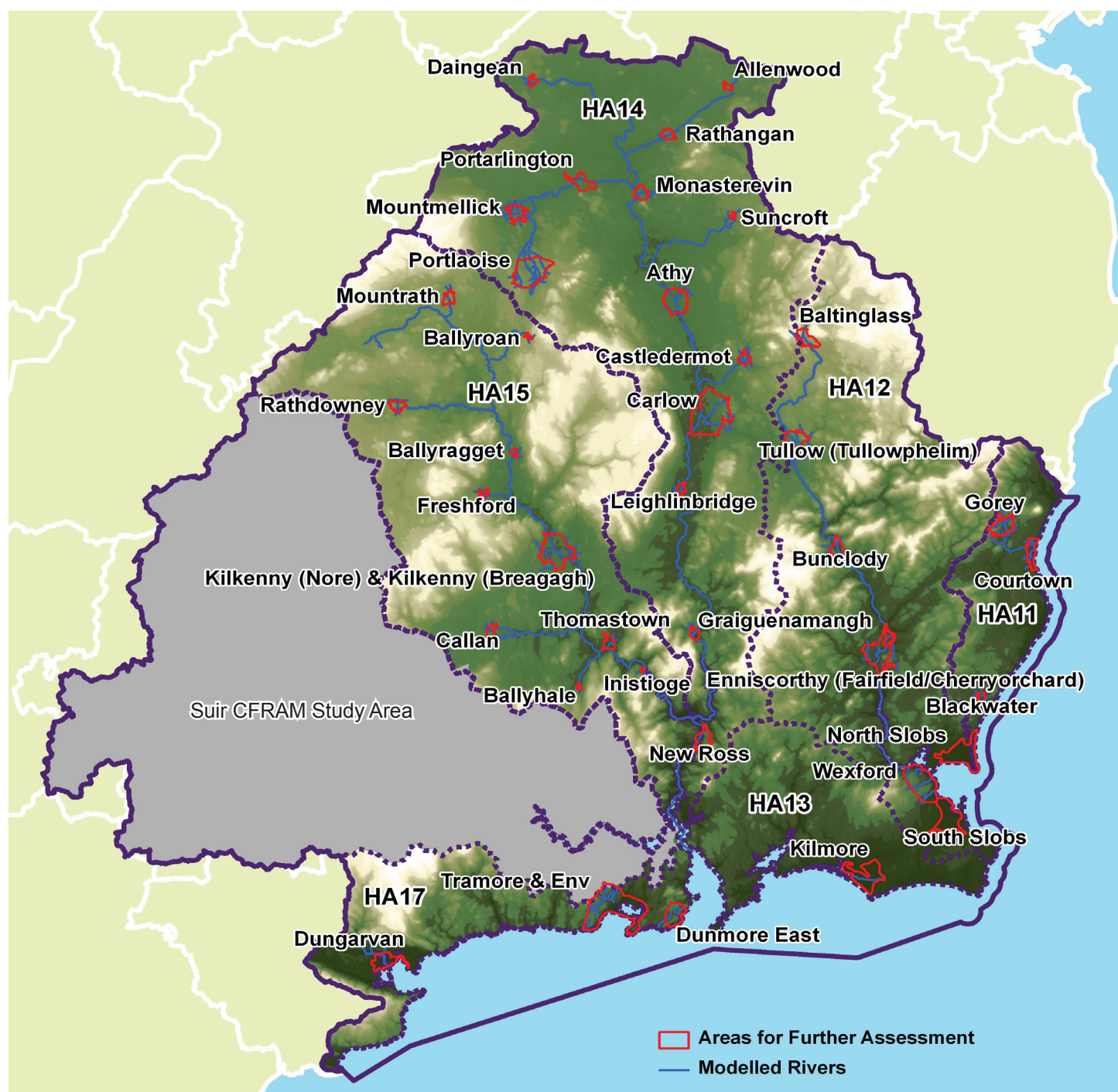


Newsletter No. 2

November 2012

INSIDE | OVERVIEW | SURVEYS | THE FLOODS DIRECTIVE & THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE | SUMMARY OF PROGRESS



OVERVIEW

Floods are natural and inevitable but pose a risk to human life and well-being and can cause damage to property in addition to having environmental consequences. The EU Floods Directive and the recommendations of the 2004 National Flood Policy Review Report are the driving forces behind flood management in Ireland for the foreseeable future.

