

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

RYAN HANLEY

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

LIFFORD

Flood Relief Scheme

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rpsgroup.com



WHAT STAGE IS THE STUDY AT?

In the period since the last Project Newsletter was issued (Newsletter No.5, May 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.

The Project Team have assessed the latest river level information for input into the computer model. The computer model (which includes reaches of the Finn, Foyle, Mourne and Deelee), is being calibrated to ensure that it is representative of the flooding mechanisms in Lifford. The construction of the pluvial (surface water) flooding model has commenced.

In preparation for identifying a preferred scheme option, the Project Team have completed a structural inspection of the wall on the left bank downstream of Lifford Bridge (as shown below) and have contacted all adjacent landowners to determine if they have any records providing further information on the construction of the wall. In addition, RPS have identified 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. The Project Team are undertaking an Appropriate Assessment for the site investigation works. This is an assessment of the potential adverse effects of the works on the Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.



Wall on left bank downstream of Lifford Bridge



Himalayan Balsam along the River Finn

The Project Team have completed breeding birds surveys in the study area, which identified Kingfisher, Sand Martin (colonies), Common Sandpiper and Grey Wagtail as key species along the rivers. Several Lapwing pairs were noted as attempting to breed early in the season along and north of the River Deelee. Evidence of otter activity has also been further recorded in the study area and this survey is ongoing. Bat Surveys were undertaken in July. Treatment of invasive species, including Himalayan Balsam as shown above, is ongoing with further treatment being applied in the Autumn.

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. The Steering Group continues to meet via video conferencing facilities in order to comply with government guidance.

OUTLINE SCHEME PROGRAMME

		Outline Scheme Programme									
		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
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

Hydrological Analysis: The final hydrological analysis, which is the analysis of river and rainfall data, will be submitted to the Steering Group for review. Once this is approved it will provide the necessary inputs to the hydraulic computer model in order to allow simulation of a range of flooding scenarios.

Hydraulic Analysis: The calibration and validation of the hydraulic model is nearing completion using data from historical flood events to ensure that it provides an accurate representation of the flooding mechanisms. The model will now be used to produce flood maps and assess and compare various options which will reduce the flood risk in Lifford.

Scheme Analysis and Development: Following completion of the site investigation and hydraulic analysis, an assessment of viable flood relief options will be undertaken. The assessment will compare the technical and economic suitability of options as well as their environmental and social impact to determine the route of the preferred flood relief scheme.

Environmental Assessment: Reporting on field surveys carried out in the preceding seasons will be completed; in addition to revision and updating of the Invasive Species Management Plan.