

Newsletter

Project Newsletter No. 03

April 2023

Tralee Flood Relief Scheme



OPW

Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Comhairle Contae Chiarraí
Kerry County Council





What stage is the project at?

Tralee Flood Relief scheme design is currently at the 1st stage of the project. This stage is where a preferred scheme is identified and developed. RPS project team is coordinating detailed surveys, investigations and undertaking flood modelling. Based on the results of these extensive surveys and investigations, RPS will identify a flood mitigation measures e.g. defences that are appropriate to manage flood risk in Tralee.

Hydrology and Hydraulics

To inform the determination of appropriate flood management measures RPS is developing a 'Hydraulic Model' for the Scheme. This model is a tool that will be used to identify flood risk and test a range of potential flood defence design options.

Amelio Group have been undertaking a CCTV visual inspection of the main culverts within Tralee. A CCTV survey is a process for examining the condition of drainage systems remotely with a camera system that records video footage and captures other useful data. This will provide the team with an understanding of the condition of the storm culverts and help identify issues that may contribute to flooding.

Environmental

Various ecological surveys of the scheme area have been undertaken by RPS' ecologists

during 2022 and 2023. These identify ecological constraints and inform the assessment of ecological impact from the project.

An Invasive Alien Plant Species (IAPS) Management Plan has been developed. The plan includes the identification of IAPS that may impact the scheme. Envirico has been engaged as the invasive species contractor and is will be undertaking treatment of identified IAPS in the coming months.

MKO has been engaged by KCC to undertake a detailed Ornithology Survey within the scheme area. This will inform environmental assessment of the preferred scheme option.



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Defence Asset Survey

During 2022 RPS undertook a comprehensive survey of the existing flood defence embankments and structures (shown in the image below) within the scheme area.

This visual inspection will inform the design team about the existing condition and geometric properties of these defences and their suitability for inclusion within a preferred scheme.



Ground Investigation

RPS is also undertaking a geotechnical study of existing flood defence embankments primarily located along the Lee Estuary, the River Lee, and South of Tralee Town. The Study will determine the condition and make-up of the existing embankments that were constructed in the 19th and 20th century.

IGSL have been contracted to undertake the Ground Investigations (GI) to inform this geotechnical study.

Information from the GI will allow RPS to accurately assess the condition of the existing embankments and determine their viability as flood defences for the scheme.

RPS' Geotechnical Engineers are currently undertaking technical seepage and stability analysis of all surveyed embankments and will be reporting to KCC over the coming months.



Additional Information & Contact Details

Additional information in relation to overall progress, current news items and project reports can be found on the Tralee Flood Relief Scheme project website. The project team can be reached at the Tralee FRS email address.

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Next Steps:

Hydrology & Hydraulics:

A comprehensive hydrological analysis, which includes analysis of historic flood data, is ongoing will be used to inform design river flows and water levels. The hydraulics report will be available later this year (2023).

The design flood levels, and flood risk assessment derived from the hydraulic modelling will be used to identify viable flood defence options which will be published for public comment later in 2023.

Environmental Assessment:

A series of detailed ecological surveys is scheduled to be undertaken this summer season. These surveys will inform the

environmental impact assessment of the preferred scheme

Treatment of the IAPS will be undertaken by Envirico. Treatment will commence in early summer and will continue into 2024 and 2025.

The Ornithology Survey is underway MKO will continue the survey into the Winter 2023

Geotechnical Investigations:

IGSL are scheduled to complete field operations by May 2023. This will allow RPS to finalise the Geotechnical Study and develop the Ground Investigation Report (GIR) to inform the engineering design of flood defence options.

Programme:

Tralee Flood Relief Scheme - Programme	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Stage I:											
Stage II:											
Stage III:											
Stage IV:											
Stage V:											

Tralee Flood Relief Scheme	
Stage 1	Identification and Development of a Preferred Scheme
Stage 2	Planning/ Development Consent
Stage 3	Detailed Construction Design, Work Packages and Tenders for Contracts
Stage 4	Construction
Stage 5	Handover of Works

