



**Irish Water & Wicklow County Council**  
**Arklow Wastewater Treatment Plant**  
**Phase 1 Consultation Report**  
**Project No. PH 00 85700**  
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## Document Control

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# 1 Phase 1 – Non Statutory Consultation

## 1.1 Introduction

### Project Background

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 (WwTP) will bring benefits to Arklow in terms of health, integrity of the environment and improved water quality for all.

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.

### What does the project involve?

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

- A new WwTP estimated to treat 36,000 PE (Population Equivalent) and associated infrastructure such as pumping station(s);
- A pipeline 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. This report outlines the methodology used and feedback received from the first Non Statutory Public Consultation with the people of Arklow around the proposed Arklow Plant WWTP.

Everyone who engaged with Irish Water as part of this process agreed that there was a universal need for a WwTP in Arklow and they welcomed the opportunity to have their say in this consultation.

In accordance with the Aarhus Convention, public participation is an essential element of the development of any infrastructure project and the Arklow WwTP project team is committed to facilitating an accessible, meaningful, and accountable consultation process with members of the public. This Consultation Report details the feedback associated with the first phase of public consultation.

This public consultation follows on from a report by Byrne Looby PHMcCarthy (BLP) – Irish Water & Wicklow County Council, Arklow Wastewater Treatment Works, Site Assessment Report Phase 1 October 2014 which forms the basis for this consultation.

The project will consist of three major elements:

- A WwTP, estimated to treat 36,000 population equivalent and associated infrastructure such as pumping stations.
- A pipeline to bring untreated wastewater from the “load centre” to the WwTP.
- An outfall pipe to safely discharge treated water from the plant to the outfall location.



This report details the factual submissions received from the people of Arklow during the consultation process. Irish Water are grateful to the people of Arklow and all parties and persons and groups who participated in providing submissions, via the project information service. The feedback given in this report is based on all of the submissions that were received.

## 1.2 Consultation Period

The consultation period was initially set to run for seven weeks (Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014 to Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2014) but in light of the interest shown by the people of Arklow and the volume of submissions received, it was decided to extend this period by another week to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014. Submissions could be made by:

1. Phone +353 (0) 89 228 5902
2. Post Arklow Submissions,  
Irish Water,  
c/o Arklow Municipal District Offices,  
Avoca River House,  
Arklow,  
Co. Wicklow
3. By email [arklowtp@water.ie](mailto:arklowtp@water.ie)

## 1.3 Terms of Reference

Irish Water sought views on the Arklow WwTP as part of an eight week period 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 location?
- How would you like to be communicated with as the project progresses?

At the end of the consultation period, all submissions were reviewed in their entirety by the Project Team in order to identify the key issues.

## 2 Publicising the Consultation

The Consultation was rolled out on the week commencing 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Irish Water then briefed Wicklow County Council and Arklow Municipal District officers. Irish Water met with all of the 6 no. Arklow local councillors on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014 in Arklow Municipal District offices and with local businesses and business representatives and local media on the following day, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014. Irish Water briefed these stakeholders on the consultation, gave each of them the brochure on the consultation and details of how to make submissions and Irish Water were glad to answer any questions they had at that stage.

### Irish Water asked for people's 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 then invited submissions to be sent by email or post, by Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2014.

All feedback received from this first phase of non-statutory public consultation was 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 consultation period anticipated to commence in spring 2015.

This report should be read in conjunction with the Site Assessment Report by Byrne Looby PHMcCarthy (BLP) – *Irish Water & Wicklow County Council, Arklow Wastewater Treatment Works, Site Assessment Report Phase 1 October 2014* which is available on-line on the website [www.water.ie/arklowtp](http://www.water.ie/arklowtp) and hard copies also available in the Arklow Library, Arklow Municipal District offices and Wicklow County Council offices.

