

Newsletter

Ballina Flood Relief Scheme



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
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Project Newsletter 2022

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Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



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WHAT STAGE IS THE STUDY AT?

In the period since the last Project Newsletter was issued (December 2021) the project steering group (comprising of Mayo County Council, the OPW and RPS) are continuing to ensure that the development of the scheme is based on the most accurate and up to date information.

The hydraulic model is substantially complete. Initial ground investigation works have been carried out.

The RPS Environmental Team have now completed the majority of the baseline environmental survey works. These surveys include habitat surveys, mammal surveys, bird surveys and bat survey. Some additional surveys will be carried out over the coming months to provide data in areas not previously captured.

IMPACT OF COVID-19

The impacts of Covid 19 are continuously monitored. The most recent meeting of the Ballina FRS Steering



Group (comprising of the OPW, Mayo County Council and RPS) took place substantially in person with some members attending via video conferencing facilities. It is expected that face to face meetings will continue in 2022 in accordance with government advice. All third-party survey contractors are following the latest government health and safety guidance in relation to COVID19 whilst undertaking the surveys.

HYDRAULIC ANALYSIS

Hydraulic modelling works are substantially complete. An updated Hydraulic report was issued to OPW/MCC for their feedback. RPS is currently in the process of addressing the comments received and finalising the model and report. The hydraulic model has identified potential additional areas that are at risk of flooding, compared to the CFRAM study 'identified flooded areas' within the Ballina FRS Scheme area. Floods maps associated with the design flood events for the existing flood defence conditions are currently being prepared.

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NATURE-BASED CATCHMENT MANAGEMENT (NBCM) STUDY

The NbCM report is currently being finalised and will be issued as part of the Options Development Report. In the NbCM study, a number of potential measures have been identified that could substantially control runoff and provide flood storage upstream and could potentially reduce flood risk and sediment movements/discharges into the watercourses for the future climatic condition. The identified catchment wide measures include (i) woodland generations, (ii) improving land management practices/features, for example, re-wetting bog lands, and (ii) River Restoration works, e.g. riverbank restoration, construction of instream structures etc. The measures identified as part of the NbCM are unlikely to form part of the substantive options development for Ballina FRS and are most likely to be advanced separately (to the flood relief scheme), as part of climate change mitigation measures - E.g. MCC Climate Action Plan.

Scheme Analysis and Development:

The assessment and comparison of the various engineering options to reduce the flood risk in Ballina using the final hydraulic model is nearing completion. This has identified potential additional areas of flood risk outside the works proposed as part of the CFRAM project. All potential options are being assessed using Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) with the ultimate aim to identify a preferred scheme for Ballina.

NEXT STEPS

Data Collection: Data Collection is substantially complete. The project team are interested in receiving photos, videos, sketches, or any other relevant information regarding previous flood events from those who have experienced it first-hand, particularly from 2015 onwards. This information will help us to refine our river model and the design of the flood relief scheme. If you have any information which could be of use, please contact us.

Surveys: The procurement of a contractor to undertake additional topographical survey required for carrying out detailed design of the flood protection works has been completed with the contractor expected to begin onsite shortly.

Scheme Analysis and Development and Public Consultation: Once all potential options are being assessed using Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) the Steering Group will identify a preferred scheme for Ballina. A further public consultation event will be undertaken at this stage and submission received will be considered in the design development. The final preferred scheme will be developed to a sufficient extent to allow the Environmental Impact Assessment process to commence.

Environmental Assessment: Some additional ecological survey work required will be undertaken in the coming months especially in areas not previously assessed. Once the preferred option is finalised the Environmental Impact Assessment will commence.

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SCHEME STAGES:

Stage I: Option Assessment, Scheme Development and Design

- Data Gathering /Topographical Survey
- Hydrological Analysis & Hydraulic Modelling
- Option Assessments & Preferred Option Selection
- Environmental Assessment (EIAR)


Stage II: Planning / Development Consent

Stage III: Detailed Construction Design and Tender

Stage IV: Construction Supervision and Project Management

Stage V: Handover

OUTLINE PROGRAMME:

Stages	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Stage I: Option Assessment, Scheme Development and Design								
Stage II: Planning / Development Consent								
Stage III: Detailed Construction Design and Tender								
Stage IV: Construction Supervision and Project Management								
Stage V: Handover								
 Programmed activities  Progress to date								

Note: Timelines are the current best estimate but are subject to revision and approval

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