

BALLYBOFEY-STRANORLAR
FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME



**Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall**
Donegal County Council



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

OPW Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

Ballybofey-Stranorlar Flood Relief Scheme



Newsletter February 2025

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Latest Overview

This is the twelfth newsletter for the Ballybofey-Stranorlar Flood Relief Scheme. The main activities carried out since the previous newsletter include completion of the hydraulic modelling report and further ground investigation assessment.

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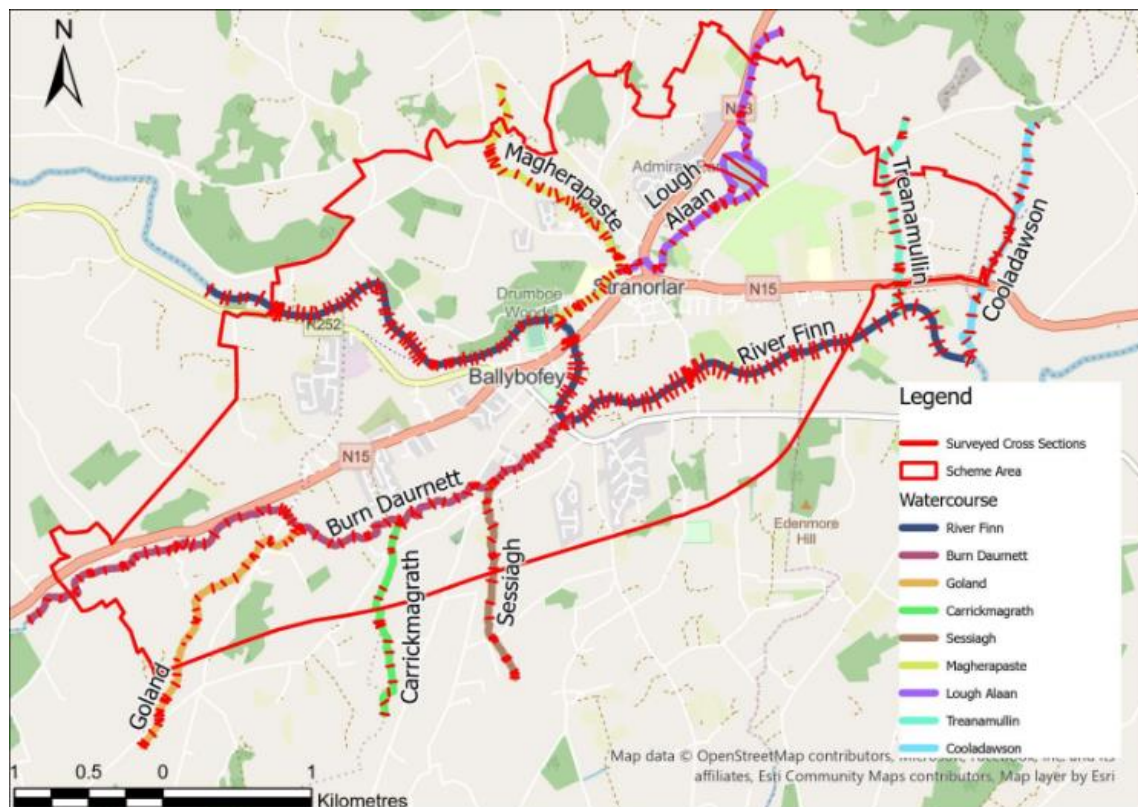
Hydraulic Modelling

Substantial work has been completed on the baseline hydraulic computer modelling. The model was built using surveyed river profiles, observations and Culvert CCTV surveys.

The modelling results have identified the properties in the scheme area at risk of flooding during Sensitivity runs, design runs, and climate change runs. Since the baseline model has been generated, Arcadis, commissioned by Ayesa, can now assess the effectiveness of potential flood mitigation measures. These results will feed into the options appraisal for the scheme to determine the preferred scheme.

The associated Hydraulic Report has been updated in tandem with changes to the model during calibration runs to reflect historic flood events.

Ayesa and Arcadis are preparing an agenda for a hydraulics workshop to display how model runs were built, resulted flow path and identified flood cells.



Modelled Watercourses – extract from Hydraulic Modelling Report

Ground Investigation

The project team have refined the Ground Investigation (GI) scope and procurement documents. An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening will be prepared and conducted by specialists to mitigate potential negative effects from the investigations on their surrounding environs. Once the AIA and AA screening assessments are finalised the reports will be included in the Ground Investigation tender pack for information.

The contract scope includes trial pits, slit trenches, cable percussion boreholes and rotary coring and will be reviewed by Donegal County Council and the Office of Public Works before advertising to the market.

Environmental Activities

An Invasive species survey contract concluded in 2024. The project team have developed a survey tracker document including windows required for survey season. On-site surveys are ongoing to view the IAS treatment processes of Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam. The project team will develop another IAS treatment contract when required.

Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

Nature-based Solutions formerly known as Natural Water Retention Measures are “solutions that are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience” (European Commission, 2023).

Raw catchment mapping has been updated, and a report is being updated as a feasibility assessment of implementing specific types of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to reduce flood risk within the scheme area.

Examples of specific NbS include:

- Catchment/ Floodplain/ Riparian Woodlands
- Non-floodplain wetlands
- Overland sediment traps
- Riverbank restoration
- Natural instream structures

Viable measure will proceed to further analysis and potential integration into the final scheme design.

Optioneering

Ayesa and Arcadis are developing a preliminary options report for Ballybofey to fully assess possible flood defence measures for the scheme and to screen out unviable measures as appropriate through carefully considered assessment with the aid of Hydraulic Modelling results, NbS and defence asset survey results. A measure is a single intended activity that will address flood risk, a combination of viable measures will be developed as options for the scheme, which will be presented to the public once available.

Screening and assessment of measure is ongoing taking into account:

- Technical Requirements
- Environmental Requirements
 - Ecological
 - Cultural Heritage
 - Landscape
- Social Requirements
- Economic Requirements

Assessment will be brought to an advanced stage, and further meetings will then be arranged with the public to discuss the viable measures and emerging option.



What's Next?

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

- Ground Investigation Contract.
- Optioneering Assessment and Development.
- Hydraulics Workshop



Contact Us

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

Email

Ballybofey-StranorlarFRS@Ayesa.com

Post

Project Manager Ballybofey-Stranorlar FRS
Ayesa
Building 2100
Cork Airport Business Park
Kinsale Road
Cork

Phone

+353 (0) 21 240 7988

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

www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/ballybofey-stranorlar/home/