

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

RELEVANT LINKS

Website: www.liffordfrs.ie

LIFFORD

Flood Relief Scheme

Newsletter No. 01
February 2020



BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

Lifford is a historic town with strong cultural heritage that lies in the Finn Valley area of East Donegal where the River Finn meets the River Mourne to create the River Foyle. This meeting point is known locally as “The Three Rivers”, one of the largest river confluences on the island of Ireland. Lifford also borders Northern Ireland, with Strabane Co. Tyrone located on the opposite bank of the River Finn and Foyle.

Lifford has had a history of serious flooding with the most recent significant floods occurring in November and December 2015. The location of Lifford at the confluence of three rivers is within two jurisdictions, which is tidally influenced by Lough Foyle and presents a unique challenge in managing flood risk in the area.

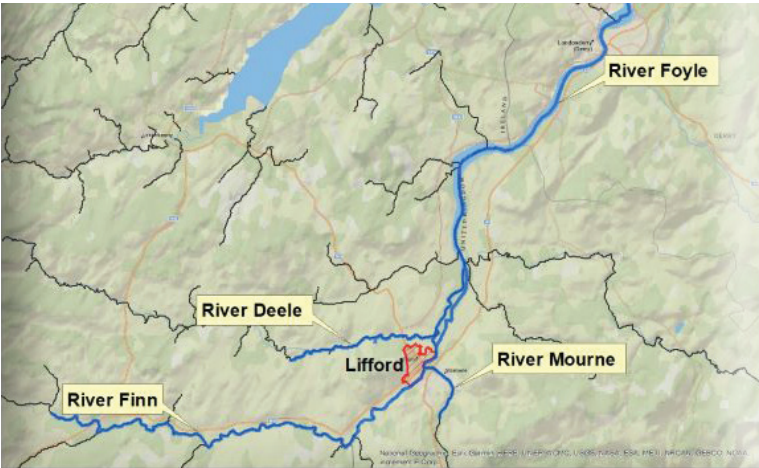
The OPW’s Flood Risk and Management Study, completed prior to the 2015 floods, identified Lifford as a town which would benefit from a flood relief scheme, the need for such a scheme has been brought into focus by the events of November and December 2015, particularly Storm Desmond.

As part of the Government’s National Development Plan 2018-2027, almost €1 billion has been committed to the investment into flood relief measures across the country. Following on from this commitment, a steering group was established between the OPW and Donegal County Council to progress a flood relief scheme to alleviate the risk of flooding for the community of Lifford. In Autumn 2019, RPS were appointed Engineering Consultants, and Ryan Hanley were appointed Environmental Consultants, to develop a scheme that is technically, socially, environmentally and socially acceptable.

The project team will identify, design and implement a flood relief scheme that is technically, sociably, environmentally and economically acceptable.

WHAT STAGE IS THE STUDY AT?

Since appointment RPS has been working to ensure that all of the works planned are based on the most accurate and up to date information. They have been reviewing all relevant sources of information, procuring a company to undertake a detailed river and terrain survey as well as analysing how the rivers react to rainfall events in their respective catchments. RPS has also developed a website to provide up-to-date information throughout the duration of the project.



OUTLINE SCHEME PROGRAMME

Outline Scheme Programme								
Activity	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Data Collection and surveys								
Hydological Analysis								
Hydraulic Analysis								
Scheme analysis and development								
Public Exhibition								
Detailed design of Scheme								
Confirmation by Government								
Construction works								
Scheme Operational								

*Timelines provided as current best estimate, but are subject to revision.

NEXT STEPS

Data Collection: RPS are interested in receiving photos, videos, sketches or any other relevant information in regards to previous floods from those who have experienced it first-hand, particularly from 2015 onwards. The information provided will help us to refine our river model and the design of the flood relief scheme. If you have any information which could be of use, please contact us.

Public Consultation: An opening public consultation day will be held at Lifford Old Courthouse Grand Jury Room on Thursday 27th February 2020 from 4pm to 8pm. The purpose of the event will be to introduce the project team, present and receive comments on flood risk in the area, particularly flood events that have occurred since the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study was undertaken, and to discuss scheme options and environmental constraints in managing the flood risk from your perspective.

Surveys: Appointment of survey contractor to record up to date river channel and floodplain levels to be used in design.

Hydrological Analysis: Analysis of river and rainfall data including recent events to be used in design.

Environmental Constraints Study: This study will be completed in conjunction with the engineering design and will identify environmental constraints within the study area. Topics within the Constraints Study Report will include:

- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
- Soils and Geology
- Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage
- Land Use and Material Assets
- Landscape and Visual Impact
- Population and Human Health