



Kilkenny County Council
Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh

In association with _____



OPW Óifig na n-Obreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Tionscatal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme



Newsletter
February 2022

IN THIS ISSUE

PURPOSE

Project Introduction

A brief overview of the background to the project and how we got here.

Page 2

Environmental

Overview of the environmental assessment process and progress completed in the last period.

Page 3

Hydrology & Hydraulic Modelling

Update on the hydrology and hydraulic modelling completed in the last period.

Page 3

Site Investigation

Overview of progress on the site investigation planned for the Scheme.

Page 4

Public Consultation

Outlines of public engagement completed in the last period.

Page 4

What's Next?

Page 5

The purpose of the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme is to alleviate the risk of flooding to the Community of Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch by providing a scheme that is technically, socially, environmentally and economically acceptable.

Project Introduction

Kilkenny County Council as the Lead Authority, in partnership with Carlow County Council and The Office of Public Works (OPW) are now advancing with the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme.

This Flood Relief Scheme is part of the €1bn National Fund announced by the Government for Flood Relief Schemes throughout the Country in May 2018. Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch is on the Kilkenny-Carlow border and Kilkenny County Council are acting as the Lead Authority for the Scheme.

Kilkenny County Council commissioned ByrneLooby in March 2020, to develop and implement a Flood Relief Scheme for Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch.

Since then, ByrneLooby have worked closely with the Local Authority and OPW and local stakeholders to begin assessing potential solution to reduce flood risk.



Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch, February 2021



Environmental

Environmental work is progressing on the project, in line with the overall updated programme. The Constraints Report was complete in spring 2021. This report sets out all the known environmental constraints that will impact on the planning of the scheme and will feed into determining what options are taken forward for further assessment. The main constraints identified are the dense archaeological and cultural heritage features and the various aquatic species found in the Rivers Barrow and Duiske which are protected under Irish Law.

The Environmental Team also progressed and developed a Natura Impact Statement for proposed site investigation works (see below for technical update), which was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in July 2021.

The environmental team are now progressing with assessing several different flood relief measures and options, by assessing their potential impact on the constraints identified to narrow down the potential options.

Once the Options are narrowed down, further detailed assessment will be undertaken to identify an emerging option which appears to be the most desirable option from a technical, social, economic and environmental perspective.

It is anticipated that this process will be completed in Spring 2022 and the team will then prepare material to present the options to the public for their feedback and input.

. The flood relief scheme is anticipated to require an EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) with initial preparation work being progressed for this. Once a preferred option is identified, the EIA Screening report will be finalised

Hydrology

The hydrological analysis has been completed and agreed in principle for the scheme. Flood flow for the watercourses in the area to include the River Barrow, Duiske, Duiske West, Killeen and the Relief Road (R705) stream have been established for use on the project.

Hydraulic Modelling

Substantial work has been completed on the baseline hydraulic computer modelling. The modelling results have identified the properties in the Scheme Area at risk of flooding and work has been completed on assessing the effectiveness of potential flood mitigation measures. These results will feed into the options appraisal for the scheme to determine the preferred scheme.

Site Investigation

Site Investigation works are required to determine the ground conditions for areas where potential flood defence measure will be constructed. As part of this process statutory approval is required due to the environmental and ecological sensitivity of the area of works. A Natura Impact Statement (NIS) was prepared and issued to An Bord Pleanála (ABP) for review in summer 2021. ABP reverted in January 2022 seeking further information to allow them to make a decision. The project team are working to prepare this information at present. The revised date for a decision from ABP is now likely to be in the summer 2022. This should still allow critical investigations in the River Duiske to take place within the appropriate seasonal window.

Public Engagement

A Public Consultation Event is anticipated to be held over the next period to present the flood mitigation options that have been assessed and the emerging preferred option. Information will be posted in local media and the project website when dates are finalised.

While formal consultation events will be held over the course of the project, the team can also be contacted directly at any time for any specific queries or information at GTFRS@byrneblooby.com

Contact will also be made with landowners that may be affected by the site investigations in due course.

Photo by member of Ecology team of Frog Spawn found near the River Barrow upstream of Graiguenamanagh Bridge.



Progress Update

Stage 1 Progress



Estimated completion: Q3/Q4 2022

What's Next?

Over the next few months, the Project Team will be working on:

- ➔ Providing further information to ABP to secure permission to complete site investigations
- ➔ Ecology and environmental surveys & assessment (updates)
- ➔ Flood defence options development
- ➔ Presentation of options assessed to the public
- ➔ Site Investigations

COVID-19

Kilkenny County Council, supported by OPW and Carlow County Council, have deemed the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch FRS as an essential project. This means that ByrneLooby and the Steering Group for the project have continued to work on the scheme throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.



Contact Us

If you would like to contact our Project Team about any matter relating to the Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Flood Relief Scheme you can do so through the following:

Email

GTFRS@ByrneLooby.com

Phone

021 – 2407988

Post

Project Manager Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch FRS
ByrneLooby
Building 2100
Cork Airport Business Park
Kinsale Road
Cork

If you would like any further information on the Scheme, please visit our website:

<https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/grauguenamanagh-tinnahinchfrs/home/>