

Newsletter

Ballina Flood Relief Scheme



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Project Newsletter 2022

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Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo
Mayo County Council



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



MAKING
COMPLEX
EASY

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WHAT STAGE IS THE STUDY AT?

In the period since the last Project Newsletter was issued (September 2022) the project steering group (comprising of Mayo County Council, the OPW and RPS) are continuing to ensure that the development of the scheme is based on the most accurate and up to date information.

OPTION ASSESSMENTS AND PREFERRED OPTION IDENTIFICATION:

The Scheme Analysis and Development tasks have now been completed. An emerging preferred flood relief option has been identified. This has been accomplished through assessment and comparison of a number of potential alternative options. In the comparative assessments Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) procedures were used. An option development report was prepared and submitted to OPW and Mayo County Council for review and approval.

Additional topographical survey information required for carrying out detailed design of the flood protection measures are also completed at this stage.

ENVIRONMENTAL:

The RPS Environmental Team are completing additional environmental survey works in areas not previously captured and some additional targeted surveys. These surveys include habitat surveys mammal surveys, bird surveys and bat surveys. A license application for undertaking underwater was obtained with the survey to be undertaken when weather and river conditions permit. This is likely to be in the Spring of 2023.

The preparation of an EIAR Scoping Report is nearing completion with a draft version issued to the steering group for review.

NEXT STEPS

CONSULTATIONS: A collaborative workshop with all relevant stakeholders will be organized early in the new year 2023 to review the emerging preferred options. Any comments or recommendations received will be incorporated into the final preferred option insofar as is possible.

A second, Public Consultation Day (PCD) will also be held early in the new year to present the emerging preferred and ensure that all stakeholders and the public have an opportunity to review the proposed

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scheme. Any comments and queries raised at the PCD shall be considered in the Scheme design and during the preparation of the EIAR.

PRELIMINARY SCHEME DEVELOPMENT: Once a preferred scheme is agreed with the Steering Group following incorporation of comments received through Stakeholder and Public Consultations, the final preferred scheme will be developed to a sufficient detail to allow the Environmental Impact Assessment process to commence.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) process ensures that projects that are likely to have a significant effect on the environment, are assessed in advance, so that people are aware of what those effects are likely to be. The full list of projects and threshold limits above which an EIAR is required are set out in the Planning and Development Regulations. Based on the works completed to date and the likely preferred scheme it is expected that an EIAR will be required for the Ballina FRS.

The EIAR will contain an analysis of the likely effects (positive and negative), of the proposed works on the environment. This includes the likely effects on:

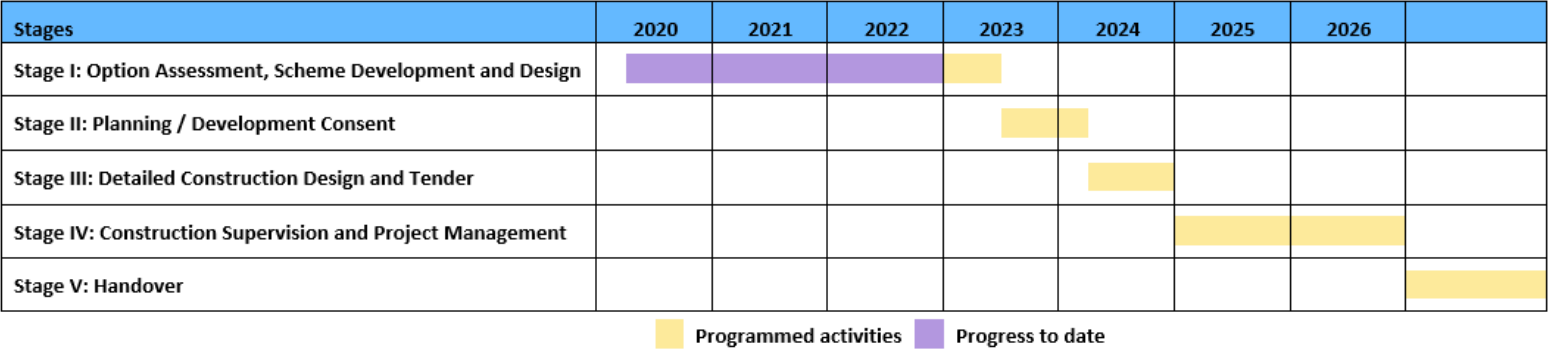
- People
- Flora
- Fauna
- Soil
- Water
- Air
- Landscape & Cultural Heritage

The EIAR will also set out proposals to deal with any negative effects. The EIAR must include a non-technical summary. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has published guidelines on the information to be contained in an Environmental Impact Assessment Report. Further Consultations will be undertaken during the preparation of the EIAR.

Any interested individual may get a copy of any EIAR used in a planning application from the local authority or An Bord Pleanála. Individuals may comment on an EIAR in the same way as any other aspect of a planning application.

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SCHEME STAGES:

- Stage I:

Option Assessment, Scheme Development and Design

- Data Gathering /Topographical Survey

- Hydrological Analysis & Hydraulic Modelling

- Option Assessments & Preferred Option Selection

- Environmental Assessment (EIAR)
- Stage II:

Planning / Development Consent
- Stage III:

Detailed Construction Design and Tender
- Stage IV:

Construction Supervision and Project Management
- Stage V:

Handover

OUTLINE PROGRAMME:

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

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