

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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Relevant Links



floodinfo.ie/portarlingtonfrs



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Laois County Council

Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council



**NICHOLAS
O'DWYER**



PORTARLINGTON FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Newsletter No. 07

November 2023

PROJECT NEWS

Stage I - Scheme Development and Design of Portarlinton's Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) - is being advanced by Binnies and Nicholas O'Dwyer, together with the Office of Public Works (OPW), Laois County Council (LCC) and Offaly County Council (OCC). Progress is ongoing in terms of environmental assessments, preliminary design drawings and public consultation material.

CURRENT PROGRESS

Since the last newsletter (July 2023), an Arborist survey has been completed by Holly Arboriculture. The survey aimed to assess the constraints posed by existing arboricultural features (trees, hedgerows) in the emerging scheme areas and to develop appropriate recommendations for their management and preservation.

O'Donnell Environmental scheduled the deployment of the autumn round of bat detectors. Detailed constraints information for bats will become available early in the new year, following completion of surveys to be carried out over the winter.

Advice sought from consultancies in Ireland who provide Invasive Plant Solutions and Invasive Plant Control. It was therefore, decided that eradication of the invasive species should take place at construction stage.

In order to assist with the design process and submission of a robust planning application for a flood relief scheme in Portarlinton, Site Investigation (SI) works are required within the emerging scheme areas to provide geotechnical information on the prevailing ground conditions.

A Stage I - Screening for Appropriate Assessment exercise was undertaken to assess the likely adverse effects of the proposed SI works.



Figure 1 - Arborist Report– Trees south of Foxcroft Avenue

This AA Screening Report concluded that, on the basis of objective scientific information, the proposed SI works, individually and in combination with other plans or projects, are not likely to have a significant effect on any European site in view of its conservation objectives.

LCC's Planning Department examined the submitted AA Screening Report and accepted the findings which indicate no effects on designated sites and no requirement for further assessment.

An Archaeological Impact Assessment report has also been prepared. The Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) for Site Investigations (SI) is designed to be a brief desk-top assessment which aims to :

- identify archaeological and built heritage constraints to SI,
- manage the risk of archaeological or built heritage impacts, and
- inform the final decision for the locations of SI.

It is an exercise in due diligence on the part of the Project Team planning to carry out SI which also determines if mitigation measures, consents/ licencing are required.

NEXT STEPS

Binnies and Nicholas O'Dwyer continued the engagement with Statutory Stakeholders. A fruitful consultation with National Parks & Wildlife Service took place on 16th October to discuss the emerging preferred scheme and a range of environmental considerations arising from the design. It was noted that NPWS will also be consulted during the EIA Scoping process and will be asked to provide an opinion.

The Project Team is currently working to finalise the material required to hold a Design Review Workshop with the Steering Group and the Elected Members. Preparations have started for the third and last Public Consultation Day required as part of Stage I of the Project.

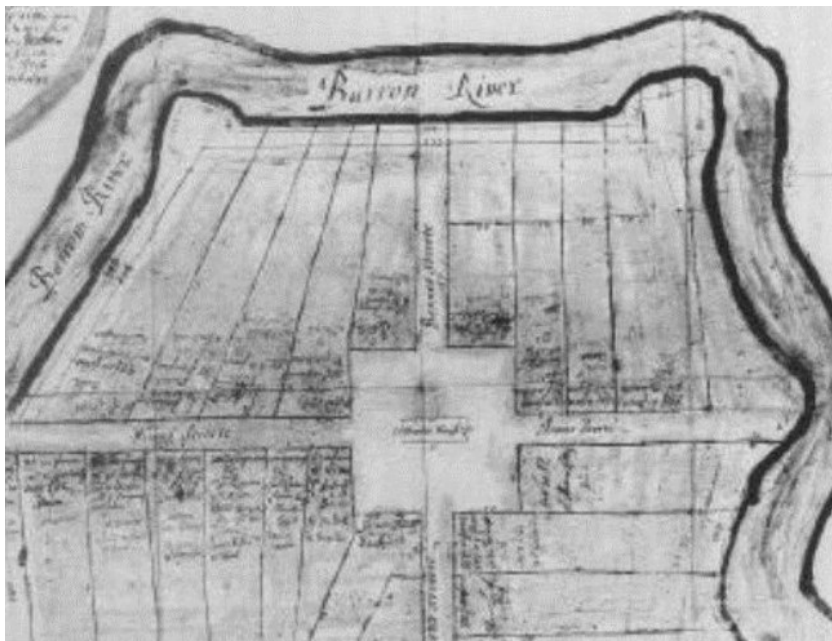


Figure 2 - AIA Report—Plott of towne of Port Arlington, 1678

PROJECTED KEY MILESTONE DATES

DATE	MILESTONE	INFORMATION
December 2023	Scheme Development	Development and design of the preferred Scheme Option.
December 2023	Public Consultation Day no.3	A Closing Public Consultation Day will be held on the preferred Scheme Option identified.
August 2024	Environmental Impact Assessment	Complete the assessments and environmental reports incorporating results from surveys and desk studies
January 2025	End of Stage I	Completion of all necessary deliverables required to close out Stage I.
Q4 2024	Stage II	Submission of Planning Application