

Newsletter

Limerick City & Environs Flood Relief Scheme



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City
& County Council**



Newsletter Limerick City & Environs Flood Relief Scheme



What stage is the project at?

The Limerick City & Environs Flood Relief Scheme (LFRS) is currently at Stage 1 of the project. This stage is where potential flood defence designs are identified and considered, to develop the best flood defence options for the area.

The RPS project team is coordinating detailed surveys, investigations and undertaking flood modelling. Based on the results of these extensive surveys and investigations, RPS will identify flood mitigation measures that are appropriate to manage and prevent flood risk the LFRS project area.

Geotechnical

RPS is currently undertaking a Geotechnical Study of existing flood defence embankments in the LFRS project area. The purpose of the study is to determine the condition and make-up of these historical flood defence embankments.

To inform the Geotechnical Study detailed preliminary Ground Investigation (GI) works were undertaken in the vicinity of existing flood defence embankments. Limerick City & County Council (LCCC) appointed PGL as the GI contractor.

PGL were tasked with undertaking both intrusive (drilling/boring) and non-intrusive (above ground) surveying e.g., resistivity surveying GI works to gather data on the current ground conditions.

The GI field works concluded in August of 2023.

RPS have begun assessing and collating the ground investigation data from the fieldworks. This data will play an essential role in:

- the progression of the geotechnical study,
- the assessment of the current flood defence embankments and
- determining the embankments viability as flood defences for the scheme.

RPS in conjunction with Limerick City & County Council is progressing further detailed ground investigation works (2nd Phase). These detailed GI works will be used to determine the ground conditions in areas where flood defences may be considered and will play a vital role in the determination of the preferred scheme design. The works are anticipated to take place in late 2023 or early 2024. The scope for this investigation covers areas throughout Limerick City and its Environs.



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council

RPS MAKING
COMPLEX
EASY

Newsletter Limerick City & Environs Flood Relief Scheme

Hydrology and Hydraulics

The Hydrology Report for the scheme is nearing finalisation. The Hydrology Report summarises the findings from the hydrological analysis which focuses on coastal and wave analysis as well as quantifying the volume and flow rates of water in streams, rivers, and tributaries. This is used to assess the flood risk from pluvial (rain), fluvial (river, streams, lakes), and coastal sources.

RPS is advancing the 'Hydraulic Model' for the Scheme. This model will identify flood risk and will be used to test a range of potential flood defence design options. The model is well advanced, and it is anticipated that the model will be completed in late 2023.

ENVA Ltd. have completed a CCTV visual inspection of the main culverts within Limerick City & Environs in May of 2023. The CCTV surveys have provided an in-depth examination of the existing drainage system. This has enabled the team to gain an understanding of the condition of the storm culverts. Findings from the survey are factored into the hydraulic analysis.

Environmental

Various ecological surveys of the scheme area have been undertaken by RPS' ecologists during 2022 and 2023. These identify ecological constraints and inform the assessment of ecological impact from the project.

Japanese Knotweed Ireland were appointed in 2022 as the Invasive Alien Plant Species (IAPS) treatment specialists for the scheme. The treatment programme is anticipated to be over a three-to-five-year period.

The purpose of the treatment is to mitigate the risk of spreading IAPS (including Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and Giant Hogweed) while undertaking investigation works and reduce the risk of IAPS's impacting the development of the scheme as a whole. Treatment measures include, hand pulling and foliar spraying of herbicides.

Japanese Knotweed Ireland completed the 2023 Spring Treatment in July and the Autumn Treatment in September and will begin the next stage of treatment in the Spring of 2024.

McCarthy Keville O'Sullivan (MKO) are undertaking a detailed bird (ornithological) survey within the LFRS project area. The area includes the River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries Special Protection Areas (SPA). The purpose of the survey is to collect essential data on bird species and breeding birds to gain a better understanding of the habitats residing within the project area. This will be critical in evaluating what potential impact the Flood Relief Scheme may have on certain bird species.



OPW

Oifig na
nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh

Limerick City
& County Council



