

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/glentiesfrs/>

COUNTY DONEGAL
FLOOD RELIEF SCHEMES



Tionscaldal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

OPW Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

GLENTIES

Flood Relief Scheme

Newsletter No.2
February 2021

<https://countydonegalfrs.ie/glentiesfrs>



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 project and gather valuable local knowledge whilst providing an opportunity for stakeholders and members of the public to have their say early in the process by voicing any suggestions or concerns. Twelve submissions were received (four of which were from people who have 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/glenties including contact details for the team should you wish to get in touch. A second public consultation will be held when the preferred measures to protect properties at risk have been identified so that you can see how your submissions have been accounted for.

Murphy Geospatial (www.murphygs.ie) is currently undertaking property threshold surveys as well as a detailed river and terrain survey. A Chartered Environmental Scientist is accompanying the surveyors during river surveys to ensure freshwater pearl mussel populations in the Owenea River are avoided. These surveys capture the data needed to build an up to date computer model of the Owenea, Stracashel and Gortnamucklagh Rivers, and floodplains in the area. The model will simulate flood 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 river flows and flood scenarios 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 the design of Flood Risk Management (FRM) measures. We have studied the physical characteristics of the catchments that influence water run-off and are analysing data from hydrometric gauges (river flow and 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. RPS are seeking to ascertain the baseline condition of the Special Area of Conservation and in particular the Freshwater Pearl Mussel and Atlantic Salmon populations. 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.

An Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP) has been prepared by RPS in conjunction with Donegal County Council (DCC) and the OPW. This plan defines the location of various invasive non-native species in Glenties. These species need to be controlled and managed to reduce the risk of interfering with design and construction of flood risk management measures. The Plan sets out how to manage and/or eradicate invasive species in advance of design and construction. The project team are now working with DCC to arrange treatment of Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Knotweed at Glenties on an ongoing basis.

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 Glenties, 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, 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, particularly from 2015 onwards. 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 and terrain surveys commenced in January 2021 on the Owenea, Stracashel and Gortnamucklagh Rivers 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. 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 in March 2021 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, freshwater pearl mussel, 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.