

## 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:

**Portarlington FRS Community Liaison / Project Manager**

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## RELEVANT LINKS

**Website:** <https://www.floodinfo.ie/portarlingtonfrs/>



**PORTARLINGTON**  
FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

# PORTARLINGTON

Flood Relief Scheme

**Newsletter No. 01**

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## BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Portarlinton is a borough, market, and post-town on the border of County Laois and County Offaly, Ireland. It is split by the River Barrow which is a Special Area of Conservation (SAC), including conservation efforts for the restoration of favourable conditions for Salmon.

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 have intensified.

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

The works likely to take place in all areas are hard defences (walls & embankments), improvement of channel conveyance (maintenance & culvert upgrade) with a possibility of increased floodplain storage where appropriate.

## WHAT STAGE IS THE STUDY AT?

It is recognised that it is important that all works planned are based off the most accurate and up to date information. Since appointment, the BV/NOD team have been reviewing all relevant sources of information, including the previous CFRAM study, to identify any gaps where additional surveys or information may be required. These checks will be enhanced and finalized upon receipt of any data held by the client.

A 360-degree camera is available for ‘livestreamed walkovers’ with the UK teams and other staff affected by COVID-19 travel restrictions. This is envisaged to allow for a virtual modelling team site visit to see the ‘live’ watercourses and to enable the specification of surveys to proceed. Progress is being made identifying the environmental surveys which are critical to be undertaken throughout the winter months, to avoid any possible project delays.

A project website has been developed to help keep all stakeholders informed on how the project is progressing, distribute up-to-date information and allow people the opportunity to have their say as the scheme is being developed.

## OUTLINE SCHEME PROGRAMME

ACTIVITY	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
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

**Data Collection and Review:** Ongoing task where BV/NOD will continue to collect data, such as photos, videos, sketches, imagery, and any other relevant information which will help inform surveys and subsequent design stages.

**Detailed Surveys:** BV/NOD are currently scoping additional surveys such as environmental surveys, topographical surveys and site investigation works to ensure there is adequate data to develop the scheme design. Once scoping is complete, the appointment of specialist survey contractors will be made.

**Environmental Assessment:** Work is continuing on the scoping of environmental surveys, with a priority given to winter 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. This will include a validity check of the existing models used for the CFRAMS study.



Figure 1 A view of Spa Street Bridge from the River Barrow Walk