

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.9
November 2022

<https://countydonegalfrs.ie/downingsfrs>



WHAT STAGE IS THE PROJECT AT?

The Project Team is working on identifying the Preferred Scheme for Na Dúnaibh in conjunction with the Steering Group ahead of a Public Information Day in the new year.

Stage I data collection including surveys is complete. A detailed computer model representing the Rosapenna Stream and the coastal mechanisms of Sheephaven Bay 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.

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.

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.

A number of options have 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 complete for the Na Dúnaibh FRS and a Benefit Cost Ratio (BCR) has been determined for the identified options.

A Multi-Criteria Analysis has been 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 preferred option for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and an Appropriate Assessment (AA) with Natura Impact Statement (NIS). Further specialist surveys may be required to fully assess the preferred option once this has been confirmed and to ensure that the scope of the environmental assessments are robust.

PUBLIC INFORMATION DAY

The Project Team will hold a Public Information Day once the Preferred FRS for Na Dúnaibh has been identified.

The purpose of the Public Information Day is to let you know how the information you provided at the Opening Public Consultation (9th November 2021 – 21st December 2021) has been used to define the Preferred Scheme. This will be held in January 2023.

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

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.

Hydrological and Hydraulic Analysis: Hydrological analysis is complete and RPS are in the process of finalising the hydraulic reporting.

Scheme Analysis and Development: RPS are working to identify the preferred option in conjunction with the Steering Group. RPS are preparing reports on the option development including 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 preferred option and Standard of Protection.

Public Information Day: A public information day is planned for January 2023 to present the preferred Scheme Option and hear your views.

Planning Application: Documentation for the scheme will be prepared and submitted for planning in 2023. A statutory public consultation period will take place as part of this process.