

The Lower Morrell Flood Relief Scheme

The Morrell River catchment in County Kildare has been subject to serious recurring flooding in past two decades, resulting in significant damages to property and businesses with events in 2000, 2002 and 2009 being particularly significant.

A programme of flood relief works was carried out on the Morrell River during 2002 and 2003 by Kildare Co. Council (KCC). The works were carried out under the Local Authority's powers and were funded by OPW with construction works completed by OPW direct labour working as agents for the Council.

The following works were carried out: -

- 1. The construction of three culverts at Lower Morrell Bridge, Old Morrell Bridge and Upper Morrell Bridge.**
- 2. Killeenmore Bridge was also removed and replaced.**
- 3. The construction of three embankments downstream of the Old Morrell Bridge heading for the outfall of the Morrell into the River Liffey**
- 4. The construction of an overflow channel downstream of the Old Morrell Bridge heading for the outfall of the Morrell into the River Liffey.**

In 2011 the OPW commissioned the Eastern CFRAM Study and due to the significance of the flooding that has taken place in the Morrell Catchment and concern amongst residents the Morell Study Area was prioritised within the Eastern Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study programme for the development of a Flood Alleviation Study (FAS).

The Lower Morrell River scheme is being progressed by Kildare County Council (KCC) who are acting as the Contracting Authority for the project with funding provided by the OPW. In October 2013, RPS Consulting Engineers were appointed by KCC to carry out carry out a Feasibility Study for the above proposed flood relief scheme.

The Feasibility Study produced by RPS resulted in the establishment of a preferred option to address the flood risk in the Morell River. This option involves using hard defences, including retaining walls and embankments, to protect properties at risk of flooding during a 1% AEP event. The proposed defences protect the clusters of properties identified, by diverting flow paths away from the properties at risk. The proposals also included upgrading some existing culverts to improve channel conveyance for the 1% AEP flows and restoring the capacity of the culvert conveying the Slane River under the N7 at Junction 6 Castlewarden exit, together with improvement works on culverts at various other locations, including the Dublin-Cork Railway crossings.

Landowner liaison was an integral part of the development of the final scheme. Two public consultation days and approximately 40 individual meetings with landowners were held throughout the design phase to address affected landowners concerns and the final proposed scheme has evolved due to improvements in the accuracy of the hydraulic model,

changes to embankment locations following landowner and stakeholder consultations and a technical review undertaken by the OPW Design Section.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report was submitted to An Bord Pleanála in September 2017 for the Lower Morrell FRS and is on display in Kildare County Council offices.

It is not possible to indicate when exactly works can be commenced until the scheme has been advanced through the planning process by An Bord Pleanála but it is expected that works could commence in early 2018.

<http://kildare.ie/CountyCouncil/Environment/FloodRiskManagement/>

Link will provide access to;

1. Lower Morrell Appropriate Assessment Screening Report
2. Morrell River Flood Management Scheme Volume I: Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Non Technical Summary
3. Morrell River Flood Management Scheme Volume II: Environmental Impact Assessment Report
4. Morell River Flood Management Scheme Volume III: Environmental Impact Assessment Report - Appendices