

River Camac FAS Frequently Asked Questions

Q: When will the Rathcoole Woodland area be surveyed?

A: This area was included in the following surveys: Breeding Birds, Habitats, Invasive Species, Mammals & Wintering Birds. A topographic survey to the eastern edge of this area has also been completed.

A hydromorphology assessment which is currently being finalised includes the Coolmine Stream, Crockshane Stream and the Saggart Stream.

Q: Will this project quantify the flood attenuation levels Rathcoole woodland currently affords, which help protect Rathcoole and Saggart from flooding?

A: The area and tributaries will be included within the hydraulic model, which will indicate the existing flood plain extents.

Q: How will the current flood attenuation in Rathcoole Woodland be affected by planned housing development which will replace the woodland?

A: The Flood Alleviation Scheme will provide updated flood extents that will be used to inform any future planning applications.

Q: When will the survey reports be published on the website?

A: Draft reports will be added to the website W/C 24th May 2021. In the interest of protecting particular species, exact locations will be removed from the reports.

Q: What is the impact of development at the upper Camac catchment on the river overall?

A: The hydraulic model is currently being updated based on all the survey data collated to date. This will include recent developments and will create an updated hydrology and flood extents for the catchment.

Q: Application of SuDs, what would be the recommendation/opinion for sustainable development in the catchment?

A: SuDs are an extremely effective way of managing water within a catchment. The design options explored by the Flood Alleviation Scheme will also prioritise sustainable nature-based solutions where possible.

Q: Is there or will there be the need for an extra lake in Corkagh Park?

A: At this stage it is too early to say until completion of the baseline hydraulic model. Current pond capacities and flow management on the ponds will be assessed during the modelling. The loss of capacity in the Ponds due to silt will also be assessed.

Q: How will the discharges from new developments next to the Camac be dealt with and taken into account?

A: All new developments will have to adhere to SuDS guidelines to ensure that runoff is managed within its own site catchment and returned to the ground or rivers at a natural rate. If any attenuation is required, any run-off from developments will have to be regulated to an agreed discharge level, in accordance with DCC and SDCC policy. This will ensure that the channel capacity of the Camac required to meet a 1 in 100-year flood event is not compromised.

Q: Concerns about flood schemes promoting natural based defences but end up just being hard defences

A: Where it is feasible for natural measures to contribute to flood reduction in the Scheme Area this will be considered. However, due to the presence of existing development in some flood-prone areas, opportunities to provide natural flood storage measures in these areas may be more limited. Typically, where upstream natural flood storage measures can be achieved this can help to reduce the need for hard defences in downstream developed areas.

Q: How would you intend to control the flow from the upper reaches of the catchment and increase channel capacity?

A: y identifying natural flood plains, using natural river management in controlling flows and by maximizing natural alleviation measures. Such measures could include:

- lowering embankments to allow flooding into adjacent fields

- re-meander through agricultural fields

- diversionary channels with offline storage ponds/wetlands

Channel capacity could be increased with cleaning culverts and better bankside maintenance.

Q: Have the two culverts that end outside the Clondalkin Civic Offices beside the main Camac culvert that comes under the car park of the Mill Shopping Centre been explored?

A: CCTV surveys are currently under way in these areas to confirm pipe locations and sizes.

Q: Does the fact that the Mill Ponds in Clondalkin are in private ownership affect their use for flood alleviation?

A: All options for flood storage will be explored in terms of feasibility at this stage, upon completion of the hydraulic model. Land ownership will be explored once viable options are identified.

Q: What is SuDS?

A: SuDS—Sustainable Drainage System is a way of managing surface water runoff in a more natural method. Typically, by storing it or slowing it down before it enters the nearby watercourses. Details on how SuDS are used and implemented can be found at www.susdrain.org

Q: How are SuDs systems tested for their efficiency?

A: SuDS systems are all designed and installed as per the [CIRIA guidance](#) for SuDS, which has conducted various studies and research.

Q: Will the planting of trees and "natural" water flow slowing be part of this scheme as has been shown to work elsewhere?

A: At this stage it is too early to say until completion of the baseline hydraulic model. Where it is feasible for natural measures to contribute to flood reduction in the Scheme Area this will be considered. The project has commissioned a Hydromorphology Assessment which is currently reviewing and making recommendations on methods and locations, such as tree planting and slowing the water down by meandering these through fields. If upstream flood management can be achieved this could greatly reduce the need for hard defences in these areas.

Q: Does your project include provision for the Camac Greenway in Inchicore Kilmainham?

A: The project is aware of discussions regarding a Camac Greenway. In delivering an enhanced understanding of flood risk in the catchment, together recommendations from the Hydromorphology Assessment being carried out, the outputs from this project will help to inform possible future routes for a greenway.

Q: Do you proposal to re-instate the historic millrace that used to service Kilmainham Mill?

A: This project recognizes the historical heritage relating to the mill races. The project will review the feasibility of re-instating the mill races where possible to help alleviate flooding.

Q: How will the work on the Camac River affect the Gallblack stream by Kylmore Road?

A: The Gallblack Stream is included within this study, but at this stage it is too early to say what works or impact might be on this stream.

Q: Are you confident at this stage that it's going to be possible to reduce flooding in urban areas to < 100 year event? As you'll be aware, there are local residents who can no longer insure their homes.

A: The project team are currently gathering as much information as possible to build a hydraulic model to best replicate the River Camac. In doing this we will be able to test a suite of options to determine the most affective option.

Q: What length of culverts are there currently within the Camac?

A: There are approximately 28km of culverts within the total catchment. Approximately 7.2km located within the main River Camac watercourse.

Q: Fonthill road bridge cause of flooding at CherryWood in Clondalkin. Mill Centre culvert cause of flooding at Leinster Terrace in Clondalkin. Will these man made problems be resolved without affecting the river. Gong forward what body will protect the river from planning decisions.

A: The project will look to implement natural flood alleviation measures where possible. Both DCC and SDCC are the statutory bodies which will advise on future planning decisions.

Q: Do previous records of the flora and fauna exist or is your data recording the first documented one?

A: Various surveys have been conducted previously in some areas of the catchment and are referenced in the Habitat reports.

Q: Have the Crockshane and Coolmine Streams and other streams in the upper part of Camac Catchment in the vicinity of Rathcoole been mapped? And how soon will those updated maps be available? Any possibility of GIS availability?

A: These areas are included within the new hydraulic model which is currently being progressed. The output of this model will be updated flood extent maps, which are expected to be completed at the end of summer 2021. These streams are also included in the hydromorphology assessment which is currently being finalised.

Q: How does this project plan to reconcile the Rathcoole Woods development plan damage to the upper catchment with the project's environmental responsibilities?

A: The project will aim to implement environmental improvements where possible in conjunction with flood alleviation measures and to inform future planning decisions.

Q: According to figures from SDCC— In 2020, the summer was the driest in approx. 20 years, but figures indicate that catchment had hit its seasonal long term rainfall average in Dec 2020 and January 2021. Saturated soils resulting in less soakage for overflow, pitches becoming swamps. Is it likely that natural floodplains will be implemented as a preference? This is the driest year and the volume of rainfall, and level of the river (height) has consistently risen. Also, in the same thought, if planning has been granted, how do river users address this to ensure that it is not an unquantifiable / included volume of rain that is not on the existing map?

A: Where it is feasible for natural measures to contribute to flood reduction in the Scheme Area this will be considered. However, due to the presence of existing development in some flood-prone areas, opportunities to provide natural flood storage measures in these areas may be more limited. Typically, where upstream natural flood storage measures can be achieved this can help to reduce the need for hard defences in downstream developed areas.

All new developments will have to adhere to SuDS guidelines to ensure that runoff is contained within its own site catchment and returned to the ground or rivers at a natural rate. If any attenuation is required, any run-off from developments will have to be regulated to an agreed discharge level to ensure that the channel capacity of the Camac required to meet a 1 in 100-year flood event is not compromised.

Q: Are there any plans for the Brittas Ponds?

A: All options will be reviewed. A topographical and bathymetric survey of Brittas Ponds has been completed.

Q: When do you estimate the hydraulic study be finished?

A: It is estimated the hydraulic model will be completed in Summer 2021, with flood extents maps in Autumn 2021.

Q: Will the work involve assessing water quality, in terms of if it is clean enough for people to paddle in it?

A: As part of the flood alleviation scheme, the project will also aim to implement changes to improve water quality where possible.

Q: Can you explain the difference between the red, amber and green species lists?

A: Birds can be split up into three categories of conservation importance, red, amber and green. These form the list of Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC). The lists are continually reviewed and are determined based on factors such as, historical decline, populations rarity and international importance.

Q: Do you know when the Camac river between Inchicore and Heuston Station was channeled into its current concrete banks?

A: This has occurred over a number of years, with various sections altered at different stages. Historically there was also a millrace course, which has been lost. The restoration of this will be an option which this project reviews.

Q: What is the update on the mammals surveys?

A: The mammals survey has been completed and a draft summary report will be uploaded onto the project website.
