

The North Western and Neagh Bann river basin districts

The North Western district is a cross-border river basin district with approximately 7,400 km² in Ireland and 4,900 km² in Northern Ireland. It takes in all of County Donegal, large parts of Fermanagh, Cavan, Derry, Monaghan and Tyrone, significant areas of Leitrim and Longford and a small portion of Sligo. The district is home to less than half a million people and has a low average population density. Less than 2% of the land area is urbanised and many people live in small villages or single dwellings in rural areas.

The Neagh Bann district is a cross-border river basin district with approximately 2,000 km² in Ireland and 6,000 km² in Northern Ireland. It takes in all of County Armagh, Louth, Monaghan and Derry, significant areas of Down and Tyrone and small areas of Cavan, Fermanagh and Meath. The district is home to over half a million people and has a low average population density. Much of the population lives in rural areas, mainly in small villages and settlements or single dwellings.

BACKGROUND

Floods are a natural and inevitable part of life in Ireland. Major flood events in recent years include widespread flooding in the southeast in the summer of 2008, widespread flooding throughout much of the country in November 2009, flooding in eastern areas in October 2011 and flooding in the north and southwest in June 2012.

Floods pose a risk to human life and wellbeing, often cause extensive damage to property and can have severe environmental consequences. A European directive in relation to floods, and Irish national flood policy, are now the driving forces behind flood management in Ireland.

FLOODS DIRECTIVE

The EU Floods Directive entered into force on 26th November 2007 and is concerned with the assessment and management of flood risk. It aims to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. It takes a sustainable, catchment-based approach to assessing and managing flood risks.

CFRAM PROGRAMME

The National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme was developed to meet the requirements of the Floods Directive, as well as to deliver on core components of the 2004 report of the Flood Policy Review Group.

The CFRAM Programme includes three main stages:

- 2011 - Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment;
- 2013 - Flood Risk and Hazard Mapping;
- 2015 - Flood Risk Management Planning.

To support the CFRAM Programme, a series of CFRAM Studies were commissioned in 2011/12 at River Basin District (RBD) scale. The studies focus on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past. To ensure that a coordinated approach is adopted for cross-border districts, working groups have been established between the Office of Public Works (OPW) in Ireland and Rivers Agency (RA) in Northern Ireland.