In order to meet the requirement of the Floods Directive and national policy, a National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme is currently being implemented on a River Basin District-scale focusing on Areas for Further Assessment (AFAs). The South Eastern CFRAM Study was commissioned in August 2011 and will focus on the AFAs illustrated on the cover page of this newsletter. For each AFA, flood risk maps and flood hazard maps will be developed during late 2013 / early 2014 and Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) for each Hydrometric Area (HA) will be developed by the end of 2015. A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) will also be undertaken as part of the study.

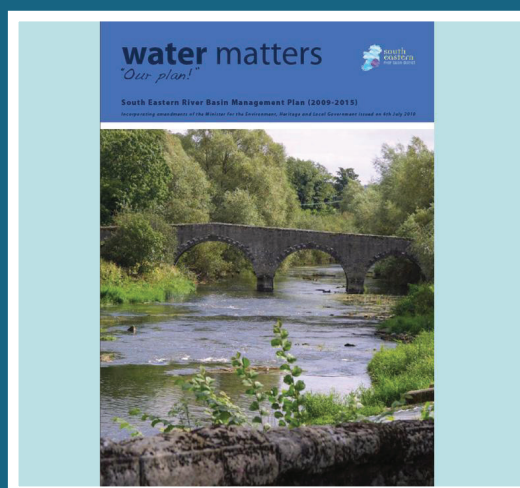
Stakeholder engagement and public participation are an important and central element of the CFRAM Programme. Public information days will be held at key stages and in key locations during the South Eastern CFRAM Study and will be announced in the media and via the South Eastern CFRAM Study website www.southeastcframstudy.ie

SURVEYS

In order to deliver the CFRAM Studies, survey work is being undertaken to provide information on river channels, structures within the channels (e.g. bridges, weirs, sluices) and flood defences (e.g. walls, embankments). This information is required for the development of hydraulic models, which will be used to provide essential information for the assessment of both current and future flood levels, flood extents, flood hazards and risks, and the development of measures to manage such risks.

Survey work is well underway in the South Eastern CFRAM Study. The map on the front page of this newsletter illustrates the channels being surveyed to facilitate the development of the hydraulic models.

Riverbank surveys are generally carried out on foot involving survey teams of two people. Large deep watercourse channel bed surveys are undertaken by boat while smaller shallow watercourses are surveyed by in-channel wading.



THE FLOODS DIRECTIVE & THE WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

