



Kilkenny County Council
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh

In association with _____



OPW Óifig na n-Obreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme



Newsletter
March 2023

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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 Flood Relief Scheme is part of the €1bn National Fund announced by the Government for Flood Relief Schemes. Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch is on the Kilkenny-Carlow border. Kilkenny County Council are acting as the Lead Authority for the Scheme.

Since this project commenced in March 2020 the following tasks have been completed:

- Topographical Surveys
- Channel Surveys
- CCTV & Drainage Surveys
- Ground Penetrating Radar Surveys
- Environmental Constraints Report
- Hydrological Report
- Hydraulics Report
- Options Report

Environmental baseline surveys have been completed as described in Section 2 and from this an early Invasive Alien Species (IAS) Treatment Plan have been developed. Kilkenny County Council have undertaken treatment of IAS annually since 2020.

In late summer 2022, emerging options were presented to the public and stakeholders at a public information event held at The Hub, Graiguenamanagh. Following this, an emerging option (Option 3) has been identified in late 2022 and since then the project team have been working on developing out this option. The environmental impact assessment has commenced which will be required in order to submit the scheme for statutory approval.



Graiguenamanagh - Tinnahinch Drone Footage – February 2023

Environmental

Environmental work is progressing on the project, in line with the overall updated programme. The constraints report was completed in spring 2021. This report set out all the known environmental constraints that will impact the planning of the scheme and will feed into determining what options are taken forward for further assessment. The main constraints identified are the dense archaeological and cultural heritage features and the various aquatic species found in the Rivers Borrow and Duiske which are protected under Irish Law.

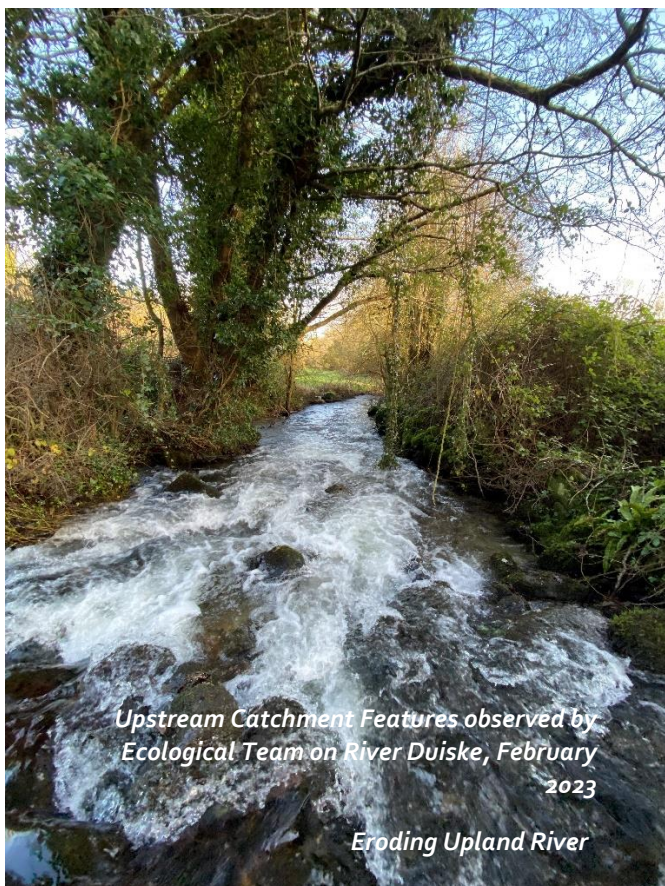
To date the following environment studies have been completed:

- General Terrestrial & Aquatic Ecological Surveys
- White-clawed Crayfish study
- Fresh water pearl mussel study
- Fish Surveys
- Water Quality Surveys
- Tree Surveys
- Bat Surveys
- Invasive Species Surveys
- Underwater Archaeology Survey
- Terrestrial Archaeology study
- Noise and Vibration baseline survey
- Landscape and Visual baseline survey

The Environmental Team also progressed and developed a Natura Impact Statement for proposed site investigation works (see below for technical update), which was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in July 2021. Approval to proceed with the works was obtained in autumn 2022.

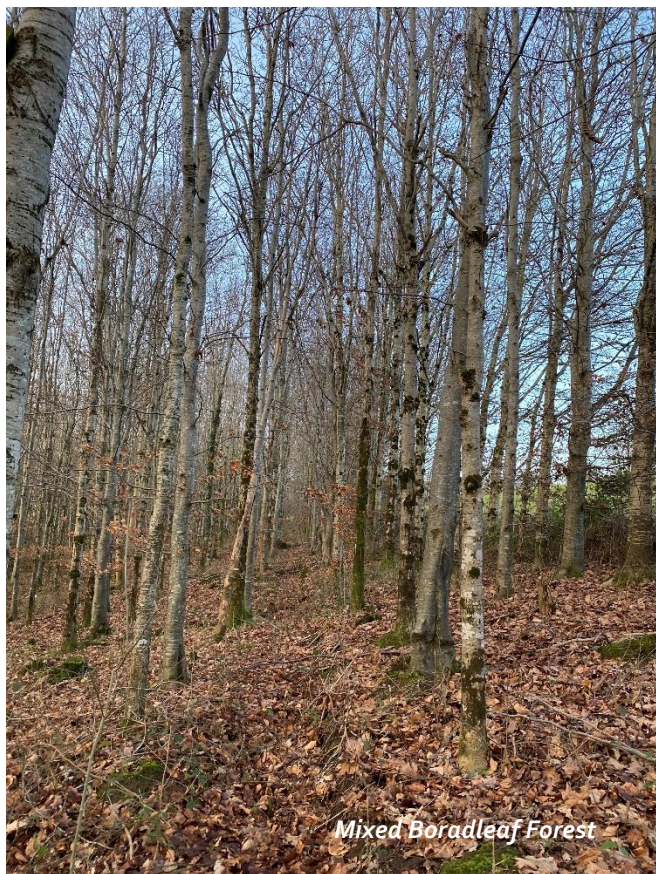
Five options were developed to address flood risk based on environmental, social, economic, and technical criteria. Following assessment, Option 3 has been identified as the emerging option, as presented at the public display event in August 2022.

