailed designs.

Contract Documents

Technical documentation has continued to be prepared and issued as part of the upcoming construction tender process. These documents outline design requirements, environmental commitments and construction provisions, ensuring that contractors understand what is required to deliver the scheme safely and sustainably. Drafts and briefing material have been shared with the project steering group throughout the autumn to support review and approval.

Archaeological Investigations

Significant archaeological work has been completed in the Avoca River, including underwater investigations that concluded in late September. Specialist teams have excavated and recorded artefacts and structural remains, contributing to a clearer understanding of the town’s maritime history. Laboratory analysis and final reporting are now underway to inform future works.

Technical Workshops

Technical workshops have continued to play an important role in shaping the design and delivery of the scheme. These sessions bring together engineers, environmental specialists, landscape designers and stakeholders to discuss key design elements, construction approaches and community considerations. Workshops held over the autumn have helped resolve design queries, identify improvements, and prioritise actions ahead of tender.

Project Programme

The scheme is being implemented in three different stages. Stage 3 commenced in January 2024 with a view to begin the construction stage in Q3 2026. 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:

- Detail Design to be progressed
- Stakeholder Engagement.
- Continued engagement with Utility Providers.
- Review of Hydraulic and Hydrology Modelling Review to Conclude.
- Contract Documents to be Progressed.



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/>