

Introduction

Welcome to the fourteenth edition of the Lee CFRAM Study Newsletter. The project has been running for over a year now and a significant amount of work has been completed. Over the next few months the project will progress onto the third of four key stages, namely the option assessment stage. For more information on each of the four key stages please visit our website at www.leecframs.ie/programme.asp.

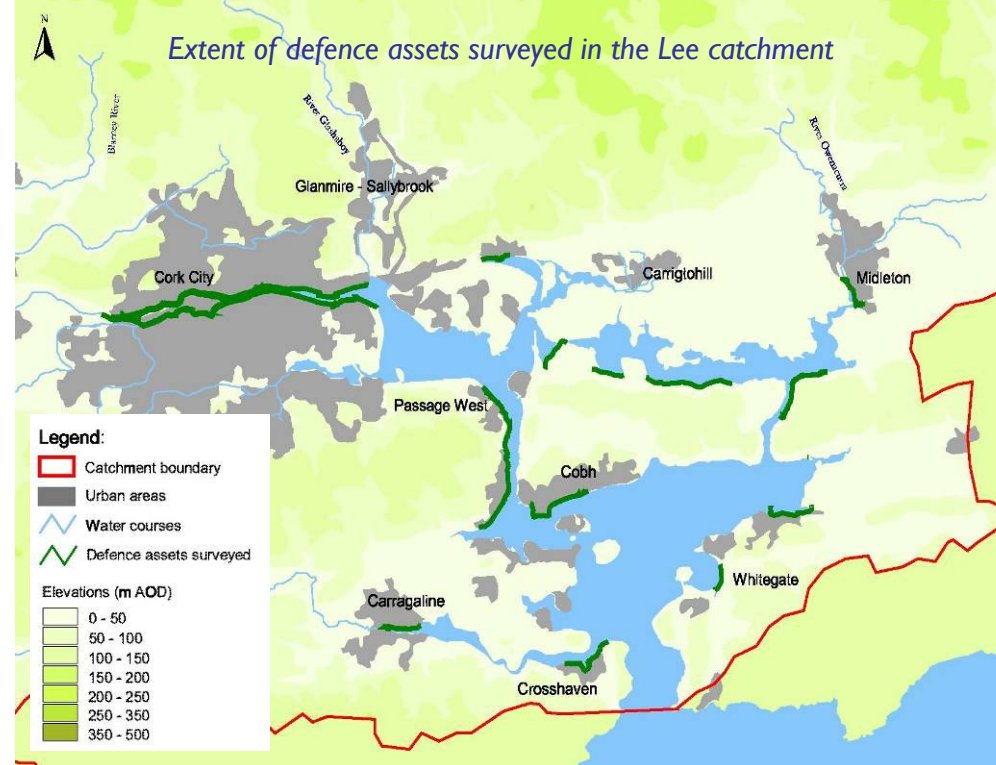
In this month's newsletter we focus on the Flood Defence Asset Database which has been developed as part of the Lee CFRAM Study for collecting, storing and analysing flood defence data in the catchment. On the back page of the newsletter we provide information on the work which has taken place over the last four weeks.

Focus On

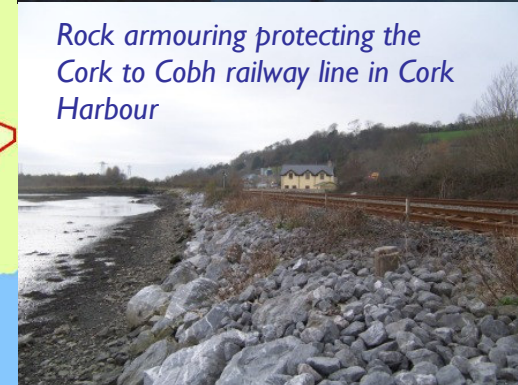
Flood Defence Asset Database

The Flood Defence Asset Database (FDAD) is a new software tool developed by Halcrow for use on the Lee CFRAM Study and other flood studies in Ireland. The asset database contains a digital record of the type, condition, performance and location of flood defence assets in the catchment. Flood defence assets include walls, embankments, bridges and piers. The software is designed to operate on both a mobile computer, such as a laptop and on an office computer network.

The mobile system is used to collect information on the flood defence assets in the field. This information was collected for the Lee CFRAMS during the defence asset survey from December '06 to February '07 (please see the December '06 newsletter for further information). The flood defence asset database was loaded onto rugged Toughbook laptops.



Flood defence wall in Cork Harbour

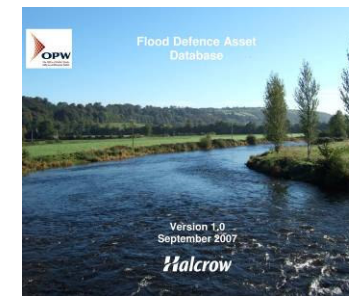


Rock armouring protecting the Cork to Cobh railway line in Cork Harbour

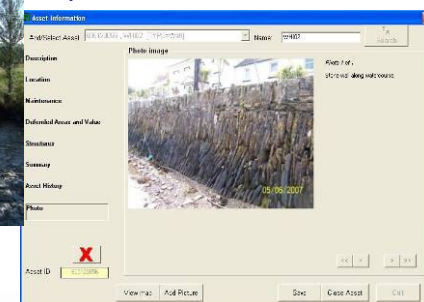
Digital background mapping and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) helped the surveyors to accurately locate assets along the rivers and around Cork Harbour. Once located, the assets were inspected more closely and the physical condition recorded in the database.

The main benefits of this digital information collection system are as follows:

- Information can be downloaded on site through remote connections to the office. This means that information can be relayed to the surveyor whilst still on site which minimises the need for re-visits.
- Photos and sketches can be collected and referenced on site so that there is no need for cross referencing at a later date.
- The system is easy to use so the technical aspect of the survey is the focus of attention rather than the inputting of data.



Sample images of the flood defence asset database



The office based system is used to analyse the data collected in the field. The database can be used to highlight the assets in a catchment which need immediate attention or regular maintenance. This information will be used to develop a programme of defence asset management and maintenance. The database can be built up and updated in the future, thus allowing a comprehensive data base of all assets monitored and upgraded as required.