

Newsletter

Ballina Flood Relief Scheme



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Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



OPW Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



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WHAT STAGE IS THE STUDY AT?

In the period since the last Project Newsletter was issued (June 2021) the project steering group (comprising of Mayo County Council, the OPW and RPS) are continuing to ensure that the development of the scheme is based on the most accurate and up to date information. RPS has been incorporating the data received from the third-party surveys into updated Hydrological and Hydraulic assessments.

The RPS Environmental Team are completing environmental surveys on an ongoing basis to provide baseline environmental data for the project. These surveys include habitat surveys, mammal surveys, bird surveys and bat surveys. Additional Invasive species surveys have also been carried out during the recent months.

IMPACT OF COVID-19



The Ballina FRS Steering Group (comprising of the OPW, Mayo County Council and RPS) have continued to meet via video conferencing facilities in order to comply with government guidance during the COVID19 pandemic. All third-party survey contractors

are following the latest government health and safety guidance in relation to COVID19 whilst undertaking the surveys. The impact of Covid 19 on the project has lessened in the last period as the country is emerging from the pandemic and further lifting of restrictions expected.

HYDROLOGY ANALYSIS AND REPORT

The hydrological analysis is now complete RPS has issued the final version of the report. The final version of the Hydrology Report can be seen on the scheme website (www.ballinafrs.ie). This report provides the necessary inputs to the hydraulic model in order to allow simulation of a range of flooding scenarios.

HYDRAULIC ANALYSIS

Construction of the hydraulic model has been completed following the receipt of the final survey information. The model has been calibrated and validated. The hydraulic modelling team are currently using the model to simulate a range of scenarios that could happen in the future. An optioneering workshop was held with members of the steering group on the 30th August to review the findings of the modelling tasks. Following this workshop and receipt of some outstanding survey data the Hydraulic modelling report is in the process of being finalized.

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Nature-based Catchment Management (NbCM) Study

As part of the Flood Relief Scheme RPS carried out a Nature-based Catchment Management (NbCM) study. NbCM is considered a sustainable approach to flood management that can complement a flood scheme, reducing the size of it or providing climate change adaptation. NbCM can also provide other social and environmental benefits, such as improved amenity and recreation, habitat creation, carbon sequestration, etc which can help mitigate the impact of the flood scheme and enhance the overall catchment.

The first stage of this assessment was to produce Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM) potential maps. These maps mapped areas that have the potential for NWRM to reduce runoff, utilize/enhance floodplain storage and manage sediment. This was carried out for the River Moy catchment and shows where the potential for NWRM, referred to NbCM in this report, is located within the catchment.

The second stage of the NbCM study was to carry out an NbCM Feasibility Assessment. This report details the objectives and findings of this assessment. The aim of the assessment is to identify where NbCM is feasible in order to contribute to the flood reduction in the Scheme Area or to contribute to the mitigation of the environmental impacts of the Scheme. These NbCM measures can then be developed further. The assessment also aims to identify feasible NbCM measures within the wider catchment Study Area and the potential benefits they can provide.

Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study include an assessment of the potential to:

- Reduce flood risk in study area (indication of likely effectiveness, need storage volumes)
- Reduce flood risk in scheme area
- Mitigate impacts of Climate Change
- Mitigate environmental impacts of option for a preferred scheme

- Meet other objectives – water quality, habitat creation, climate regulation, provision of amenity
- Liaise with EPA, LAWPRO, LAs, NPWS, Department of communications, climate action & environment

RPS completed an initial draft of this study and a workshop was held with the Steering Group on the 7th October.

Once the comments received are incorporated into an updated draft of the study feedback will also be sought from external stakeholders including EPA, LAWPRO, Local Authorities (Mayo & Sligo), NPWS, and the Department of communications, climate action & environment.

NEXT STEPS

Data Collection: Data Collection is substantially complete. The project team are interested in receiving photos, videos, sketches, or any other relevant information regarding previous flood events from those who have experienced it first-hand, particularly from 2015 onwards. This information will help us to refine our river model and the design of the flood relief scheme. If you have any information which could be of use, please contact us.

Surveys: The procurement of a contractor to undertake Ground Investigation works has been completed and a contractor has been appointed. The contractor is currently in the process of obtaining road opening licenses and field works are likely to be undertaken in October and November.

Environmental Assessment: Further ecological survey work will be conducted during the remainder of 2021 in relation to habitat types, breeding birds, bats, mammals, and other species or features of ecological or environmental interest.

Scheme Analysis and Development: The RPS modelling team has begun the task of using the hydraulic model to assess and compare various engineering options to reduce the flood risk in Ballina. This process is ongoing. Potential options will be assessed using Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) with the ultimate aim to identify a preferred scheme for Ballina.

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SCHEME STAGES:

Stage I: Option Assessment, Scheme Development and Design

- Data Gathering /Topographical Survey
- Hydrological Analysis & Hydraulic Modelling
- Option Assessments & Preferred Option Selection
- Environmental Assessment (EIAR)









Stage II: Planning / Development Consent



Stage III: Detailed Construction Design and Tender

Stage IV: Construction Supervision and Project Management

Stage V: Handover

OUTLINE PROGRAMME:

Stages	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Stage I: Option Assessment, Scheme Development and Design							
Stage II: Planning / Development Consent							
Stage III: Detailed Construction Design and Tender							
Stage IV: Construction Supervision and Project Management							
Stage V: Handover							

 Programmed activities  Progress to date

Note: Timelines are the current best estimate but are subject to revision and approval

Contact us:

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