

## 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

**Website:** [www.liffordfrs.ie](http://www.liffordfrs.ie)

**OPW** Oifig na  
nOibreacha Poiblí  
Office of Public Works



**Comhairle Contae  
Dhún na nGall**  
Donegal County Council

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**2040**

# LIFFORD

## Flood Relief Scheme

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[rpsgroup.com](http://rpsgroup.com)



## WHAT STAGE IS THE STUDY AT?

The Lifford Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) incorporates five stages – from Stage 1 (Scheme Development and Design) through to Stage 5 (Completion of works). As part of the ongoing work in Stage 1, the Project Team have completed the final Hydrological Analysis report. This provides the necessary inputs to the hydraulic computer model in order to allow simulation of a range of flooding scenarios. The computer model (which includes reaches of the Finn, Foyle, Mourne and Dee), has been calibrated, to ensure that it is representative of the flooding mechanisms in Lifford. Draft outputs of the model have also been reviewed by the Steering Group. The construction of the pluvial (surface water) flooding model is ongoing.

Tender documents for ground investigation were issued by the Project Team in November with returns received in early December 2021. Assessment of tenders has been completed and the successful contractor has been appointed. Ground investigations (in the form of excavated trial pits and boreholes) will focus on the area north of the town with findings to inform scheme design. The ground investigations will also confirm the condition of existing embankments. Similarly, the Project Team are considering options for vegetation removal along the river wall in the town (see photograph below) to enable inspection by a structural engineer to confirm its condition.



High water levels on the River Foyle



Wall on left bank downstream of Lifford Bridge

The first two of three total Otter surveys have been completed for the autumn winter season with third survey currently underway. The first survey was completed in September and focused on the river adjacent to the town. The second survey was undertaken in October and found evidence of intensive usage of the riverside by otters north and south of Lifford. Invasive Species continue to be monitored, with the Invasive Species Management Plan (ISMP) being updated as and when invasive plant species become evident. Herbicide spraying of Japanese knotweed was undertaken in early September.

## 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									
Activity		2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Stage 1	Data Collection and surveys	█									
	Hydrological Analysis		█								
	Hydraulic Analysis			█							
Stage 2	Scheme analysis & development				█						
	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

**Hydraulic Analysis:** We will continue to test the model against a range of scenarios to determine how sensitive the flood extent and depths are to changes in conditions such as higher flows, varying bank roughness or higher tides. When testing is complete the model will be used to produce updated flood maps to aid Scheme development and design.

**Scheme Analysis and Development:** Following completion of the ground investigation and hydraulic modelling, an assessment of viable flood relief options will be undertaken. Early work on this has already begun. We will compare the technical and economic suitability of flood defence options as well as their environmental and social impact to determine the preferred flood relief scheme.

**Environmental Assessment:** Reporting on field surveys carried out in the preceding seasons will be completed. The Invasive Species Management Plan will be updated as applicable.