

Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant

The purpose of this brochure is to:

- Provide information on the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project;
- Invite you to participate in this round of public consultation;
- Provide a short history of the project.

For further information, please visit our website or contact the project team:

Web: www.water.ie/arklowtp

Email: arklowtp@water.ie

Telephone: **089 228 5902**
9am-5pm, Monday-Friday

Más mian leat cóip den leabhrán seo a fháil as Gaeilge, déan teagmháil leis an linn ar an uimhir thuasluaite.

Safeguarding your water for your future

Why do we need the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant?

At present, untreated wastewater from homes and businesses in Arklow is discharged into the Avoca River that runs directly through Arklow Town, County Wicklow and is crossed by the Nineteen Arches Bridge.

This practice of discharging untreated wastewater to the river is no longer acceptable and Irish Water intends to fix this problem in partnership with Wicklow County Council.

The Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant will bring benefits to Arklow in terms of health, integrity of the environment and improved water quality for all.

What does the project involve?

Irish Water intends to develop the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project, which includes:

- A new Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) estimated to treat 36,000 Population Equivalent (PE) and associated infrastructure such as pumping station(s);
- Pipeline(s) to bring the untreated wastewater to the WwTP and to bring treated wastewater from the plant to the outfall;
- An outfall pipe to safely discharge the treated wastewater to the sea.

What does the project involve?

The proposed WwTP will require approximately two hectares of land and will best meet the current needs of Arklow and allow for any future expansion of the town.

Step 1:

The first step of the process to locate the WwTP was to identify areas of land surrounding Arklow that could accommodate a WwTP. The following constraints were used to exclude areas that may be unsuitable for a new WwTP:

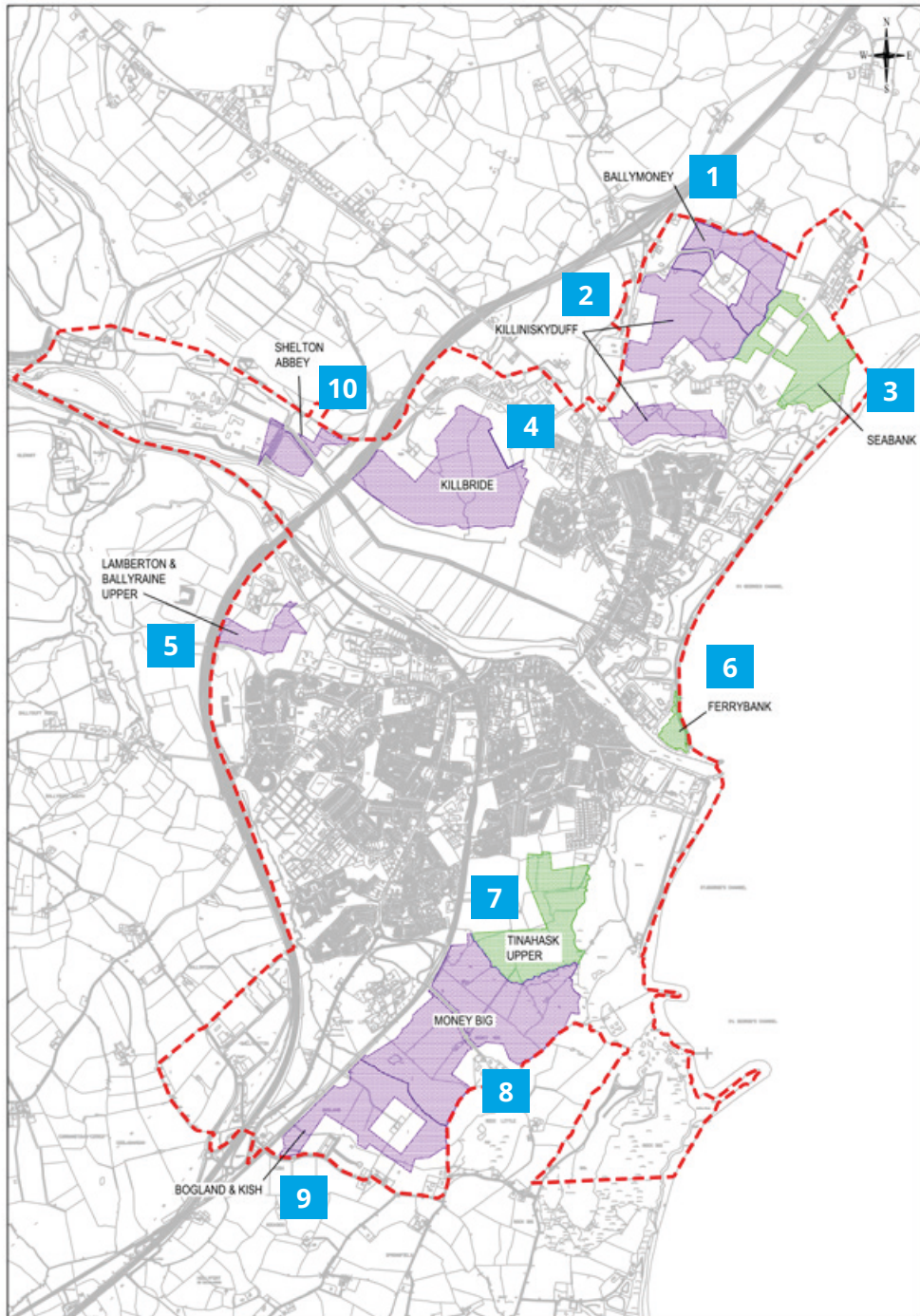
- **Ecology:** this includes sites designated as Natural Heritage Areas (NHA), proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHA), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), designated shellfish areas, tree preservation orders and many others;
- **Cultural heritage:** sites with national monuments, archaeological sites, listed structures, Architectural Conservation Areas and others;
- **Geology:** sites of geological importance which could also be NHAs and Geological Heritage Areas;
- **Water:** rivers, streams, aquifers, bathing waters and areas at risk from flooding;
- **Landscape and amenity:** locations designated as highly sensitive within the Wicklow County Development Plan;

