

Newsletter

Project Newsletter No. 08

March 2025

Tralee Flood Relief Scheme



Barrow West, Tralee



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Comhairle Contae Chiarraí
Kerry County Council



Tralee Flood Relief Scheme

What stage is the Project at?

The Tralee Flood Relief scheme is in its first stage of development. This stage involves identifying and considering various flood defence design options to determine the most effective solution for the area.

Since the last newsletter, the project team has completed the hydraulic model for the scheme. This model will be crucial in evaluating the effectiveness of the various flood defence design options. The 2024 detailed ecological surveys and ground investigations (GI) within the Tralee flood relief scheme area have been successfully completed. The insights gained from these surveys have proven invaluable in informing the design of flood defence options and advancing the optioneering process.



Flooding in Boherbee

Current Progress

Hydraulic Modelling: Hydraulic modelling for the scheme has been completed, utilising data from various surveys and geotechnical investigations. The project team is currently progressing with finalising the hydraulic report and continues to assist with the development of options for the project. The resulting hydraulics report, which outlines the model's findings and includes draft updated flood mapping for Tralee town, will be published on the project website in the coming months.

Geotechnical Investigations: Ground Investigations (GI) were undertaken by IGSL in the area where flood defences are being considered as part of the FRS. The scheduled GI Field work was completed in January 2025. Of note is that these investigations identified karst geology in several areas (karst refers to a landscape formed from the dissolution of soluble rocks, such as limestone, resulting in features like sinkholes and underground rivers), and the impact of these findings on scheme design is currently being evaluated by the design team.

Ecology Surveys: A range of surveys are being undertaken to inform the assessment of the potential impact of the flood relief scheme on the ecology within the scheme area. The following surveys are being progressed by specialists employed by Kerry County Council:



Large Mammal Survey in Tralee

- Large Mammals – MWP Ltd.
- Bats – Southern Scientific Services Ltd.
- Amphibian & Reptiles – Southern Scientific Services Ltd.
- Terrestrial Habitats – Southern Scientific Services Ltd.
- Freshwater & Floating River Vegetation – Envirico Ltd.
- Marine & Estuarine Ecology – Aquafact Ltd.

Ornithological surveys, initiated in 2022, continue to monitor bird populations. Additionally, treatment of invasive alien plant species (IAPS), such as Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam, is ongoing to mitigate potential IAPS impacts to flood defence construction. The 2024 ecology surveys have been completed. The survey extents for the 2025 ecology survey have been updated to reflect emerging defence options.

Flood Defence Design Options Development: The design team has been working diligently to develop effective flood defence solutions for both coastal, fluvial (river) and selected pluvial (surface water) flooding within the scheme area. A rigorous screening process has been undertaken to identify the most suitable flood risk management measures. Measures considered include both engineering and non-engineering design solutions for flood events. Engineering measures include flood walls & embankments, channel diversions, flow control and culverts etc. The effectiveness of non-engineering measures such as channel maintenance and nature-based catchment management is also being considered as part of the Scheme.



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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:

Geotechnical Investigations: The project team will complete the assessment of the new GI data, which will serve to assist in the option development process and help determine the viability of the available options.

Hydrology & Hydraulics: The hydraulic model and reports will be finalised.

Flood Defence Design Options Development: The identification and assessment of viable flood defence design options has been progressed. The initial screening of fluvial and coastal flood defence measures has been undertaken based on the finalised hydraulic modelling outputs. A technical multi-criteria analysis that will factor the environmental, hydraulic, geotechnical and buildability considerations for the flood defence design options is being progressed by the project team. This together with feedback from stakeholders will be used to inform the preferred flood defence option design.

Public Consultation Day: A date for a second Public Consultation Day in mid-2025 will be determined as the design options emerge. The

aim of this event will be to inform the public and stakeholders of the progress made since the project began and to outline the suite of potential flood relief options that have been considered to alleviate flooding within the Tralee Flood Relief Scheme Area.

Ecology Assessment: Data from these 2024 survey will be used to inform the development of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Scheme. During 2025 further detailed ecology and environmental surveys will be undertaken. These are scheduled to commence in May 2025.

Stakeholder Engagement: Engagement with stakeholders and the public is an ongoing process.

Input from the public and other stakeholders is welcomed by the project team at any time during the project. All feedback / input should be submitted by email, post, or phone to the RPS project team using the contact details noted above. These inputs will be reported to the KCC and OPW Steering Group for consideration as part of the scheme development.

Current Programme:

Tralee Flood Relief Scheme - Programme	2021		2022				2023				2024				2025				2026				2027				2028				2029				2030				2031				2032			
	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	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
Stage I: Options Assessment, Scheme Development & Design																																														
Stage II: Planning / Development Consent Process																																														
Stage III: Work Packages & Tenders for Contracts																																														
Stage IV: Construction																																														
Stage V: Handover Works																																														