

Where we are at

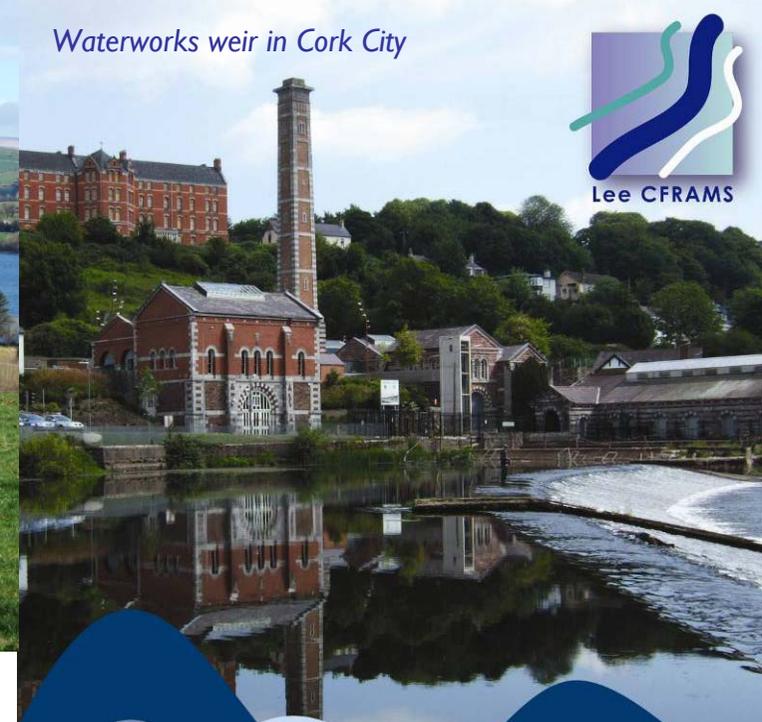
The deadline for receiving comments on the Environmental Scoping Report has passed (20 July). We would like to thank those organisations and individuals who have provided comments and feedback on this report. Your views have informed the ongoing development of the Lee Catchment Flood Risk Management Plan.

The channel and structure cross sectional survey has now been completed. The survey data is being used to develop 8 separate computer models of the rivers in the catchment (please see the May newsletter for further information). Work on the development of these models is progressing well.

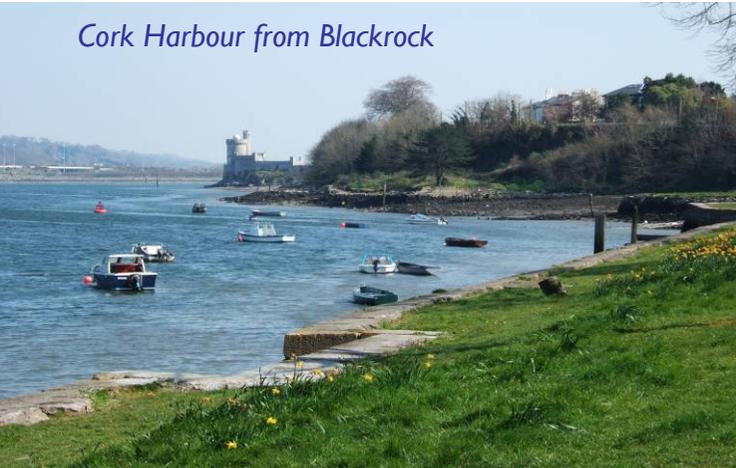
Carrigadrohid reservoir near Macroom



Waterworks weir in Cork City



Cork Harbour from Blackrock



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

Further information is also available on our project website at www.leecframs.ie

Next issue

In the next issue of the newsletter we will focus on flood mapping. The flood hazard and risk maps will be used to present the results from our computer models of the harbour and rivers, and to map the areas at risk from flooding in the catchment. The next issue of the newsletter will be available at the end of August.

Halcrow

LEE CATCHMENT FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT STUDY

Newsletter - 11
July 2007



Introduction

Welcome to the eleventh edition of the Lee CFRAM Study Newsletter. In this month's Focus On section we provide information on the new EU Floods Directive, which is due to be introduced later this year. We also provide an update on project progress including details on hydraulic modelling and the strategic environmental assessment.

