

## 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:



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### Relevant Links



[floodinfo.ie/portarlingtonfrs](https://floodinfo.ie/portarlingtonfrs)



**OPW** Oifig na  
nOibreacha Poiblí  
Office of Public Works



**Laois County Council**  
Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois



Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**



**Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí**  
Offaly County Council



# PORTARLINGTON FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Newsletter No. 06

July 2023

## PROJECT NEWS

Stage I - Scheme Development and Design of Portarlinton's Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) - is being advanced by Binnies and Nicholas O'Dwyer, together with the Office of Public Works (OPW), Laois County Council (LCC) and Offaly County Council (OCC). Progress is being made in terms of environmental surveys and assessments. Preliminary design drawings and public consultation material are also being developed by taking into consideration the buildability constraints in the area.

## CURRENT PROGRESS

Since the last newsletter (February 2023), a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal has been completed to describe the baseline ecological conditions within the survey area and provide a preliminary appraisal of the ecological features present, or likely to be present, that could be affected by the proposed flood relief works

Out of the two options presented during the second public consultation event in November 2022, Option A has been selected as the emerging preferred option for flood relief in Portarlinton. The selection of this option is the outcome of the appraisal process, including technical, environmental, and economic assessments, and through detailed hydraulic modelling, of the emerging flood risk management options. Option A consists of hard defences including, flood walls, embankments, culverts and a flood storage by the area of the Blackstick drain.

Further assessments were also done to accurately measure the damages caused by fluvial flooding. This exercise has been utilised to finalise the appraisal of the emerging options and close out the Options Development Report.



Figure 1 - River Barrow substrate downstream of Spa Bridge

A meeting and a site visit took place on 12<sup>th</sup> June with Inland Fisheries Ireland to discuss the emerging options and the emerging preferred Option A in detail. Carbon cost calculations have been undertaken by the project team; these calculations estimate the carbon emissions which may be produced as a result of construction and maintenance and will also inform the project's future contract documents.

The landscape architect team from Binnies, identified viewpoints to assist the development of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment Report. The project team are now looking to produce the material required for a third public consultation day (PCD3) to present the emerging preferred Option A to the public and stakeholders, bringing the public consultation for Stage I of the Project to a close.

## NEXT STEPS

Site surveys for bats and trees are planned in the coming months, starting from August 2023. Results from these surveys will inform the Environmental Impact Assessment and the preliminary design.

Procurement of a Ground Investigations (GI) Contract is also to take place in the coming months. The project team submitted the Appropriate Assessment Screening Report for the proposed GI works to LCC's Planning Department for determination. Following receipt of this determination, the GI contract will be advertised on eTenders through an open tendering process.

The projected key milestone dates have deviated relatively to the February 2023 newsletter. This occurred due to the requirements for additional survey data to ensure that the emerging scheme is environmentally acceptable. Mitigation measures are identified and tracked for all critical activities to ensure that programme can be recovered and also ensure that the project can confidently progress into Stage II – Planning



Figure 2 - Spa Street Bridge

## PROJECTED KEY MILESTONE DATES

DATE	MILESTONE	INFORMATION
October 2023	Public Consultation Day no.3	A Closing Public Consultation Day will be held on the preferred Scheme Option identified.
December 2023	Scheme Development	Development and design of the preferred Scheme Option.
August 2024	Environmental Impact Assessment	Complete the assessments and environmental reports incorporating results from surveys and desk studies
January 2025	End of Stage I	Completion of all necessary deliverables required to close out Stage I.



Figure 3 - Vegetation along the River Barrow