



# FINGAL EAST MEATH FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT STUDY

Newsletter – 03  
February 2009

## Included in this issue

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**



**Environmental Scoping Report**



## Introduction

Welcome to the Fingal East-Meath Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (FEM FRAMS) newsletter. The newsletter is produced every three months to provide information on different aspects of the project and to keep you updated on project progress. Please visit our website [www.fingaleastmeathframs.ie](http://www.fingaleastmeathframs.ie) to obtain a copy of previous newsletters and further information about the project.

The main objectives of the FEM FRAMS are to: identify and map the existing and potential future flood hazard and risk areas within the study area; build the strategic information base necessary for making informed decisions in relation to managing flood risk; identify viable structural and non-structural measures and options for managing the flood risks; and prepare a Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) for the study area, and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment, that sets out the measures and policies, including guidance on appropriate future development, that should be pursued by the Local Authorities, the OPW and other Stakeholders. This study will ensure compliance with the Governments national policy for flood risk, the EU Floods Directive and the Water Framework Directive.

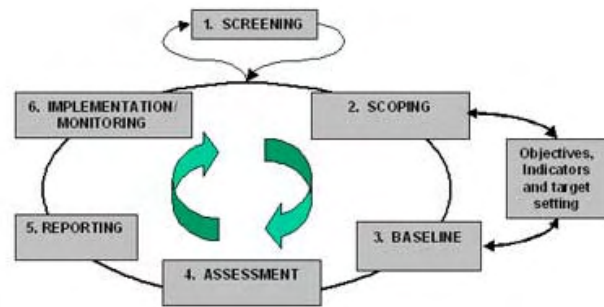
It is important that the knowledge and views of the general public are taken into consideration during the development of the Fingal East Meath FRMP. Our website [www.fingaleastmeathframs.ie](http://www.fingaleastmeathframs.ie) has a feedback form where you can submit information and views relevant to the study.



## Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)

The SEA runs in conjunction with the other stages of the study to ensure that environmental constraints and opportunities within the Fingal East Meath study area are fully considered in the development and selection of appropriate flood risk management options.

The SEA process can be broken down into a number of key stages as illustrated in the flow chart. Further information on each of these stages is provided below.



Key stages of the SEA process

### Stage 1 - Screening

Stage 1 of the SEA process for FEM FRAMS is now complete. Following the screening phase by the Office of Public Works (OPW), whereby the specific context of Flood Risk Management Plans were assessed against environmental significance criteria of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004, it is considered that the application of the SEA process is appropriate for the Fingal East Meath Flood Risk Management Plan.

### Stage 2 - Scoping

We are currently at the scoping stage of the study, which involves establishing the environmental baseline and identifying key environmental constraints, issues and opportunities to inform the identification of flood risk management options.

An **Environmental Scoping Report** is currently being prepared to document the outputs from the scoping stage of the SEA process, and will determine the extent and level of detail to be included in the SEA Environmental Report. The Scoping Report will describe the environmental characteristics of the Fingal East Meath study area based on a review of available information and relevant external plans, strategies and projects. The report will present our initial understanding of the key environmental issues and constraints within the study area relevant to flooding and its management. It will also identify a set of proposed environmental objectives for the study based on the identified key environmental issues.

These environmental objectives will be used in the study to: (1) inform the identification and development of potential flood risk management options; and (2) evaluate the identified flood risk management options to select the preferred strategic options.

The Scoping Report will be a statement of our understanding of the study area at the present time. This will develop as the project progresses and will be informed by the views and knowledge of external stakeholders and the general public. The report will be published on the project website in April 2009 and comments will be invited from the general public and stakeholders.



Estuary of the Sluice River at Baldoyle Bay Special Protection Area.

### Stage 3 - Baseline data

Baseline data is currently being collected to provide a baseline against which the significant environmental effects of the Flood Risk Management Plan can be measured and assessed. The baseline data will be used to identify the key environmental issues and trends that characterise the area covered by the study.

### Stage 4 - Assessment of options

The SEA forms a key part of the identification and assessment of potential flood risk management options. The environmental objectives identified during the scoping stage are used to test the environmental acceptability of potential flood risk management options, as part of the overall option assessment process.

This stage will conclude with an assessment of the impacts of the identified preferred options - which form the flood risk management strategy for the study area. This will identify the positive and negative effects and any associated mitigation and monitoring requirements.

