

Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant

Update Newsletter
Public Consultation Phase 2
May 2015

The purpose of this brochure is to:

- Provide updated information on the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant Project
- Invite you to participate in this second round of public consultation
- Provide a summary of the first public consultation process and its findings, what is happening now, and the next steps

Have your say

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, Co. Wicklow. This practice of discharging untreated wastewater to the river is not acceptable and Irish Water intends to fix this problem in partnership with Wicklow County Council.

The Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant will bring benefits to the people of Arklow in terms of health, integrity of the environment and improved water quality for all. A new Wastewater Treatment Plant will facilitate economic and social development for the town and surrounds of Arklow.

What does the project involve?

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

- A new Wastewater Treatment Plant (WwTP) of 36,000 population equivalent which will require approximately 2 hectares of land, that will best meet the current needs of Arklow, and allow for future expansion of the town
- Associated infrastructure such as pumping station(s)
- A pipeline to bring the untreated wastewater to the WwTP and to bring clean treated wastewater from the plant to the outfall
- An outfall pipe to safely discharge the treated wastewater to the sea or to the Avoca River

What has happened to date?

Step 1:

The first step of the process was to identify areas of land that potentially could be a suitable location for the plant. Part of this was to identify 'constraints'. A constraint is a limiting factor on site selection for locating the WwTP. Typical constraints would include human settlements, cultural heritage, environmental (Special Areas of Conservation) or technical / physical factors (mountains / rivers / lakes/ geology etc.).

Step 2:

Mapping these constraints, Irish Water identified ten parcels of land that could potentially accommodate the Arklow WwTP (see map on page 5): 1. Ballymoney; 2. Killiniskyduff; 3. Seabank; 4. Killbride; 5. Lamberton & Ballyraine Upper, 6. Ferrybank (including the old Wallboard site); 7. Tinahask Upper; 8. Money Big; 9. Bogland and Kish; 10. Shelton Abbey (including the old IFI site).

Step 3:

Irish Water then set about looking at each of these land parcels in further detail in relation to:

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

Based on this analysis, three potential land parcels (listed below) were identified:

No. 3 Seabank

No. 6 Ferrybank (Old Wallboard site)

No. 7 Tinahask Upper.

Step 4:

Public consultation took place from October to December 2014 on the first phase of the site selection process, including feedback on the constraints and what should be considered in choosing the Emerging Preferred Site, route pipeline and outfall location.

Irish Water would like to thank all of those who took part in this first round of public consultation. A report "*Consultation Report Phase 1*" summarising the issues raised is now available on the Irish Water website at www.water.ie/arklowtp. Relevant feedback from the public consultation formed part of the next stage of the process, where further studies were undertaken.

Step 5:

Following more detailed investigations on each of the identified land parcels, Irish Water has identified the Emerging Preferred Site as Ferrybank (Old Wallboard site), No.6 on the map, with an outfall to the Irish Sea.

The Emerging Preferred Site was chosen following an assessment of land parcels and review of issues raised from the public consultation. This process involved an assessment of the pros and cons of each of the land parcels, pipeline routes and outfall locations against a range of criteria (environment, social, economic and technical, set out below).

| Environmental Criteria | Technical Criteria |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Ecology | Safety |
| Cultural Heritage | Planning Policy |
| Landscape & Visual | Engineering & Design |
| Hydrology & Hydrogeology | Land Valuation |
| Soils & Geology | |
| Traffic | |
| Air Quality & Odour | |
| Agriculture & Agronomy | |
| Noise & Vibration | |
| People & Communities | |

Why is Ferrybank (old Wallboard site) the Emerging Preferred Site?

Taking into account the criteria above, this site has the lowest environmental impact of all the proposed sites. Further information on this can be found in *“Irish Water & Wicklow County Council Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant, Site Assessment Report, Phase 2”* on our website at **www.water.ie/arklowtp**.

