



Newsletter 05

December 2025



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

 egis

JBA
consulting

INTRODUCTION

Since the issue of Newsletter No. 4, the project team has carried out a detailed assessment of the options presented at the public participation day in May 2024 and the Emerging Preferred Option for the scheme has been identified. It will be presented at a public participation day on 10 December at The Maritime Hotel from 4pm to 8pm.

SELECTION OF PREFERRED OPTION



A detailed Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA) of the feasible and environmentally acceptable measures has been carried out based on criteria such as design performance, environmental and social effects, costs, buildability, operational robustness, and climate change adaptability. The outcome from this analysis is the identification of the preferred measures that combine to form the Emerging Preferred Option.

SURVEYS

Further surveys were carried out over the last year to gather information on existing culverts and other features affecting flood mechanisms. The surveys were predominantly focused on culverts that been difficult to access previously. In addition to camera surveys, special techniques were adopted involving flying drones into culverts and chambers to scan the internal length of these structures. An example of the detail obtained is shown in the image here.



Surveys for fisheries and aquatic invertebrates were carried out across the rivers and streams in the study area. The surveys highlighted the importance of the Mealagh, with Atlantic Salmon, Trout, Eel, Stickleback, and Minnow. A resident Brown Trout population is recorded on the Mill, with Eel likely present. Flounder, Mullet, Corkwing Wrasse are prevalent in Inner Bantry Bay.



INTERIM WORKS



Protection from high tides were bolstered by Cork County Council along the quays in October 2025. Funded by the OPW under the Minor Works Scheme, gaps in the existing walls on Sands Quay were closed off with precast concrete blocks and a conduit was installed under the main road to facilitate pumping during flood events.

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY PROTECTION

Cork County Council, in collaboration with the OPW, has been progressing an Individual Property Protection (IPP) in Bantry during 2025. The scheme involves the supply and installation of bespoke floodgates at the entrances and low-level windows of the properties at most risk of flooding in the town. 40 properties benefited from the scheme in 2025 and a further 4 will be completed in 2026.



EMERGING PREFERRED SCHEME

The project team has identified the Emerging Preferred Option for the Bantry Flood Relief Scheme. While Bantry Town will broadly benefit from the proposed scheme, the location of works in the Emerging Preferred Option for the scheme are shown on the map below.

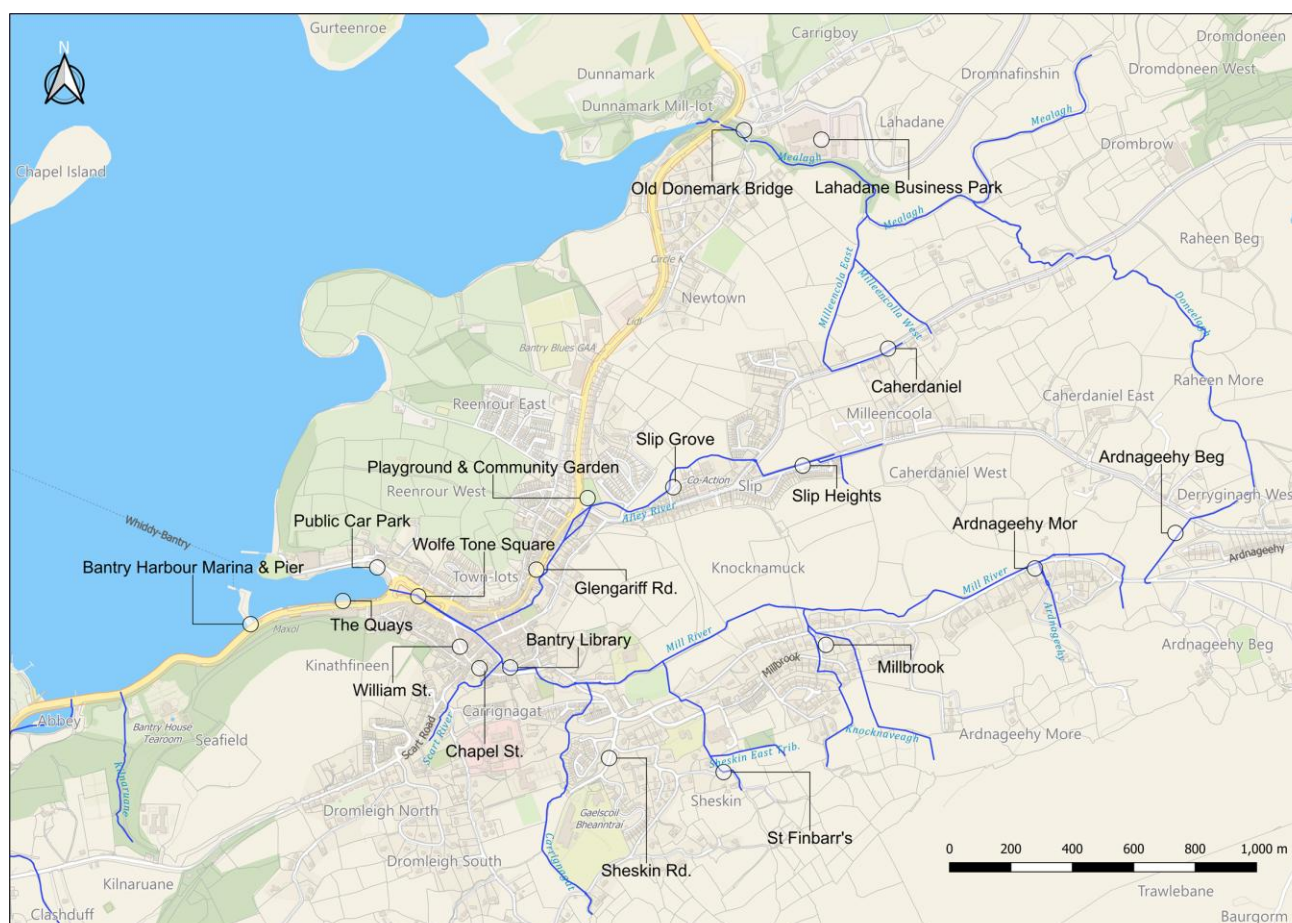


Figure 1: Overview of study area and location of proposed works for the Emerging Preferred Scheme

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION DAY (PPD)

Following on from the previous public participation days held in May 2022 and May 2024, a third public participation day will be held on 10 December 2025 to display to the community the Emerging Preferred Option for the Bantry Flood Relief Scheme. It will take place at The Maritime Hotel from 4pm to 8pm.

The purpose of the PPD is to seek feedback from the public and other interested parties in relation to the Emerging Preferred Option. The project team will be available on the day to receive comments and any other information relevant to the presented option. Feedback from the event will be considered in finalising the preferred option for the Bantry Flood Relief Scheme which will then be brought forward to planning stage.



NEXT STEPS

The list below indicates significant activities that will be undertaken during 2026:

- Finalise the Preferred Option
- Surveys to fill any remaining information gaps
- Environmental Surveys and Impact Assessment
- Maritime Area Consent

PROJECT STAGES

The project comprises of five stages as set out below. Stage I is programmed to be completed in Q2 2026 and the project team will move to Stage II.



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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