



Kilkenny County Council  
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh

In association with \_\_\_\_\_



# Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme



## Newsletter October 2023

### IN THIS ISSUE

### PURPOSE

#### Introduction

A brief overview of past progress on the project.  
Page 2

#### Environmental

Overview of the environmental assessment process and progress completed in the last period.  
Page 2

#### Site Investigation

Overview of progress on the site investigation planned for the Scheme.  
Page 3

#### Public Engagement Event

Notice of upcoming Public Consultation.  
Page 3

#### Additional Works

Overview of photomontages, outfall, and foul sewer surveys.  
Page 4

#### What's Next?

Page 5

The purpose of the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme is to alleviate the risk of flooding to the Community of Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch by providing a scheme that is technically, socially, environmentally, and economically acceptable.

# Introduction

Kilkenny County Council in partnership with Carlow County Council and The Office of Public Works (OPW) are advancing with the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme.

This newsletter covers the teams progress from July to October 2023. Previous newsletters outline and summarise the work completed to date and are located under 'Project Documents' on the scheme website.

The team has been focusing on additional environmental works for the upstream storage area, refining flood defence designs along the Quay and developing scheme drawings to present for the third Public Consultation Event intended for November 2023.

The scheme is progressing in Stage 1 – Scheme Development and Preliminary Design, this stage is intended to be completed by Q2 2024. Stage 2 – Planning Statutory Delivery Route and Public Exhibition is due to commence from Q2 2024.

		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Stage 1	Option Assessment, Scheme Development and Design	█	█	█	█	█						
Stage 2	Planning / Development Consent					█	█	█				
Stage 3	Detailed Construction Design and Tender							█	█			
Stage 4	Construction Supervision								█	█	█	
Stage 5	Handover of Works										█	█

# Environmental

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is ongoing with the completion depending on finalisation of emerging scheme details before progressing.

Following recommendations made as part of the Baseline Habitats and Species Walkover of the proposed upstream storage area, several specialist surveys have been completed in the area, including:

- Breeding birds (the first of three visits).
- Mammals survey.
- Bat survey.
- Tree survey.
- River and fish habitat survey.
- Physicochemical water quality sampling.
- Invertebrate and Q-Value sampling.
- White-Clawed Crayfish survey.

Further surveys are to be completed in Spring 2024, including the remaining two visits for breeding birds, and herpetofauna.

Two surveys for cultural heritage interests are also to be conducted. A archaeological geophysical survey has been scoped and tendered. The project team are reviewing the submission currently. The areas to be surveyed include the proposed embankment and flow control structure as part of the upstream storage area, but also areas of bare ground where defenses are proposed within the towns of Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch. A wade survey has also been completed within the watercourse of the upstream storage area.

Top-up ecology surveys are to be completed next summer to align closer with the EIA planning timeframe and to update the initial scheme surveys conducted in 2020 and 2021. These surveys are required to ensure the information submitted to An Bord Pleanála is accurate and up to date.

An up-to-date baseline noise survey was completed in June 2023, to provide more accurate baseline data than that collected during the previous survey within a COVID lockdown period in 2020.

# Site Investigation

Site investigation works are ongoing. All land and instream inspection pits are now complete. Slit trenching and trial pits are also fully complete with just a number borehole left outstanding.

The investigations have uncovered many varying level of rock underlying the scheme area which will need to be considered in the design of defenses. During the SI works both ecologists and Archaeologist were employed to monitor both terrestrial and instream works.

The extracted materials are currently being tested in the laboratory for parameters to aid in the design such as moisture content, composition, plasticity etc.



# Public Engagement

A Public Consultation Event is anticipated to be held early November 2023 when the emerging option is sufficiently defined for presentation to the public. This third public event is to present the emerging option design and details to residents and stakeholders. Anyone with an interest in the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme is welcome.

Information on the event will be provided on the scheme website, letter drop and social media once a date is selected.

The team can also be contacted directly with specific queries or information at [GTFRS@byrneblooby.com](mailto:GTFRS@byrneblooby.com).



# Additional Works

## Photomontages

Photomontage locations were finalised and CSC were appointed in July 2023. Baseline images for short and long range have been captured at sensitive viewpoints.

Photomontages provide eye-level imagery of the extent of the works and feeds into the landscape and visual chapters of the EIAR.

## Outfall Survey

The team have completed an outfall survey along the River Duiske and the River Barrow. The survey recorded each outfalls location, height position, diameter, material and quality. The results insighted which outfalls required mechanisms such as non-return valves (NRV) to prevent backflow of water in flood conditions.

## Foul Sewer Network

CCTV surveys were conducted on the existing sewer route within Graiguenamanagh (red line). The pipes were surveyed to identify any deformities, cracks, obstructions and issues with the pipe gradient that may be affected by or aid flood conditions.

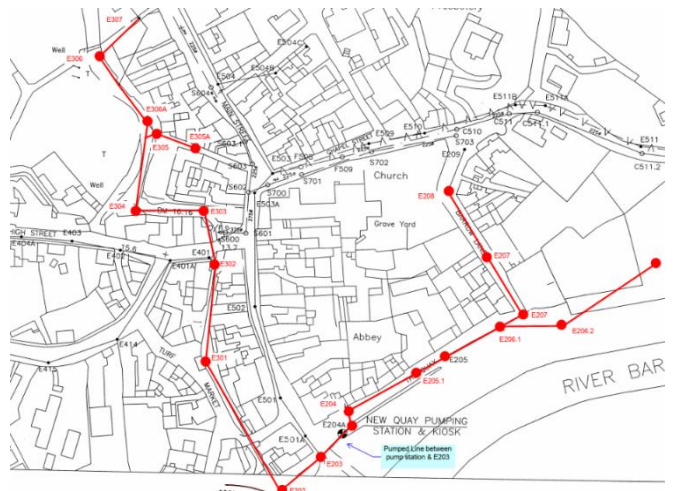
Overall, the pipes were in good condition. Deformed sections and vegetated growth was captured in some of the pipes. The surveys have been shared with Uisce Eireann.



**Outfalls near Turf Market requiring repairs and NRVs.**



**Outfall under Peg Washingtons Lane – NRV Required.**



# Progress Update

## Stage 1 Progress

85%

Estimated completion: Q2 2024

## GRAIGUENAMANAGH TINNAHINCH



## What's Next?

Over the next few months, the Project Team will be working on:

- ➔ Complete Site Investigations & Progress Laboratory Testing
- ➔ Develop the details of the emerging option.
- ➔ Environmental Impact Assessment for the emerging option.
- ➔ Natura Impact Assessment for the emerging Option.
- ➔ Preparing information and drawings for the next public consultation event on the emerging option.

## Website

Details of scheme progress and documentation are available at the scheme website.



## Contact Us

If you would like to contact our Project Team about any matter relating to the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme you can do so through the following:

### Email

[GTFRS@ByrneLooby.com](mailto:GTFRS@ByrneLooby.com)

### Phone

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### Post

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If you would like any further information on the Scheme, please visit our website:

<https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/grauguenamanagh-tinnahinchfrs/home/>