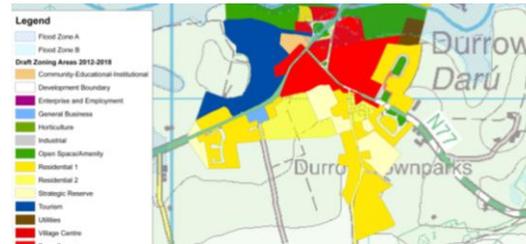
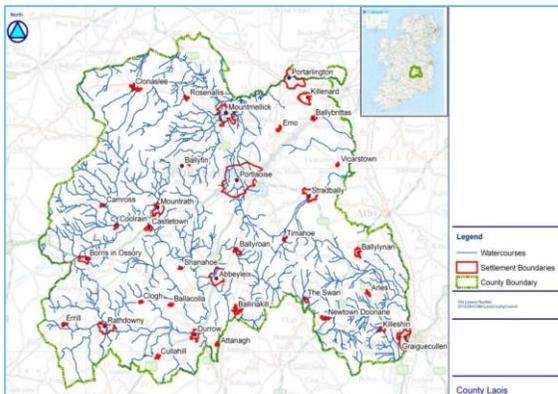


# County Laois

## Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

### Contract Brief

JBA Consulting was commissioned by Laois County Council in April 2010 to undertake an SFRA as part of the Strategic Environmental Appraisal being undertaken for the preparation of a new Draft Development Plan for Laois. The new plan will cover the period 2012-2018.



### Objectives

- To provide for an improved understanding of flood risk issues within the development plan.
- To detail the appropriate scope or level of detail necessary for a strategic flood risk assessment of a county development plan.
- To identify the extent of floodplains that should be safeguarded from development.
- To carry out a flood risk assessment based on existing datasets and survey work, as appropriate. The resulting suite of flood risk maps should support a sequential approach, and reduce the tension that can arise from the pressure to develop along with the need to avoid flood risk.
- To inform, where necessary, the application of the Justification Test.
- To propose mitigation measures to deal with flood risk to the area proposed for development and assess whether these measures can satisfactorily reduce the risks to an acceptable level while not increasing flood risk elsewhere.
- To produce guidance on how surface water should be managed and appropriate criteria to be used in the consideration of site-specific flood risk assessments.

### Description

The principles and steps detailed in 'the Planning System and Flood Risk Management', which is the core piece of Government policy relating to development and flood management, were followed throughout the development of the SFRA.

The context of flood risk in Laois was considered, with specific reference to people, property, infrastructure and the environment at risk of flooding. This was discussed in the context of a range of sources of flooding, including fluvial, pluvial, groundwater, sewer and artificial reservoirs and canals.

A two stage assessment of flood risk was undertaken for settlements zoned for development within the County Development Plan. Where more detailed assessment was required, this was highlighted in the SFRA.

Recommended policies and objectives for flood risk management were developed, and were written for direct inclusion in the Development Plan.

Flood management should be considered at all stages of the planning processes, so the integration of flood risk management in Local Area Plans and at the development management stages of planning was also discussed.

Triggers for the ongoing monitoring and future review of the SFRA, including availability of CFRAM maps, flood events and plan review dates, were provided.

A series of presentations were made at council and public meetings, to ensure full acceptance of the flood policies by the elected members. As a result, all recommended changes were voted into the new development plan.

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Royal Academy of Engineering  
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