### Stage 5 - Reporting

The results of the SEA process will be documented in a SEA Environmental Report, which will identify,



Map of the Fingal East Meath study area showing a sample of environmental receptors within the study area.

describe and evaluate the likely significant effects of the Flood Risk Management Plan. This report will build on the information presented in the Environmental Scoping Report and will describe the options assessment process and the predicted environmental effects, and associated mitigation and monitoring requirements, of the identified flood risk management strategy. This report will be published with the draft Flood Risk Management Plan, which is due for publication in summer 2010.

### Public and stakeholder involvement

It is important that the knowledge and views of stakeholders and the general public are taken into consideration when developing the Fingal East Meath Flood Risk Management Plan. This is being achieved using the following means of communication:

- public information and consultation days;
- stakeholder workshops
- regular website updates;
- quarterly project newsletters available on

### Environmental receptors

A wide range of environmental receptors have been identified that include nature conservation and fisheries, geology, land use, water, air and climate, landscape and visual amenity, and social receptors such as local population, health and development. The impact of flood risk management options on these receptors will be considered during the development of the SEA and the Flood Risk Management Plan. The map shows a sample of these environmental receptors in the study area which include internationally designated nature conservation sites and water and waste water treatment plants.

the project website or by email through a request form on the project website;

- feedback form on the project website;
- project email address: [denise.treacy@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:denise.treacy@fingalcoco.ie); and
- attendance and presentations at meetings.

During the options appraisal stage of the study and future publication of the draft Flood Risk Management Plan, it is anticipated that a series of public information and consultation days are held to provide opportunities for the project team to meet with stakeholders and members of the public. The aim of this consultation will be to present the key findings and recommendations of the study and to provide additional opportunities for comment on the preferred Flood Risk Management Plan.

Stakeholder workshops will be held at key stages of the project to enable organisations to directly input to and influence the process and recommendations of the study.

## Project progress update

Throughout the project we will keep you updated on our progress through both the quarterly newsletter and project website.

## Channel and structure survey

The channel and structure survey commenced in January 2009 with DigiTech 3D appointed as the survey contractor to carry out this important survey work. In order to collect the required survey data it may be necessary for DigiTech 3D survey teams to gain access to your land. Access inside houses and buildings will not be required. The surveyors will make every effort to contact land owners before entering lands. We would be grateful if you could assist the study by granting the surveyors access to your land to carry out necessary survey work. All surveyors will carry identification documents and will take great care not to damage property. The survey works are expected to be complete in late spring 2009.

## LiDAR survey

The LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) survey for the study area was completed in December 2008 and is currently being processed to form a Digital

Terrain Model (DTM) of the river catchments. The survey involved using an aeroplane with specialised measuring equipment to gather detailed information on the shape and height of the ground.

## Flood Defence Asset Database (FDAD)

The FDAD is a newly developed software tool used to document a digital record of the type, condition, performance, dimensions and location of flood defence assets in a study area. The FDAD for the study area has been populated with information from the defence asset survey and provides an overall indication of the condition of various flood defence structures within the river catchments and along the coast in the FEM study area.

## External communications

A consultation pack has been issued to organisations that may have an interest in the FEM FRAMS. We encourage and welcome the involvement of any groups or organisations that have an interest in the study and recognise the value of this external input to the study. If you wish to get involved, please register your interest by emailing [denise.treacy@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:denise.treacy@fingalcoco.ie) with your contact details.



If you have any questions or require any further information relating to this study or if you would like to be included on a distribution list for future issues of this newsletter please email [denise.treacy@fingalcoco.ie](mailto:denise.treacy@fingalcoco.ie).

If you would like to contact us by post, please send your request to Denise Treacy, Water Services Department, Fingal County Council, Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15.

In the next issue of the newsletter we will be providing information on the hydrological analysis being undertaken for the FEM FRAMS. The hydrological analysis involves analysis of existing river flows and rainfall and an assessment of drivers that are likely to influence future flood risk in the FEM study area.

The next issue of the newsletter will be available in May 2009.

Our project website [www.fingaleastmeathframs.ie](http://www.fingaleastmeathframs.ie) provides up to date information on the FEM-FRAM Study, including project activities, project programme, public information days and project reports.

A feedback form on the website provides you with an opportunity to provide information you feel is relevant to the study.