

## Next Steps

- Continued Data collection and review
- Public Workshop – 13 November 2019, 3-8pm, Mountmellick Development Association offices
- Analysis of river and rainfall data
- Development of river / floodplain model
- Further surveys – including otter activity, geotechnical investigations, condition assessment of existing walls, topographic river survey
- Environmental Constraints Study

## Project team



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(Stage 1 & 2)



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(Stages 3 – 5)



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(Stage 1 & 2)



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## Contact Us

You can keep in touch with the project through our website, or via Facebook where we will be posting updates on progress and details of works that are ongoing.

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## NEWSLETTER NO. 1

November 2019



**OPW** Oifig na  
nOibreacha Poiblí  
Office of Public Works



**BARRY**  
& PARTNERS  
consulting engineers

## Background to the study

A number of rivers pass through and around the town of Mountmellick, County Laois, making it vulnerable to flooding from the Owenass and Pound Rivers and their tributaries. Significant flooding occurred in November 2017, when the rivers burst their banks, causing flooding to property, roads and fields and necessitating the evacuation of a number of housing estates.

Although the OPW's CFRAM Study, completed prior to the 2017 flood, identified Mountmellick as a town which would benefit from a flood relief scheme, the need and urgency for such a scheme has been brought into focus by the events of 22nd November.

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*The JBA Consulting JB Barry team will assess, develop and design a viable and sustainable flood relief scheme.*

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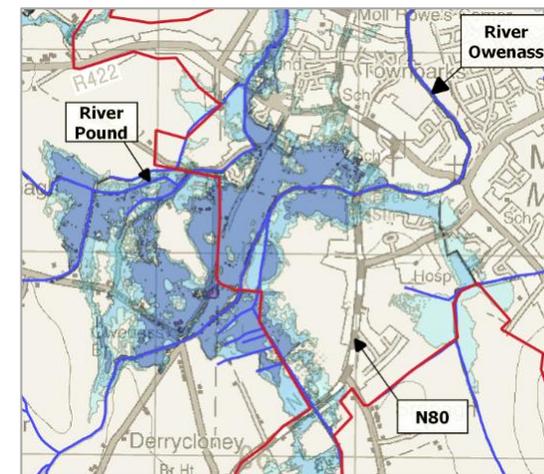
With this in mind, Laois County Council, along with project partners the OPW, have appointed the JBA Consulting JB Barry team to assess, develop and design a viable, cost-effective and sustainable flood relief scheme which aims to minimise risk to the existing community, social amenity, environment and landscape character.

## Information needed

Although we have a lot of information about the November 2017 flood, we are still interested in receiving photos, videos and stories about the event, and previous floods from those who experienced it first-hand. The information you provide will help us refine our river model and give greater confidence in the design of the flood relief scheme.

## Progress to date

In the three months since we were appointed, the team has begun a data collection exercise with a focus on analyzing the rainfall and flood event of November 2017. This is making use of river level and rainfall records for the period, including Met Éireann radar data. We have also started to refine a computer model of the rivers and floodplain in Mountmellick. With all this information we will be able to investigate the extreme “flash flooding” that occurred, and could happen in the future.



Extract from CFRAM flood map

We have also started the environmental and ecological assessment, with an ecological survey carried out in early September. Notable findings from the study were the number of trees and hedgerows providing nesting habitats for breeding birds, mature trees which are suitable for roosting bats, a number of otter holts. The river walk has been highlighted as a key resource for the town. A treatment programme for Japanese Knotweed that could interfere with the line of the defences has also begun.

## Outline scheme programme

Activity	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Assemble all the available data	JBA / JB Barry led activities					
Site Investigation contracts		JBA / JB Barry led activities				
Environmental Constraints Study	JBA / JB Barry led activities	JBA / JB Barry led activities				
Options development		JBA / JB Barry led activities				
Ecological and environmental assessments		JBA / JB Barry led activities				
Preparation of planning submission			Third party activity			
PART 10 Planning Application with An Bord Pleanála			Third party activity			
Detailed design for Flood Relief Scheme				JBA / JB Barry led activities		
Tender process for Flood Relief Scheme				JBA / JB Barry led activities		
Construction works					Ongoing / completed	Ongoing / completed

Key

JBA / JB Barry led activities

Third party activity

Ongoing / completed