### 2.1 Media

It was decided that local media would be targeted at this phase and Irish Water engaged with the Wicklow People, Arklow Times and East Coast FM via an initial press release setting out the consultation process. Follow up face to face meetings were had with the Wicklow People on a number of occasions and a second release was issued to local media reminding people to make their submission by the due date. Media coverage was ongoing in the Wicklow People. Other media coverage included:

#### Local print media coverage:

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • Wicklow Times                   | 4 <sup>th</sup> November 2014  |
| • Wicklow People (Arklow Edition) | 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2014  |
| • Wicklow People (Arklow Edition) | 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2014 |
| • Wicklow People (Arklow Edition) | 26 <sup>th</sup> November 2014 |



Online coverage:

- Wicklow News
- Andrew Doyle TD webpage 17<sup>th</sup> October 2014
- Simon Harris webpage 30<sup>th</sup> October 2014
- Stephen Donnelly webpage 6<sup>th</sup> November 2014

Radio Coverage:

- RTÉ Interview Jerry Grant, Head of Asset Management (IW) 11<sup>th</sup> November 2014
- Eastcoast FM 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014

Television Coverage:

- RTÉ One News 18<sup>th</sup> November 2014

## 2.2 Information Service

A dedicated phone line and e-mail address were set up as the contact points for any further information for stakeholders.

## 2.3 Website

A website was developed for the proposed Arklow WwTP and was available on [www.water.ie/arklowtp](http://www.water.ie/arklowtp). This website was updated throughout the consultation period.

The Byrne Looby PHMcCarthy (BLP) – *Irish Water & Wicklow County Council, Arklow Wastewater Treatment Works, Site Assessment Report Phase 1 October 2014* was available on the website as was a copy of the brochure text in English and Irish.

## 2.4 Elected Members Engagement

A meeting was held with local elected members on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014 where all 6 no. local Arklow representatives were briefed on the project, their questions answered and any concerns were also dealt with. Engagement with these Councillors continued throughout the consultation period.

Irish Water also engaged with all Wicklow politicians / TD's and kept them informed throughout the consultation period.



## 2.5 Emails to Stakeholders

A specific email address was set up and used for the project – [arklowtp@water.ie](mailto:arklowtp@water.ie) and any queries received were responded to from this e-mail address. This was also the e-mail address where e-mail submissions could be sent.

## 2.6 Project Brochure

An eight page (plus cover) brochure was sent to every home in Arklow using the Wicklow People delivery service for the area. It was inserted into the Wicklow People (Arklow edition) – a free newspaper which is delivered to every home and business in Wicklow. Irish Water gave the Wicklow People a specific area within Arklow and its surrounds to deliver to, and over 3,500 copies were delivered in the week commencing 20<sup>th</sup> October 2014.

Copies of the brochure were also available at the Arklow Municipal District offices, the Library in Arklow and in the offices of Wicklow County Council.

An English and Irish version of the brochure was available for download for those that required it

## 2.7 Meetings with Stakeholders

A number of face to face meetings with stakeholders were organised by Irish Water over the period, at the request of individuals. Any person or group that requested a meeting was met with. Representatives of the business community, business groups, residents associations, landowners, groups with objections and other groups and representatives of various stakeholders, were all met with and given time to discuss their thoughts and issues and have their questions answered.

A number of stakeholders were proactively reached out to during the period.

## 3 Feedback

At the end of the consultation process, IW received a total of 130 submissions through a combination of letters/email/phone conversations and reports<sup>1</sup>. Some reports received, were extremely detailed. Each and every submission received by the Project Team was logged. As part of the compilation of this report, the Project Team reviewed each submission in order to pull out the key issues raised. This section of the report will review the feedback received, in terms of issues raised by stakeholders as part of their submissions.

The report compiles all of the issues raised. Some of the issues are quoted directly from submissions but others are an amalgamation of issues raised by a number of submissions. Everything included in the ensuing sections is taken directly from stakeholder feedback. No bias is implied by the order in which they are presented. Additionally, in certain sections, comments made were related to specific land parcels. Where this has occurred, they have been collated for the relevant land parcel, if appropriate.

The responses have been grouped into categories in line with the views Irish Water sought opinions on, namely:

- 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 location?
- How would you like to be communicated with as the project progresses?

This report, together with the submissions, will be reviewed by the Project Team as part of the project development.

