

## 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:

 **Dundalk FRS Community Liaison / Project Manager**  
Dundalk Flood Relief Scheme Project Team,  
Nicholas O'Dwyer Limited , Unit 4E, Nutgrove Office Park,  
Nutgrove Ave, Churchtown Upper,  
Dublin, D14 V3F6

 [DundalkArdeeFRS@nodwyer.com](mailto:DundalkArdeeFRS@nodwyer.com)

### Relevant Links

 [www.floodinfo.ie/dundalkfrs](http://www.floodinfo.ie/dundalkfrs)



# Dundalk & Ardee

## FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME

Newsletter No. 12

January 2026

## PROJECT NEWS

Binnies and Nicholas O'Dwyer (B/NOD) together with the Office of Public Works (OPW) and Louth County Council (LCC), are progressing with Stage I of the Dundalk and Ardee Flood Relief Scheme. Since the last newsletter, some of the potential options were revised based on comments received at the technical workshops and considering the environmental constraints of the area. Site Investigation works have continued, and a Geomorphology Assessment and Wintering Bird Survey commenced.

## CURRENT PROGRESS

### Dundalk Flood Relief Scheme

The future scheme for Dundalk, including Blackrock, aims to address flood risks through a range of measures, focusing on fluvial, coastal, and wave overtopping flooding.

Since the last newsletter in August 2025, the Project Team refined some of the potential options based on the feedback gathered at the technical workshops and engagement with National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS). This was especially useful to discuss the environmental impacts on the scheme on protected areas and the process to be followed for the Appropriate Assessment.

Additionally, Site Investigation works have continued with 90% of the works carried out to date. The remaining boreholes are expected to be finalised in January/February 2026.

Two environmental surveys have started in the scheme area, including a Wintering Bird Survey and a geomorphology assessment.

The geomorphology assessment aims to characterise the waterbodies located within the area and assess the potential impact of the proposed scheme on the river's hydromorphology and the possible implications of any changes on the water quality. The assessment started with 2 weeks of on-site surveys in December 2025 to study the formation, evolution, and processes of rivers and watercourses.

The Wintering Bird Survey started in October 2025 and will continue toward March 2026. Early outcomes indicate large numbers of wintering birds in coastal areas (especially around Blackrock and the Castletown Estuary). Inland sites were also surveyed with birds recorded in several areas of Dundalk (for instance in the Marsh South and North).

## NEXT STEPS

The Site Investigation works, Geomorphology Assessment and Wintering Bird Surveys are all expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2026.

The next step for the optioneering is the presentation of the shortlisted options to the stakeholders and to the public and is expected for the second quarter of 2026. The public will be able to provide feedback that will be used for the determination of a preferred option.

This feedback will then be used, in parallel with a review of the Technical, Environmental, Social and Economic impacts to determine a preferred option for each areas.



## STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION

Following Storm Bram on December 9<sup>th</sup> 2025, the Minister of State with Special Responsibility for the Office of Public Works visited Blackrock on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2025. Minister Kevin "Boxer" Moran met with local politicians for an update on the ongoing Flood Relief Scheme in the area and the flooding issues caused by Storm Bram, at Blackrock in particular. Minister Moran said that there is no simple solution to the issues being faced but pledged that his department would continue to fund flood relief schemes. Minister Moran also requested Louth County Council to investigate any short term measures that could be put in place in order to protect at risk properties in the area, until the permanent flood defences are in place. The Minister then undertook a walkabout to discuss the recent flooding experienced by local businesses and residents.



Blackrock on the 9th of December 2025



Blackrock on the 9th of December 2025



Georges Quay, Dundalk, on the 9th of December 2025



Minister Moran visit at Blackrock, December 23rd 2025

## PROJECTED KEY MILESTONE DATES—DUNDALK FRS

DATE	MILESTONE	INFORMATION
Q1 2026	Emerging Options Workshop — Blackrock & Dundalk	To discuss the findings of the optioneering process and the assessment of the performance of potential flood relief options.
Q1 2026	Public Participation Day no.2 — Blackrock & Dundalk	This is a second public event which will present the emerging flood relief options.
Q2 2026	Options Development Report	To summarise the options considered and their analysis, leading to a preferred option.
Q3 2026	Scheme Analysis and Development	Selection, development and design of a preferred option.
Q4 2026	Public Participation Day no.3	A closing public event will be held once a preferred Scheme has been identified.
Q4 2027	Environmental Impact Assessment	Targeted Environmental Surveys and desk studies.
Q4 2027	End of Stage I	Completion of all necessary studies required to progress to Stage II - Planning