

Newsletter

Project Newsletter No. 04

September 2023

Tralee Flood Relief Scheme



OPW

Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Comhairle Contae Chiarraí
Kerry County Council



What stage is the project at?

The Tralee Flood Relief scheme is currently at Stage 1 of the project. This stage is where potential flood defence designs are identified and considered to develop the best flood defence options for the area.

The RPS project team is coordinating detailed surveys, investigations and undertaking flood modelling. Based on the results of these extensive surveys and investigations, RPS will identify flood mitigation measures that are appropriate to manage and prevent flood risk in Tralee.

Hydrology and Hydraulics

Hydrology Report

The Hydrology Report for the scheme was finalised in July 2023. The Hydrology Report summarises the findings from the hydrological analysis. An assessment of the hydrological parameters (river flow rates, water levels, run off etc.) related to flood risk from pluvial (rain), fluvial (rivers, streams), and coastal sources (tidal, wave) is included in the report. This data will inform the design river flows and water levels used in the scheme optioneering.

Hydraulics Report

The development of the 'Hydraulic Model' for the Scheme is nearing finalisation. This model will identify flood risk and will play a key role in identifying potential flood defence design options.

Amelio Group completed a CCTV visual inspection of the main culverts within Tralee in May of 2023.



The CCTV surveys have provided an in-depth examination of the existing drainage system. This has enabled the team to gain an understanding of the condition of the storm culverts. Findings from the survey will factor into the hydraulic analysis. Flood maps and defended area maps for the existing design conditions will be revised.

Environmental

Envirico Ltd were appointed in February 2023 as the Invasive Alien Plant Species (IAPS) treatment specialists for the scheme. The treatment programme is anticipated to be over a three-to-five-year period.

The purpose of the treatment is to mitigate the risk of spreading IAPS (including Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Gunnera) while undertaking investigation works and reduce the risk of IAPS's impacting the development of the scheme as a whole. Treatment measures include, hand pulling and foliar spraying of herbicides.

Envirico completed the 2023 Spring Treatment in June and the Autumn Treatment in August and will begin the next stage of treatment in the Spring of 2024

McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan (MKO) are undertaking a detailed bird (ornithological) survey within the Tralee Flood Relief scheme area. The area includes the Tralee Bay Complex Special Protection Area (SPA). This survey will be critical in evaluating what potential impact the Flood Relief Scheme may have on certain bird species.



Ground Investigation

RPS is currently undertaking a geotechnical study of existing flood defence embankments in Tralee. The purpose of the study is to determine the condition and make-up of the historical flood defence embankments that are primarily located along the Lee Estuary, the River Lee, and South of Tralee Town.

To inform the Geotechnical Study detailed Ground Investigation (GI) works were undertaken in the vicinity of the existing flood defence embankments. Kerry County Council (KCC) appointed IGSL as the GI contractor.

IGSL were tasked with undertaking both intrusive (drilling/boring) and non-intrusive (above ground) surveying e.g., resistivity surveying GI works to gather data on the current ground conditions.

The GI field works concluded in June of 2023.

RPS have begun assessing and collating the ground investigation data from the fieldworks. This data will play a vital role in:

- the progression of the geotechnical study,
- the assessment of the current flood defence embankments and
- determining the embankments viability as flood defences for the scheme.

The data will also enable RPS engineers to develop new flood defence options and/or suitable embankment remediation measures.

As part of the Geotechnical Study, RPS' Geotechnical Engineers are currently undertaking the following activities:

- embankment seepage & stability analysis
- embankment assessment report

The findings from this analysis and the report will be presented to KCC in the coming months.



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RPS MAKING
COMPLEX
EASY

Additional Information & Contact Details

Additional information in relation to overall progress, current news items and project reports can be found on the Tralee Flood Relief Scheme project website. The project team can be reached at the Tralee FRS email address.

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Next Steps:

Hydrology & Hydraulics:

Upon completion of the hydraulic model, the Hydraulics report will be finalised and uploaded to the website later this year (2023) along with the Hydrology report.

Environmental Assessment:

Detailed ecological surveys such as otter, badger, bat, trees, aquatic and other habitat surveys are currently being scoped and will be progressed in 2024.

The Invasive Alien Plant Species treatment undertaken by Envirico in 2023 will be reviewed and changes to the scope of the treatment area will be made in line with the scheme design options.

The Ornithology Survey is underway and further surveys are planned to continue into 2024.

Geotechnical Investigations:

RPS will finalise the Ground Investigation Report (GIR) and Embankment Assessment Report to inform the engineering design of flood defence options.

Options Development:

Viable flood defence options will be identified and developed. Design flood levels, flood risk assessment derived from hydraulic modelling along with the Geotechnical study will be used to identify these flood defence options.

Public Consultation Event #2

The second Public Consultation Event (PCE) is currently scheduled to take place in December 2023. This event is an opportunity for the Project Team to present outcomes from the analysis and assessments undertaken to date in advance of options development.

Exact dates and further information for this event will be advertised and made available on the project website in the coming weeks.

Programme:

Tralee Flood Relief Scheme - Programme	2021		2022				2023				2024				2025				2026				2027				2028				2029				2030				2031							
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4								
Stage I:	█		█				█				█				█				█				█				█				█				█				█							
Stage II:											█				█				█				█				█				█				█				█				█			
Stage III:															█				█				█				█				█				█				█				█			
Stage IV:																			█				█				█				█				█				█				█			
Stage V:																											█				█				█				█							

Tralee Flood Relieved Scheme

Stage 1	Identification and Development of a Preferred Scheme
Stage 2	Planning/ Development Consent
Stage 3	Detailed Construction Design, Work Packages and Tenders for Contracts
Stage 4	Construction
Stage 5	Handover of Works



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