

Update on Progress

Welcome to the fifth newsletter for the Shannon Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study.

We held a number of **Public Consultation Open Days** in Athlone on the 27th and 28th April 2012 to launch the Shannon CFRAM Study to the public. The aim of these events was to provide the public with the opportunity to find out more about the CFRAM Study, to meet members of the project team and provide any views on which environmental issues the public feel should be prioritised.



The event was attended by community representatives, members of the farming/agricultural community and the public. Feedback from the event was very positive and showed the wide range of interest in the Study and its intended outcomes.

The event was a success in helping to identify people's priorities with regards to flood-related impacts. Nine flood-related issues were presented to the attendees and the following four impacts were identified as prioritised concerns:

1. People & Health;
2. Land Use & Agriculture;
3. Water Level Management; and
4. Building & Planning.



For further information on the flood-related impacts and on the Shannon CFRAM Study, the exhibition boards used at the event can be found at:
<http://shannoncfрамstudy.jacobs.com/gettinginvolved.html>

Understanding Shannon Water Levels

Based on technical work and information from stakeholders and local communities, we will be generating detailed flood maps (by the end of 2013) showing where current and future flooding is likely to occur in the Shannon Study area. By 2015, we will produce Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) which will set out how flood risk can be managed and reduced, and how we should work together with Local Authorities and stakeholders in achieving this.

In the meantime, a lot of work needs to be done to help us fully understand the risks of flooding and ensure that the flood maps and subsequent plans are properly informed, accurate and reliable. An important part of this early work is to research and understand the current operations of control structures (e.g. weirs and sluices) along the River Shannon, who has responsibilities for water levels and how this impacts flood risk management. To this regard, the **River Shannon Level Operation Review** report has been produced to:

1. Analyse existing data and available information on water levels and flows at key locations along the River Shannon;
2. Understand operating regulations for control structures and dams along the river;
3. Understand current stakeholder roles and responsibilities for water levels and operating procedures, and gather any relevant 'lessons learnt' and useful past experience via consultation with these stakeholders;
4. Identify any suitable 'quick win' measures that could be taken to reduce flood risk or the extent of flooding, and that could potentially be implemented in the short term before the Shannon CFRAM Study is completed.

A non-technical summary of this review, entitled 'Understanding Water Levels on the River Shannon', has been developed. This summary and the full report are now available to download from the project website www.shannoncframstudy.ie.

Topographic Surveys Continue

Topographic surveys continue to be undertaken throughout the Shannon River Basin District (RBD). These assist our understanding of the varying river profile, floodplains and crossings within or close to locations which have been identified as requiring more detailed analysis of the flood risk, compared to other locations within the Study area. These risk locations have been identified as Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs).

These surveys are important for the Shannon CFRAM Study as they will ensure that we have the correct and most up-to-date information to develop flood maps, and ultimately, to ensure that we can establish successful flood risk management strategies.

The surveyors have been working in various locations, on both large and smaller watercourses for the last 8 months with the majority of survey work now complete. All topographical survey work is due for completion in November 2012.



Getting Involved

There will be many stages throughout the life of the project where we will involve stakeholders and local communities.

You have an important role to play and we are keen to hear from you at any point of the Study. If you have any questions or comments relating to the Shannon CFRAM Study, you can contact us on any of the methods below:

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