

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/castlefinnfrs/>

COUNTY DONEGAL
FLOOD RELIEF SCHEMES



Tionscaldal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

OPW
Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

CASTLEFINN

Flood Relief Scheme

Newsletter No.4
August 2021

<https://countydonegalfrs.ie/castlefinnfrs>



WHAT STAGE IS THE PROJECT AT?

The Castlefinn FRS Steering Group (comprising of the OPW, Donegal County Council and RPS) are continuing to ensure that all of the works planned are based on the most accurate and up to date information. All project information remains available on the project website www.countydonegalfrs.ie/castlefinn including contact details for the team.

Murphy Geospatial (www.murphygs.ie) have completed and delivered the property threshold, river and terrain surveys. The surveys have captured the data needed to build an up to date computer model of the River Finn, its incoming watercourses, existing defences and floodplains in the area.

McBreen Environmental (<http://www.mcbreenenvironmental.ie>) have completed their survey of culverts along watercourses in the area. We have received the survey data including CCTV footage of the inside of the culverts. The surveys have captured the internal dimensions, levels and conditions of the culverts which convey watercourses beneath the ground. This information will be represented in the model to simulate the performance of these key structures.

RPS have completed the construction of a computer model to represent the River Finn and its tributaries, based on data acquired during the detailed river, culvert and terrain surveys. Development of the river flows, water levels and rainfall inputs which drive the hydraulic model is substantially complete and are almost ready to replicate flood conditions for past and future predicted (design) events. Our team is now fine tuning the model to see it is replicating the past flood extents and depths which have been recorded, particularly the major flood events which occurred in November and December 2015. We will be making use of the data (photographs and reports) of past flood events provided by local residents, business owners and stakeholders and may make further contact to clarify certain details of the flood events to ensure the closest representation of events which took place on the ground in Castlefinn.

We are undertaking the early option development and are currently considering potential flood risk management measures which may be applicable at Castlefinn. The list will be inclusive of, but not limited to those outlined in North Western Flood Risk Management Plan (www.floodinfo.ie), with all measures being screened to identify those that could be progressed for a more detailed assessment.

The RPS Environmental Team completed the Environmental Constraints Study report in late August, which considers the key environmental issues which may be impacted by, or impose constraints on, the flood scheme. The report considers Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soils and Geology, Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage, Land Use and Material Assets, Landscape and Visual Impact, in addition to Population and Human Health. The report will be available on the project website soon.



Surveyors conducting River Habitat Survey on the Finn.

IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The project team have worked hard to ensure that all activities on the project are in compliance with the public health guidance on Coronavirus whilst at the same time trying to reduce negative impacts on the project programme. The FRS Steering Group (comprising of the OPW, Donegal County Council and RPS) have continued to meet regularly using video conferencing. Progressing flood relief schemes has been deemed as an essential service by local authorities.

OUTLINE 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: Having collected available data and gathered new data through both engineering and initial environmental surveys, we are now focusing on identifying data gaps and obtaining further detail on flood events, identifying the need for specialist environmental surveys and anticipating what catchment wide data might be needed to facilitate appraisal of catchment based measures.

Surveys: The detailed culvert surveys have been completed. Draft data has been provided to the Project Team and is being reviewed for use in the hydraulic model. RPS are currently looking at whether further surveys are needed to inform the preliminary design of a scheme.

Hydrological Analysis: Our next focus is refining and finalising the design flows and water levels which are used within the models to simulate flooding.

Hydraulic Analysis: After the hydraulic model has been calibrated and validated using data from historical flood events to ensure that it provides an accurate representation of the flooding mechanisms, it will be used to assess and compare various engineered options which will reduce the flood risk in Castlefinn.

Scheme Analysis and Development: A list of all potential flood risk management measures which may be applicable at Castlefinn is currently being produced. These will be screened so that measures which could be technically and economically viable, socially and environmentally acceptable are taken forward for detailed assessment.

Environmental Assessment: Further detailed environmental surveys are programmed over the autumn period to include completion of ecological surveys that are seasonally constrained. These involve more specialist surveys that are required to build on the initial baseline surveys, including protected species surveys, e.g. otter, archaeological and architectural surveys. The environmental constraints and opportunities identified will inform the appraisal of the options for the FRS ensuring early consideration in design and a robust assessment of the potential environmental impact of the preferred scheme.