



Kilkenny County Council
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh

In association with



OPW Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme



Newsletter January 2023

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The purpose of the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme is to alleviate the risk of flooding to the Community of Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch by providing a scheme that is technically, socially, environmentally, and economically acceptable.

Introduction

Kilkenny County Council in partnership with Carlow County Council and The Office of Public Works (OPW) are advancing with the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme.

This newsletter covers the teams progress from October to January 2023. Previous newsletters outline and summarise the work completed to date and are located under 'Project Documents' on the scheme website.

The team has been focusing on collecting and assessing environmental data for the upstream storage area, refining flood defence designs along Graiguenamanagh Quay and developing scheme drawings to present for the third Public Consultation Event.

The scheme is progressing in Stage 1 – Scheme Development and Preliminary Design, this stage is intended to be completed in 2024 and Stage 2 – Planning is due to commence in 2024.



River Barrow from November Site Visit

Environmental

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is ongoing with further progress dependent upon the finalisation of emerging scheme design details.

A set of ecological surveys have been completed at the upstream storage area and will continue through the Spring/Summer 2024 season. These surveys covered:

- Aquatic Ecology (aquatic habitats and White-Clawed Crayfish).
- Water Quality and Invertebrates.
- Mammals.
- Breeding Birds.
- Bats.
- Trees.
- Herpetofauna.

An archaeological wade survey of the upstream portion of the River Duiske is also to be undertaken, with ADCO appointed for the work.

Due to the date of the initial set of ecology surveys completed at the start of the scheme in 2020 and 2021, 'top-up surveys' are required and are being planned currently. These will be completed during the Winter 2023/2024 period for wintering birds and mammals, and Spring/Summer 2024 period for Spring 2024 period for breeding birds, bats, and flora.

The steering group have also selected landscape images to be progressed to verified photomontages, for input into the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).

Terradat has been appointed to conduct an archaeological geophysical survey within defined areas. These include areas of bare ground proposed for earthen embankments and the retaining structure for the upstream flood storage where ground conditions allow.

An autumn invasive species treatment second round has been conducted. Himalayan Balsam was discovered in the upstream storage region and will be included in the next round of treatment scheduled for Autumn 2024.

At the end of November, the team was on-site to conduct a hydrogeomorphology impact survey of the River Duiske. This survey analysed the riverbed to identify processes associated with flowing water such as areas of erosion, sediment transport and sediment deposition and how the proposed scheme may change such patterns.



River Duiske, November 2023

Site Investigation

Site investigations are continuing with a handful of boreholes to be completed and permanent reinstatement beginning.

Material extracted from the exploratory holes has been reviewed and lab testing scheduled with the first result being submitted in the last period. The investigations have uncovered many varying levels of rock underlying the scheme area, layers of sand and dense allium gravels. These are now being considered in the design of defenses.

The team may prepare a scope for a geophysical survey depending on the result of the completed Site Investigation and lab testing. This is a non-intrusive method for mapping structures, anomalies, and obstructions underneath the ground surface. The survey, if required, will be conducted in areas that were not included in the original scope.

Scheme Progress

Ayasa have completed an overflow assessment from north of High St./Main St. junction to see what volume of water will spill into the catchment at Graiguenamanagh Bridge for the Preliminary Drainage Design.

Flood Relief Works and Stormwater Drainage drawings have been compiled as part of the drainage design. A pump station is to be included which will be activated when the Barrow's water levels are high.

Graiguenamanagh Quay - Proposed Location for Glass wall flood defences and sliding gates (photo taken from baseline photomontage pack)



Public Engagement

A Public Consultation Event is anticipated to be held as soon as the emerging option is sufficiently defined for presentation to the public. This third public event is to present the emerging option design and details to residents and stakeholders. Anyone with an interest in the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme is welcome.

Information on the event will be provided on the project website, letter drop and social media once a date is selected.

The team can also be contacted directly with specific queries or information at GTFRS@Ayesa.com.



Rebranding

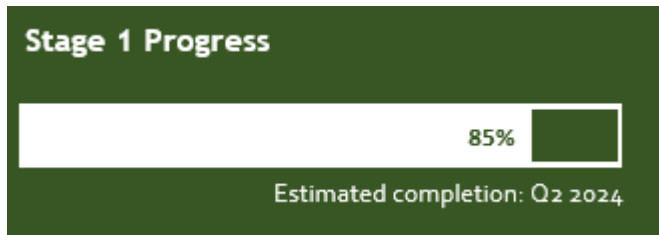
ByrneLooby was rebranded to Ayesa on the 19th of October 2023. The name 'ByrneLooby' will be replaced with 'Ayesa' on any new documentation or associated material produced after this date.

The ByrneLooby team's members and scheme emails have been updated to Ayesa addresses. All social media has also rebranded to Ayesa marketing.

Please refer to the *Contact Us* details or scheme website for our new contact information.



Progress Update



What's Next?

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

- ➔ Complete Site Investigations & Progress Laboratory Testing
- ➔ Develop the details of the emerging option.
- ➔ Environmental Impact Assessment for the emerging option.
- ➔ Natura Impact Assessment for the emerging Option.
- ➔ Preparing information and drawings for the next public consultation event on the emerging option.

Website

Details of scheme progress and documentation are available at the scheme website.



Contact Us

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

Email

GTFRS@Ayesa.com

Phone

021 – 2407988

Post

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

<https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/grauguenamanagh-tinnahinchfrs/home/>