- **Sensitive receptors:** this includes residential and commercial dwellings (including land with existing planning permission);
- **Road and rail network.**

Step 2:

The constraints in step 1 identified ten parcels of land that could accommodate the Arklow WwTP, as follows:

- 1 Ballymoney
- 2 Killiniskyduff
- 3 Seabank
- 4 Killbride
- 5 Lamberton & Ballyraine Upper
- 6 Ferrybank
- 7 Tinahask Upper
- 8 Money Big
- 9 Bogland and Kish
- 10 Shelton Abbey



Step 3:

Once these ten potential land parcels were identified for the proposed location of the Arklow WwTP, Irish Water then set about looking at each one in further detail in relation to:

- Potential environmental impacts associated with these locations;
- Engineering and construction constraints and considerations;
- Potential outfall locations.

Based on these further studies, three potential locations were chosen for the Arklow WwTP (shown on the map opposite):

- Seabank (shown as number 3 on map)
- Ferrybank (shown as number 6 on map)
- Tinahask Upper (shown as number 7 on map)

What is happening now?

Irish Water is now seeking your views on the Arklow WwTP Project as part of an eight week non-statutory public consultation which will close on Friday 5th December 2014.

Irish Water would like to hear your views on the following:

- What do you think of the process and constraints used in identifying the three potential locations?
- What do you think of the three potential locations chosen?
- What do you think should be considered in choosing the final preferred location?
- How would you like to be communicated with as the project progresses?

Irish Water invites you to express your opinions, by email or post, by Friday 5th December 2014.

A report (Site Assessment Report – Phase 1) describing the process in greater detail will be made available on the Irish Water website (www.water.ie/arklowtp), and can be viewed in the Arklow Municipal District Office, Avoca River House, North Quay and at Arklow Library, St Marys Road, Arklow.

What is happening next?

All feedback received from this first phase of non-statutory public consultation will be reviewed by the project team. Relevant feedback will input into the identification of a preferred location for a new WwTP.

Once the preferred location is announced, there will be a further opportunity to have your say as part of a second phase of non-statutory public consultation (anticipated to commence in 2015). Feedback from this phase will be used to inform the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The EIS will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála as part of a planning application. As the competent authority for assessing and determining planning applications, the Board will carry out a statutory consultation which will provide you with a further opportunity to have your say.

History of the proposed Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant

The process of providing a WwTP for Arklow began with the original planning permission being granted to Arklow Town Council in 1994. Due to changes in environmental policy in the following years, a new EIS was required as part of the planning permission process and in 2005 planning permission for the Arklow WwTP was once again granted. This permission expires in early 2015.

Irish Water took responsibility for providing and managing public water services throughout Ireland in 2014. Irish Water is committed to ensuring a new Wastewater Treatment Plant for Arklow is delivered through the development of a new planning process.

Have your say

If you would like to make a submission, please send it by email or post, by Friday 5th December 2014:

Email: **arklowtp@water.ie**

Post: **Arklow Submissions
Irish Water
c/o Arklow Municipal District Offices
Avoca River House
Arklow
Co. Wicklow**

