



BACKGROUND

Historically and in recent years Bantry has been severely and repeatedly impacted by major flood events. Earlier this year, Cork County Council working with the Office of Public Works (OPW) appointed JB Barry and Partners Ltd and JBA Consulting Engineers and Scientists Ltd, as consultant for the Bantry Flood Relief Scheme.

This project follows on from the OPW's South-Western Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study and Flood Risk Management Plan for the Dunmanus - Bantry - Kenmare River Basin published in 2018. The South West CFRAM Study area identified Bantry as an Area for Further Assessment (AFA), and concluded that a flood relief scheme would be viable and effective for the community.

Parts of Bantry were identified as being at risk of flooding. The areas at risk in particular follow the path of the Mill River, Alley River and Scart Stream through the town and the Mealagh River to the north of the town. Bantry is also affected by tidal flooding with coastal areas identified as at risk. There are also problems with the poor structural condition and flow capacity of culverts in the town. One of the significant causes of flooding is high tides entering the local storm drainage network causing flooding, as well as river flooding from the Mill River and tributaries. Bantry is prone to flash flooding from the numerous small steep rivers that flow through the town.

PROJECT AREA

The area for consideration in the scheme is shown in red on the map below, with focus on flooding at the harbour and Wolfe Tone Square, the Mill River and Alley River, the Scart stream, and areas of Lahadane, Caherdaniel and Millbrook outside the town centre.



PROJECT STAGES

The project comprises of five stages, as set out below.

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|------------------------|---------|---|
| Current Stage → | Stage 1 | Scheme Development and Design |
| | Stage 2 | Environmental Assessment and Planning Process |
| | Stage 3 | Detailed Design and Contractor Procurement |
| | Stage 4 | Construction |
| | Stage 5 | Handover |

In the three months since we were appointed, the team has begun collecting and reviewing data with a focus on analysing the rainfall and flood event of August 2020. This is making use of river level and rainfall records for the period, including Met Éireann radar data. We have also started to refine a computer model of the rivers and floodplain in the study area. With all this information we will be able to investigate the flooding that occurred and could happen in the future.

In addition, the environmental and ecological assessment has commenced. Breeding and wintering birds surveys in the harbour has commenced. A walkover survey was conducted to identify the main ecological features present was conducted in March 2022. Prime salmonid habitat is likely to present on the Mealagh, and possibly otter holts. Lamprey and possibly Eel may use the Bantry River. A treatment programme for Japanese Knotweed that could interfere with the line of the defences has been ongoing since 2019 and will continue as the required, as the project progresses.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

We are currently at the early stages of progressing the scheme and are starting to think about what the flood mechanisms are and what would be the range of possible flood relief measures. We would like to hear about your experiences of previous flooding, particularly in August 2020, and are interested in any information that you can share with our team such as photos and videos. The information you provide will help us refine our hydrological and hydraulic models and give greater confidence in the design of the flood relief scheme.

NEXT STEPS

- Continued Data collection and review
- Public Participation Day – 18 May 2022 Áras Beantraí, Wolfe Tone Square, Bantry,
- Analysis of river and rainfall data
- Development of tidal /river / floodplain model
- Further surveys – including topographic river survey, ecology activity, scoping geotechnical investigations, condition assessment of existing walls.
- Environmental Constraints Study

PROJECT TEAM KEY PERSONNEL

Catherine Murphy | Cork County Council | *Project Manager*

Stephen Finn | Office of Public Works | *Project Manager*

Maurice O'Donoghue | Design Consultants | *Project Director*

Ross Kinsella | Design Consultants | *Project Manager*

Jonathan Cooper | Design Consultants | *Lead Hydrologist*

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.

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Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council



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