

NEXT STEPS

Scheme Analysis and Development: The Project Team are working to finalise Stage I of the scheme. The draft Nature-based Solutions for Catchment Management Feasibility Study report is due to be issued shortly and RPS will then move to revising and finalising all of the Scheme Analysis and Development reports.

A Closing Public Consultation is due to be held in the late 2024 before issuing the draft Stage I Summary Report at the end of 2024.

Ground Investigation and Surveys: The Ground Investigation works are due to commence in October / November. They will be managed and supervised by members of the Project Team.

Environmental Assessment: Environmental scoping will continue along with further surveys, consultations and invasive species management. Once the preferred scheme is confirmed the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) for the scheme will be drafted.

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 emerging Preferred Option for Lifford has been identified. New flood walls are proposed along the left bank of the Foyle; where the town backs onto the river. These will be a mixture of bored pile walls (Bridge Street), set-back reinforced concrete walls where space is available with sheet pile foundations used where necessary. Walls can be finished in stone to provide consistency with existing structures. At the end of Station Road the flood defence will transition from walls to earthen embankment and follow the existing embankment line out along the Foyle, around the site of the proposed Riverine Community Park. These embankments will be reconstructed where necessary to achieve an increased standard of protection. Past the Riverine Park a new embankment line will turn inland (west) and follow a minimal length path around the back of the Roughan as necessary to protect properties. A small section of earthen embankment is required just upstream of Lifford Bridge to prevent flooding into Lifford via the old customs / hospital sites. A low height earthen embankment is proposed along the left bank of the Gaadoo / Lifford drain to protect properties in the Roughan area from flooding from this local drain.

The Climate Change Adaptation Plan recommends that where possible defences should be constructed to a height to protect against future climate change. In some locations it may not be acceptable or desirable to provide the additional height now where it would block views out into the Foyle. Extensions to the height of the walls could be provided if and when necessary, provided the design of the walls and foundations can accommodate future extension.

To inform the Preliminary Buildability, Operations and Maintenance report, the project team has procured ground investigation to determine the stability of existing structures and to confirm or otherwise that the types of foundations and retaining wall structures proposed are suitable. RPS has also completed a LiDAR and high resolution imagery survey of part of the earth retaining structure at Bridge Street. From this a detailed digital model has been generated.



Extract from Bridge Street retaining structure digital model

RPS are currently working with the Steering Group to finalise the Scheme Analysis and Development reports.

Collaboration with Other Projects and Stakeholders

The project team has taken proactive steps to collaborate with key stakeholders, including the Riverine Community Park, TEN-T, and DfI's A5 Western Transport Corridor (WTC) and Strabane Flood Alleviation Scheme Project teams. Regular meetings are being held with the A5 WTC team. This collaborative effort aims to facilitate data sharing, identify synergies, assess potential cumulative impacts, and the identification of mitigation measures where possible from the Lifford Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) and the other projects.

The project team met with the Maritime Area Regulatory Authority (MARA) in March as part of a pre-application process ahead of submitting the FRS proposals for Maritime Area Consent (MAC) under the Maritime Area Planning Act 2021 (Act). This is a statutory requirement as the tidal extents of the Foyle extend up to Lifford.

The project team is planning to meet with the Lough's Agency to discuss the preferred option and the potential impact on the River Foyle.

Environmental Assessment and Invasive Species Management

Ryan Hanley, Environmental Consultants for the Lifford FRS, have finalised the Appropriate Assessment Screening report and are developing the Natura Impact Statement (NIS). The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Screening report has been finalised and EIA Scoping is ongoing. A Phase 2 underwater archaeological survey has also been completed with the final report issued in June 2024.

This years' Invasive Alien Plant Species treatment and management has been ongoing since the middle of July. This has mainly involved the treatment of Giant Hogweed and Himalayan Balsam. Japanese Knotweed will be treated in early October. The contractor has been appointed to carry out treatment over the next three years which is intended to make the process more efficient.

A report has been completed by Dedalus Architecture, a Conservation Architect appointed to the scheme, in May 2024 to highlight significant built heritage. It is intended that this will inform further design development of the scheme.

OUTLINE SCHEME PROGRAMME

	Activity	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
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.