

Athy Flood Relief Scheme

Project Newsletter No. 03 December 2024



OPW Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

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PROGRESS TO DATE

Constraints Identification

A Constraint Study Report has been prepared by RPS to identify environmental constraints within the Scheme Area. Recognition of these constraints is critical to the viable selection and development of flood mitigation options for the Scheme.

Some of the key constraints identified include:

- **Land zoning:** There are many sensitive receptors in the area such as existing and planned residential, commercial and community facilities, and visual (green spaces) and tourism amenities.
- **Habitats:** Habitats were mapped, and critical environmental sensitivities identified within the area.
- **Invasive alien plant species (IAPS):** Japanese knotweed, Spanish/Hybrid bluebell, and Three-cornered leek were identified in the Scheme area. These have been included in Kildare County Council's existing treatment plan.



- **Archaeological and architectural heritage:** 37 archaeological sites, 149 protected architectural heritage structures, and one architecture conservation area identified, confirming the cultural heritage importance of Athy. White's Castle, a 16th-century tower house located on the river's edge.



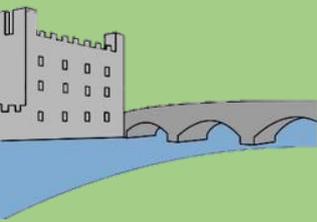
To read the Live Report please go to *Project Information* on the Athy Flood Relief Scheme Website at <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/athy/home>.

Existing Walls Survey

RPS reviewed and assessed the conditions of all existing walls along the banks of the River within the Scheme Area to determine if current wall conditions could be relied upon for the purpose of flood mitigation.

Hydrological Analysis & Hydraulic Modelling

Hydrological analysis is largely complete and hydraulic modelling is undergoing to confirm how the River Barrow and tributaries respond to rainfall and flooding events in the area.



NEXT STEPS

Preliminary Ground Investigation

The purpose of a preliminary Ground Investigation (GI) is to identify any underground issues that could affect the design and construction of flood relief measures. This will include information on underlying ground conditions, existing utilities, etc.

The GI will be carried out by a third-party contractor. A Request for Quotation (RFQ) was issued via [eTenders.gov.ie](https://www.etenders.gov.ie) with responses currently under review. GI site work is planned for January to March 2025.

Option Assessments & Preferred Option Selection:

This will involve:

- Short listing/development of options
- Detailed hydraulic modelling and assessment of all viable options
- Identification of an emerging Preferred Option.

Environmental Surveys

Preliminary environmental surveys carried out in April and May 2024 identified the need for additional specialist surveys in the Athy Scheme area. These include otter, badger, birds, general habitats, and invasive species surveys which will be carried out in spring/summer 2025.

Bats specialist surveys are also required, the first of which will be taking place in January/February 2025.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Several Public Consultation Events and Stakeholders Workshops are to be held over the duration of the project.

The first Public Participation Day was held on 27th of February 2024 and the second is planned for July 2025. If you would like to be contacted once a date is confirmed please contact us via the project email.

Information regarding past and upcoming events can also be found under *Project Information* on the Athy Flood Relief Scheme Website at <https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/athy/home>

CONTACT US

If you would like to contact us regarding this project, a member of our team would be happy to speak with you.

We can be reached via email at

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or by post at:

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PROGRAMME:

