

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.9
November 2022

<https://countydonegalfrs.ie/castlefinnfrs>



CURRENT POSITION OF THE PROJECT

The Project Team is nearing completion of Stage I and has identified the Preferred Scheme for Castlefinn.

Extensive surveys and investigations have been undertaken in Castlefinn. These have supported detailed hydrological and hydraulic analysis of the River Finn and the smaller watercourses flowing through Castlefinn. Options to alleviate flood risk were comprehensively analysed. A collaborative workshop was held in 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. A wide range of potential measures were assessed under various technical, social, environmental, and economic criteria before a preferred flood relief scheme was identified.

Crucial to option development have been environmental considerations which were identified in an Environmental Constraints Study. The study was informed by the submissions made during the Opening Public Consultation (November 2020), as well as a detailed desktop review of available environmental data and field surveys. The report can be viewed on the project website. This early consideration of constraints ensured that the Preferred Scheme was shaped with environmental factors in mind. Extensive environmental baseline surveys have been undertaken to provide the data needed for Environmental Impact Assessment; and for Appropriate Assessment of the Preferred Scheme on Natura 2000 sites.

CASTLEFINN FRS PREFERRED SCHEME

The Preferred Scheme will provide a 1 in 100 year return period Standard of Protection (SoP). This is also described as a 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP), in other words protection against a flood event that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year.

The scheme consists of 585m of earthen embankments to protect against flooding directly from the River Finn. These embankments will be constructed along the line of the old railway embankment just to the south of the town and will be on average 3.5m (11.5 feet) above ground level.

The culvert of the Bridge Burn which flows under the N15 / R235 junction outside McGlynns will be re-built with a higher flow capacity.

The culvert of the Castlefinn watercourse (known locally as Millburn) which flows from north to south under the N15 before emerging adjacent to the CPI Centre will be re-built with a higher flow capacity.

372m of earthen embankments and 62m of wall will be constructed around the CPI Centre and upstream of the N15 to protect against flooding from the Castlefinn watercourse. These defences will have an average height of 1.1m (3.5 feet) above ground level.

Two properties within the Scheme Area south of the River Finn, a residential dwelling and an agricultural shed, will be relocated out of the floodplain.

PUBLIC INFORMATION DAY

A Public Information Day was held on 10th November 2022 where the Preferred Scheme was presented to the public. Representatives from the Project Team consisting of Donegal County Council, the OPW and their consultants, RPS were in attendance. There was good attendance by the public and useful engagement and discussion with the Project Team. The feedback was generally positive and constructive, and the opportunity was beneficial to all to understand better the Preferred Scheme and the needs of the community.

Details of the Preferred Scheme are available on the Castlefinn FRS Project website at:

<https://countydonegalfrs.ie/castlefinnfrs/index.php/public-information-day>

You can still provide feedback by contacting the project team as detailed in the 'Contact Us' section of this newsletter. By receiving feedback now, we hope to resolve any concerns that the local community may have before the project proceeds to the formal Planning Permission submission in June 2023.



Map of the Preferred Scheme presented at the Public Information Day

GROUND INVESTIGATION

The Project Team have developed a specification and issued a public tender for the provision of Ground Investigation to support the outline (Planning) design of the scheme. It is envisaged that the Ground Investigation contract will be awarded this year and will commence on site early in 2023.

OUTLINE SCHEME PROGRAMME

	Activity	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
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 Project Team are working hard to mitigate programme delay by assessing potential opportunities to accelerate project tasks.

NEXT STEPS

Stage I of the Project will conclude in the coming months with completion of the following:

- Report on the Preferred Scheme, including the latest feedback from the public information day;
- Environmental Impact Assessment Report; and
- Natura Impact Statement.

Environmental surveys to assess protected species such as bats, badgers and otters are due to take place in early December to contribute to these reports.

A comprehensive Stage I report will include details of all of the technical tasks carried out in support of arriving at the Preferred Scheme.

Following approval in Stage I of the Flood Relief Scheme, the Project will move to Stage II Planning, where permission will be sought from the relevant Planning Authority.