### 3.1 What do you think of the process and constraints used in identifying the three potential locations?

Respondents were, in the main, satisfied with the process and constraints used in identifying the three potential locations. A number of specific queries, questions, comments and observations were put forward and these were as follows;

- Distance calculator from EPA manual of buffer zones of 50m is not appropriate for municipal effluent treatment systems
- Buffer zone of 100m applied to residential receptors would be unacceptable. In most European jurisdictions it is usual for a 350 – 400 m “Cordon Sanitaire” to be used. The EPA landfill buffer zone is 250m.
- “Three potential sites chosen will not result in a WwTP as there will be many objections which will delay the process”
- Report is flawed as it doesn’t consider / assess differences for each site on
  - Estimated capital expenditure
  - Estimated life cycle costs
  - Estimated life cycle energy costs

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<sup>1</sup> Irish Water in accordance with the Data Protection Act, 1988 & Data Protection (Amendment) Act, 2003 will not be releasing the names of those who engaged with the process



- Life cycle amount of methane and nitrogen oxide generated
- Outline of preferred technologies likely to be incorporated
- Analysis of any environmental impacts of each proposed pipeline routes
- General principles and / or specifications for total odour emission encapsulation enclosures for all sections of the WwTP
- No effort to assess the entirety of the proposed WwTP – just part – i.e. the WwTP.
- No consideration for the impacts on the environment of the pipelines / outfall and all ancillary works and no consideration of the Habitats Directive type requirements.
- Need to produce a Comprehensive Assessment Report for all possible sites including the listed 10 land parcels and take no further action until this has been published and has secured the comments from interested parties
- No explanation of the criteria used to select the ten land parcels.
- Query on the robustness of the initial site assessment report and the selection process for the ten sites not including costs, type of plant and impact of odour and noise on residents.
- Question on use of OPW CFRAM study to rule out potential IFI sites due to flooding. The OPW CFRAM is simplistic and inappropriate as outlined on CFRAM website.
- Query why outlying sites were ruled out as they would have least interference with people (traffic, smells, amenity, etc.).

## 3.2 What do you think of the three potential locations chosen?

Note: The locations of the land parcels are included in Appendix A.

As the submissions received mentioned more than the three shortlisted land parcels, this report outlines all queries, questions, comments and observations raised on all of the land parcels that were mentioned by stakeholders during the consultation period. These comments are listed below on a land parcel basis. No comments, questions or queries were submitted by stakeholders on the following 3 no. land parcels – Ballymoney, Killbride and Money Big. The points raised are detailed below and are taken directly from the submissions received either as direct quotes or as summary points from a number of submissions.

### 3.2.1 Seabank

#### 3.2.1.1 Positive Points Raised

- Currently zoned industrial
- Extreme north end of the town and close to N11 – away from the town
- Utilising the existing design will save time and costs – a preferred site for Arklow Town Council since the last planning application
- Proceed with this site so that the money invested will not be wasted
- Prevailing winds will take odours to sea

#### 3.2.1.2 Negative Points Raised

- Porters Rock Beach – Arklow's only unspoilt beach could be impacted
- Extensive ("extreme vulnerability") aquifer system / potable water wells which services Caravan Park could be impacted



- Road infrastructure not suitable and population has increased in last 20 years with no change to road infrastructure – would need new road
- Only road to Brittas Bay from Arklow – traffic issues
- Close proximity to Arklow Caravan Park – valuable to Arklow economy
- Destruction of beach when constructing outfall pipes – possible outfall through designated NHA (dunes and beach area is an NHA)
- Potential structural damage to houses with increase in HGV traffic
- Near to Special Conservation - Grey sand dunes and Moore's Horsetail - NHA
- Last beach that local people can enjoy could be impacted
- Economic issue around elevation and costs of pumping from load centre
- Concerns about odour and reduction of house prices
- The Seabank site at 2.75 km away from the load centre, is farther away than other potential sites

### 3.2.2 Ferrybank (old Wallboard Factory)

Note - When Irish Water put this land parcel to the people of Arklow it was pointed out that the land parcel that was named on the map, while technically in the Ferrybank townland, is better known as the “old Wallboard Factory”. In all stakeholder communications since IW were informed, the name - “Old Wallboard Factory” - has been used to clarify the specific area within the Ferrybank land parcel that was being suggested.

