

Surveys and Ground Investigations

We are undertaking a range of surveys and ground investigations within the project corridor. These studies help to inform the design and development of the project.

SURVEYS

- Ecology surveys involve pairs of ecologists walking across land observing the mammals, birds, habitats, and plants in the area.
- Archaeology surveys comprise an archaeologist walking across the land visually assessing any archaeological features.
- Topographical surveys provide information on the natural and manmade landscape including the terrain, the elevation of the land, and the location of buildings and roads.

GROUND INVESTIGATIONS

Ground investigations assess and provide information on the soil and rocks in the preferred corridor. The specialised team will use dedicated equipment to undertake a series of boreholes, trial pits, and soil samples. Boreholes are used to assess the composition of rocks below our feet. Trial pits and soil samples are used to assess the composition and type of soil. The area will be reinstated after each borehole, trial pit, and soil sample. These investigations will commence later this year.

The project team will be in touch if your land may be needed for surveys and / or ground investigations. We appreciate your cooperation as we carry out these studies.

Uisce Éireann will endeavour to keep landowners up to date and informed as the project progresses, through:

- Phone calls and letters from the project team
- In-person site meetings
- Regular in-person landowner engagement events.

We welcome your local knowledge and feedback on the project, particularly relating to any upcoming works or changes to your land or within the area.

Más mian leat cóip den leabhrán seo a fháil as Gaeilge, dean teagmháil linn.

Timeline



Contact Information

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Landowner Information

Ballymore Eustace
Water Treatment Plant
to Saggart Reservoir
Resilience Project

June 2025



The Project

Ballymore Eustace is the largest water treatment plant in Ireland. It produces drinking water for about half of the people living in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA), including parts of Kildare and Wicklow. This treated water is delivered through two pipelines to Saggart Reservoir.

The GDA water supply is heavily dependent on these important pipelines as they provide so many people with their daily drinking water and are a direct link from Ballymore Eustace Water Treatment Plant to Saggart Reservoir with further connections along the route supplying Kildare customers.

The two pipelines are each approximately 25-30 km in length and are near the end of their service life:

- 1. A 1,600 mm diameter pipeline constructed in the early 1980's
- 2. An aqueduct constructed in the 1940's known as the "culvert"

The two pipelines are at high risk of unplanned water outages and bursts. These issues were identified through condition surveys carried out by Uisce Éireann.

Uisce Éireann is working to develop a solution to ensure security of the drinking water supply to the GDA. The project team has assessed many potential options and has now identified a proposed solution.

Our identified Emerging Preferred Option is to construct a new pipeline within a defined corridor.

This proposed new pipeline will transfer 243 million litres of water per day (ML/d) via gravity.



Project Benefits

This project is in the very early stages. When complete, this project will help Uisce Éireann:

- Improve security of drinking water supply to the Greater Dublin Area (GDA)**
- Safeguard drinking water supply to 1.7 million people**
- Support social development**
- Support economic growth**
- Enable the delivery of housing in the GDA**
- Save water by preventing leaks and bursts.**

Emerging Preferred Option



What is happening now?

We explored a range of options to address the issues along both pipelines and safeguard our water supply. These options were assessed using multiple criteria and the highest-performing option is being progressed. As part of this, we are engaging directly with landowners and holding in-person information events.

The identified option is called the Emerging Preferred Option. It is to construct a new pipeline within a defined corridor. This proposed new pipeline will transfer 243 million litres of water per day (ML/d) via gravity.

The Emerging Preferred Option will undergo further detailed analysis including surveys and ground investigations. These studies will inform the design and development of the next stage. We will continue to engage directly with landowners as the project progresses.

Once the new pipeline is operational, the defects along the original 1,600 mm pipeline and culvert are anticipated to be repaired.