As the proposed storage area is outside the original scheme area, further environmental work is ongoing to fully establish any further constraints.



Upstream Catchment Features observed by Ecological Team on River Duiske, February 2023

Eroding Upland River



Mixed Broadleaf Forest

Emerging Option

This option, shown below, consists of an upstream storage area on the River Duiske and raised defenses at required locations on the River Duiske and on the River Barrow.

The main works consist of:

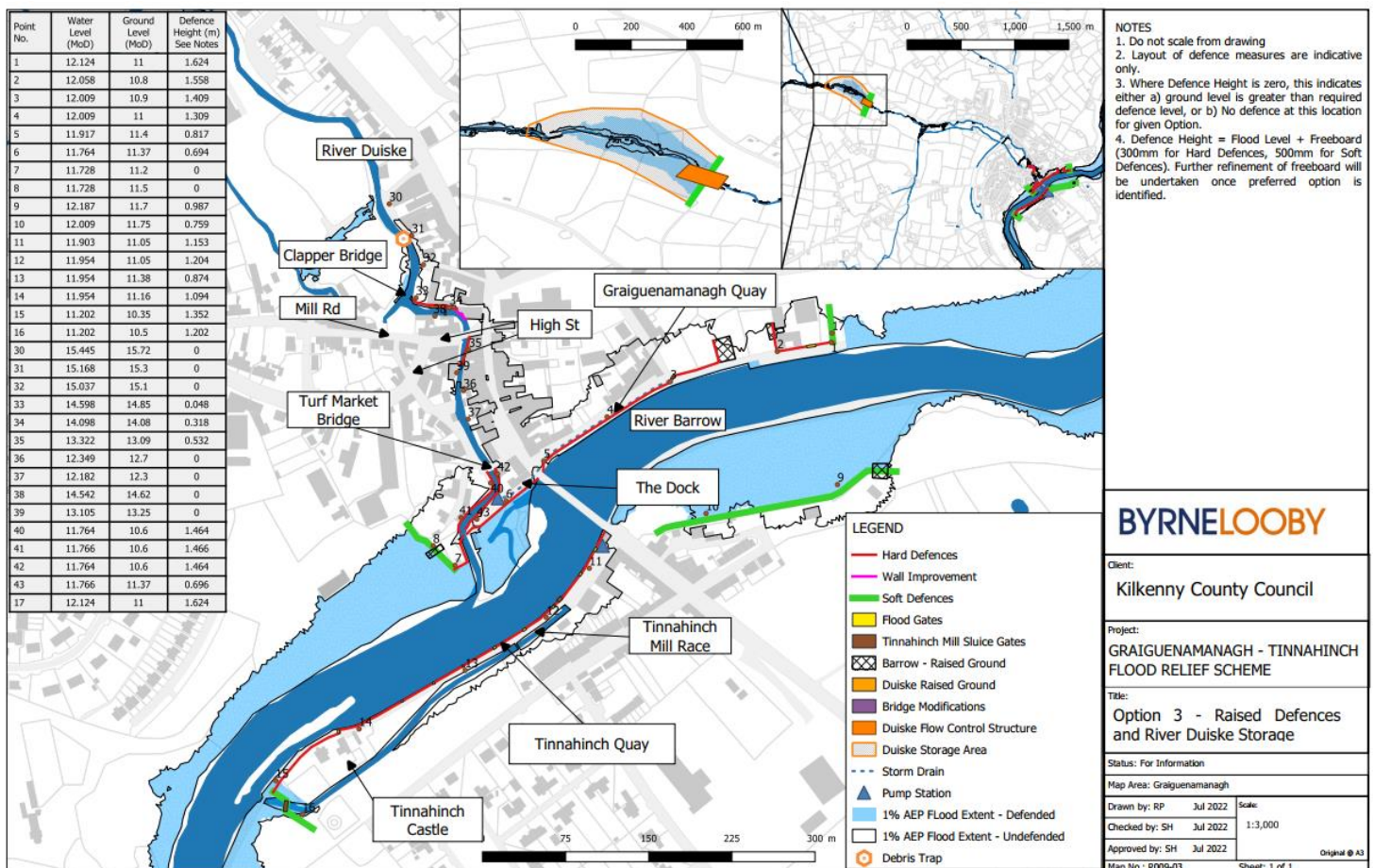
- Boreholes
- Slit Trenches
- Trial Pits
- Inspection Pits

Site Investigation

Site Investigation works are required to determine the ground conditions for areas where potential flood defense measure will be constructed. Statutory approval was granted in September 2022 to complete the required ground investigations and Kilkenny County Council have appointed OCB Geotechnical to execute the works. OCB Have been planning the works and are due to commence onsite in late March.

Works on land will commence in late March, and instream works will be planned at the appropriate timeframe in consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland.

It is anticipated that the works will be ongoing until late summer. Local Road users are advised to check local news/publication as there will be some road closures to facilitate the works.



Option 3 (emerging option) as presented at the Public Display Event in August 2022

Progress Update

Stage 1 Progress



Estimated completion: Q3 2023

What's Next?

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

- 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.
- Site Investigations.

Website

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



GRAIGUENAMANAGH TINNAHINCH



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:

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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/>