

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:

Lifford FRS Project Manager

Project Office: RPS, The Enterprise Fund Business Centre, Ballyraine, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal, F92 AF43

Email: Liffordfrs@rpsgroup.com

Phone: +353 74 916 1927

RELEVANT LINKS

Website: www.liffordfrs.ie

LIFFORD

Flood Relief Scheme

Newsletter No.13

October 2023

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WHAT STAGE IS THE STUDY AT?

The project team have engaged with a number of specialist contractors to scope out the range of potential methods and techniques for constructing a defence along the left bank of the River Foyle adjacent to the town. This aspect of the scheme is particularly challenging given the requirement for the works area to overlap the River Finn SAC and River Foyle and tributaries SAC.

Development of Preferred Option

Following Steering Group discussions, RPS has developed a fourth option to capture a minimalist defensive (embankment) line in the Roughan which protects all properties. An in-person Design Review Collaborative Workshop was held on the 19th of September 2023. The purpose of this workshop was to inform stakeholders of the emerging preferred option and to invite feedback.

The workshop was attended by members of the project team including RPS, Donegal County Council (DCC), the Office of Public Works (OPW), Ryan Hanley, and John Cronin Associates. Stakeholders attended from the Loughs Agency, the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO), National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), the Northern Ireland Department for Infrastructure Rivers (DfI Rivers) and Roads (DfI Roads) and their consultants as well as various departments in DCC. This workshop was successful in generating feedback and discussion on the emerging preferred option. A number of issues and opportunities were discussed including potential linkages and impacts on other schemes, visual impact, impact on existing drainage, potential enhanced leisure opportunities, potential impacts on ecology, habitats, built heritage and archaeology. Following the workshop, the invited organisations, were extended the option to participate in a site walkover, offering them the opportunity to further engage with on-the-ground realities.



Photo from the Design Review Collaborative Workshop, held in Lifford on 19/09/2023.

The Steering Group is considering the feedback received and deciding on next steps with a view to finalising the scheme analysis and development Stage. The Option Development report is being finalised and the Scheme Climate Change Adaptability Plan is under development.

The Steering Group have been proactively engaging with the Riverine Community Park, TEN-T and A5 Western Transport Corridor (WTC) Project teams to share data, identify opportunities and evaluate possible effects of these projects on the Lifford FRS. This engagement will continue as the scheme develops. Further meetings with key environmental stakeholders are planned to ensure the scheme impacts are minimised as far as possible.

Environmental Assessment and Invasive Species Management

Ryan Hanley, Environmental Consultants for the Lifford FRS, will continue to monitor the invasive species for the updated 2023 edition of the Invasive Species Management Plan for Lifford FRS. The identification of the preferred flood relief scheme will inform the need for further environmental surveys to support the scheme delivery.

A site meeting held on 9th June 2023 with the invasive species treatment contractor and RPS/OPW verified an agreed quantification of Giant Hogweed (GH) for the treatment contract. RH have been in contact with the Lough’s Agency regarding Asian clam, following an aquatic survey. This is to inform any biosecurity measures/protocol if in river works are needed. RH are currently procuring Specialist Underwater Archaeology Services.

The Steering Group are continuing to consult with OPW and Ryan Hanley to inform the Appropriate Assessment, NIS Report and Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

OUTLINE SCHEME PROGRAMME

		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											
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

Scheme Analysis and Development: The Project Team are completing the economic appraisal of the preferred flood relief scheme as well as considering the environmental and social impacts to the surrounding environments, with strong emphasis on maintaining the cultural heritage of the site.

Environmental Assessment: All environmental surveys and assessments completed to date will inform the development of the preferred flood defence option and the EIAR. The finalised Aquatic Ecology Baseline Survey report will be reviewed, and Specialist Underwater Archaeology Services is ongoing. Having chosen the preferred flood defence option, the need for further environmental surveys to support the scheme delivery will need to be reassessed.