#### 3.2.2.1 Positive Points Raised

- Put forward as a “benchmark” location when comparing to other sites
- Resident of Ferrybank – “no objection to the plant being located at the old Wallboard site providing the plant has no adverse effect on the local amenities in the area”.
- Of the three would have least interference to residents quality of life, already lit by commercial lighting, has existing commercial traffic,
- Already have factories on south side of river (150m away) work 24/7 with associated noise and light pollution
- Pumping costs greatly reduced (call for making the pumping costs public in the next stage so people can compare)
- Makes perfect sense due to closeness to load centre, pipe work, road access, outfall location
- Elevation – minimise pumping costs
- Already zoned industrial / commercial
- No long outfall pipe would be necessary
- Beach already inaccessible to public so no amenity area would be disrupted
- South westerly winds would push any odours offshore
- There are existing plans and surveys for the site which could reduce costs
- Clean up of derelict site / eyesore – major boost to towns appearance if Wallboard plant removed
- “If the concerns listed are addressed with positive and compelling reasons I would be open to endorse the construction at Ferrybank”
- Most economical construction and pumping costs of any site
- Consider using construction related materials by sea?
- Site already protected by rock armour



- Prevailing winds would blow any odour away from marina village and shopping centre

### 3.2.2.2 Negative Points Raised

- Prime location for future development of Hotel / Apartments / Marina development
- Bound to be met with objections from residents of Marina Village as they live so close to the land parcel
- Close proximity to Bridgewater Shopping centre and Marina Village apartments
- Construction related traffic would have to use existing roads past Bridgewater and Marina Village
- Proposed location is on a floodplain (as is the Bridgewater Centre )
- Closeness to nature reserve and its walk
- Sludge removal / smells could be a nuisance
- Concerns over health implications of a WwTP close to the town
- Concerns over odour, property value loss and aesthetics
- Removal of existing structure need to be performed under highest of standards – asbestos issues

### 3.2.3 Tinahask Upper

#### 3.2.3.1 Positive Points Raised

- Excellent road connections and access to the coastline
- More remote from the town and least aspect on day to day aspects of town living
- Arklow built a bridge over railway line known locally as the “Bridge to Nowhere” as a start to the proposed Dock Relief Road giving excellent access to Money Big parcel as it is connected to the Knockmore Roundabout – 700 meters from the Arklow bypass. A road of 400 metres would reach this parcel of land from the bridge
- Distance to coastline is 0.7km it is across farmland and industrial area

#### 3.2.3.2 Negative Points Raised

- Query why Tinahask was included and some sites were not as they would seem to be as, or more, suitable.
- Most residential of all sites with planning / zoning for more houses and education facilities
- No dedicated road infrastructure except possibly through housing estates
- Access likely to be through resident areas – problems for children’s safety
- Difficult ground conditions during construction – rock, marl and clay soils and possible dewatering costs which would increase cost of building WwTP
- Land purchase and disruption costs from Arklow Golf Club and Quarry
- Land ownership in the hands of several landowners
- Pipe line through one of the coast’s few remaining natural areas
- Amenity Impact - on “The Cove” beach (and possibly Clogga Beach) – main bathing area in Arklow – major amenity – doesn’t appear in the feasibility study
- Limits future development of the town southwards
- Possible impact on two ponds in the area



- Previous Arklow Urban District Council report re proposed WWTP does not recommend Tinahask as an appropriate site for a WWTP
- Prevailing south west winds could bring odours and noise into major residential areas
- Light pollution from WWTP works when operating
- Elevation leading to high pumping costs
- Distance from load and sea outfall (Same as Killinisky Duff)
- Potential development of Roadstone Port may be impacted if outfall pipe is in the area
- Sea outfall near to Roadstone Jetty – potential of ships anchors damaging pipeline (area discounted previously due in part to this factor)
- Costs of pumping should be made public – compare pumping costs at Tinahask to Ferrybank or Shelton (IFI)
- Development of the Roadstone port may be impacted by presence of outfall pipe

Comments on the remaining 7 land parcels were also received and are summarised below. It is noted that no specific comments/queries were submitted in relation to the Ballymoney, Kilbride and Money Big land parcels.

### 3.2.4 Shelton Abbey / IFI

Note - As the current owner of this site is a significant employer at the Shelton Abbey / IFI land parcel, this part of the parcel was treated by the Project Team as a “sensitive receptor”. Because of the buffer zone required, the distance from the load centre and sea outfall, this land parcel was not originally included on the potential short list. As part of the consultation process, Irish Water engaged with the owner whereby new information was presented that indicated that the lands could be made available to Irish Water as a possible site. On this basis and further discussions with the landowner and the input from a number of submissions, it was decided that the land parcel should be considered in greater detail.

