

**BUNCRANA**  
FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council



Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**

**OPW**

Oifig na  
nOibreacha Poiblí  
Office of Public Works

## Buncrana-Luddan Flood Relief Scheme



Newsletter  
February 2025

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## Latest Overview

This is the twelfth newsletter for the Buncrana-Luddan Flood Relief Scheme. The main activities carried out since the previous newsletter include environmental activities, completion of the revised hydrology report, and hydraulic modelling.

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# Hydrological Analysis & Hydraulic Modelling

Hydraulic modelling for each watercourse has been completed with associated visual outputs of flooding extents for current, sensitivity and climate change parameters. Coastal modelling and overtopping calculations were completed and inputted into the hydraulics report over the last period.

A draft hydraulics report and hydrology report were submitted to Donegal County Council and the OPW for review. Further assessments and discussions are ongoing with the hydraulic model and flood depths reviews to verify the standard of protection required for each flood cell with comparison to historical flood events.

Once the hydraulic report is finalised, a hydraulic workshop with local and relevant stakeholders will be arranged.



Cockhill Bridge – Crana River



# Ground Investigation

The project team have refined the Ground Investigation (GI) scope and procurement documents for Buncrana. Areas requiring ground investigations have been identified relative to where flood risk has been potentially identified. These locations are subject to change and/or inclusion of additional sites following completion of the hydraulic model.

The project team will arrange and agree access routes with landowners in advance of carrying out the ground investigations. This work will further determine the overall conditions within the scheme area and inform location of potential works and improvements that are identified as part of the flood relief

An Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) screening will be prepared and conducted by specialists to mitigate potential negative effects from the investigations on their surrounding environs. Once the AIA and AA screening assessments are finalised the reports will be included in the Ground Investigation tender pack for information.

The contract scope includes trial pits, slit trenches, cable percussion boreholes and rotary coring and will be reviewed by Donegal County Council and the Office of Public Works before advertising to the market.

# Environmental Activities

An Invasive species survey contract concluded in 2024. The project team have developed a survey tracker document including windows required for survey season. On-site surveys are ongoing to view the IAS treatment processes of Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam. The project team will develop another IAS treatment contract when required.

## Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

Nature-based Solutions formerly known as Natural Water Retention Measures are “solutions that are inspired and supported by nature, which are cost effective, simultaneously provide environmental, social and economic benefits and help build resilience” (European Commission, 2023).

Raw catchment mapping has been updated, and a report is being updated as a feasibility assessment of implementing specific types of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to reduce flood risk within the scheme area.

Examples of specific NbS include:

- Catchment/ Floodplain/ Riparian Woodlands
- Non-floodplain wetlands
- Overland sediment traps
- Riverbank restoration
- Natural instream structures

Viable measure will proceed to further analysis and potential integration into the final scheme design.

# Optioneering

The project team are progressing with a preliminary option report for Buncrana. Potentially viable measures have been screened for each river channel and coastal protection. These measures are undergoing assessment for suitability via modelling in order to provide protection for each flood cell.

A damage assessment has been undertaken to further identify inundated areas, flood depths, and damages to roads and buildings during flood events. This assessment will also aid suitability of standard protections within for each flood cell.

Results from Hydraulic Modelling and NbS mappings have been included and update throughout the progress of the options report. Assessment will be brought to an advanced stage, and further meetings will then be arranged with the public to discuss the viable measures and emerging option.



## What's Next?

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

- ➔ Hydraulics Reporting review.
- ➔ Optioneering Assessment and Development.
- ➔ Ground Investigations contract



## Contact Us

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

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

[www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/buncrana/home/](http://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/buncrana/home/)