

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.5
November 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.

Surveys capturing the data needed to build an up to date computer model of the River Finn, its incoming watercourses, existing defences, culverts and floodplains in the area are complete.

Using this data we have built a computer model to represent the River Finn and its tributaries. We have added river flows, water levels and rainfall inputs to drive the hydraulic model and replicate flood conditions for past and future predicted (design) events. Our team has fine-tuned the model to see that 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. For this we made use of the data (photographs and reports) of past flood events provided by local residents, businessowners and stakeholders to ensure the closest representation of events which took place on the ground in Castlefinn.

We are now developing options and 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, identifying those that could be progressed for a more detailed assessment. A technical workshop to discuss the development of options was held in late October 2021 and was attended by the Castlefinn FRS Steering Group.

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.

Further detailed environmental surveys have taken place since August including the completion of ecological surveys that are seasonally constrained, e.g. aquatic ecology and fisheries surveys. These specialist surveys build on the initial baseline surveys already undertaken in 2020 and to date in 2021.



Phase 1 habitat survey at Castlefinn

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 Castlefinn FRS Steering Group 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: All outstanding data sets in relation to Stage I of the Project have been received.

Surveys: The detailed surveys have been completed. Final data has been provided to the Project Team 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: The design flows and water levels which are used within the models to simulate flooding have been finalised, and the Draft hydrology report is complete.

Hydraulic Analysis: 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. The model is now being 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 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 surveys are proposed in the coming months including protected species surveys, archaeological and architectural surveys.