

Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant

1. Project Introduction

Irish Water is working in partnership with Wicklow County Council to deliver the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant project which will end the current practice of discharging untreated wastewater into the Avoca River. The project represents an investment of over €30 million by Irish Water and will bring benefits to Arklow in terms of health, integrity of the environment and improved water quality for all.

2. What is involved in this project?

The project includes the following:

- A new wastewater treatment plant (WwTP) to treat 36,000 population equivalent (PE).
- Two interceptor sewer pipelines (along North and South Quay) to bring untreated wastewater to the proposed WwTP.
- A marine sea outfall pipe to safely discharge the treated wastewater effluent to the Irish Sea.

3. Why is the project needed?

At present, untreated wastewater from homes and businesses in Arklow is discharged into the Avoca River that runs directly through Arklow Town, County Wicklow. This practice of discharging untreated wastewater to the river is no longer acceptable. Irish Water intends to fix this problem by developing the Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant project.

The project will ensure compliance with relevant European legislation and will improve water quality for the surrounding area.

4. What are the benefits of this project?

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

A new wastewater treatment plant will significantly improve the quality of the water in the Avoca River and will facilitate economic and social development for the town and surrounds of Arklow.

5. What is the latest news?

Irish Water has recently completed a series of investigative surveys along the North and South Quays in Arklow. The information gathered from these surveys will be used in the design of the wastewater treatment plant, the interceptor sewers and the planning application which will be submitted to An Bord Pleanála in 2017.

The work completed to date includes a number of ecological surveys including bat surveys, water birds surveys as well as identification of invasive species.

In addition, ground penetrating radar and intrusive site investigations have been carried out along the proposed sewer routes, as well as structural surveys of the existing old Wallboard Factory, North Quay, Ferrybank site.

Irish Water is progressing the architectural and landscape design of the site and will ensure that the design is visually appealing and in-keeping with the requirements of the local community and surrounding landscape. Irish Water will share these preliminary designs in advance of the planning application to ensure that local feedback is incorporated into our plans.

Following the submission of the application for a marine foreshore licence by Irish in July 2016, it is expected that the marine site investigation works will begin in 2017 following the granting of the licence. Further updates will be provided once the licence is granted.

It is expected that Irish Water will submit a planning application to An Bord Pleanála, complete with an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in 2017. An application for a Wastewater Discharge Licence will be made to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in parallel with the planning application.

6. Contact Details

For further information about this project you can contact the Project Team using any of the following details:

- **Telephone:** 089 228 5902 (Monday – Friday, 9am – 5pm)
- **Email:** arklowtp@water.ie
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