

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.3
May 2021

<https://countydonegalfrs.ie/glentiesfrs>



WHAT STAGE IS THE PROJECT AT?

The opening consultation period is closed and the team are following up with anyone who noted they could provide additional historic flood information. The project team are still 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. All project information remains available on the project website www.countydonegalfrs.ie/glenties including contact details for the team. 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) has completed fieldwork and submitted draft deliverables of property threshold, river and terrain surveys. A Chartered Environmental Scientist accompanied the surveyors during river surveys to ensure freshwater pearl mussel populations in the Owenea River were avoided. The surveys have captured data needed to build an up to date computer model of the Owenea, Stracashel and Gortnamucklagh Rivers and floodplains in the area.

The approach to hydrology was agreed with the Steering Group at the Hydrological Technical Workshop (16th December 2020). The project team have since been working to define the critical river flows and flood scenarios that will be simulated in hydraulic models. The physical characteristics of the catchments that influence water run-off and data from hydrometric gauges (river flow and water level) and meteorological (rainfall) stations have been analysed to determine the flood events to be used in Scheme Development. 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.

Development of the hydraulic model which will be used to simulate the flood risk in Glenties has commenced. The model includes representation of:

- **river and watercourse channels (known as a 1D model) developed from the river channel cross section surveys;**
- **floodplain (known as a 2D model) developed from digital terrain data and topographical survey;**
- **building threshold levels within the 2D model, and;**
- **the floods flows generated by the catchments upstream and the water level conditions at the downstream extent which would be expected to occur during a flood (resulting from the hydrological analysis).**

RPS has undertaken a number of baseline environmental surveys during these initial stages of the project to capture key environmental constraints for the Glenties Flood Relief Scheme. These included habitat and protected species surveys, aquatic surveys including freshwater pearl mussel surveys, fisheries habitat and an assessment of the physical condition of the river corridor and tributaries. These field surveys were supplemented with desk based data collection of existing datasets and information in relation to Biodiversity, Soils and Geology, Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage, Land Use and Material Assets, Landscape and Visual Impact, and Population and Human Health. Using this baseline information and feedback from the opening public consultation a constraints study has been undertaken to identify key environmental issues associated with the scheme area which may be impacted by flood alleviation measures and/or which may impose constraints on the viability and/or design of such measures.

The Environmental Constraints report has been drafted and when finalised it will be available to download from the project website. Key constraints include the downstream European designations including the West of Ar dara to Maas Road SAC and in particular the salmon and freshwater pearl mussel populations in the Stracashel and Owenea Rivers which will require further more detailed specialist surveys. There are a number of areas that have the potential for bats that also need further specialist surveys. There are a number of built heritage sites within the Glenties environs with the former workhouse graveyard and the Court House amongst the older buildings.

An Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP) has been prepared by RPS in conjunction with DCC and the OPW. The Plan sets out how to manage and/or eradicate invasive species in advance of design and construction. DCC have procured a specialist contractor to undertake treatment of Japanese Knotweed in accordance with ISMP.

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 Coronavirus whilst at the same time trying to reduce negative impacts on the project programme. The FRS Steering Group (comprising of the OPW, Donegal County Council and RPS) have continued to meet regularly using video conferencing. Progressing flood relief schemes have been deemed as an essential service by local authorities.

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: The team have collated all available data relating to river flows, rainfall, the environment and existing infrastructure that is relevant to the project. Where data gaps have been identified we have completed or planned survey work to fill them in. Through our consultations with the public and statutory agencies so far we have gathered all known information on past flood events in Glenties. Nevertheless we are still interested in receiving information on local flood history or the environment where available. If you have any information which could be of use, please contact the project team (contact details available on the project website www.countydonegalfrs.ie/glenties).

Surveys: The property threshold, river, terrain and Defence Asset Condition (DAC) surveys have all been completed. Draft deliverables have been submitted and survey data is being reviewed for use in the hydraulic model.

Hydrological Analysis: The next steps in the hydrological analysis will focus on refining and finalising the design flows and water level boundaries which are used within the models to simulate flooding.

Hydraulic Analysis: Development of the hydraulic model will continue over the next few months until a model which is validated against the history of flooding in Glenties is achieved. This will focus on mapped flood extents, recorded flood depths and other flood event data.

Option Development: The first steps in option development involve the listing of all potential flood risk management measures which may be applicable at Glenties. These will be screened to ensure measures which could be technically and economically viable, socially and environmentally acceptable are taken forward for detailed assessment. The detailed assessment of flood risk management options (combinations of measures) for Glenties will then be undertaken.

Environmental Assessment: Further detailed environmental surveys are programmed over the summer/autumn period to include ecological surveys that are seasonally constrained or more specialist surveys that are required to build on the initial baseline surveys, including electrofishing, protected species surveys, e.g. bat surveys, archaeological and architectural surveys. The environmental constraints and opportunities identified, including in the wider catchment, will inform the appraisal of the options for the flood relief scheme ensuring early consideration in design and a robust assessment of the potential environmental impact of the preferred scheme.