



Bandon Flood Relief Scheme Newsletter Issue 4



BYRNE LOOBY PHMCARTHY

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Welcome

Welcome to the fourth issue of our newsletter providing an update on progress for Bandon Flood Relief scheme. We look forward to completing major components of the Bandon Flood scheme in 2017 and obtaining completion of the remaining elements in 2018.

As Contractor on the project, Wills Bros. Ltd would like to take this opportunity to thank the local and surrounding community as well as road users for their continued support and patience during the construction.

We will make every effort to minimise the disruption causes to residents, business owners and the general public.

Wills Bros. Ltd are currently availing of the allowable May to September instream working season to complete as much work as possible during 2017.



Demolition of existing Bandon Footbridge



Aerial View – Kilbrittain Road Culvert

In brief, the works that Wills Bros Ltd are intending to execute this year include:

- Dredging of the River Bandon from O’Driscoll’s Bridge as far as Mill River including rip-rap installation and other fisheries works.
- Commencement of works associated with new fish pass structures at Bandon Weir, including repairs to Bandon Weir Bridewell River, Mill River
- Construction of the new 3-span in-situ concrete pedestrian bridge;
- Underpinning of Bandon Bridge;
- Construction of new flood defence walls along the banks of the River Bandon;
- Construction of new embankments and re-shaping/remediation of existing embankments along the banks of the River Bandon/ Mill River;
- Installation of new culverts and drainage lines at various locations.

Progress

The following is an update on Works in progress.



Dredging works in operation

Dredging Works

The Works planned for 2017 in river season are currently ahead of schedule. We have started downstream at O'Driscoll's Bridge which is the furthest point downstream and have dredged the river for approximately 2.25km upstream of this point.

The works currently ongoing is the placement of rock armour on both sides of the river. Once complete works will commence on in river bed remodelling works and habitat improvement works.

Pedestrian Bridge



Pedestrian Bridge Pre-demolition



Pedestrian Bridge being demolished

The old pedestrian bridge was removed on 20th June. Sections of the old structure were saved and delivered to Cork County Council for distribution amongst interested local groups. Further information can be found on the recently published article in the Southern Star using the following link <http://www.southernstar.ie/news/roundup/articles/2017/07/11/4142440-bandon-footbridge-is-salvaged-for-posterity/>

Works have now commenced on the new pedestrian bridge. Piling for new foundations has commenced in the river. We are attempting to limit the disruption as much as possible on McSwiney Quay but closure will be required for pile installation and construction works associated with the Bridge. Intermittent closures to McSwiney Quay will be required between now and October. The Community Liaison and Traffic Management Officer (CLTMO) will be calling to all affected businesses and residents in advance of such works. Signage will also be in place advising motorists of alternative routes to access businesses.

Bandon Bridge works



Installation of temporary works at Bandon Bridge



Installation of temporary works at Bandon Bridge

Currently the Works at the Bridge are progressing which involve the underpinning of the bridge piers to facilitate the drop-in bed level which forms part of the dredging works.

In tandem with the underpinning works, the works will involve working on Bandon Bridge also in order to grout and strengthen the piers. This work is currently ongoing at night with lane closures on Bandon Bridge in place. The underpinning works to Bandon Bridge to facilitate lowering of the river bed is a critical element of the flood relief scheme and Wills Bros Ltd. are planning to get as much of this work completed in 2017 as possible.

Scheme Archaeologists have uncovered worked wooden beams under Bandon Bridge that are at present being analysed. Part of the early 17th century town wall extending into the north side of the river in the same area has also been uncovered during works along with other minor artefacts. An inventory of artefacts is currently being prepared.

Flood Defence Walls



Driving Sheet Piles – Graham Norton Walk

Flood defence wall construction has commenced at Graham Norton Walk and the Stretch Wall and is expected to commence shortly at the following locations.

- Watergate Street.
- Mill Place wall.
- Glasslinn Road Wall.

New Culverts



Installation of Mill River Culvert



Installation of Kilbriain Culvert

The Kilbriain Road culvert is currently under construction and will be completed by the end of July. The Mill River culverts are also currently being installed and will be completed by end of July. On completion of these culverts, significant benefit will be gained in the Old Quay Road, Moanarone Road, Kilbriain Road and New Road areas.

Drainage

Completed surface water drainage works to date include new drainage line and gullies being installed on Glasslinn Road, Brady's Lane, Bridge Street, Cork Marts and Riverview Shopping Centre. Further works in some of these areas with such works scheduled for the autumn period.

New Fish Pass;

The contractor received ministerial consent to progress with the planned works at the existing weir and at the location of the new fish pass. Archaeological investigations can now take place prior to the construction of the new fish pass. Works are now going to commence at this location and some disruption to Riverside shopping centre is anticipated.

Works on the new fish pass are due to start in coming weeks at the entrance to River View Shopping Centre but disruption to shoppers will be kept to a minimum and there will be no closures of access points.

Environmental



Electro-fishing/ Fish rescue – Bandon River

throughout the project. These include prints, spraints and “couches” or “seats”. These are areas where otters may rest up during the day. “Slides” are also present and are an indication of where otters return to the water.

