

Upgrade of Benone Vacuum Sewerage System

Progress Update
Nov/Dec 2020

With the seasonal closure of local caravan parks at the end of October 2020, NI Water and our contractor, BSG Civil Engineering, have recommenced work on the upgrade of the Benone Vacuum Sewerage System.

Work is progressing well, with only two wastewater pumping stations left to complete. Below is a brief reminder of what's involved in the scheme, an update on our progress to date and an outline of what's left to do in this extensive programme of improvements.

What's involved

The upgrade of the Benone Vacuum Sewerage System involves replacing the majority of the existing vacuum valve chambers in Benone with conventional sewers and wastewater pumping stations (WwPS) and retaining only a small section of the vacuum system that serves a limited part of the catchment along the Seacoast Road.

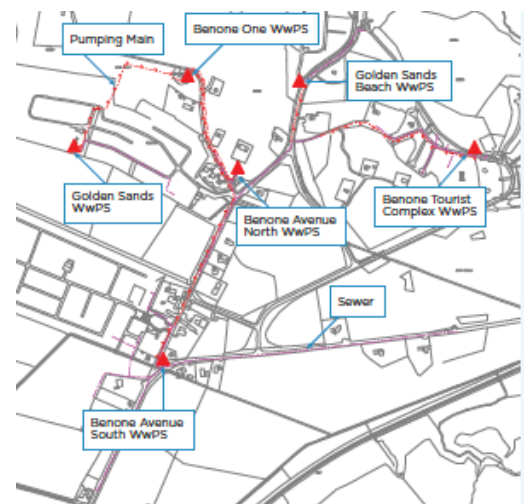
The programme of work – which is largely being undertaken in winter periods to minimise impact - will provide a more robust sewerage network, capable of coping with increased number of tourists to caravan parks and local amenity areas in Benone.

The introduction of conventional wastewater pumping stations will reduce the likelihood of out-of-sewer flooding and provide a more reliable system that will require less operational maintenance.

We are delighted to report that the new wastewater pumping stations at the Benone Tourist Complex, Benone Avenue North and Benone One Transfer have all been operating well since they were completed earlier this year (see photos overleaf).

Since our last update in May, BSG have undertaken work at Golden Sands Beach site where they have installed vacuum valve controllers in above ground pillars which will improve the reliability of this part of the vacuum network.

Despite the challenges with ground water, pipelaying has also been completed adjacent to the Seacoast Road allowing all the domestic connections in that part of the network to be transferred to the new system.



Progress so far

Aerial photos of completed wastewater pumping stations (WwPS)



Benone Tourist Complex WwPS



Benone Ave North WwPS



Benone One WwPS



Improvement works carried out at the existing vacuum pot adjacent to Golden Sands Beach Site



Noise protection around dewatering pumps during pipelaying

Where we are working

Work recently got underway again at the **Golden Sands WwPS** site (pictured right) following the seasonal closure. The pumping station construction is now complete with the mechanical and electrical installation ongoing. Pipelaying has also been able to restart again within the site.



The main inlet sewers are now complete with testing and reinstatement ongoing. Some elements of pipework are currently being completed around the pumping station. The photos below help portray the extent of dewatering that has been required to date to construct the pumping station and lay the new pipelines.



Meanwhile, at the **Benone Avenue South WwPS** site, the new pump sump, which measures 2.2m x 2.5m x 5.75m deep, has been constructed.



Benone Avenue South WwPS



Pipelaying at Deighan's Caravan Park

Projected completion

NI Water and BSG Civil Engineering are working hard to have the new Golden Sands WwPS (in the main Golden Sands Caravan Park) and Benone Avenue South WwPS, along with all the interconnecting pipework, completed by Easter 2021. Progress as always will be dependent on ground conditions and weather. BSG has increased resources at these sites in a bid to complete ahead of the 2021 caravan season.

When complete this £2.1m project will provide a more robust sewerage network, capable of coping with increased number of tourists to caravan parks and local amenity areas in Benone.

The introduction of conventional wastewater pumping stations will reduce the likelihood of out-of-sewer flooding and provide a more reliable system that will require less operational maintenance. Throughout the project, NI Water's contractor, BSG Civil Engineering, has been working closely with local caravan park owners and is progressing the programme of work in close liaison with them.

If you have any queries regarding this project, please contact Waterline on 03457 440088 or email: waterline@niwater.com

Benefits