

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

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LIFFORD

Flood Relief Scheme

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rpsgroup.com



WHAT STAGE IS THE STUDY AT?

The project team have engaged with a number of specialist contractors and consultants 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 and to be in the vicinity of historic town structures.

Development of Preferred Option

Following the outcome of the Options Report, the selection of the preferred option emerged consisting of a minimalist defensive embankment in the Roughan area. This option prioritises the protection of all properties while addressing the unique landscape and environmental considerations.

The Steering Group has taken proactive steps to collaborate with key stakeholders, including the Riverine Community Park, TEN-T, and A5 Western Transport Corridor (WTC) Project teams. Within the reporting period, two meetings were held with the engineering consultant WSP, DfI Roads, OPW, DCC and RPS. This collaborative effort aims to facilitate data sharing, identify synergies, and assess potential impacts on the Lifford Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) throughout its development stages.

Preparation of an information pack for the Lough’s Agency is underway, concurrent with the review of critical documents such as the Lifford Options Development Report and Stage 1 Hydraulics report. Additionally, a screening report for the Lough’s Agency is being prepared, with a scheduled meeting pending post-review by RPS and the OPW Environment section.

Environmental Assessment and Invasive Species Management

Ryan Hanley, Environmental Consultants for the Lifford FRS, will continue to monitor the invasive species for the updated 2024 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.

Following discussions between Ryan Hanley, the Steering Group and the National Monuments Service on 7th December 2023 and a subsequent site visit on 17th January 2024, it was been agreed to conduct a heritage evaluation and chronological recording of the wall along the river bank at Lifford.

Architectural heritage and archaeological expertise is being provided by John Cronin Associates and Dedalus Architecture. The on-site examination proved a very useful exercise and served to scrutinise the location of proposed horizontal investigative wall cores and their interaction with historic wall fabric and features.

A detailed underwater archaeological survey was carried out by ADCO on 19th January 2024, while the on-site meeting held on 17th January 2024, facilitated scoping for additional vegetation removal along historic walls and identification of likely historic town fortifications.

The Steering Group are continuing to consult with environmental stakeholders to inform the Appropriate Assessment, Natura Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Assessment Report.

OUTLINE SCHEME PROGRAMME

	Activity	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Stage 1	Hydrological/Hydraulic Analysis							
	Scheme analysis & development							
Stage 2	Public Exhibition							
Stage 3	Detailed design of Scheme							
	Approval and construction procurement							
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 Climate Change Adaptation Plan and the Preliminary Buildability, Operations and Maintenance report to further inform the preferred scheme.

Ground Investigation and Surveys: The project team are procuring ground investigation within the town where hard defences are proposed to determine key parameters for the structural design. This will include vertical boreholes across the town and horizontal cores on the earth retaining structure at Bridge Street.

Environmental Assessment: The Aquatic Ecology Baseline Survey report will be reviewed. Having chosen the preferred flood defence option, the need for further environmental surveys to support the scheme delivery will need to be reassessed. A review of the Underwater Archaeology Impact Assessment Report submitted by ADCO Ltd is being carried out by Ryan Hanley and the Steering Group. Invasive Species treatment for 2024 will be procured.