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Castletownbere Sewerage Scheme

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)



IWFF/LDB/0115

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Castletownbere Sewerage Scheme - Frequently Asked Questions

Why is this project needed?

Currently untreated sewage from Castletownbere is discharged into the sea via 5 outfalls, while there are also a number of septic tanks for groups of houses that discharge to percolation areas. This project involves the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant and sewerage infrastructure to eliminate the discharge of untreated wastewater into Bantry Bay.

What are the benefits of this project?

The new wastewater treatment plant will bring benefits to Castletownbere including:

- ✓ Better health, integrity of the environment and improved water quality.
- ✓ Improved water quality in Bantry Bay.
- ✓ Enhanced local amenities and a platform for social and economic development.
- ✓ New wastewater treatment plant, sewer pipes and pumping stations sized to accommodate future population growth.
- ✓ Ensure compliance with national and EU regulations relating to the treatment of wastewater.

What is involved as part of this project?

The proposed scheme will include the following:

- A new wastewater treatment plant at Drom South, which will serve a population equivalent of approximately 2,200.
- The treated effluent will be discharged to the sea off Doctor's Rock to the south west of the town, in compliance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive and EPA licence.
- Construction of 750m of new sewer pipelines and 1,700m of rising mains to transport untreated wastewater to the proposed new wastewater treatment plant.
- Construction of 4 new wastewater pumping stations near Castletownbere Community Hospital, Brandyhall Bridge, Came Woods and the Quays area.

Where will this project take place?

- The proposed new wastewater treatment plant will be located on a site at Drom South, to the south of Castletownbere.
- Below-ground pumping stations will be constructed near Castletownbere Community Hospital, Brandyhall Bridge, Came Woods and the Quays

area. These pumping stations will transfer wastewater to the new wastewater treatment plant via a network of gravity sewers and rising mains.

- A new gravity sewer will also be laid from Foildarrig, to the north of the town, connecting to the existing network near Chapel Lane.

When will the works start and what is the expected duration of the project?

Works commenced in mid-February 2021, with works on this essential project progressing in accordance with current Level 5 Covid 19 restrictions.

The project is expected to take 18 months and scheduled for completion in mid-2022.

Who will carry out the works?

The works will be completed by Glan Agua MEIC Limited working on behalf of Irish Water.

What controls will be in place to prevent Covid 19 on sites?

In collaboration with our delivery partners, strict operating procedures have been implemented across all sites and locations to provide for social distancing, separate facilities, staggered working arrangements, increased hygiene requirements and the use of additional PPE as appropriate.

These enhanced safety measures are subject to regular auditing and review by Irish Water's Health and Safety teams and are also subject to independent checks by external bodies including the Health and Safety Authority.

Will traffic be a problem in the area during the construction?

Our aim will be to minimise the impact on traffic in Castletownbere during construction of the scheme. However, pipelaying in the town will cause disruption and this will be managed by careful traffic management planning and by clear communication with residents and businesses affected.

A traffic management plan (TMP) has been prepared in collaboration with Cork County Council. All works will be programmed in the least disruptive way, particularly during the busy tourist seasons.

How will construction impact the area?

All potential impacts resulting from construction works has been assessed during the preparation of a Construction and Environmental Management Plan

(CEMP) and suitable management measures have been identified to avoid or minimise identified impacts.

Following construction of the pipelines, all lands will be reinstated, that is returned as close to their pre-construction state as possible, and Irish Water will ensure that the Glan Agua complies with this.

How will noise issues be managed during construction?

To minimise noise construction works will be undertaken during the following hours:

- Monday to Friday 7.00am to 7.00pm.
- Saturday 8:00am to 2:00pm.
- No operation on Sundays or Bank Holidays.

Any works that take place outside these hours, will require advance permission from Irish Water.

Noise suppression equipment will be utilised for any items of plant in the new WWTP that give rise to high levels of noise, so that the surrounding areas are not adversely affected.

How will dust issues be managed during construction?

In order to minimise the generation of dust the Project Team will undertake the following:

- Wheel washer at the WWTP will be used throughout the construction period.
- Dampening down / spraying shall be used as required if particularly dusty activities are necessary during dry or windy periods.
- Site roads shall be regularly cleaned and maintained as appropriate, with dampening down during dry and/or windy periods.
- Hard surface roads shall be swept to remove mud and aggregate materials from their surface while any un-surfaced roads shall be restricted to essential site traffic only.
- Stockpiling of materials shall be designed and laid out to minimise exposure to wind.

Will this project impact the marine environment, local beaches and fishing?

This project will end the practice of untreated sewage being discharged to the marine environment. It will improve water quality, protect public health and lead

to a more enjoyable environment for local communities while enhancing the amenity value of the local area for visitors.

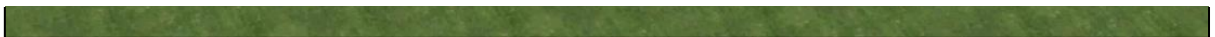
This project will also have a positive impact for the fishing community. Providing the new wastewater facility will enhance water quality in the marine environment.

Will the construction and operation of project generate any odours?

The management of odours in the sewer, pumping station and the WWTP has been taken into account as part of the detailed design of the project. Odour treatment units and ventilation systems will be installed to ensure that the infrastructure does not generate any malodours or nuisance.

Once completed, what will the Wastewater Treatment Plant look like?

The below image provides a visual graphic of what the Wastewater Treatment Plant will look like once works are completed.



How does Irish Water intend to engage with the local community to advise them of the construction works?

The project team will be engaging with the local community in advance of and for the duration of the works.

- Covid 19 restrictions have limited the level of engagement however we have provided virtual project information briefings to community groups and elected representatives.
- We will be issuing regular updates to potentially impacted residents, businesses, schools and other identified stakeholders to make people aware of the projects and elements of the works
- All impacted businesses, residents and stakeholders will be communicated via letter notifications prior to the project commencement and at various stages throughout the works.
- Irish Water will provide regular project updates to stakeholders and elected representatives as the project progresses.
- Regular updates will also be provided on our project page and via our social media channels.

- Glan Agua has a Community Liaison Officer on the contract who will be available to address any queries or concerns in relation to the works

How can I connect into the new sewerage scheme?

Any person or business with an existing connection onto the public wastewater infrastructure in Castletownbere will be connected to the new scheme.

Any person or business wishing to get a new connection to public wastewater collection infrastructure must contact Irish Water. You can make a pre-connection enquiry in order to establish the feasibility of a connection to the Irish Water network. Pre connection enquiry is a free service which allows you to find out whether a connection to the public network is possible or not. For more information click on <https://www.water.ie/connections/>

Where can I find out more about the project?

Members of the public are welcome to contact the project team with questions on the project:

- Project webpage: www.water.ie/castletownbere
- Community Liaison Officer – castletownbere@glanagua.com
- Email at: CorkUWW@water.ie

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