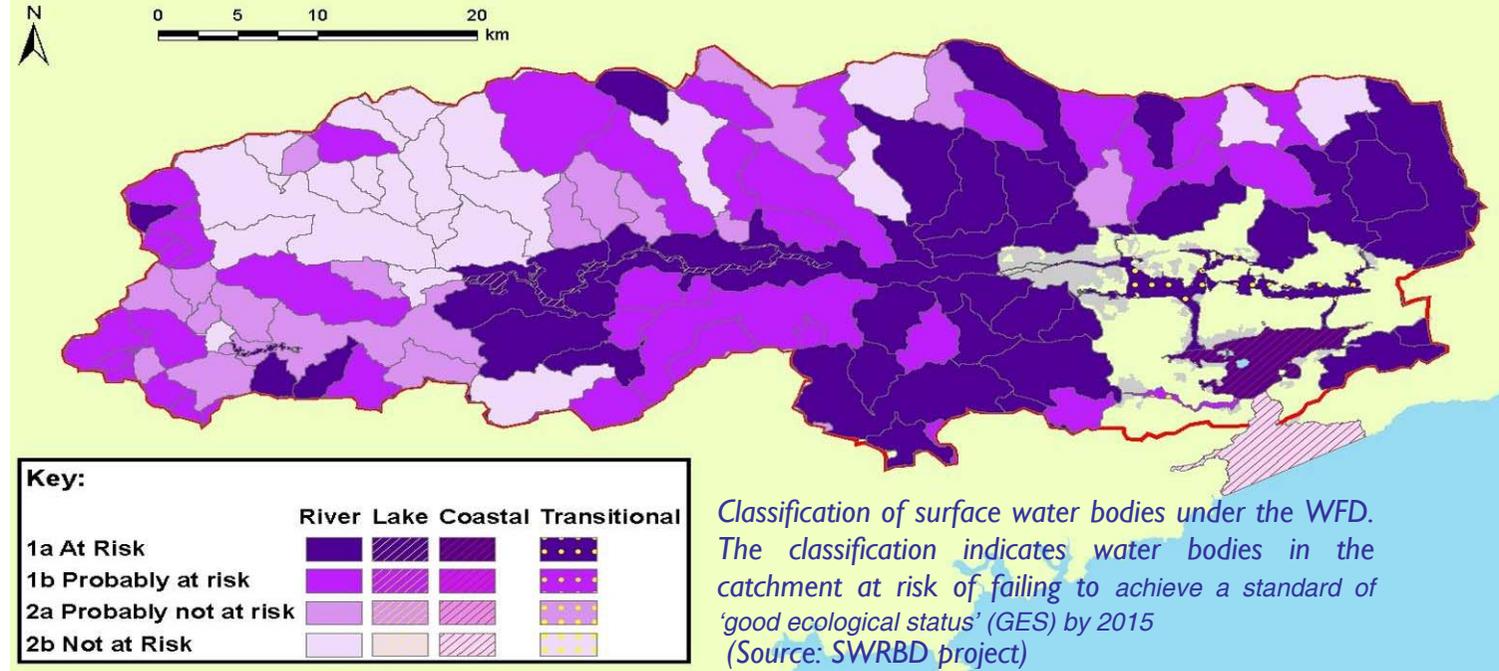
For more information on the project including latest news, work schedule, project partners and project documents, please visit our website at www.leecframs.ie

Focus On

The EU Floods Directive

Later this year, a new European Directive on the assessment and management of flood risk, the "Floods Directive", is due to be introduced to set out how member states must plan for the management of flood risk. The purpose of the directive is "to establish a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks, aiming at the reduction of the adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community". This will be achieved through a series of requirements set out by the Directive, which will be carried out at river catchment level and also in coastal zones.

In recent years Europe has suffered over 100 major damaging floods, including the disastrous floods along the Danube and Elbe rivers in 2002. Since 1998, floods in Europe have caused over 700 fatalities, the displacement of an estimated half a million people and at least 25 billion euro in insured economic losses (European Environment Agency).



There are also a number of drivers that are likely to influence future flood risk including changes in climate and land use. Current research indicates that climate change will cause an increase in rainfall depth and intensity and a rise in sea levels. As the demand for urban development land grows, there will also be increasing pressure for development in flood risk zones.

The European Commission proposed the floods directive to help Member States manage the risk associated with floods, including their damaging effects on human health, the environment, infrastructure and property. The principal requirements of the Directive are that Member States shall:

- Undertake a preliminary flood risk assessment (PFRA) to determine areas of existing or potential future 'significant' risk, and for those areas,
- Prepare flood hazard and risk maps, and
- Prepare flood risk management plans

In Ireland, these latter two requirements of the Directive will be delivered through the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Studies. The Lee CFRAMS is one of three pilot studies being carried out to meet the requirements of the Floods Directive. The completion of the Lee project will provide invaluable experience in shaping the process for future CFRAM studies.

Further key requirements of the Directive are for transboundary co-operation and coordination with the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). On the LeeCFRAMS project, this requirement is being achieved through coordination with the South West River Basin District Project that is implementing the Water Framework Directive in the southwest of Ireland. For example, strategic flood risk management options proposed by this study will facilitate the achievement of good ecological status/potential for all water bodies in the catchment (see map above for further details).