Newsletter

Rosslare Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme





ROSSLARE COASTAL EROSION & FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Newsletter No. 04 | January 2024









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SCHEME BACKGROUND

In December 2021, Wexford County Council (WCC) appointed Nicholas O'Dwyer Ltd. (NOD) to develop, design, and construct a Coastal Erosion and Flood Relief Scheme (CEFRS), that is technically, socially, environmentally, and economically acceptable for the community of Rosslare.

It is expected that the scheme will be carried out in five stages, although the flood protection and erosion protection works might be carried out in separate contracts.

- Options Assessment, Scheme development and Preliminary Design
- 2(a) Planning / Development Consent Process
 2(b) Detailed Construction Design
- 3. Tender Process Evaluation and Award
- 4. Construction
- 5. Handover of Works

The proposed works will be designed to suit the local context and to be fully compliant with all relevant environmental legislation.

TIMESCALE

Expected stage completion dates are currently:

		2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Stage 1	Q3 2024							
Stage 2	Q4 2025							
Stage 3	Q2 2026							
Stage 4	Q1 2028							
Stage 5	Q1 2029							

SCHEME AREA

The scheme area is outlined by the red border on the map.



The scheme area consists generally of Rosslare Strand extending around Rosslare Point to the inner bay area by Burrow Road.

The area most at risk of erosion is the eastern side of the spit while the Burrow Road on the western side of the spit is at risk of flooding. Flood and erosion risks will be assessed across the entire scheme area.

WHAT STAGE IS THE SCHEME AT?

The scheme is currently in Stage 1 – Option Assessment, Scheme development and Preliminary Design. Current activities include:

Hydrological & Hydraulic Analysis:

The hydraulic report for the scheme is nearing completion. Computer modelling has been carried out to determine the potential extent of flooding from sea levels.

The current stage of the hydraulic assessment is considering the wave overtopping volumes which could be generated during storm events and the areas which could be flooded during overtopping.

The assessment is also looking at the current erosion or accretion patterns at various locations along the beach with the current defences. This will highlight the areas within the scheme area at risk from coastal erosion.

It is expected that the hydraulic report will be completed during Q1 of 2024. Once complete this will allow for the scheme to progress to the development of options for protection from flooding and erosion.

Environmental Assessments:

During the summer season several surveys were undertaken to provide information to assist with the design and assessment of the scheme.

The surveys undertaken in summer 2023 were:

- Habitats survey,
- Breeding birds survey, and
- Invasive species survey.

A wintering birds survey was carried out during winter 2022/2023, and an update of this survey for the current winter season 2023/2024 is underway.

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Site Investigations:

A site investigation contract is being prepared for boreholes and trial pits along the Burrow Road to understand the ground conditions to inform the design of future defences.

An archaeological impact assessment for these investigations has also been carried out to enable licensing of the work by the National Monuments Service.

Because the area of site investigations borders the Wexford Harbour and Slobs SPA and the Slaney River Valley SPA an Appropriate Assessment screening has been carried out and submitted to the Local Authority.

It is intended that the investigations will be tendered early in 2024 and completed during summer 2024 to avoid impacts on wintering birds.



NEXT STEPS

Options Development: Following completion of the hydraulic report the project team will begin to assess the available options for flood protection and for erosion protection.

The potential options will be presented at public participation events to allow the views of the public to be taken into consideration in the selection of a preferred protection option.

Public Participation: It is intended that a public participation event will be held in Q2 2024. At these events the emerging options for flood and erosion protection will be presented to any interested members of the public. Feedback will be welcomed and will help to direct the scheme towards a preferred option. The date and location of the consultation event will be publicised on the website and in local media once it is available.

Website: https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/rosslare/home/

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