

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.7
May 2022

<https://countydonegalfrs.ie/castlefinnfrs>



WHAT STAGE IS THE PROJECT AT?

Data Collection and Modelling

The Castlefinn FRS Steering Group (comprising of the OPW, Donegal County Council and RPS) are continuing to ensure that ongoing hydrological and hydraulic analysis to support the development of the Flood Relief Scheme is based on the most accurate and up to date information. All project information remains available on the project website (<https://countydonegalfrs.ie/castlefinnfrs/>) including contact details for the team.

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

A computer model representing the River Finn and its tributaries is now complete and is being used to inform the potential options for the Castlefinn FRS. A draft final version of the Castlefinn FRS Hydraulics Report was prepared in May 2022. The report will be published on the project website when finalised. This technical report provides detail on how the computer model was constructed and calibrated; and shows the modelled flood extents now being used in Scheme development.

Development of Flood Risk Management Options

A short-list of flood risk management measures has been assessed in the model to evaluate the most effective options for the scheme area. The short- list is inclusive of, but not limited to those in the North Western Flood Risk Management Plan (www.floodinfo.ie). A technical workshop to discuss the development of options was held in early November 2021 and was attended by the Castlefinn FRS Steering Group.

Following the shortlisting RPS determined combinations of measures to form potential options for a scheme. Measures which are being considered include:

- Hard defences (earthen embankments and flood walls)
- Culvert upgrades
- Flood storage
- Relocation of properties

A collaborative workshop was held on 29th April 2022 with a view to developing the preferred option. The workshop was attended by the Castlefinn FRS Steering Group and other relevant public sector stakeholders.

Each of the options has been subject to a costing exercise to determine the whole life cost across the design life. RPS are currently refining these costs based on the best available current market data.

A property economic damage assessment is nearing completion for the Castlefinn FRS. This provides estimates of the monetary impacts/ damages caused by flooding, from which the potential benefits of the flood scheme can be calculated across its design life.

The ratio of whole life cost against monetary benefit determines economic viability and score (Benefit Cost Ratio) which informs selection of the preferred option.

A Multi-Criteria Analysis is being undertaken to assess the performance of each option against a range of technical, environmental, social and economic factors. This analysis will also inform the selection of the preferred option and ensure that benefits beyond economic viability are considered.

Environmental Assessment and Invasive Species Management

The RPS Environmental completed the Environmental Constraints Study report in December 2021. The report is available on the project website (<https://countydonegalfrs.ie/castlefinnfrs/index.php/news/>).

Environmental baseline surveys are complete and are being used to inform the environmental screening and assessment of the options. Further specialist surveys are being scoped to fully assess the preferred option once this has been identified.

Procurement of contractors for the treatment of invasive species within the Scheme Area is ongoing as part of the project Invasive Species Management Plan. Treatment is due to commence in June 2022.



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. The programme has been extended by approximately five (5) months due to technical challenges in the analysis. The Project Team are working hard to mitigate programme delay by assessing potential opportunities to accelerate project tasks.

NEXT STEPS

Surveys: RPS are currently looking at further surveys to inform the preliminary design of a scheme, including ground investigation and services.

Hydrological Analysis: The design flows and water levels which are used within the models to simulate flooding have been finalised. RPS are working with the Steering Group to finalise the Hydrology Report.

Hydraulic Analysis: Baseline hydraulic model is complete and RPS are working with the Steering Group to finalise the (baseline) Hydraulics Report. Hydraulic Modelling of options is ongoing to support the Scheme Analysis and Development phase.

Scheme Analysis and Development: The viable options have been determined and RPS are working to identify the preferred option in conjunction with the Steering Group. RPS will be reporting on Scheme Analysis and Development documenting all of the tasks including supplementary reporting on the application of nature based catchment measures, buildability, operation and maintenance and climate change adaptation. A public information event on the preferred option will be held towards end of the year.

Environmental Assessment: Screening for Appropriate Assessment, EIA Screening and development of the Natura Impact Statement will be ongoing throughout the next quarter.