

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:

NA DÚNAIBH FRS Project Manager

Project Office: RPS, The Enterprise Fund Business Centre,
Ballyraine, Letterkenny, Co Donegal, F92 AF43

Email: downingsfrs@rpsgroup.com

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.7
May 2022

<https://countydonegalfrs.ie/downingsfrs>



WHAT STAGE IS THE PROJECT AT?

Data Collection and Modelling

Na Dúnaibh 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/downingsfrs/>).including contact details for the team.

Surveys capturing the data needed to build an up to date computer model of the Rosapenna Stream and Sheephaven Bay, existing defences, culverts and floodplains in the area are complete.

Computer models representing the Rosapenna Stream and the coastal mechanisms of Sheephaven Bay are now complete and are being used to inform the potential options for the Downings FRS. A draft version of the Na Dúnaibh FRS Hydraulics Report was prepared in February 2022 and has been reviewed by the Steering Group. 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 documents the modelled flood extents which are 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 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 October 2021 and was attended by the Na Dúnaibh FRS Steering Group.

Following shortlisting RPS determined combinations of measures to form viable options for the FRS. Shortlisted measures include hard defences, increased channel/ culvert conveyance and flood storage.

The options are currently being subjected to a costing exercise to determine the whole life cost of each across its 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 Na Dúnaibh 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 Team published the Environmental Constraints Study Report to the project website in December 2021 (www.countydonegalfrs.ie/downingsfrs/index.php/news/). The report considers the key environmental issues which may be impacted by, or impose constraints on, the flood scheme. The report looks at 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.

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.



Na Dúnaibh during over-wintering birds survey

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 Stage 1 programme has been extended by approximately seven (7) months due to technical challenges and increased scope in the analysis. The Project Team are working hard to mitigate programme delay by assessing potential opportunities to accelerate project tasks.

NEXT STEPS

Surveys: The detailed surveys have been completed and final data has been provided to the Project Team. 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: RPS are currently working to identify the preferred option in conjunction with the Steering Group. A collaborative workshop attended by the Steering Group and relevant public sector stakeholders will be held in June with a view to developing the preferred option. RPS will then report 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 commence in the next quarter.