

Newsletter

Ballina Flood Relief Scheme



Tionseadal Éireann
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Project Newsletter 2021

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Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



OPW Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



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Ballina Flood Relief Scheme



WHAT STAGE IS THE STUDY AT?

Since the appointment of engineering and environmental consultants for the project in Spring 2020, the project steering group has been working to ensure that the development of the scheme is based on the most accurate and up to date information. RPS has been reviewing all relevant sources of information and procuring 3rd party surveys to undertake detailed river channel and associated floodplains and structures surveys (including CCTV survey), to support analysis of how the rivers react to rainfall events in their respective catchments.

The RPS Environmental Team have recently completed the Environmental Constraints Study Report. The study assessed constraints relating to a range of environmental aspects as required by the relevant Environmental Directives and Legislation. All information gathered through field surveys and from the Opening Public Consultation Day in September 2020 have also been incorporated into this report. In addition to this, the Environmental Team also prepared an AA Screening report to assess any impacts on the Moy SAC likely to result from the Scheme Ground Investigation Works.

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. The topographical and culvert CCTV survey works were delayed as a result of the COVID 19 outbreak. Topographical survey work was completed in November 2020 and CCTV survey works are ongoing. The contractor is following the latest government health and safety guidance in relation to COVID19 whilst undertaking the survey.

OPENING PUBLIC CONSULTATION DAY

The Opening Public Consultation Day (PCD) was held on Thursday 23rd September 2020 in the Kennedy Glasgow House, Ballina, from 4pm to 8pm. Attendees were requested to make an appointment for the event such that numbers could be controlled in line with Covid 19 guidance. The PCD event was also made available online (in the form of a virtual room) on the scheme website (www.ballinafrs.ie).

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The format of the event was centred around the presentation of a number of information boards. These boards displayed the Scheme Area, Watercourses within the Scheme Area, Designated Sites within the Zone of Influence, European



Sites within the Zone of Influence, Archaeological Sites within the Scheme area, Architectural Sites within the Scheme area and the Preferred Option following the

CFRAMs study previously undertaken. Sixteen members of the public attended the event. Attendees were given the

opportunity to provide feedback and comments on potential flood alleviation options (along River Moy and Knockanelo River) and any details on flood



risk in the area. Overall comments were positive that the scheme is moving forward, and the main area of concern is the timeline of the project being too lengthy and the lack of new information.



Virtual Consultation Room (www.ballinafrs.ie)

NEXT STEPS

Data Collection: Data Collection is ongoing. 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 Culverts CCTV survey (including Knockanelo River overflow culvert) is currently ongoing and is expected to complete in mid-March 2021. Ground Investigation works will be undertaken in the second quarter of 2021.

Hydrological Analysis: The hydrological analysis, which includes an assessment of the frequency and magnitude of river flows over a range of scenarios, is substantially complete. This, along with the survey data, will provide the necessary inputs to the computer model as part of the hydraulic analysis.

Hydraulic Analysis: Construction of the computer model is substantially complete and will be finalised following the receipt of the culvert CCTV survey information.

Environmental Assessment: Further ecological survey work will be conducted along the rivers (Moy, Knockanelo River and other associated tributaries) during 2021 in relation to habitat types, breeding birds, bats, mammals and other species or features of ecological or environmental interest. Additional Invasive species surveys will be carried out during the growing period (June – July 2021).

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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							
Stage II							
Stage III							
Stage IV							
Stage V							

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

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