Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme Newsletter



Tionscadal Éireann Project Ireland 2040

Project Newsletter No. 04 | July 2021







ARUP



RYANHANLEY

Newsletter Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme



Introduction

Since the last Project Newsletter (January 2021), the project steering group has continued to work on the development of the scheme.

The Environmental Constraints Study report developed by Ryan Hanley was published on the project website in April 2021. The report sets out the key environmental issues relating to the Study Area for the Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme which may be impacted upon by potential flood risk management measures and/or which may impose constraints on the viability and/or design of these measures.

Specialist ecological surveys have now commenced to further inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the scheme. 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). The hydrological analysis for the scheme is now substantially completed and the draft Hydrology Report is currently being finalised prior to publication.

A Drainage Survey was completed by Enva during the last period. This involved the investigation of drainage pipes and culverts through the use of CCTV cameras and dye tracing.

A Topographic Survey contract is currently being carried out by Apex Surveys and will shortly be completed. The purpose of the topographic survey is to capture and verify ground elevations for the purposes of scheme design. The topographical survey will also capture any natural and man-made features which may also be of interest and these will be illustrated on a map together with the contoured ground elevations captured.

An Invasive Species Management Plan has been prepared. Monitoring of invasive species will continue over the coming months, and further treatment will be procured as required.

www.floodinfo.ie/ballinasloefrs



A Ground Investigation contract is currently being procured. The ground investigation will include trial pits and trenches, boreholes, soil and rock sampling, groundwater testing, along with structural inspections at the East Bridge. The purpose of the ground investigation is to understand the ground conditions within the Scheme Area, to inform the development, appraisal and costing of the Scheme options. The information will also be utilised to inform the detailed design of the scheme.

Development of a hydraulic computer model is now well advanced. The model has been calibrated using data from a number of historic flood events to ensure that it provides an accurate representation of flooding mechanisms. The model simulates the existing hydraulic performance of the various channels, culverts, bridges and floodplain through Ballinasloe. The purpose of this model is 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.

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.

www.floodinfo.ie/ballinasloefrs

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: ballinasloefrs@arup.com

Post address:

Ballinasloe Flood Relief Scheme Project Manager Arup, One Albert Quay, Cork

Next Steps

Hydraulic Analysis: Baseline design runs of the hydraulic model will be carried out using predicted flows from the hydrological analysis. This will provide predicted flood extents and flood levels for the existing situation in Ballinasloe. The information will allow an assessment of the number of properties and other infrastructure which would be flooded in the design event, and the depth of flooding.

Options Development: Development of the scheme options will commence once the baseline design runs of the hydraulic model are complete. A range of possible options will be reviewed including a variety of structural measures, non-structural measures, and Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM). These options will be tested in the hydraulic model to assess their viability and impact on flood risk in Ballinasloe and surrounding areas. **Environmental Assessment:** Ryan Hanley will be conducting specialist environmental surveys over the next number of months to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA).

Surveys: The Ground Investigation (GI) contract will be awarded in the coming weeks.

Stages

Stage I - Scheme Development and DesignStage II - Public ExhibitionStage III - Detailed Tender Design, Confirmation and TenderStage IV - ConstructionStage V - Handover



Outline Project Programme

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