

Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme

Newsletter



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Project Newsletter No. 03 | January 2021



OPW
Oifig na
—Oibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

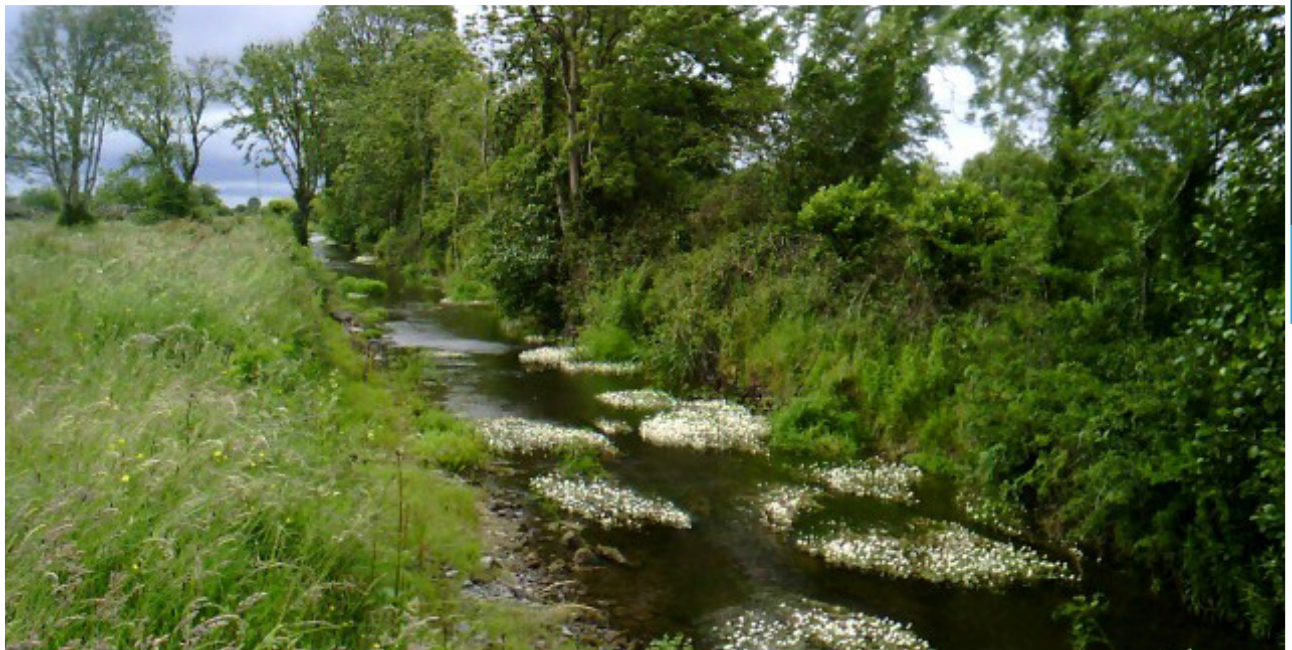


Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

ARUP



RYAN HANLEY



Introduction

Since the last Project Newsletter (July 2020), the project steering group has continued to work on the development of the scheme.

A detailed channel (river) survey was substantially completed in the period since the last newsletter. The purpose of the survey was to record an accurate representation of the rivers (including the Suck and its tributaries) and floodplains for the purposes of constructing a hydraulic computer model to simulate the flooding mechanisms. Arup has commenced construction of the hydraulic model using the data acquired during the survey.

Ryan Hanley completed preliminary ecological walkover surveys in the period since the last newsletter. These surveys identified the presence of an invasive alien plant species (Japanese Knotweed) at a location close to the bank of the River Suck. Preliminary treatment of these plants was undertaken in October 2020. This location will continue to be monitored, and further treatment will be undertaken in 2021 if required.

Ryan Hanley has developed the Environmental Constraints Study report which identifies potential impacts on Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soils and Geology, Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage, Land Use and Material Assets, Landscape and Visual Impact, in addition to Population and Human Health. Observations from the Opening Public Consultation Day and Opening Collaborative Workshop are also incorporated into this report. The Constraints Report will be published on the project website once finalised.

Hydro Environmental is currently finalising the hydrological analysis for the project. This purpose of this analysis is to develop a strong understanding of how the river system responds to the whole water cycle. Data relating to past rainfall and river flow rates on the River Suck has been analysed, in conjunction with analysing the physical characteristics of the catchment. The Hydrology Report will be published to the project website once finalised.



Opening Collaborative Workshop

The opening Collaborative Workshop was held on 30th July 2020 at the Shearwater Hotel.

The event was attended by members of the Steering Group, as well as stakeholders from Galway County Council and the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS).

The goal of the event was to engage with stakeholders from key statutory bodies, including the local authority and identify and discuss any particular issues, constraints and opportunities that could inform the development of the Scheme, and any potential features that could be considered to create multiple benefits and/or meet objectives other than flood risk management. A summary report has been prepared following the event, which is incorporated into the Environmental Constraints Study.

Impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The Ballinasloe FRS Steering Group (comprising of the OPW, Galway County Council, Arup, HydroEnvironmental Ltd and Ryan Hanley) has continued to meet via video conferencing facilities in order to comply with government guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic.



All contractors have followed the latest government health and safety guidance in relation to COVID19 whilst undertaking survey activities and will continue to do so.

Additional Information & Contact Details

Additional information in relation to overall progress, current news items and project reports can be found on the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme project website. The project team can also be reached at the following addresses:



Project website:
www.floodinfo.ie/ballinasloefrs



Email address:
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Next Steps

Hydraulic Analysis: Development of a hydraulic computer model is underway. This will simulate the existing hydraulic performance of the various channels, culverts, bridges and floodplain through Ballinasloe. The purpose of this model will be to analyse the passage of the predicted flood flows through Ballinasloe, and will generate predicted flood extents and flood levels. The model broadly covers the River Suck from Bellagill Bridge downstream through Ballinasloe, to a point several kilometres downstream of the M6 motorway bridge. Significant tributaries and branch channels of the Suck within this reach are also included in the model.

Environmental Assessment: Specialist environmental surveys will be undertaken over the next number of months to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA).

These surveys will include Winter Bird Surveys, Breeding Bird Surveys, Otter Survey and other mammals, survey of rivers and aquatic ecology, Bat Surveys, Rare and protected flora and habitats, etc. Ryan Hanley has been engaging with the relevant authorities regarding the scope of such surveys including National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI).

Site Investigation: The scoping of a Ground Investigation (GI) contract was commenced in the period since the last newsletter and is expected to commence on site in Q2 2021. The purpose of the GI is to establish the conditions of the ground where scheme works may be undertaken. The GI will include trial pits and trenches, boreholes, soil and rock sampling, groundwater testing, etc. The information gathered in the GI will be used to inform the development, appraisal and costing of the Scheme options, and will also be utilised to inform the detailed design of the preferred scheme.

Outline Project Programme

Stage	19	2020				2021				2022				2023				2024				2025				2026			
Stage I																													
Stage II																													
Stage III																													
Stage IV																													
Stage V																													



Programmed activities



Subject to approval and funding

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