

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. 12

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PROJECT NEWS

Stage I - Scheme Development and Design of Portarlington's Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) - is being advanced by Binnies and Nicholas O'Dwyer (B/NOD), together with Laois County Council (LCC), Offaly County Council (OCC) and the project's Steering Group which consists of members from the Office of Public Works (OPW). Progress is ongoing in terms of development of the scheme design, engineering surveys and environmental assessments.

CURRENT PROGRESS

Since the last newsletter (February 2025), the following has progressed:

Precision Utility Mapping (PUM), the appointed contractor for the utility surveying, submitted the survey outputs on the 4th of May. Following a review from B/NOD, PUM returned to site on the week of the 26th of May to carry out some additional surveying works. Completion of the works is expected by mid June with archaeological assessment of the findings to follow.

Ground Investigations Ireland (GII), the appointed contractor for the site investigations, started the ground investigation work in January, with the majority of the locations now surveyed. Completion of the works is expected by mid June. The Project Team has been progressing with the Ground Investigation Report which details and interprets the findings of the ground investigation surveys, highlighting any issues that will require addressing through the design of the Scheme.

The Project Team submitted the updated design drawings for approval from the Steering Group on the 4th of April, following comments received during the Technical meeting on the 7th of January.



Figure 1: Photo of the River Barrow upstream of Spa Street Bridge

The Project Team updated the Preliminary Buildability, Operation and Maintenance report for approval from the Steering Group on the 11th of May to align with the final version of the design drawings .

The Options Development report is being finalised and will be completed in the next period, including a detailed Climate Change Adaptation Plan, updated costing of the Scheme and Carbon Calculator.

Coordination with the chapter suppliers for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is in progress. The preferred suppliers for each chapter have been identified, and several chapters have been drafted.

The Project Team has been responding to any queries received to date to the Project email address.

NEXT STEPS

Binnies and Nicholas O'Dwyer continue to progress the development of the Scheme.

The Project Team is finalising the Options Development report as well the updated costing of the Scheme.

Work on the Environmental Impact Assessment Report has commenced for various chapters, but it requires Completion of the Stage I design to progress further. The Natura Impact Statement (NIS), Landscape Visual Assessment (LVIA) and the Appropriate Assessment are scheduled to start soon following the Completion of the Stage I design. Archaeological surveys are planned for the next period to better understand the potential impact of the proposed Scheme to the historic town of Portarlington.

The Project Team is completing the Utility Survey and the Site investigations, required to further refine the design.



Figure 2: View of River Barrow from the rear of the Portarlington Fire Station looking upstream

PROJECTED KEY MILESTONE DATES

DATE	MILESTONE	INFORMATION
Q3 2025*	Completion of Stage I Scheme Design	Development and design of the preferred Scheme Option.
Q4 2025*	Appropriate Assessment & Environmental Impact Assessment	Complete the assessments and environmental reports incorporating results from surveys and desk studies
Q1 2026	Planning Submission	Submission of the Planning Application of the Scheme.

**The programme indicates a delay in the completion of Stage I scheme design and submitting the planning application compared to the previous newsletter. The team is taking proactive measures to meet the scheduled milestones.*