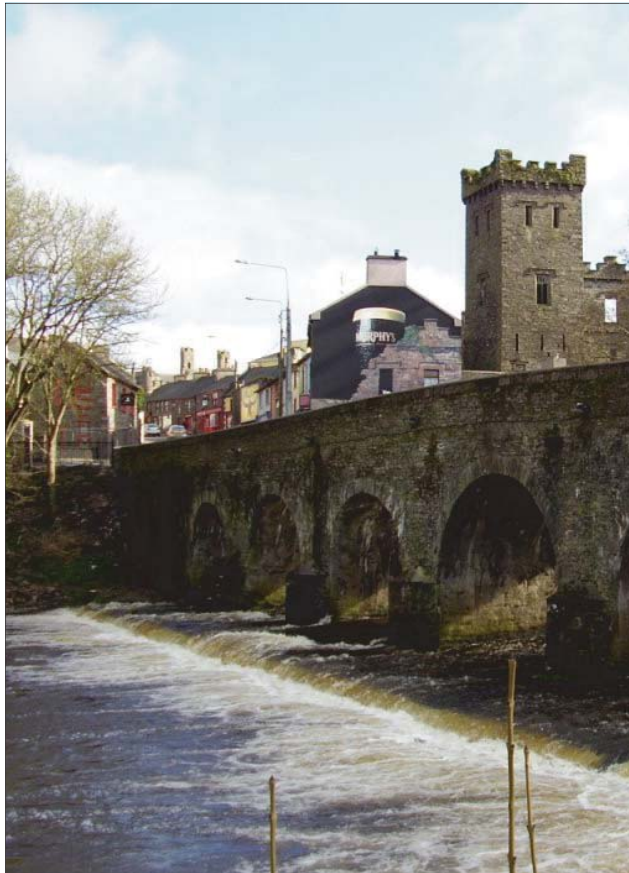


Public involvement

It is important that the knowledge and views of the general public are taken into consideration during the development of the Lee Catchment Flood Risk Management Plan. Public information days will be held at key stages of the project. Further information on these events will be included in the next newsletter. The OPW, as well as Cork City and County Councils, are seeking your cooperation to ensure the successful development of a Flood Risk Management Plan for the Lee Catchment.



River Sullane, Macroom

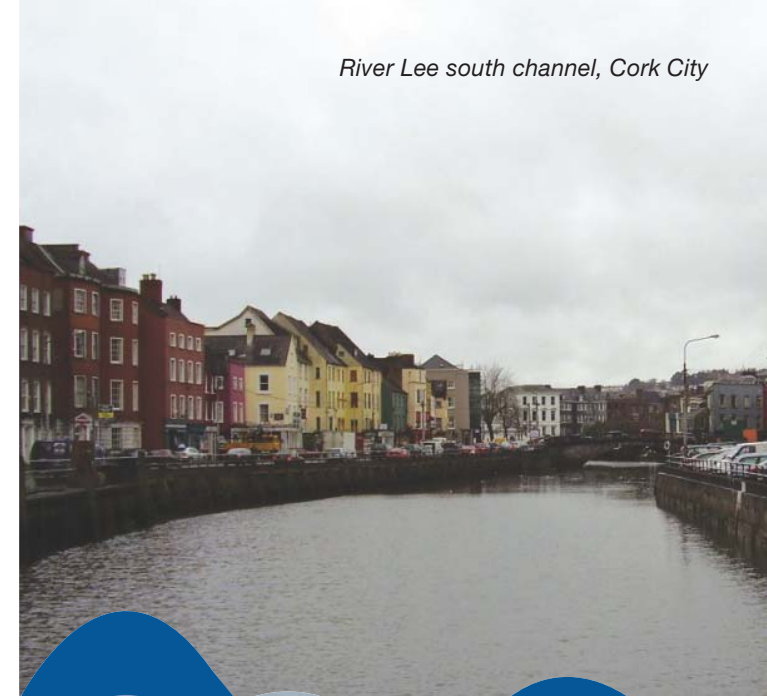


The Gearagh

Contact details

If you have any questions or require any further information relating to this study or if you would like to be included on a distribution list for future issues of this newsletter please email LeeCFRAMStudy@opw.ie

