

Contact Us

You can keep in touch with the project through our website where we will be posting updates on progress and details of ongoing works.

For further enquiries feel free to contact us via email or post at:



Portarlington Flood Relief Scheme Project Team,
Nicholas O'Dwyer Limited , Unit 4E, Nutgrove Office
Park, Nutgrove Ave, Churchtown Upper,
Dublin, D14 V3F6



PortarlingtonFRS@binnies.com

Relevant Links



floodinfo.ie/portarlingtonfrs



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Laois County Council

Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council



PORTARLINGTON FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Newsletter No. 11

February 2025

PROJECT NEWS

Stage I - Scheme Development and Design of Portarlinton's Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) - is being advanced by Binnies and Nicholas O'Dwyer (B/NOD), together with Laois County Council (LCC), Offaly County Council (OCC) and the project's Steering Group which consists of members from the Office of Public Works (OPW). Progress is ongoing in terms of development of the scheme design, engineering surveys and environmental assessments.

CURRENT PROGRESS

Since the last newsletter (November 2024), the following has progressed:

The Utility Survey tender was awarded to Precision Utility Mapping. Surveying started in January and was completed on the 14th of February, with affected landowners contacted via letter before the works began. The survey acquires mapped subsurface information using Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) methods. The survey output is currently being reviewed by the Project Team.

Ground Investigations Ireland (GII), the appointed contractor for the site investigations, started the ground investigation work in January with completion of the works expected for mid of April. Affected landowners were contacted via letter before the works began. The investigation will provide details on the soil strata to better understand the subsurface conditions and inform the design.

B/NOD submitted updated design drawings on the 12th of December, following previously received comments. A second technical meeting was held on the 7th of January, where the design updates were discussed. The design drawings and buildability report are now being finalised by B/NOD.



Figure 1: Photo of the River Barrow upstream of Barrow Bridge

The Options Development report is being finalised and will be completed in the next period, including a detailed Climate Change Adaptation Plan.

The monthly steering group meeting was held in person in February, with representatives from B/NOD and LCC carrying out a joint site walkover to see areas where there have been developments since previous visits and to support the ongoing site investigations.

Coordination with the chapter suppliers for the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) is in progress. The preferred suppliers for each chapter have been identified, and several chapters have been started.

A meeting was held with Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) on the 27th of February to discuss their comments to the EIA Scoping Report to ensure a successful planning submission in 2025.

NEXT STEPS

Binnies and Nicholas O'Dwyer continue to progress the development of the Scheme.

The Project Team is currently finalising design drawings along with the Buildability report and the Options Development report. The buildability report detail the planned construction methodology and access. The Options Development report outlines the preferred design of the Scheme, shaping the direction of the project moving forward.

Work on the Environmental Impact Assessment Report has commenced for various chapters, but it requires Completion of the Stage I design to progress further. The Natura Impact Statement (NIS), Landscape Visual Assessment (LVIA) and the Appropriate Assessment are scheduled to start soon following the Completion of the Stage I design.

The Project Team is progressing with the Utility Survey and the Site investigations, required to further refine the design.



Figure 2: View of River Barrow looking downstream of Barrow Bridge

PROJECTED KEY MILESTONE DATES

DATE	MILESTONE	INFORMATION
Q2 2025*	Completion of Stage I Scheme Design	Development and design of the preferred Scheme Option.
Q3 2025	Appropriate Assessment & Environmental Impact Assessment	Complete the assessments and environmental reports incorporating results from surveys and desk studies
Q4 2025*	Planning Submission	Submission of the Planning Application of the Scheme.

**The programme indicates a delay in the completion of Stage I scheme design and submitting the planning application compared to the previous newsletter due to further design changes, required as a result of the Technical meeting. The team is taking proactive measures to meet the scheduled milestones.*

