

# Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme

## Newsletter



Tionscaldal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**

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**OPW**  
Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí  
Office of Public Works



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council

**ARUP**



**RYAN HANLEY**





The ground investigation fieldwork



### Introduction

Since the last Project Newsletter, the project steering group has continued to work on the development of the scheme. Several reports have been completed and published on the project website in the interim period including:

- Hydrology Report
- Public Consultation Day 2 Report
- Natural Water Retention Measures Feasibility Report
- Hydraulic Report

### Ground Investigation

The ground investigation fieldwork for the scheme has been ongoing for a number of months, and is now substantially complete on site. The objectives of the investigation were to ascertain the ground and groundwater conditions which will assist in the geotechnical design of the new flood defences. The ground investigation included trial pits and trenches, boreholes, soil and rock sampling, groundwater testing, along with structural inspections at the East Bridge.

As part of the ground investigation, in order to assess the historic and structural fabric a ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey of the eastern approach to the East Bridge was completed. This survey identified two buried arches, one of which was previously unknown and is located adjacent to the entrance to the former Atlas Industries site.

Further test trenching was undertaken in September 2023 to allow direct inspection and measurement of this arch which incorporates several building phases including a central section of late medieval fabric buried beneath the existing road carriageway.

### Public Consultation

A Public Consultation Event & On – line Virtual Consultation was held in mid 2022 to gather views of the public about the developed scheme options. A feedback report for this event was published to the project website in October 2022.



It is anticipated that further built heritage, archaeological and underwater surveys and investigations will be undertaken within footprints of preferred options during 2024 to inform the design team and ensure best practice in relation to heritage on the project.





## Options Development

The project team is currently working on finalising the detail of the preferred option for the scheme. Options Technical Workshops were held in May 2023 and August 2023. The purpose of these workshops was to inform GCC and the OPW stakeholders of the options being assessed and to invite feedback.

The above workshops allowed the project team to narrow down the options under consideration in various areas across the town. However, a number of the options in the town centre area had the potential to significantly impact the Ballinasloe East Bridge (a recorded monument) and other nearby historic structures. Therefore, it was deemed necessary to carry out detailed consultations with third party stakeholders including the National Monuments Service prior to selection of the preferred option in this area. Several such meetings were held over the course of summer 2023, and the project team is now in a position to complete the draft options report and to advance the design of the preferred option.

The draft options report is now well advanced. The report will document the full scope of the assessment undertaken, which has included cost-benefit analysis and multicriteria analysis, and consideration of public feedback from the various consultation events to date.

Considering the above developments on the project, a Public Consultation day for the emerging preferred scheme is now expected to take place in Quarter 1 2024 with the Statutory Public Exhibition of the scheme under the Arterial Drainage Act to follow in Quarter 2 of 2024.

### Derrymullen

A comprehensive assessment of the existing Derrymullen flood relief scheme has also been completed, which has informed the scope of works required to incorporate this existing scheme into the Ballinasloe FRS while ensuring that it will continue to provide the required Standard of Protection. This assessment has necessitated input from Uisce Eireann (Irish Water), who are a key stakeholder at this location due to the interaction between the flood relief works and existing foul drainage infrastructure.

The measures proposed for the existing Derrymullen scheme will include:

- Alterations to the existing temporary pumping arrangements
- Amendments to the existing flood gate and replacement with a passive structure if possible
- Structural improvement measures to existing walls and embankments

## Environmental

A number of environmental surveys have been undertaken to inform the development of the scheme Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR):

- Aquatic Ecology Surveys
- Bat Surveys
- Bird Survey
- Landscape & Visual Survey
- Rare Flora Survey
- Badger Survey

Invasive Species continues to be treated and monitored as per the most updated Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP) for the scheme. The annual treatment and monitoring were completed by appointed contractor in September 2023.

# 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](http://www.floodinfo.ie/ballinasloefrs)



**Email address:**  
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## Next Steps

**Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)** and **Appropriate Assessment (AA)** will be commenced in the coming weeks

**Options report:** the draft report will be reviewed by the Steering Group prior to publication on the project website.

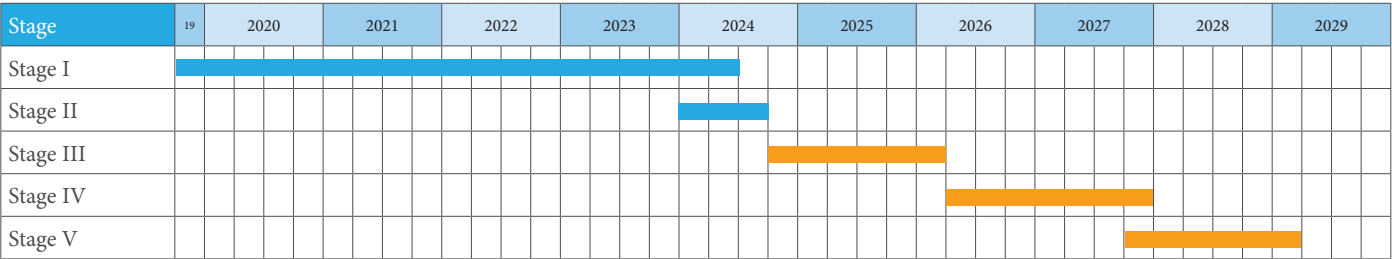
**Consultation:** An emerging preferred scheme consultation event will be held in early 2024



## Stages

- Stage I**  
Scheme Development and Design
- Stage II**  
Public Exhibition
- Stage III**  
Detailed Tender Design, Confirmation and Tender
- Stage IV**  
Construction
- Stage V**  
Handover

## Outline Project Programme



Programmed activities      Subject to approval and funding

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