

Background to the Scheme

Dublin City Council (DCC), in partnership with the Office of Public Works (OPW), is progressing the Sandymount Flood Alleviation (SFAS) Scheme to help reduce the risk of flooding from the sea, rivers, and surface water in the Sandymount and surrounding area. In November 2024, DCC appointed Jacobs Engineering as the design consultant for the project and a project team was subsequently formed to progress the scheme.

Sandymount has a long-standing history of coastal flooding and it has been identified as a high-risk location in the Eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study, due to its low-lying topography and ageing coastal defences.

The Scheme is being developed as part of the Government's national investment in flood relief infrastructure. As part of the initial phase, Jacobs, as lead designers, will assess the risk of coastal, riverine, and rainfall-induced flooding in the area. Based on this assessment, a range of flood defence options will be outlined to inform the development of the scheme.



Progress to Date

The project team has been working to build a detailed understanding of flood risk in Sandymount. This process includes various information gathering exercises, including:

Data collection, surveys and investigations

- Completion of topographic survey: The topographic survey was completed by Murphy Geospatial Ltd in March. We are grateful to local residents for providing access, which enabled the team to survey all of features outlined in the surveys technical specification. The data gathered by the Topographic Survey will be used to inform the project's coastal modeling and option design development. The survey team successfully captured river cross sections, structures, property thresholds and topographic area data. This also included the Seamount Attenuation Pond/Constructed Wetland for the purpose of informing the flood risk modelling for the project.
- Completion of inspection: In January DCC completed an inspection of the Elm Park Siphon under the N11 and the Trimleston Outfall Culvert for use in the flood risk model.



Environment

- Constraints report: A Constraints Report for the project was published in October 2025. The purpose of the report is to document the constraints and opportunities, including potential key environmental issues, that need to be taken into account during the development of the Sandymount FAS. Early identification of such constraints and opportunities is essential to inform the identification of potential options, enable robust multi-criteria appraisal of options and decision making, and optimise the design and construction of the preferred option. The report is available to view on the project website ([here](#)).
- Environmental Surveys and engagement: The 2025/2026 Wintering Birds Survey has been completed. A further round of Wintering Birds surveys are planned for 2026/2027.

Coastal, Hydrology & Hydraulic Modelling

- Coastal flood modelling: Coastal flood modelling has progressed, identifying areas most vulnerable to future flooding. This modelling has enabled the commencement of optioneering for the coastal flood protection options.

Optioneering

The project team has started the early design stage known as 'Optioneering' for the coastal aspect of the project. This is where a wide range of possible options to address the project's objectives are produced. These options will be reviewed

and refined for the next Public Participation Day (PPD2). Following closure of this 2nd public participation period, a full multicriteria assessment will be used to help identify the best-performing options for the next phase, based on your feedback.

Public and Stakeholder Engagement

The first Public Participation Day (PPD1) was held on 30 April 2025 at Christ Church, Sandymount Green. The purpose of PPD1 was to present the scheme and foster engagement with the local community and key stakeholders, following the appointment of the consultant.

Once the four-week consultation period had concluded, a report outlining the main outcomes of PPD1 and the submissions received during the consultation period was produced. The report is available to read on the project website ([here](#)). This feedback is now informing the development and assessment of design options.

A second consultation event (PPD2) is planned for Quarter 3, 2026 to present potential solutions.

The project team have met with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, An Taisce and Dublin City Council Conservation, Biodiversity and Heritage Officers to enable continued engagement with the project in order to produce robust survey specifications which will support the modelling and options design.

The Project Team presented an update on the project at the South East Area Committee Meeting on 09/02/2026. A recording of the presentation is available ([here](#)).

What's Next?

Over the coming months, the team will:

- Award contracts for two surveys, a Ground Investigation (GI) Survey and a Drainage Network Survey.
 - The GI Survey will provide a clear understanding of the type and condition of the ground beneath the surface. This information is needed to design effective flood protection measures.
 - The Drainage Network Survey will examine the existing drainage system in the study area to check its condition and how well it is currently working.
 - Information from both surveys will be used to improve flood modelling for the project. This will support the creation of updated flood maps for the area.
 - Details of when the survey works will start, including any temporary traffic management or other short term impacts, will be published on the Project Website. The same information will also be sent to everyone who has signed up for updates via the project email address.
- Arrange and attend PPD2, where potential options for the scheme shall be presented.
- Lead and manage the required 2026 environmental surveys, interpreting the reporting of results to further inform the selection process for the preferred scheme option. These include species surveys for Annex II species and species protected under the Wildlife Act and Aquatic & Terrestrial invasive species Habitat surveys and habitat mapping including habitat surveys of Annex I habitats.
- Continue to develop coastal and flood modelling.
- Continue to progress optioneering.
- Assess potential environmental issues.
- Continue engaging with the public, statutory bodies and community groups.

	2024			2025				2026				2027				2028			
Stage 1 - Option Identification & Scheme Design																			
Stage 2 - Consent Processes																			
Stage 3 - Design Completion																			

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