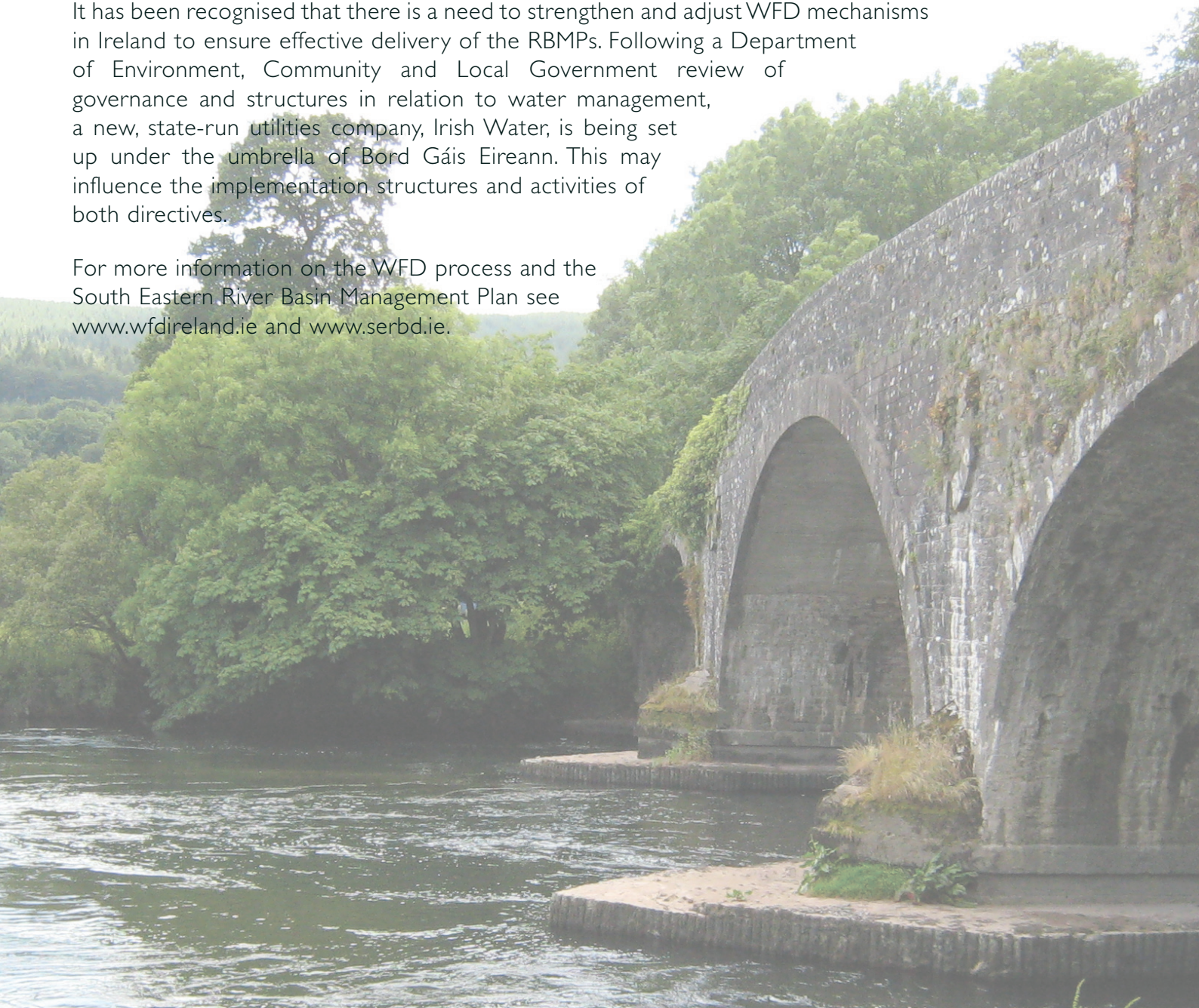
The implementation of the Floods Directive and the development of Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) are closely linked to the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD) and River Basin Management Plans (RBMPs). The publication of the first FRMPs will coincide with the publication of the second cycle RBMPs, with both sets of plans due to be published in 2015 and revisited in 2021 in a coordinated and synchronised cycle.

The main objective of the WFD is to protect and restore water quality in both surface and groundwaters. However, it also includes a requirement to “contribute to mitigating the effects of floods” which has been enacted via the Floods Directive. When implementing the Floods Directive, Member States must adopt existing WFD coordination mechanisms. The CFRAM studies were therefore commissioned at the level of River Basin Districts, which were originally delineated for WFD implementation. Public participation procedures for FRMPs and RBMPs will also be coordinated as far as possible.

Both FRMPs and RBMPs will incorporate district-level measures. Some of the measures which will be included in the FRMPs for reducing flood risk may have benefits for the WFD in terms of water quality. Similarly, some WFD measures, such as the installation of wetlands to reduce pollutant loading, may provide flood attenuation. Both implementation processes must take cognisance of each other's objectives and must consider the potential impacts of measures on other sectors.

It has been recognised that there is a need to strengthen and adjust WFD mechanisms in Ireland to ensure effective delivery of the RBMPs. Following a Department of Environment, Community and Local Government review of governance and structures in relation to water management, a new, state-run utilities company, Irish Water, is being set up under the umbrella of Bord Gáis Éireann. This may influence the implementation structures and activities of both directives.

For more information on the WFD process and the South Eastern River Basin Management Plan see www.wfdireland.ie and www.serbd.ie.



Queries or submissions can be made at any time by phone, email, in writing or via the national and project websites. Contact details are as follows:

Katie Smart
RPS
West Pier Business Campus
Dun Laoghaire
County Dublin
Tel. 01 4882940
Email. info@southeastcfрамstudy.ie
Web. www.cfram.ie; www.southeastcfрамstudy.ie

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

- Survey work is ongoing to collect detailed information on rivers for the development of hydraulic models of the river systems in the South Eastern RBD. This will provide essential information for the assessment of flood levels, extents, hazards and risks, and the development of measures to manage such risks.
- Work has begun on the SEA Scoping Report which will be published during 2013 and will describe the environmental characteristics of the South Eastern CFRAM Study area and present an initial understanding of the key environmental issues relating to flood risk and its management.
- Opportunities to align the making and implementation of WFD River Basin Management Plans and Floods Directive Flood Risk Management Plans are being considered. This will include stakeholder and public participation processes as far as possible.
- The next phase of the study will be the development of hydrological and hydraulic models of river systems.