#### 3.2.4.1 Positive Points Raised

- No or few objections leading to faster building of WwTP
- Close to river, existing pipes to and from Arklow already exist
- Away from built up residential areas, downwind of town – noise, traffic, smells
- Good road access
- Willing seller
- Open up the town for development
- No residential constraints
- Brownfield site – zoned industrial
- Pipes could be run through marsh along the canal - no excavating of roads / interference with traffic during construction – right of way already exists
- Boardwalk could be constructed over the pipes giving the people of Arklow access to the marsh area and a welcome addition to local amenities
- Similar elevation to load centre
- Quickest route to building the plant with minimal community division
- Potential for biomass unit for electricity production on site

### **3.2.4.2 Negative Points Raised**

- May be more expensive to construct as ground works / stabilisation flood barriers may be required
- Contaminated soil potential on the site
- Flood plain
- Engineering problems – pumping distance from load centre and to sea outfall

### **3.2.5 Lamberton & Ballyraine**

#### **3.2.5.1 Positive Points Raised**

- Access road needed would be across farmland and would be a shorter distance than the Seabank site.

#### **3.2.5.2 Negative Points Raised**

- None

### **3.2.6 Bogland and Kish**

#### **3.2.6.1 Positive Points Raised**

- Road adjacent to land parcel upgraded a few years ago to facilitate industrial area – not a third class road.
- At the southern part of the land parcel it is 500 metres from the Arklow bypass giving it the best road access
- Distance to sea outfall is 1.9km across farmland and industrial area
- Parcel could be extended towards Money big alleviating the need to surround the private house in the parcel

#### **3.2.6.2 Negative Points Raised**

- None

### **3.2.7 Killinisky Duff**

#### **3.2.7.1 Positive Points Raised**

- Adjacent to public roads and should have been considered
- Identical to Tinahask site in terms of elevation and distance to load centre and distance to sea.
- Good road access

### 3.3 What do you think should be considered in choosing the final location?

- The Cove Beach (Tinahask outfall location) was not included as an Amenity Area.
- The Report discounts other possible sites due to distance from load and outfall but with another 200 to 500m of pipe this would include Shelton Abbey / IFI, Boglands and Killiniskyduff.
- Preferable to build / regenerate a brownfield site than a greenfield site.
- Long sea outfall is proposed but discharge to the River Avoca was ruled out by previous reports – what reports? What surveys? Look at Clonmel, Naas and Kilkenny.
- Suggest a new site selection process having regard to Carbon Footprint Greenhouse Gases impacts (Climate Change Impacts) and total life cycle economic costs (Economic Impacts) and to the European Commission Report on Green Public Procurement Criteria for Wastewater Infrastructures (July 1<sup>st</sup> 2013) and to the EC Assessment Criteria for Proposed WwT Projects.
- Protect the sea front of the town and preserve surrounding areas as a seaside town with the potential for an attractive coastline for the future
- Ideally the discharge should be to the Avoca River – the need for a long sea discharge should be explained as it will be a costly part of the project
- Should have minimal disruption to local residents during construction, commission and operation (traffic, noise, odour, light)
- Why wasn't Shelton Abbey / IFI site in top three?
- Reconsider Shelton Abbey / IFI and Killiniskey Duff land parcels.

### 3.4 How would you like to be communicated with as the project progresses?

- The responses concluded that the methods by which the Project Team communicated with the people of Arklow, namely by post, mail, brochure and e-mail contact were the best ways to communicate around this consultation.

### 3.5 General Comments

The following represents a list of general comments submitted by the public during the consultation period:

- Whether a closed system or open system is used will have significant impact on decision on location
- “I have seen no irrefutable evidence that there is no health risk to treating waste water and its unwanted waste product in areas of dense population”
- Select a location that creates minimal disruption, no health risks, allows for future expansion, allows existing residential areas to be developed (rather than taking potential residential land to build a WwTP)
- Request that Irish Water place on their website a copy of the specific information and instructions supplied to Byrne Looby PH McCarthy for Phase 1.



