Buncrana Flood Relief Scheme



Newsletter November 2026

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Latest Overview

This is the eighteenth newsletter for the Buncrana Flood Relief Scheme. The main activities carried out over recent months include additional hydraulic modelling, assessment of potential flood relief options, ground investigations and ecological surveys.

Hydraulics

The hydraulic model has been prepared with some further updates taking place in the Ballymacarry and Luddan areas to incorporate additional survey data. The model is currently being used to assess the effectiveness and impacts of potential flood relief measures.

Surveys & Investigations

Ground investigations have commenced on site as part of the flood relief scheme. These works will provide further information on ground conditions to inform the development of flood relief options.

Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) surveys are complete, with some additional survey works remaining to be completed in Ballybofey.

Ground investigation works are expected to continue over the coming months. The reported findings will be used to inform the seepage analysis and assess the underlying ground conditions in the vicinity of potential flood defences.



Ground Investigation Contract – Cable Percussion

Environmental

Ecological surveys have been undertaken during 2026, including otter and fish habitat surveys and breeding bird surveys. Draft reports have been prepared as part of the environmental assessment work.

Bat surveys are completed with reporting to follow. Trees, terrestrial habitats and mammal surveys are progressing. Additional wintering bird surveys are being planned for the scheme area. These surveys will help inform the options assessment and environmental assessments required for the planning stage.

Tree and vegetation clearance works are proposed for 2027. These will provide access for surveys and other investigations needed to advance scheme designs. Tender documents have been prepared, and the Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening is being finalised.

Optioneering

The options assessment is progressing. A number of potential flood relief measures have been tested in the hydraulic model and viable measures are being combined into scheme options to be taken forward for more detailed assessment.

Following the more detailed assessment of scheme options, the project team will hold public and stakeholder consultations to help identify a preferred option.

Upcoming consultation details will be advertised in advance.



What's Next?

Over the next few months, the Project Team will be working on:

- **Complete ongoing ground investigations**
- **Progress top-up baseline ecological surveys**
- **Assemble scheme options for further assessment**
- **Undertake assessment and prepare Options Report**

Contact Us

If you would like to contact our Project Team about any matter relating to the Buncrana Flood Relief Scheme you can do so through the following:

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If you would like any further information on the Scheme including programme, please visit our website:

www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/buncrana/home/