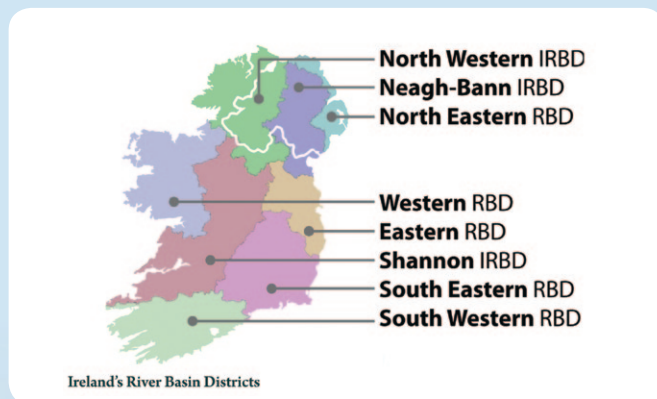


## **Flooding in Ireland**

Floods are a natural and inevitable part of life in Ireland that pose a risk to human life and well-being, property and the environment. It is likely that the effects of climate change will make flooding more frequent and severe in the future.

Historically, flood risk in Ireland has been addressed through the use of structural or engineered flood protection measures in response to flood events. However, the National Flood Policy Review of 2004 and the EU Floods Directive of 2007 are now the driving forces behind flood management and prescribe a more proactive, sustainable flood risk management approach with increased use of non-structural and flood impact mitigation measures.



## **Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies**

The Office of Public Works (OPW) is currently undertaking a national programme of river Catchment-based Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Studies, in line with the European Directive on the Assessment and Management of Flood Risks (2007/60/EC) and Irish Law (Statutory Instrument No. 122 of 2010) and to deliver on core components of the 2004 National Flood Policy. Further information on the national programme can be found on [www.cfram.ie](http://www.cfram.ie) and on the individual Study websites. Please refer to [www.cfram.ie](http://www.cfram.ie) to connect to the Study website for your region. In addition, pilot CFRAM Studies have been undertaken since 2006 in the Dodder River Catchment, the Lee Catchment, and in the Fingal/East Meath area.



## The CFRAM Programme

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)

The National CFRAM Programme is being progressed via six engineering consultancy projects and is focused on 300 Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs) countrywide. The designated AFAs were selected following the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment and a list of the areas can be found on [www.cfram.ie](http://www.cfram.ie) under AFA Final Designation Report.

The projects under the CFRAM Programme, which involves public consultation throughout, are examining in detail the causes of significant flooding throughout each River Basin District and will produce integrated plans of specific measures to address the significant flood risk factors in a comprehensive and sustainable way. The projects will examine all options to reduce flood risk, including both structural and non-structural measures.

Structural measures would involve measures such as constructing flood defences or increasing conveyance capacity, where appropriate, while the range of non-structural options that will be explored will include such measures as the management of water levels and the introduction of flood warning systems.

The Flood Risk Management Plans will take into account economic, social, environmental and technical factors.

## How and when will public consultation take place?

You can keep up to date on how the CFRAM Programme is progressing and provide your input via the national and individual Study websites.

Public consultation days in individual AFAs are being held at key stages during the CFRAM process and are being advertised locally and via the websites. The remaining key stages involve the preparation of the Flood Maps (2013 – 2014) and of the Flood Risk Management Plans (2015). Statutory consultation periods will also be held and these will be advertised nationally.

## Where can I find further information?

For information on the National CFRAM Programme and to connect to the individual CFRAM Study website for your region visit [www.cfram.ie](http://www.cfram.ie)

For information on other current OPW flood-related activities and operations, visit [www.opw.ie](http://www.opw.ie)