Avian species are also being recorded and monitored during the construction works including kingfishers and sand martins. Kingfishers are regularly recorded flying up and down the river. Two nests have been found to date and have been protected from the ongoing works.

Invasive species are also a big consideration with a number of such species present throughout Bandon and which affect the works.

A treatment programme for the invasive species is in place, with all invasive species being transported to a designated burial location within the site. All works are being continuously monitored by the scheme Ecology Specialist.

Ecology and the environment plays a significant role within the flood relief project. Every effort is being made by Wills Bros Ltd to mitigate against the impacts of such a large infrastructure project on the local environment.

Aquatic species are being monitored and translocated out of works areas. Our environmental team are using electrofishing in areas that are to be dewatered. This involves the use of an electrical current that stuns species such as minnow and salmonid fry. These can then be netted and returned to the main channel. Eels, minnows, stickleback and stone loaches are also prevalent in healthy numbers. Lamprey numbers are abundant in the silty sand areas of the river. The young larvae or ‘ammocetes’ are numerous and are a good sign of a very healthy population. A sea lamprey, over 2 feet in length, was recorded earlier in May.

Water quality is also being monitored on a continuous basis. Dredging times are being restricted to allow the river to run clear on a daily basis and where water quality parameters are excessive works are altered or stopped to prevent injury to aquatic species.

Terrestrial species such as otters are also being cared for within the project. Numerous signs of otter activity have been recorded



Construction of burial pit for Japanese Knotweed

Archaeological

The historic town of Bandon, Co. Cork. Founded in the early 17th century, the town was walled by 1620 and was once the largest walled town in Munster. The flood relief scheme requires major impacts in the River Bandon and other areas of the town. Archaeological works are therefore part of the scheme and have been carried out for the last 10 months, supplementing the archaeological works complete prior to the main works commencing. The scheme archaeological team have uncovered over a thousand artefacts, including a large amount of 17th-18th century pottery and metal finds as well as coins, military buttons and ordnance, and these are being recorded and dealt with in accordance with the Archaeological License granted by National Monuments Service.

Wills Bros are presenting the results of the findings to date in the Irish Walled Towns Network conference in Bandon on 23rd of August. Judith Carroll and Company, the archaeological company subcontracted by Wills Bros will be giving a presentation on their behalf.

Upcoming Works

Currently we envisage in the coming quarter (July 2017 – Sept 2017) we will be undertaking the following sections of work:

- Commencement of the outfalls to the River for the drainage lines and install non- return valves to prevent flood waters within the river flow entering the drainage system.
- Commencement of flood defence embankments/ Retaining walls on Ballylengley Road, Glasslinn Road, Mill River and at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Commencement of the culverts installation, and Moanarone/ Distillery Road.
- Continuation of in river dredging works.
- Continuation of construction of new pedestrian bridge.
- Installation of temporary works at weir/fish pass and commencement of Archaeological investigation works at the New Fish Pass
- Commencement of fish pass including temporary works at Riverview.
- Continue with the underpinning works to Bandon Bridge.
- Utility diversions spanning the Bandon River at Watergate Street and McSwiney Quay.

For your information and convenience, the following are a schedule of upcoming road closures and locations where Traffic Management will be in place:

- Road closure at Moanarone/ Distillery Road from 10th April 2017 for approximately three months.
- Night time Works on Bandon Bridge July/August 2017
- It is anticipated that Bandon Footbridge will be closed for approximately 6-12 months.
- McSwiney Quay road closed intermittently between the 1st July 2017 and the 31st October 2017.
- Ongoing Traffic Management on Ballylengley/ Glasslinn Road
- Traffic management on the N71 between Innishannon and Bandon will be ongoing between 1st May 2017 and 31st September 2017.

Consultations will be made again with all effected property owners before we commence any works in their property and advance notice given in accordance with the time periods specified in our contract.

Again, we would like to reiterate that if any property owners or members of the community have any queries or concerns relating to the construction works, we are available in the site office from 8am – 6pm Monday to Friday or on the telephone number provided.

Should you have any queries or concerns relating to **construction activities**, please do not hesitate to contact one of our representatives on site during normal working hours 8am - 6pm or alternatively the CLTMO (Mr. Tony Lowe, Liaison Officer) on 087 0657208 or 087 6784855. Email correspondence relating to construction activities can be directed to tonylowe@willsbros.com.

All queries relating to the **Scheme itself** should be directed to Ger Barry, Employer's Representative who can be contacted at 087 2074810.

Email correspondence in relation to the scheme can be addressed to bandonfrs@byrneblooby.com.

A dedicated webpage has been set-up to communicate and provide updates to the public throughout the duration of the scheme. This can be found at www.bandonfrs.ie and will be updated regularly as the works progress and look forward to your continued cooperation during the construction of this contract.

PUBLIC INFORMATION CLINIC

Monthly public information clinics are being held on the last Tuesday of every month as part of the Communication Strategy for the Scheme. The clinic is open from 18.00 to 19.30 and members of the public who have an interest or queries in relation to the works are welcome to meet members of the team involved in the construction of the Scheme. No appointments are necessary. The next clinic will be held on 29th August,

BANDON FLOOD RELIEF SCHEME NEWSLETTER

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