

## 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/downingsfrs/>

**COUNTY DONEGAL**  
FLOOD RELIEF SCHEMES



Tionscaldal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**

**OPW**  
Oifig na  
nOibreacha Poiblí  
Office of Public Works

# NA DÚNAIBH

## Flood Relief Scheme

**Newsletter No.2**  
*February 2021*

<https://countydonegalfrs.ie/downingsfrs>



## WHAT STAGE IS THE PROJECT AT?

Since the last Project Newsletter was issued (Newsletter No.1, November 2020) the following activities have been completed or are underway.

A virtual / online Opening Public Consultation was held from 9th November to 21st December 2020. Its purpose was to introduce the scheme and gather valuable local knowledge whilst providing an opportunity for stakeholders and members of the public to inform scheme design by voicing any suggestions or concerns. Three submissions were received (only one of which was from someone who had experienced flooding). The project team is grateful for all submissions made and are reviewing them at present.

The opening consultation period is now closed but all project information remains available on the project website [www.countydonegalfrs.ie/downings](http://www.countydonegalfrs.ie/downings) including contact details for the team should you wish to get in touch. A second public consultation will be held when a preferred option has been identified so that you can see how your submissions have been accounted for.

Murphy Geospatial ([www.murphygs.ie](http://www.murphygs.ie)) has recently completed fieldwork on property threshold surveys as well as a detailed river and terrain survey. These surveys capture the data needed to build an up to date computer model of the Rosapenna stream, its floodplain and the areas potentially at risk of coastal flooding in Downings Bay. The model will simulate flood and water level scenarios in detail to define predicted flood extent and depth. Model outputs will identify properties at risk from flooding and the measures that may be needed to protect them.

The project team held a Hydrological Technical Workshop on the 16th December 2020, to discuss and agree the approach to Hydrology with the Steering Group. Work is now ongoing to define the critical flows in the Rosapenna Stream and coastally driven wave and water levels that will be simulated in hydraulic models. The outputs of these models will quantify and map flood risk to the level of detail required for design of the Scheme. We have studied the physical characteristics of the catchments that influence water run-off and are analysing data from hydrometric gauges (river flow and coastal water level) and meteorological (rainfall) stations. Full details of the analysis undertaken and the outcomes will be provided in a Hydrology Report which will be available on the Project Website when completed.

RPS are completing an Environmental Constraints Study report highlighting what needs to be considered when designing an environmentally acceptable Scheme. Constraints in relation to Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soils and Geology, Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage, Land Use and Material Assets, Landscape and Visual Impact, and Population and Human Health are being looked at. Walkover field surveys have also been carried out to build up an overall picture of the ecological baseline and to identify the need for more detailed baseline surveys this year. When the report is finalised it will be available to download from the project website.

## 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 the Coronavirus whilst at the same time trying to reduce negative impacts on the project programme. The opening public consultation could not take place as an in-person event in Na Dúnaibh (Downings), however, instead an online virtual consultation took place and hard copies of the relevant documentation were also distributed to homes and businesses locally.

The FRS Steering Group (comprising of the OPW, Donegal County Council (DCC) and RPS) have continued to meet regularly using video conferencing. Progressing flood relief schemes has been deemed as an essential service by local authorities, therefore, this has permitted the river, terrain and threshold surveys to continue during January and February. In addition other members of the project team have undertaken walkover surveys in the study area.

## 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:** Data Collection is ongoing. The project team are interested in receiving photos, videos, sketches or any other relevant information regarding previous flood events from those who have experienced it first-hand. The information provided will help the project team to refine the river model and the design of the flood relief scheme. If you have any information which could be of use, please contact the project team.

**Surveys:** The river channel, beach and terrain surveys commenced in January 2021 on the Rosapenna stream and across the bay and surrounding areas. The survey is programmed to be completed soon. Defence Asset Condition (DAC) surveys of existing flood defences also commenced in February 2021.

**Hydrological Analysis:** The hydrological analysis, which includes analysis of historic flood data, is ongoing. The methodology for the hydrological analysis has been agreed with the Steering Group and on that basis the design flood flow and water levels for various flood scenarios are being developed. These, along with the survey data, will provide the necessary inputs to the computer model as part of the hydraulic analysis.

**Hydraulic Analysis:** Construction of the computer model will commence following receipt of the river, terrain and threshold surveys.

**Environmental Assessment:** Further detailed environmental surveys will be undertaken as the development of the scheme progresses, including, but not limited to, electrofishing, protected species surveys, archaeological and architectural surveys, noise surveys and site investigations. The environmental constraints identified will inform the appraisals of the options for the flood relief scheme ensuring they are considered early in the design process and a robust assessment of the potential environmental impact of the preferred scheme.