

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.8
August 2022

<https://countydonegalfrs.ie/downingsfrs>



WHAT STAGE IS THE PROJECT AT?

The project team have collected all available data relating to past flood events, the local environment, river catchments, topography, culverts, rainfall and river flow. This data has been analysed extensively and used to produce a detailed computer model representing the Rosapenna Stream and the coastal mechanisms of Sheephaven Bay. The model has been calibrated against past flood events to ensure it is correctly simulating and mapping flood risk in the area. A range of design flood events have been tested in the model to cover all eventualities including the risk of more severe flooding due to climate change.

Having defined the areas of flood risk, the model was then used to test the effectiveness of various types of flood relief options. This body of work has enabled the team to narrow down the list of potential Scheme options and assess those that are technically feasible against a range of other factors including cost, benefit, environmental and social impact.

We are now refining the preferred option as outlined below.

Development of Preferred Option

Various flood risk management options were considered and modelled to evaluate the most effective scheme for Na Dúnaibh. All types of potential measures have been looked at in detail, including but not limited to those in the North Western Flood Risk Management Plan (www.floodinfo.ie). This is important to ensure all possibilities are considered and based on best available data so that a robust preferred option is identified.

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 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 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 currently being undertaken to assess the performance of each option against a range of technical, environmental, social and economic factors. This also informs the selection of the preferred option and ensures that benefits beyond economic viability are considered.

RPS is currently refining the emerging preferred option based on buildability, operation and maintenance, adaptability to climate and other future changes.

RPS is also assessing a scheme designed to an increased Standard of Protection for the Na Dúnaibh FRS i.e. protected from the outset against a future climate change scenario and in particular increased future sea levels.

Environmental Assessment

Environmental baseline surveys completed to date include overwintering bird surveys, habitat surveys, fisheries surveys, protected species as well as desktop surveys to identify key constraints. This information will inform the screening of the emerging preferred option for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) under the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) and an Appropriate Assessment (AA) with Natura Impact Statement under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations (S.I. No. 94 of 1997) under Regulation 31 (Annex 1.2).

Further specialist surveys may be required to fully assess the emerging preferred option once this has been confirmed and to ensure that the scope of the environmental assessments are robust.

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 one (1) month due to increasing complexity 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 and Hydraulic Analysis: Hydrological analysis is complete and RPS are in the process of finalising the hydraulic analysis.

Scheme Analysis and Development: RPS are working to identify the preferred option in conjunction with the Steering Group. RPS are developing Scheme Analysis and Development reporting including supplementary reporting on the application of nature-based catchment measures, buildability, operation and maintenance and climate change adaptation.

Environmental Assessment: Screening for Appropriate Assessment, EIA Screening and development of the Natura Impact Statement will commence on confirmation of the emerging preferred option and Standard of Protection.

Public Information Day: A public information day is planned for December 2022 to present the preferred Scheme Option.

Planning Application: A further statutory public consultation will be held early next year as part of the planning process. Following this documentation for the scheme will be prepared and submitted for planning later in 2023.