



# Flood Risk Management

## COUNTY SUMMARY

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**COUNTY:** WESTMEATH

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(Information correct as of 31/12/2017)

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## 1. OPW Capital Investment to 31 December 2017

### MAJOR FLOOD RELIEF SCHEMES: 1995-2017

Historically, flood risk management focused on arterial drainage for the benefit of agricultural improvement. Arising from increasing flood risk, the Arterial Drainage Act, 1945, was amended in 1995 to permit the Office of Public Works (OPW) to implement localised flood relief schemes to provide flood protection for cities, towns and villages.

Some schemes have been carried out by the Local Authorities under their own powers using the Planning and Development legislative code. The OPW either works in association with the relevant Local Authorities or funds Local Authorities directly to undertake flood relief works.

### COUNTY: WESTMEATH

No.	Scheme At Design/Planning	Scheme At Construction	Scheme Completed	Properties Protected	Budget (€)	Current Status (or Completion Date)
1	Athlone FAS	-	-	Approx. 550	12m	Athlone FAS is being delivered in a phased manner with cells progressing to planning and construction once all required studies and investigations have been completed. Construction commenced on 'Iona Villa' Cell Nov 2017.

**MINOR FLOOD MITIGATION WORKS AND COASTAL PROTECTION SCHEME: 2009-2017**

The Minor Flood Mitigation Works & Coastal Protection Scheme (the “Minor Works Scheme”) was introduced by the Office of Public Works in 2009. The purpose of the scheme is to provide funding to Local Authorities to undertake minor flood mitigation works or studies to address localised flooding and coastal protection problems within their administrative areas. The scheme generally applies where a solution can be readily identified and achieved in a short time frame.

Under the scheme, applications are considered for projects that are estimated to cost not more than €750,000 in each instance. Funding of up to 90% of the cost is available from the OPW for approved projects. The commencement and progression of any works for which funding is approved is a matter for each Local Authority concerned.

<b>COUNTY: WESTMEATH</b>			<b>(Local Authority: Westmeath County Council)</b>	
<b>No.</b>	<b>Project Location</b>	<b>Project Details</b>	<b>Approved Funding (€)</b>	<b>Year of Approval</b>
1	Ballynagall	Channel maintenance works	45,000	2009
2	Brookfield	Works-Construct new culvert under road at B847	45,000	2009
3	River Gaine, Ballynagall, Mullingar	Install new pipe & culvert	54,000	2010
4	Iona Villas, Athlone	Flood defence embankments, emergency pumping stations, installation of penlocks	177,323	2010
5	The Strand, Athlone	Flood defence embankments, emergency pumping stations, installation of penlocks	288,748	2010
6	Annagh, Maghera	To raise road by 1000mm for 100m on existing road to tie into OPW raised embankments to keep road open during extreme events & thus two homes will have access	36,872	2016
			<b>646,943</b>	

## 2. Maintenance carried out under Arterial Drainage Act, 1945

The OPW has statutory responsibility for and carries out a programme of Arterial Drainage Maintenance. These maintenance works relate to arterial drainage schemes completed by the OPW under the Arterial Drainage Acts 1945, with the primary purpose to improve the drainage of agricultural lands. Local Authorities are responsible for the maintenance of Drainage Districts, which were completed up to 1943.

The OPW's annual Arterial Drainage Maintenance Works Programme protects 260,000 hectares (650,000 acres) of agricultural lands and comprises 11,500km (7,150 miles) of river channel and approximately 800km (500 miles) of embankments.

### COUNTY: WESTMEATH

Completed Scheme		County(s)	Duration of Works	Benefitting Area (Acres)
Brosna	(Major Scheme)	Offaly, Westmeath, Laois	1948 – 1955	86,200
Inny	(Major Scheme)	Westmeath, Longford, Meath, Cavan	1960 – 1968	50,000
Boyne	(Major Scheme)	Meath, Westmeath, Louth, Cavan, Kildare, Offaly	1969 – 1986	119,000

### 3. Proposed Measures in Flood Risk Management Plans

The OPW has now studied and assessed flood risk in Ireland, focussing on 300 areas of potentially significant risk throughout the country.

Flood Maps have been created for each of these communities to describe existing and potential flood risk. The OPW has now published Flood Risk Management Plans which set out, for these communities, how it is proposed to manage the assessed flood risk through investment in flood relief schemes and other policy measures. The Plans also set out measures in place and under consideration that can manage flood risk in other parts of the county.

The following tables set out the communities in this County that are covered by the Flood Risk Management Plans and provides an indication of the proposed flood relief schemes contained in the Plans for these communities.

In some instances, a technically viable flood relief scheme has been identified, however, a more detailed assessment of the costs and benefits will be completed to determine if the proposed Scheme is feasible.

For other communities, there is a relatively low level of flood risk from rivers and/or the sea, and no structural flood relief measures are therefore proposed at this time. The current level of risk will be reviewed, along with all areas, on a regular basis into the future.

In addition to the implementation of proposed flood relief schemes, funding will continue to be available for localised projects under the Minor Works Scheme.

The Plans also set out those non-structural measures in place or proposed, for example Flood Forecasting, which benefit all at risk communities and properties. The Interdepartmental Flood Policy Co-ordination Group will continue its work now greatly informed by the wealth of knowledge in the Plans to bring forward further feasible proposals for Government’s consideration to support and assist households and communities through non-structural flood risk management and mitigation measures.

COUNTY: WESTMEATH					
AREA NAME	Existing Scheme in Place	Scheme in Construction, Design or Pending	New Scheme Proposed in the Plans	Potential Scheme subject to further assessment.	No Scheme Proposed as Community at Low Risk or Scheme Not Viable
Athlone	√	√			
Kilbeggan					√
Mullingar	√				