

CONTACT US

You can keep in touch with the project through our website where we will be posting updates on progress and details of works that are ongoing. For further enquiries feel free to contact us via email or post at:

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RELEVANT LINKS

Website: <https://countydonegalfrs.ie/burnfootfrs/>

COUNTY DONEGAL
FLOOD RELIEF SCHEMES



Tionscaldal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

OPW
Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

BURNFOOT

Flood relief scheme

Newsletter No.1
November 2020

rpsgroup.com





BACKGROUND TO THE SCHEME

Burnfoot (Bun na hAbhann) is a village located at the base of the Inishowen Peninsula in the north of County Donegal. The village is on the R238 a gateway to the west of Inishowen and is located between the City of Derry and the town of Buncrana. Burnfoot is subject to flash flooding with the flat, reclaimed agricultural lands downstream subject to combined coastal and river flooding.

Burnfoot has had a history of serious flooding with the most recent significant flood occurring in August 2017. The Burnfoot River exceeded its banks after a high intensity rainfall event leading to flooding of over 30 properties as well as local roads, the regionally important R238 road and other infrastructure.

The OPW's Flood Risk and Management Study, completed prior to the 2017 flood, identified Burnfoot as a town which would benefit from a flood relief scheme, the need for such a scheme has been brought into focus by the event of August 2017.

As part of the Government's National Development Plan 2018-2027, €1 billion has been committed to the development of flood relief measures across Ireland. As part of this commitment, a steering group was established between the Office of Public Works (OPW) and Donegal County Council to progress a flood relief scheme to alleviate the risk of flooding for Burnfoot. In July 2020, RPS were appointed Engineering and Environmental Consultants to develop a flood relief scheme that is technically, socially, environmentally and economically acceptable for Burnfoot.

The project team will identify, design and implement a flood relief scheme that is technically, socially, environmentally and economically acceptable.

WHAT STAGE IS THE SCHEME AT?

Since appointment RPS has been working to ensure that all of the works planned are based on the most accurate and up to date information. They have been reviewing all relevant sources of information, procuring a contractor to undertake a detailed river and terrain survey; and analysing how the rivers react to rainfall events in its catchment. RPS has also developed a website to provide up-to-date information throughout the duration of the project.



OUTLINE SCHEME PROGRAMME

Outline Burnfoot Scheme Programme

	Activity	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Stage 1	Data Collection and surveys	█					
	Hydrological Analysis	█	█				
	Hydraulic Analysis		█	█			
	Scheme analysis & development		█	█	█		
Stage 2	Planning			█	█		
Stage 3	Detailed design of Scheme				█	█	
Stage 4	Construction works					█	█
Stage 5	Scheme Operational						█

Timelines provided as current best estimate, but are subject to revision.

NEXT STEPS

Data Collection: RPS are interested in receiving photos, videos, sketches or any other relevant information in regards to previous floods from those who have experienced it first-hand. The information provided will help us to refine our river model and the design of the flood relief scheme. If you have any information which could be of use, please contact us.

Public Consultation: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency an Opening Public Consultation Day (PCD) will not be held in person. Instead Opening Public Consultation will be via an online consultation portal (<https://countydonegalfrs.ie/burnfootfrs/index.php/opening-public-consultation>) with postal drops commencing on 9th November 2020. The Public Consultation portal will remain open for the following six weeks.

The purpose of the consultation will be to introduce the project team, present and receive comments on flood risk in the area, particularly flood events that have occurred since the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study was undertaken, and to discuss scheme options and environmental constraints in managing the flood risk from your perspective.

Surveys: Appointment of a survey contractor to record up to date river channel and floodplain levels to be used in design.

Hydrological Analysis: Analysis of river and rainfall data including recent events to be used in design.

Environmental Constraints Study: This study will be completed in conjunction with the engineering design and will identify environmental constraints within the study area. Topics within the Constraints Study Report will include:

- **Population, Human Health**
- **Biodiversity**
- **Land, Soil, Water, Air and Climate**
- **Material Assets, Cultural Heritage and the Landscape**