

## 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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# LIFFORD

## Flood Relief Scheme

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## 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, which is available on the project website. This report provides the necessary inputs to the hydraulic computer model (which includes reaches of the Finn, Foyle, Mourne and Deele) in order to allow simulation of a range of flooding scenarios.

A suite of computer model simulations has been completed enabling the production of draft flood extent maps. These have been reviewed and confirmed by the Steering Group as being representative of the flooding mechanisms, meaning that the hydraulic computer model is now calibrated. This will provide the basis for assessing potential options to reduce the flood risk in Lifford. The Project Team have been using the calibrated hydraulic model to undertake an assessment of the A5 Western Transport Corridor (A5WTC) and TEN-T Donegal road schemes and the impact they could potentially have on the flooding mechanisms within Lifford. The hydraulic model has also been simulated for various scenarios (considering the existing Arterial Drainage Scheme defences) to facilitate selection of the baseline model to be adopted for the next phase of Stage 1 – Scheme Analysis and Development.

The Steering Group have continued to liaise with Donegal County Council (DCC) and their Consultants developing the Riverine Community Park Project. The Steering Group are considering a proposal from the DCC Consultants regarding the design of flood embankments along the Riverine Community Park boundary with the River Foyle. The Project Team also completed a visual assessment of the river bank along the River Foyle from Lifford bridge to Lifford Old Courthouse.



Photographs showing the contractor treating the invasive species by the method of pulling and cutting.

The Steering Group appointed an Invasive Species Management Contractor in May 2022, who completed the treatment of the Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed (see above photographs) invasive species within the scheme area during June and July 2022. The treatment of Japanese Knotweed will commence in late September 2022. The purpose of this treatment is to manage the spread of the invasive species in areas where works may potentially be undertaken during the construction of the Flood Relief Scheme.

The otter surveys have been completed and an otter survey report is being prepared. The Bat Survey Report was completed in June 2022 following numerous surveys undertaken during both the day and night across the scheme area. Fieldwork for the aquatic ecology surveys (which determine the health of an aquatic ecosystem by testing the water quality and conducting fish surveys) is being scheduled and preliminary surveys have commenced following receipt of licences from the Loughs Agency. These surveys, amongst others, are being undertaken to inform the Environmental Impact Assessment Report that will be prepared to assess the potential environmental impact the preferred flood relief measures may have.

## OUTLINE SCHEME PROGRAMME

Activity	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Stage 1											
Data Collection and surveys											
Hydrological Analysis											
Hydraulic Analysis											
Scheme analysis & development											
Stage 2											
Public Exhibition											
Detailed design of Scheme											
Stage 3											
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:** Following completion of the assessments considering the road schemes and representation of existing defences within the model, the Hydraulic Analysis report will be completed and reviewed by the Steering Group.

**Scheme Analysis and Development:** Following finalisation of the Hydraulic Analysis report, an assessment of viable flood relief options will be undertaken. Early work on this has already begun. The Project Team 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.