

Contact Us

You can keep in touch with the project through our website where we will be posting updates on progress and details of ongoing works.

For further enquiries feel free to contact us via email or post at:

📍 Portarlington Flood Relief Scheme Project Team,
Nicholas O'Dwyer Limited , Unit 4E, Nutgrove Office
Park, Nutgrove Ave, Churchtown Upper,
Dublin, D14 V3F6

@ PortarlingtonFRS@binnies.com

Relevant Links

🌐 floodinfo.ie/portarlingtonfrs



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Laois County Council

Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois



Tionscald Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council



PORTARLINGTON FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Newsletter No. 10

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PROJECT NEWS

Stage I - Scheme Development and Design of Portarlinton's Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) - is being advanced by Binnies and Nicholas O'Dwyer (B/NOD), together with Laois County Council (LCC), Offaly County Council (OCC) and the project's Steering Group which consists of members from the Office of Public Works (OPW). Progress is ongoing in terms of development of the scheme design, engineering surveys and environmental assessments.

CURRENT PROGRESS

Since the last newsletter (July 2024), the following has progressed:

The Project Team has tendered the Utility Survey which will soon be awarded, with surveys starting soon. The survey aims at acquiring mapped subsurface information through the utilisation of Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) methods.

Ground Investigations Ireland (GII) are the appointed contractor for the Site Investigation. They have been engaged to obtain details on the soil strata to better understand the subsurface conditions and inform the design. The archaeological licence for these works was recently approved with the survey starting in the upcoming weeks.

A technical meeting was held with LCC and Steering Group representatives on the 17th of September where the buildability aspects of the Scheme were discussed. B/NOD issued the final version of the Buildability report, and the design drawings are currently being finalised to integrate the feedback received during the technical meeting and the effects of the recently approved planning application for Coláiste Íosagáin school development.



Figure 1: Photo of the River Barrow from the Barrow Walk

The Options Development report is being finalised and will be completed in the next period, including a detailed Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is awaiting the completion of the Stage I Scheme design before more progress can be made, but the different chapters have been tendered and will be soon awarded. The introductory chapter of the EIAR and the Appropriate Assessment have been drafted, taking into consideration the latest comments on the drawings.

A meeting between B/NOD, LCC, National Monuments Service (NMS), the Office of Public Works (OPW) Project Archaeologist (AMS) and the consultant's archaeologist from ADAS was held on the 7th of November to discuss the archaeological surveys required pre planning as part of the EIAR to proactively include in the design any archaeological constraints.

A meeting was held with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) on the 11th of November to discuss their response to the EIA Scoping Report and inform on the recent updates of the design to ensure a successful planning submission in 2025.



NEXT STEPS

Binnies and Nicholas O'Dwyer continue to progress the development of the Scheme.

The Project Team are currently finalising design drawings along with the Options Development report. This report outlines the preferred design of the Scheme, shaping the direction of the project moving forward.

The draft Scheme Climate Change Adaptation Plan (SCAAP) is currently being prepared. This document ensures that the flood relief scheme has considered the potential increase in flood risk due to climate change, and it provides options for ways in which the scheme could be adapted in the future.

Further consultations will be held with IFI, Iarnród Éireann and other key stakeholders to discuss their feedback and address any comments on the design.



Figure 2: Portarlington historical map (1840 - National Library of Scotland)

PROJECTED KEY MILESTONE DATES

DATE	MILESTONE	INFORMATION
Q4 2024	Completion of Stage I Scheme Design	Development and design of the preferred Scheme Option.
Q2 2025	Appropriate Assessment & Environmental Impact Assessment	Complete the assessments and environmental reports incorporating results from surveys and desk studies.
Q3 2025*	Planning Submission	Submission of the Planning Application of the Scheme.

*The programme indicates a delay in submitting the planning application compared to the previous newsletter due to further design adjustments, required as a result of consultations. The team is taking proactive measures to meet the scheduled milestones.