

Newsletter

Ballina Flood Relief Scheme



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Project Newsletter 2021

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Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



MAKING
COMPLEX
EASY

Newsletter

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WHAT STAGE IS THE STUDY AT?

In the period since the last Project Newsletter was issued (October 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 initial third-party survey works (CCTV & topo survey) are complete and the data has been incorporated into the hydraulic model. Initial ground investigation works are currently being carried out and expected to be completed in January 2022.

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. Reports on these surveys are currently being finalised.

IMPACT OF COVID-19



The Ballina FRS Steering Group (comprising of the OPW, Mayo County Council and RPS) have continued to meet via video conferencing facilities in order to comply with government guidance during the COVID19 pandemic. It is hoped that face to face meetings will recommence in 2022 when government advice allows. 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, and the draft hydraulic report was issued to OPW/MCC for their feedback. RPS is currently addressing the received comments and are in the process of finalising the Report.

Newsletter

Ballina Flood Relief Scheme

Nature-based Catchment Management (NbCM) Study

As part of the Flood Relief Scheme RPS carried out a Nature-based Catchment Management (NbCM) study. NbCM is considered a sustainable approach to flood management that can complement a flood scheme, reducing the size of it or providing climate change adaptation. NbCM can also provide other social and environmental benefits, such as improved amenity and recreation, habitat creation, carbon sequestration, etc which can help mitigate the impact of the flood scheme and enhance the overall catchment.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study include an assessment of the potential to:

- Reduce flood risk in study area (indication of likely effectiveness, need storage volumes)
- Reduce flood risk in scheme area
- Mitigate impacts of Climate Change
- Mitigate environmental impacts of option for a preferred scheme.
- Meet other objectives – water quality, habitat creation, climate regulation, provision of amenity
- Liaise with EPA, LAWPRO, LAs, NPWS, Department of communications, climate action & environment

Following review and workshop with the Steering Group RPS completed and issued a draft report of this study to a number of external stakeholders in November 2021. These included the EPA, LAWPRO, Local Authorities, NPWS, and the Department of communications, climate action & environment for their feedback. Comments were received from some stakeholders and are currently being incorporated into a final report. This report will be available on the project website once finalised.

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 is underway. This procurement process is expected to be completed in January 2022 with the field survey works to begin shortly thereafter.

Environmental Assessment: The majority of the baseline environmental survey is now complete. Any additional ecological survey work required will be undertaken in Q1 2022 as required. Once the preferred option is finalised the Environmental Impact Assessment will commence.

Scheme Analysis and Development: The assessment and comparison of the various engineering options to reduce the flood risk in Ballina using the updated hydraulic model is ongoing. An initial optioneering workshop was held with members of the steering group on the 30th August. Potential options are being assessed using Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) with the ultimate aim to identify a preferred scheme for Ballina.

Public Consultation: A further public consultation event will be undertaken once the preferred scheme is identified. This is likely to be undertaken in Q2 of 2022. Details of this public consultation event will be advertised on the project website and in local media.

Newsletter

Ballina Flood Relief Scheme

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	Progress to date	Progress to date	Progress to date				
Stage II: Planning / Development Consent			Programmed activities	Programmed activities			
Stage III: Detailed Construction Design and Tender				Programmed activities			
Stage IV: Construction Supervision and Project Management					Programmed activities	Programmed activities	
Stage V: Handover							Programmed activities

Programmed activities Progress to date

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

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