

## 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:

**Drogheda & Baltray FRS Project Manager**

**Project Office:** RPS, 74 Boucher Road, Belfast, BT12 6RZ

**Email:** [droghedabaltrayfrs@rpsgroup.com](mailto:droghedabaltrayfrs@rpsgroup.com)

## RELEVANT LINKS

**Website:** [www.droghedabaltrayfrs.ie](http://www.droghedabaltrayfrs.ie)

# DROGHEDA & BALTRAY

## Flood Relief Scheme

**Newsletter**  
April 2023



## WHAT STAGE IS THE STUDY AT?

The Project is currently in the first of five stages – Stage 1: Identification and Development of a Preferred Scheme.

RPS have completed the construction of a computational hydraulic model, based on data from a detailed topographical survey of the river channels, structures and building threshold levels in the study area. The hydraulic model has been used to simulate historical flood events and has identified a requirement to acquire additional topographical survey data in the Feckins area. The survey Contractor completed this survey in March 2023 – the hydraulic model will be updated with this data prior to undergoing calibration to ensure that it provides an accurate representation of the rivers and flooding mechanisms within Drogheda and Baltray. The final hydraulic model will be used to simulate a range of present day and climate change scenarios and to assess various flood relief measures.

RPS held a Hydraulic Modelling Technical Workshop with the Steering Group (comprising of the OPW and Louth County Council). The purpose of this workshop was to make all parties aware of the methods used and the outcomes generated by hydraulic analysis to date, and to facilitate discussion on the remaining technical tasks required to achieve the project objectives.

The overwintering bird surveys have been ongoing and are now complete. Two of the photographs taken during the survey are shown below. The EIA Scoping report has been sent by RPS to relevant stakeholders for review and comment.



Photograph 1 is showing roosting Redshank (*Tringa tetanus*) with a Greenshank (*Tringa nebularia*) with them. The bird located in the water is a little grebe (*Tachybaptus ruficollis*). Photograph 1 was taken on the southern Bank of Boyne near Drogheda Port. Photograph 2 is showing mudflats located in Baltray.

RPS completed a specification detailing the location of boreholes and trial pits as part of the preliminary Ground Investigation. In order to procure a specialist Contractor who will undertake the works, the specification and other tender documentation was issued by Louth County Council and a request made for Contractors to submit their responses by April 2023. These investigations will support the technical analysis required to identify feasible flood relief measures during the Scheme Analysis and Development phase of the project.

RPS completed the Stage 1 screening appraisal in compliance with EU and Irish law and relevant European Commission and national guidelines and concluded that the proposed Ground Investigation works will not give rise to a Likely Significant Effect on any European site. This is due to the small scale and short-term nature of the proposed works, the sensitivity of the relevant qualifying interest features of the nearby European sites and their conservation objectives. RPS have identified that some locations will need archaeological monitoring and will apply for a Section 26 licence when required.

## OUTLINE SCHEME PROGRAMME

		Outline Scheme Programme										
Activity		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Stage 1	Data Collection and surveys											
	Hydrological Analysis											
	Hydraulic Analysis											
	Scheme analysis & development											
	Environmental Assessment											
Stage 2	Planning/Development											
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

**Surveys:** The topographical survey and CCTV survey of culverts within the study area have been completed. Following receipt of tender submissions for the Ground Investigation works, RPS will review and recommend the preferred Contractor to Louth County Council who will issue formal appointment.

**Hydrological Analysis:** This will resume following completion of the hydraulic model construction.

**Hydraulic Analysis:** The hydraulic model will be updated with the additional topographical survey data prior to ongoing model calibration and simulation of a range of various flood events.

**Environmental:** Mapping and preparation of the survey reports from the completed Overwintering Bird Surveys will be completed. Preparation for the archaeological monitoring of the Ground Investigation works will continue.