River Lee south channel, Cork City



LEE CATCHMENT FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT STUDY

Newsletter - Number 1
September 2006



Halcrow

Background

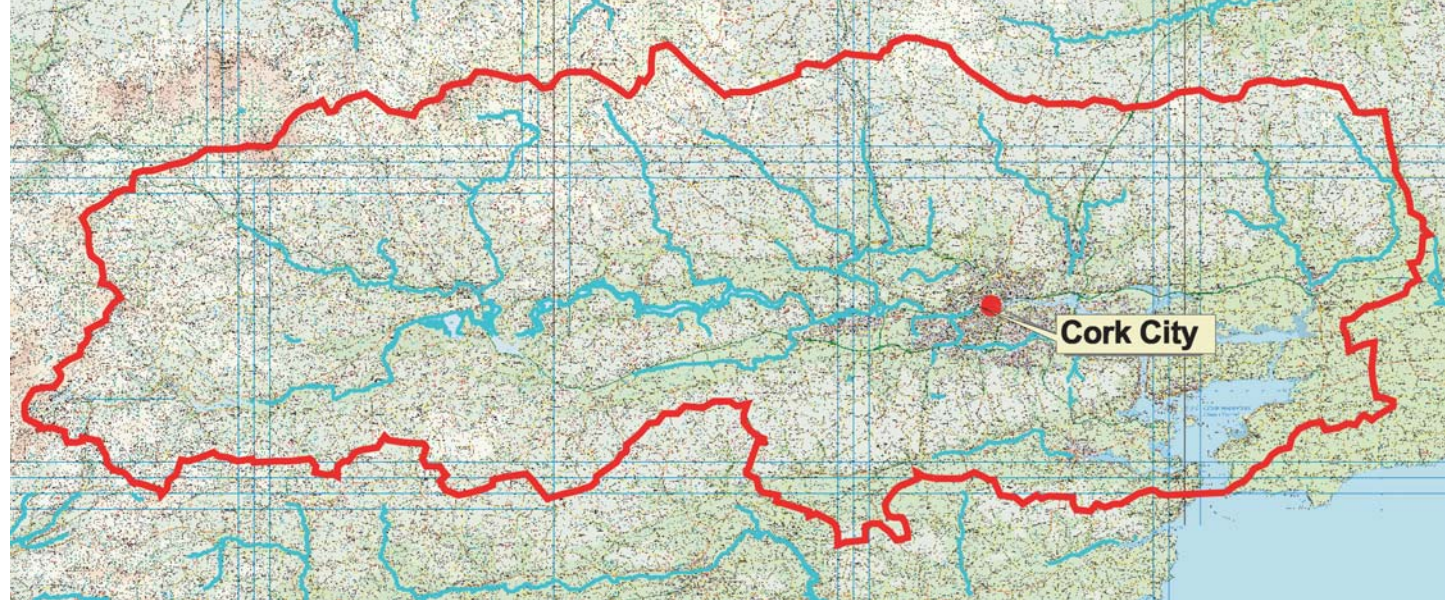
We, the Office of Public Works and our partners, Cork City Council and Cork County Council, have recognised the high levels of existing flood risk around the River Lee and its tributaries and estuary. Flood risk is also likely to increase in the future with predicted changes in climate, ongoing development and other pressures that may arise. Recent flooding in Cork City and County in October 2004 has highlighted this issue as a significant problem requiring urgent attention.



Cork Docklands

To address this issue, we are now undertaking a catchment-based flood risk assessment and management study of the River Lee and its tributaries and estuary – the Lee Catchment. The study will cover the Lee Estuary, main watercourses, urban areas of specific flood risk and areas under significant development pressure.

We have appointed consultants, Halcrow, to carry out the Lee Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study. Work on the study started in August 2006 and will continue until early 2008 when a Flood Risk Management Plan will be published. This plan will define the levels of existing and future flood risk in the Lee Catchment and set out how this will be managed both now and into the future.



Lee Catchment Study Area

This is the first newsletter from this study which sets out the background to and objectives of the study. We will publish a newsletter each month over the course of the study to provide an update on our progress.

- Develop an economically, socially and environmentally appropriate long-term strategy (a Flood Risk Management Plan) for managing the risk to help ensure the safety and sustainability of communities in the Lee Catchment

Study objectives

The objectives of the Lee Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study are to:

- Assess the flood risk to the catchment as a whole with particular focus on urban areas;
- Identify probable future land use and climate changes that could increase the risk of flooding;
- Carry out an environmental study, known as a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA), to ensure that environmental issues and opportunities for enhancement are fully considered as part of the study;
- Consider potential options to manage the flood risk including both structural and non-structural measures;

The main report from this study – the Flood Risk Management Plan – will include a programme of prioritised studies, actions and works to manage the flood risk in the Lee Catchment in the long-term, and make recommendations for appropriate development planning. This will also include an Environmental Report summarising the outcome of the SEA process.

We will provide details of the key stages of this study in the next newsletter.