

The Flood Mapping Stage of the National 'CFRAM' Programme

The National Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme was developed by the Office of Public Works (OPW) to meet national policy needs and the requirements of the EU 'Floods' Directive.

It involves a comprehensive flood risk assessment focused on 300 areas of potentially significant flood risk, and the development of long-term, sustainable plans to reduce and manage flood risk. For further information on the CFRAM Programme, please visit www.cfram.ie.

The National CFRAM Programme has three principal milestones:

- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (Completed 2011)
- Preparation of Flood Maps (2013 - 2014)
- Preparation of Flood Risk Management Plans (2015)

Flood Mapping in the 'CFRAM' Programme

The CFRAM Programme is currently in the final stages of flood mapping. This has involved extensive survey and analysis of river flows and the development of computer models to determine how flooding occurs. Based on this work, a range of flood maps has been produced.

The flood maps show either flood hazard or flood risk. Flood hazard maps include maps of the projected extent of flooding for a range of flood events of different severity or probability, and the depth of flooding that would be expected for these events. The range of flood event probabilities include frequent events that may have recently been observed, up to very extreme events that may not have been previously seen, but which could occur at some point in the future. The flood risk maps show the potential consequences of flooding.

Why are the Flood Maps Important?

The flood maps are a vital step towards identifying potential solutions to reduce and manage the flood risk, but they are also important for other reasons:

- The flood maps will inform sustainable planning, to help ensure that we avoid building in flood prone areas into the future
- The maps will inform the emergency response authorities to help ensure an effective response to reduce damages during flood events
- Local residents and businesses will be able to determine if they are at risk from flooding, and if so, to be able to prepare for flood events. Practical advice on preparing for flood events is provided on www.flooding.ie.

Have Your Say

The draft maps have been developed using state-of-the-art technology and make use of all available information. However, local residents may have some information or knowledge that can further improve the flood maps. OPW wants to give people the opportunity to comment on the flood maps before they are finalised.

The CFRAM Project teams will hold public consultation events on the flood maps in relevant communities around the country in the coming months, where you can see the maps and discuss them with members of the team. These events will be advertised locally and on the project websites which can be accessed via www.cfram.ie. The draft maps will also be available on the websites. The maps will also be on display in the main local authority offices during the statutory consultation period (which will be advertised) and will be available to view via the CFRAM website.

You can make a formal submission on the draft maps either at the public consultation days, or via the project websites. The project teams and OPW will consider all submissions made.

Where can I find further information?

Visit www.cfram.ie for information on the National CFRAM Programme and to connect to the individual CFRAM Study website for your region. For information on other current OPW flood-related activities and operations, visit www.opw.ie.