

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.8
August 2022

<https://countydonegalfrs.ie/glentiesfrs>



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 of the Owenea, Stracashel and Gortnamucklagh Rivers, existing defences and floodplains in the area. 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 Glenties. 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 are looking at combinations of measures to form viable options for the FRS. Shortlisted measures include hard defences, property level protection and Nature based Catchment Management.

Each option is currently being subjected to a costing exercise to determine the whole life cost across the design life. The team are currently refining these costs based on the best available current market data.

A property economic damage assessment is nearing completion for the Glenties 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.

A collaborative workshop was held on 9th June 2022 to get feedback on the options. The workshop was attended by the Glenties FRS Steering Group and other relevant public sector stakeholders.

RPS is developing the Stage I Options report and the Nature based Catchment Measures report to assist the Steering group in determining the next steps for the project.

Environmental Assessment

The RPS Environmental team have inputted into the multi-criteria analysis for the options considered, particularly given the sensitivities associated with the Stracashel and Owenea Rivers, which are important as salmonid and Freshwater Pearl Mussel (FPM) rivers.

Specialist fisheries and FPM surveys have been undertaken. Habitat mapping and protected species surveys have been completed which will inform the environmental assessment of the project. Further specialist surveys may be required to fully assess the emerging preferred option once this has been identified.

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 four (4) months due to technical challenges 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 in the next quarter.

Public Information Day: A public information day is planned for December 2022 to present the next steps.

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.