

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 please contact us via email or post at:

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RELEVANT LINKS

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OPW
Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Comhairle Contae
Dhún na nGall
Donegal County Council

RPS

RYAN HANLEY

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

LIFFORD

Flood Relief Scheme

Newsletter No. 05
June 2021



WHAT STAGE IS THE STUDY AT?

In the period since the last Project Newsletter was issued (Newsletter No.4, February 2021), the Lifford FRS 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) are assessing the latest river level information to ensure that the inputs to the computer model are as representative as possible. The computer model (which includes reaches of the Finn, Foyle, Mourne and Deeble), is being calibrated to ensure that it is representative of the flooding mechanisms in Lifford.

RPS have also undertaken a visual inspection to assess the condition of the existing Arterial Drainage Scheme flood defences, along the Foyle and Deeble, and instructed surveyors to complete surveys in Ballindrait, at the Sandy Mills Gauging Station on the Deeble and along the Gaadoo drain in Lifford.

Ryan Hanley (Environmental Consultants) completed winter birds' surveys in the study area, which identified Whooper Swans, Kingfishers, Lapwing, Redshank and Snipe. Evidence of otter activity has also been recorded. Ryan Hanley have identified the requirement for aquatic and other specialist surveys, and are continuing to prepare for these surveys to be undertaken.

The Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP), which has been prepared in conjunction with the OPW, is being updated as and when invasive plant species become evident (as shown in the photographs below). This includes the creation of detailed mapping of the locations of Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam. The OPW and Donegal County Council are to resume control treatment of this Giant Hogweed as soon as easing of COVID19 work restrictions permits. It is important that this is undertaken as invasive species spread quickly, with adverse ecological and environmental effects.



New growth of Giant Hogweed along River Foyle

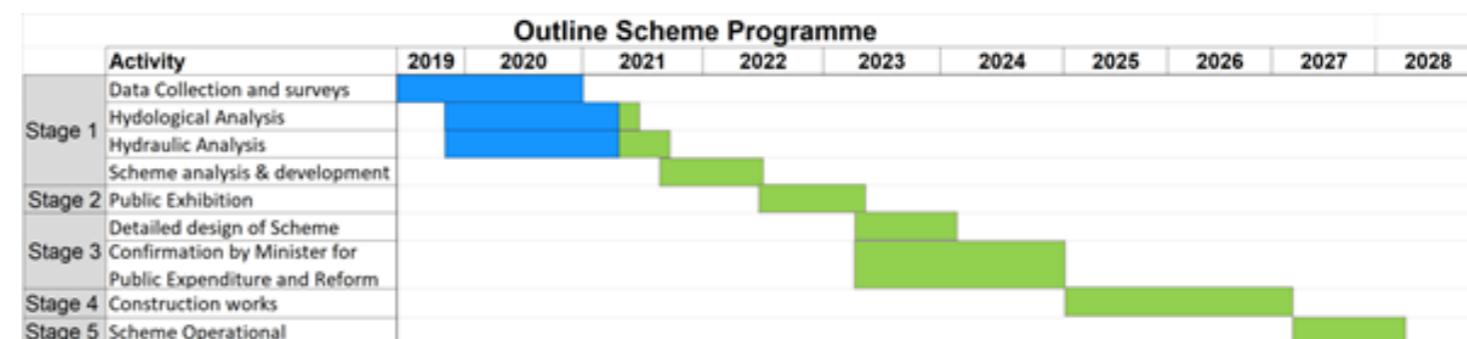


Sprouted seedlings of Himalayan Balsam

IMPACT OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID19)

The Office of Public Works has identified the Lifford FRS Steering Group as providing an essential service to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic. Some members of the Steering Group have visited the study area, as part of the delivery of this essential service, whilst adhering fully with all relevant government regulations and guidance in relation to COVID-19. The Steering Group continues to meet via video conferencing facilities in order to comply with government guidance.

OUTLINE SCHEME PROGRAMME



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

NEXT STEPS

Hydrological Analysis: The hydrological analysis, which is the analysis of river and rainfall data, provides the necessary inputs to the hydraulic computer model in order to allow simulation of a range of flooding scenarios. The analysis will be completed following calibration of the hydraulic model.

Hydraulic Analysis: After the hydraulic model has been calibrated and validated using data from historical flood events to ensure that it provides an accurate representation of the flooding mechanisms, it will be used to assess and compare various options which will reduce the flood risk in Lifford.

Scheme Analysis and Development: The Steering Group are reviewing potential locations to undertake a site investigation (in the form of excavated trial pits and boreholes) in order to better understand the ground conditions where the scheme may be constructed. Following completion of the site investigation and hydraulic analysis, an assessment will be undertaken which will facilitate identification of the route of the flood relief scheme.

Environmental Assessment: Specialist surveys will be undertaken during the summer of 2021 to provide detailed data on aquatic ecology, river water quality, salmon and other fish species, otters and bat species, as well as breeding birds.