

CONTACT US

You can keep in touch with the project through our website where we will be posting updates on progress and details of works that are ongoing. For further enquiries feel free to contact us via email or post at:

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RELEVANT LINKS

Website: www.liffordfrs.ie



OPW Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council

rps MAKING
COMPLEX
EASY

RYAN HANLEY

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

LIFFORD

Flood Relief Scheme

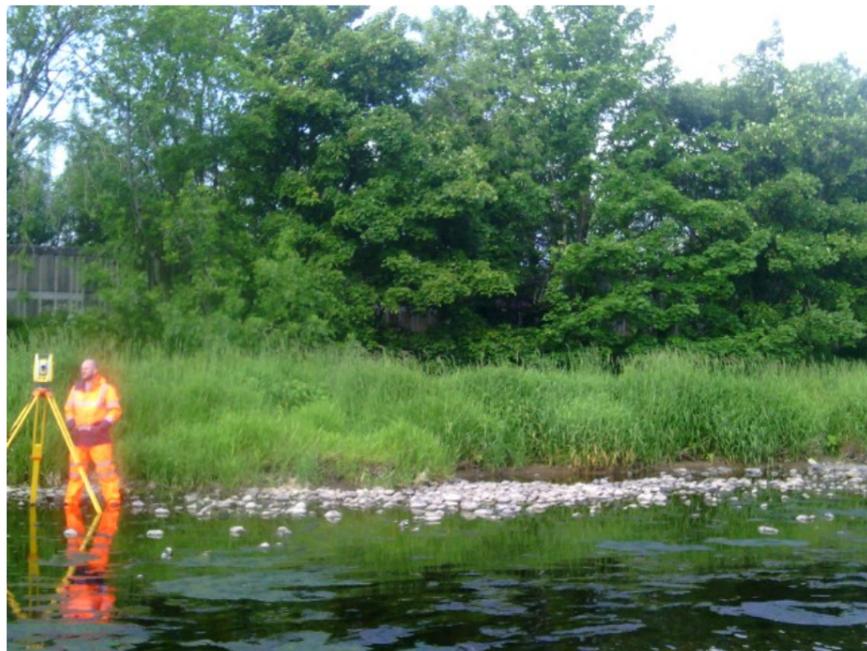
Newsletter No. 03
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WHAT STAGE IS THE STUDY AT?

In the period since the last Project Newsletter was issued (Newsletter No.2, May 2020), the project steering group (comprising of the OPW, Donegal County Council, RPS and Ryan Hanley) are continuing to ensure that all of the works planned are based on the most accurate and up to date information.

RPS (Engineering Consultants) procured a company to undertake a detailed river and terrain survey which was completed in August 2020. The purpose of the survey was to record an accurate representation of the rivers (Finn, Foyle Mourne and Dee) and floodplains for the purposes of constructing a computer model to simulate the flooding mechanisms. RPS have commenced construction of the hydraulic model using the data acquired during the survey.



Survey on the River Mourne (July 2020)

Ryan Hanley (Environmental Consultants) completed a preliminary ecological walkover survey in early 2020, this revealed localised abundance of invasive species, particularly Giant Hogweed and Japanese Knotweed along the rivers Finn, Foyle and Mourne. The OPW and Donegal County Council have undertaken treatment of these invasive plants, which are being monitored to determine the requirements of further treatment in the future. An Invasive Species Management Plan is being prepared. This will be a repository of invasive species data, location / occurrence, treatment actions, assessment results and further requirements for management.

Ryan Hanley have developed the Environmental Constraints Study report which assesses Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna, Soils and Geology, Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage, Land Use and Material Assets, Landscape and Visual Impact, in addition to Population and Human Health. The responses gathered from the Opening Public Consultation Day in February 2020 are also incorporated into this report. This report is currently being updated following a review by members of the project steering group.

IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

The Lifford FRS Steering Group have continued to meet via video conferencing facilities in order to comply with government guidance during the COVID19 pandemic.

The Steering Group had scheduled an opening Collaborative Workshop with relevant stakeholders in late March 2020. The objectives of the Workshop included identifying and discussing any particular issues, constraints and opportunities that could inform the development of the Scheme or affect other areas of interest. However, due to COVID-19, the workshop was postponed – the Steering Group are now considering potential ways of holding the workshop in the Autumn of 2020, whilst adhering to government guidance relating to COVID-19.

OUTLINE SCHEME PROGRAMME

	Activity	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027
Stage 1	Data Collection and surveys		■							
	Hydrological Analysis		■	■						
	Hydraulic Analysis		■	■						
	Scheme analysis & development			■	■					
Stage 2	Public Exhibition				■	■				
Stage 3	Detailed design of Scheme				■	■				
	Confirmation by Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform					■	■			
Stage 4	Construction works						■	■	■	
Stage 5	Scheme Operational									■

Timelines provided as current best estimate, but are subject to revision.

NEXT STEPS

Data Collection: Data Collection is ongoing. The project team are interested in receiving photos, videos, sketches or any other relevant information regarding previous flood events from those who have experienced it first-hand, particularly from 2015 onwards. The information provided will help the project team to refine the river model and the design of the flood relief scheme. If you have any information which could be of use, please contact the project team.

Hydrological Analysis: The hydrological analysis is substantially complete. This provides the necessary inputs to the hydraulic model in order to allow simulation of a range of flooding scenarios. The analysis will be completed following construction and calibration of the hydraulic model.

Hydraulic Analysis: Construction of the hydraulic model has commenced following receipt of the survey information. Following construction, the model will be calibrated and validated using data from historical flood events to ensure that it provides an accurate representation of the flooding mechanisms in Lifford. The hydraulic model will then be used to simulate a range of scenarios that could happen in the future.

Environmental Assessment: The requirements for further ecological surveys and studies in relation to habitat types, breeding birds, otters and other species or features of ecological or environmental interest are currently being identified.