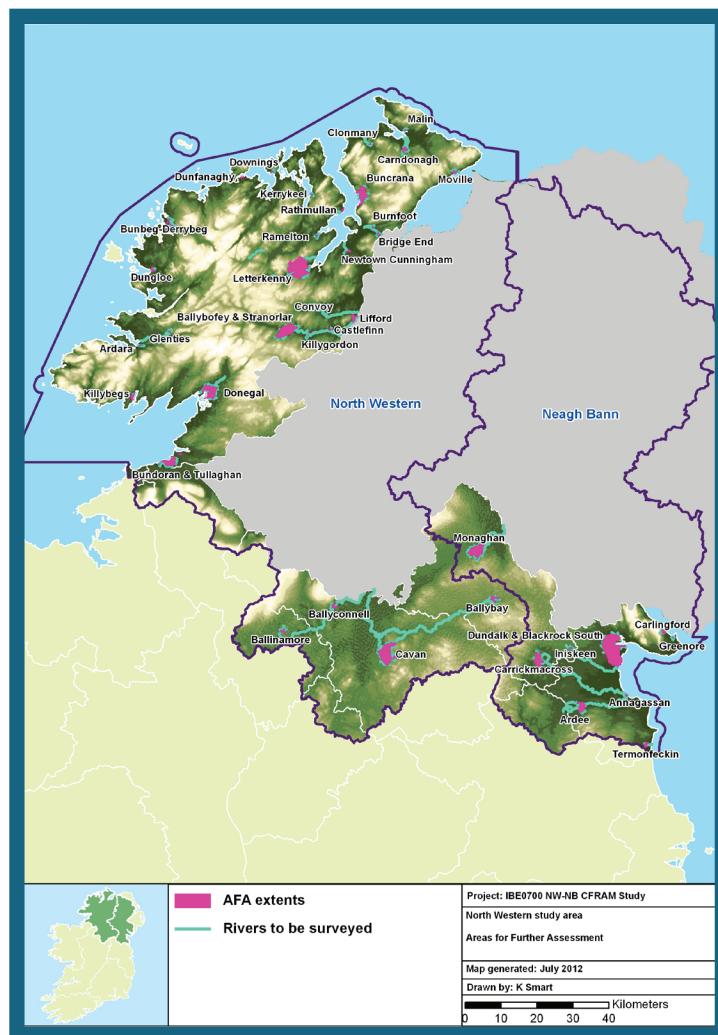


NORTH WESTERN - NEAGH BANN CFRAM STUDY

The North Western - Neagh Bann CFRAM Study commenced in April 2012 in the North Western and Neagh Bann districts. The OPW, as the lead agency for flood risk management in Ireland, appointed RPS as consultant in relation to the North Western - Neagh Bann CFRAM Study. The OPW and RPS will work in partnership with the local authorities and in full consultation with other key stakeholders and the public to deliver the objectives of the CFRAM Programme and to ensure that a coordinated approach to managing flood risk is adopted for the future.

The North Western - Neagh Bann CFRAM Study has several key phases and deliverables. A Flood Risk Review (FRR) has been completed and identified the Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs) listed and illustrated here. These are areas that require detailed assessment to determine their risk of flooding. Detailed survey work will take place in these areas during the latter part of 2012 as a first step towards developing flood risk and hazard maps in 2013.

Flood risk in areas outside of AFAs is not being ignored and can be addressed through other OPW or Local Authority programmes, for example, Raphoe in County Donegal is being addressed via a separate OPW flood study.



| Location | County | Location | County |
|-------------------------|---------|---------------------------|----------|
| Bundoran & Tullaghan | Donegal | Lifford | Donegal |
| Buncrana | Donegal | Bunbeg - Derrybeg | Donegal |
| Letterkenny | Donegal | Glenties | Donegal |
| Killybegs | Donegal | Dungloe | Donegal |
| Malin | Donegal | Ardara | Donegal |
| Carndonagh | Donegal | Donegal | Donegal |
| Merville | Donegal | Cavan | Cavan |
| Clonmany | Donegal | Ballyconnell | Cavan |
| Rathmullan | Donegal | Ballinamore | Leitrim |
| Burnfoot | Donegal | Dundalk & Blackrock South | Louth |
| Bridge End | Donegal | Annagassan | Louth |
| Newtown Cunningham | Donegal | Ardee | Louth |
| Ramelton | Donegal | Carlingford | Louth |
| Kerrykeel | Donegal | Termonfeckin | Louth |
| Downings | Donegal | Greenore | Louth |
| Dunfanaghy | Donegal | Ballybay | Monaghan |
| Convoys | Donegal | Carrickmacross | Monaghan |
| Ballybofey & Stranorlar | Donegal | Monaghan | Monaghan |
| Killygordan | Donegal | Iniskeen | Monaghan |
| Castlefin | Donegal | | |

The next steps of the North Western - Neagh Bann CFRAM Study include:

- Flood risk maps and flood hazard maps will be drawn up for the AFAs by December 2013;
- Flood risk management objectives and options will be developed during 2013 to 2015;
- Flood risk management plans (FRMPs) will be developed by December 2015.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Stakeholder engagement and public participation are an important and central element of the CFRAM Programme. Early and regular engagement with the CFRAM team maximises the opportunity for stakeholders and the public to influence the plan-making process.

Stakeholder workshops and public information days will be held at key stages and in key locations during the implementation process and will be announced in the media and via national and project websites. They will also be announced in this North Western - Neagh Bann CFRAM Study newsletter which is published every four months.

Queries or submissions can be made at any time by phone, email or in writing, or via the national and project websites.

Information on floods and on flood preparedness can be found at www.floodmaps.ie and www.flooding.ie.

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SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

- A decisive list of Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs), i.e. areas requiring detailed assessment to determine their risk of flooding, has been identified. This list was reported to the EU in March 2012.
- Survey work to collect detailed information on rivers for the development of hydraulic models of the river systems in the North Western and Neagh Bann districts will take place during the latter part of 2012. This will provide essential information for the assessment of flood levels, extents, hazards and risks, and the development of measures to manage such risks.
- Rivers Agency and the Office of Public Works will undertake the necessary work in relation to implementing the Floods Directive separately within their own jurisdictions but will closely coordinate on all technical matters and proposed measures.

