



Newsletter 02
December 2022



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council



OPW
Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

BARRY
& PARTNERS

JBA
consulting

INTRODUCTION

Stage 1 of the Bantry Flood Relief Scheme is progressing. A public consultation event was held on 18 May. Walkover ecology surveys and topographical surveys have been undertaken. A Constraints Study has been prepared that includes the review of environmental, ecological and cultural heritage areas of interest. Hydrological analysis of the study area is largely complete and hydraulic modelling is commencing. A site investigation contract is in place which is due to commence on site in early 2023.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DAY

The project team met the local community at Áras Beantraí on 18 May 2022 to gain an insight into their flood experiences, concerns and suggestions. This event was well attended.

The Consultant gave presentations explaining the background to the project and general approach that will be taken in determining the best solutions for Bantry.



Cork County Council provided information about some interim flood mitigation measures, including the purchase of pumps and the installation of non-return valves on the drainage system. On the day, information was gathered from those in attendance. Further responses were received via email and through the County Council offices. A report with details of the consultation is available on the project website and can be accessed via this link – [Opening PPD Feedback Report - Sept 2022](#).

MILL CULVERT UPGRADE PROJECT (MCUP)

In addition to the Bantry Flood Relief Scheme, Cork County Council are currently progressing a separate project to upgrade the existing Mill River Culvert. This project involves the replacement of the existing culvert in the town, due to asset degradation. Though separate from the Bantry Flood Relief Scheme, a holistic approach is important and the two project teams are working closely together, collaborating, and sharing information to ensure the objectives of both projects align.

DATA COLLECTION

ECOLOGICAL SURVEYS

Since the commencement of the project, bird surveys and other ecological walkover surveys have been carried out. A specialist was appointed for Freshwater pearl mussels survey and these will be carried out as soon as environmental conditions allow. Surveys for lamprey, otter and kingfisher are scheduled for 2023.

An invasive species management plan has been in place over recent years and will continue through this project. A specialist contractor regularly surveys the scheme area for Japanese Knotweed and other invasive species and carries out treatment as required.

RAINFALL AND RIVER LEVEL DATA

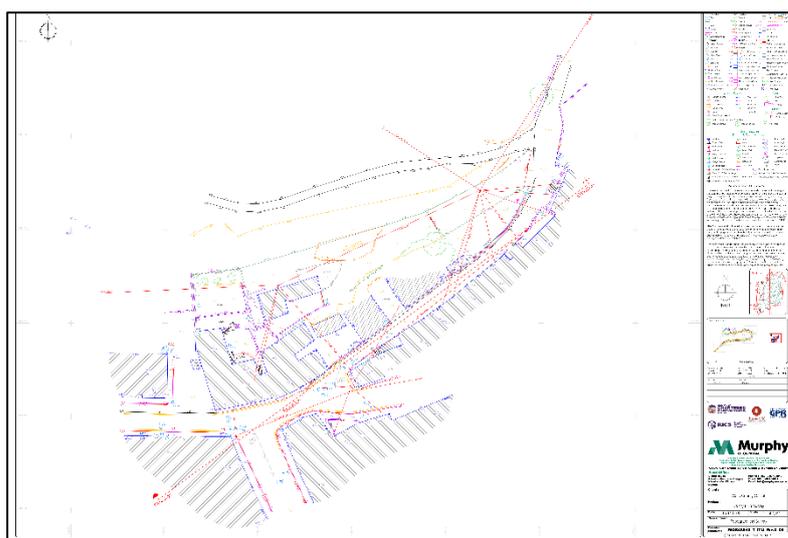
Rainfall and level data is invaluable to the hydrological and hydraulic modelling team. It allows computer models to be calibrated and brings more confidence to the results.

Recently, two rain gauges near Bantry have been upgraded and a third gauge has been installed in the upper end of the catchment. A tidal level gauge was installed in the harbour in October and data from this gauge can be observed remotely. A level gauge is due to be installed in December 2022 in the Mill River, near the Library.

TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY

To complement existing data, Murphy Geospatial were appointed in September to carry out a survey of various features such as river channel sections, in-stream structures, ground levels, the inner harbour area and drainage infrastructure.

The survey will be completed in December 2022 and the survey data used in hydraulic modelling.



SITE INVESTIGATIONS

Priority Geotechnical Ltd, PGL, were awarded the Site Investigation contract for both the Bantry FRS and MCUP. Investigations are expected to commence in January 2022 in and around Bantry Town. Site works include boreholes, trial pits, slit trenches and geophysical scanning.

CONSTRAINTS STUDY

The purpose of the Constraints Study is to determine what environmental and other constraints exist that could affect the design of the scheme, delay the progress of the scheme or influence the cost of the scheme. The Constraints Study has gathered information on the presence and significance of engineering and environmental features within the study area. It included input from the ecologists, archaeologist and conservation architect for the project. They carried out desk studies, site visits and stakeholder consultations. Collected information will help to scope detailed studies required to inform the baseline conditions of the project site and will be an important reference for the project team in developing design options.

NEXT STEPS

The list below indicates significant activities that will be carried out in the coming year:

- Site Investigations Q1 2023
- Hydraulic Modelling Q1 2023
- Options Development Q2 2023
- Options Public Participation Day Q3/Q4 2023

PROJECT STAGES

The project comprises of five stages as set out below and is currently in Stage 1.



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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