


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



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



**Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí**  
Offaly County Council



Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**



**NICHOLAS  
O'DWYER**



# PORTARLINGTON FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Newsletter

November 2021

## BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Portarlinton is a town on the border of County Laois and County Offaly. Having suffered many previous flooding events, notably in August 2008, winter 2015/16 and November 2017, calls for a sensitive flood relief scheme to be constructed and protect Portarlinton from future flood events.

In August 2020, Laois County Council appointed Binnies and Nicholas O’Dwyer (NOD) to develop a flood relief scheme, which is socially, environmentally, economically, and technically acceptable, to protect Portarlinton.

## WHAT STAGE IS THE STUDY AT?

Progress has been made in relation to environmental baseline surveys, with the Breeding Snipe survey completed and the topographical survey appointed and commenced. A CCTV survey will start soon to investigate the condition of culverts.

Binnies/NOD have been working towards an understanding of the interactions and dependencies between rainfall, river water level and flow, and topography as well as geology of Portarlinton, and how these factors influence the flow in watercourses in the area.

Past flood events have been taken into consideration, too. The findings of those studies, together with the results from the topographical and CCTV surveys, will inform our hydraulic computer model.

## OUTLINE SCHEME PROGRAMME

ACTIVITY	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Data Collection & surveys	■	■	■					
Hydrological analysis		■	■	■				
Hydraulic analysis			■	■	■			
Scheme development				■	■	■		
Public Exhibition				■	■	■		
Detailed design					■	■	■	
Confirmation by authorities						■	■	■
Construction works							■	■
Scheme Operational								■

\*Timelines provided as current best estimate and are subject to revision

## NEXT STEPS

**Virtual Community Consultation & Engagement Event:** An initial public consultation will be held in the upcoming weeks. The OPW together with the Laois and Offaly County Councils invite the community and general public to a project introduction and encourage feedback using our consultation forum on the website. Details will be widely shared shortly.

**Data Collection and Review:** Ongoing task where Binnies/NOD will continue to collect data, such as photos, videos, sketches, imagery, and any other relevant information which will help inform subsequent design stages and act as modes of model verification / calibration.

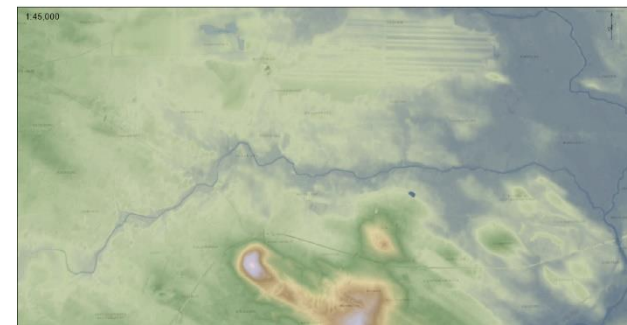


Figure 1  
LiDAR imagery of Portarlinton and surrounds

**Detailed Surveys:** Once survey packages have been finalised between the Steering Group and Binnies/NOD, they will go out for tender. Any subsequent bids will be reviewed to enable the completion of the survey work, with the appointment of a specialist survey contractor. Survey works will commence as soon as possible after this.

**Environmental Assessment:** Work is continuing on the scoping and procuring of environmental surveys, with a priority given to summer surveys. In parallel an environmental impact scoping assessment, environmental constraints survey and Invasive Species Management Plan will be progressed.

**Hydrological Analysis:** Modelling is being progressed to understand how the river systems respond to weather events. Up to date rainfall and river flow data is being incorporated to ensure calibration to recent events.

**Hydraulic Modelling:** The detailed hydraulic model is being constructed and tested to produce a detailed estimation of the flood risk in the area. This includes a calibration and verification to historical events and a validity check of the existing models used for the CFRAMS study.