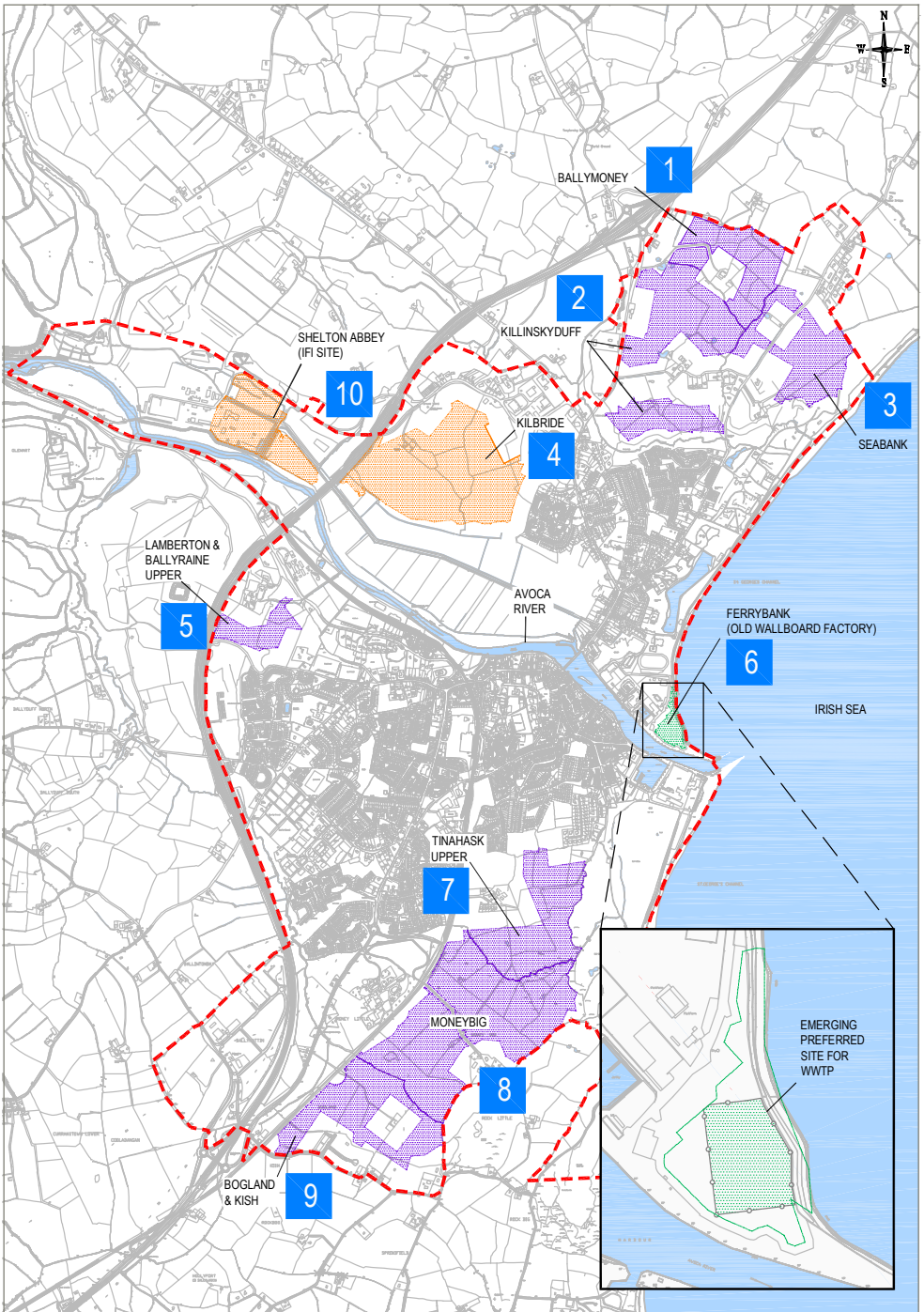
Alternatives

As part of the Environmental Impact Assessment process, all projects must also examine alternatives in order to ensure the best project is moved through the planning process.

Following the public consultation process, two alternative sites for this project were identified as:

- Shelton Abbey (including the old IFI site), No. 10 on the Map
- Kilbride, No. 4 on the Map

These sites have been assessed as part of the process and were considered to have a greater impact on the environment in comparison to the Emerging Preferred Site, Ferrybank (Old Wallboard Site).



What is happening now?

Irish Water is now seeking your views on Ferrybank (old Wallboard Site) as the Emerging Preferred Site for the Arklow WwTP Project as part of an eight week non-statutory public consultation which will start on the 13th May and close on 10th July 2015.

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

- What are your views on the Emerging Preferred Site at Ferrybank (Old Wallboard Site), route pipeline and outfall location?
- What are your views on the process for selecting the Emerging Preferred Site, route pipeline and outfall location?
- Do you have any comments on the alternative sites, route pipeline and outfall locations?
- Is there any other information you believe is relevant to the selection of the Emerging Preferred Site selection, route pipeline and outfall location?
- How would you like to be communicated with as the project progresses?

A report *“Irish Water & Wicklow County Council Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant, Site Assessment Report, Phase 2”*, describing the second phase of the project in greater detail is available on the Irish Water website at **www.water.ie/arklowtp** and can be viewed at planning counters in Wicklow County Council and Arklow Municipal District offices and at the Wicklow and Arklow Libraries.

What is happening next?

All feedback received from this second phase of non-statutory public consultation will be reviewed by the Project Team and will be reported in a Consultation Report. Relevant feedback from this phase will be used to inform the Environmental Impact Statement.

The Consultation Report will accompany the Final Site Selection Report towards the end of 2015. This will be available from www.water.ie/arklowtp and we will update all those who have made a submission during the project.

Following the publication of the Final Site Selection Report, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be undertaken, this will include the design of the Wastewater Treatment Plant, associated pumping stations, route pipeline and outfall location. The EIA will examine the Final Site, route pipeline and outfall location under the following areas (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Human Beings
- Ecology (Flora and Fauna)
- Soils and Geology
- Water
- Noise
- Air and Dust
- Traffic
- Landscape and Visual
- Odour
- Material Assets

The preparation of the EIA including the supporting environmental studies will take over a year to carry out and it is hoped this will be completed by the end of 2016.

Following the completion of the EIA an Environmental Impact Statement (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. A revised application for a Wastewater Discharge Licence will be made to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in parallel with the planning application.

History of the proposed Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant

The process of providing a WwTP for Arklow began with a 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 was subject to legal challenge which resulted in the planning permission expiring in early 2015.

Irish Water took responsibility for providing and managing public water services throughout Ireland in 2014. Providing a new Wastewater Treatment Plant for the people of Arklow is one of Irish Water's key priorities and we are committed to ensuring that this 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 10th July 2015:

Email: **arklowtp@water.ie**

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