- Rethink locations of two proposed pumping chambers to be constructed on South Quay now that Lower Main Street is one way and the quay is mainly used by HGV's – relocate 3m to the south. Possibly use pre cast concrete segments rather than in situ concrete as they are to be constructed in poor ground conditions. Reform river bed upstream of the bridge to encourage major flow to pass close to south bank to flush the area on each tide
- Strict odour controls and suitable screening and landscaping
- Site and design and area required is totally different to what was initially suggested. Surely this project should be treated as a new project and surely new tenders should have been required and submitted in compliance with EU Directives and Government guidelines
- Location of proposed Siphon/River Crossing: Currently the river crossing is shown at the narrowest part of the river – but with dredging etc. – suggest that the pipe should be closer to the bridge – say 50m downstream or upstream of the bridge where the river is a lot shallower.
- The road infrastructure at Seabank and Ferrybank is unsuitable for the heavy trucks that will transport effluent from across the southern part of Wicklow to the plant.
- If ESB outage appears what happens? No mention in documentation of what would happen if such an occurrence happened
- Will septic tank sludge be treated in Arklow WwTP?
- How will power outages affect WwTP?

## 4 Outcome

### 4.1 What do you think of the process and constraints used in identifying the three potential locations?

Overall there was a positive response in that people thought that the process and constraints used were correct overall. Any comments and queries on this are detailed in the “General Comments” section at 3.5 above.

Specific comments on a potential river discharge and the extent of the floodplain will be considered further as part of the process.

### 4.2 What do you think of the three potential locations chosen?

The three land parcels that were shortlisted by the Project Team were well represented. Two land parcels, Seabank and Tinahask in particular, were well represented with the negative comments (i.e. reasons for not choosing these sites) far outweighing the positive ones for both parcels.

There were quite a number of submissions on the Ferrybank / Old Wallboard land parcel with the positives outweighing the negatives.

However the consultation process brought to light a possible new shortlist contender based on a number of facts that must now be explored more by the Project Team. The highlighting of the Shelton Abbey / IFI lands as a potential land parcel was brought to the attention of the Project Team by the owner of the land and by a significant number of people who made submissions. This land parcel could make the shortlist if a river discharge was feasible and acceptable. Further investigations need to be undertaken on this site.

### 4.3 What do you think should be considered in choosing the final location?

There were few distinct comments on this question but from the submissions received a number of salient points were extracted. These include the following;

- Potential of a river discharge
- Further site investigations on Shelton Abbey / IFI land parcel
- Further investigation on Ferrybank /Wallboard Factory land parcel

### 4.4 How would you like to be communicated with as the project progresses?

Irish Water are committed to communicating with the people of Arklow throughout this consultation process. The submissions received by post, e-mail, face to face and by phone had no comments on how to be communicated with save that of acknowledging that the method of communications worked for each of them.



## 5 Next Steps

The issues raised during the public consultation and scheduled in this report have been reviewed by the Project Team and will be considered as part of the assessment process to identify the emerging preferred land parcels.

As additional or new information was made available during this consultation process, this information will be used to update the Phase 1 Report. Upon completion of the updated Phase 1 Report, a Phase 2 Report will be prepared which will include a high level assessment of the preferable land parcels which emerged from the revised Phase 1 process.

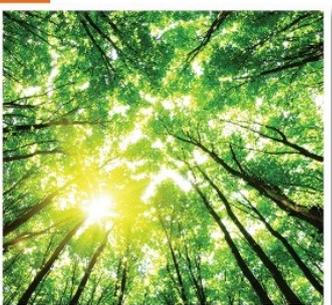
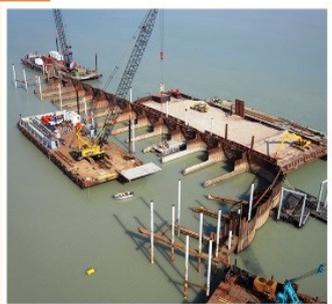
Irish Water was delighted at the response to the call for submissions from the people of Arklow. New information was brought to light and forms part of the next stage of the process. More information is now required to enable Irish Water develop a final shortlisted land parcel.

An assumption was made at the beginning of this process that because on previous evidence, a river discharge would not be suitable hence restricting an outfall to the sea only. Due to the interest raised in the IFI site and other potential sites close to the Avoca River, Irish Water is revisiting this assumption and will be investigating the option of a river discharge as part of the next consultation phase. More information is needed as part of the process, to assess the possible soil / land contamination within the Shelton Abbey / IFI site and more in depth information on the flood plain at this location is also required.

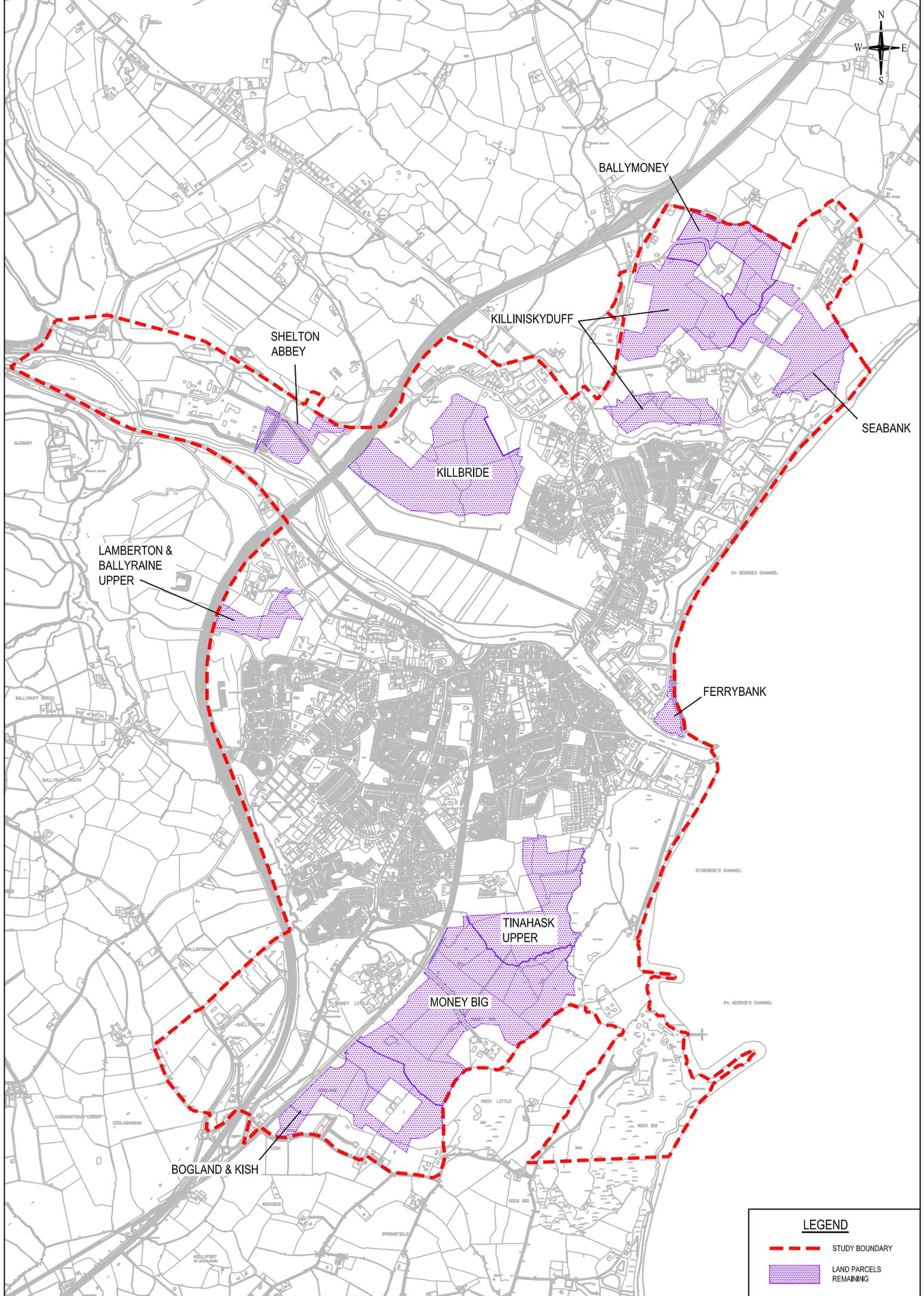
More information is also needed as part of the process, to assess the possible soil/land contamination and building materials used within the Ferrybank/Old Wallboard land parcel.

It is estimated that the above additional investigation works will be completed by April 2015 thus enabling the completion of the Phase 2 Report at that time. The Phase 2 Report will result in a single preferred site being recommended. The Phase 2 Report will be subject to a second public consultation before the final decision is being made.

Irish Water, and the Project Team would like to thank all participants for their feedback and look forward to future engagement with them on the future development of Arklow Sewerage Scheme.



## Appendix A – Phase 1 Report Land Parcels



**LEGEND**

-  STUDY BOUNDARY
-  LAND PARCELS REMAINING