

# Newsletter

Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme



Project Newsletter No. 01 | November 2021



**OPW**

Oifig na  
nOibreacha Poiblí  
Office of Public Works



Comhairle Cathrach  
& Contae **Luimnigh**

**Limerick City**  
& County Council

**RPS** MAKING  
COMPLEX  
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# Newsletter

## Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme

### Scheme Background

Limerick City and Environs is located within the Shannon upper and lower river basin and is subject to both coastal and fluvial flooding. The OPW working in partnership with Limerick County Council, Clare County Council, and other Local Authorities, have completed the Shannon Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study in 2018. The Shannon CFRAM Study identified Limerick City as an Area of Further Assessment (AFA) and concluded that a flood relief scheme is to be undertaken.

There are extensive lengths of 19th and 20th century embankments which run along both sides of the Shannon estuary, many of these embankments were constructed to defend agricultural lands from fluvial or tidal water overflow, with others being constructed to form walkways and towpaths.

Today these existing embankments help defend Limerick City and Environs against flood events. The larger embankments located downstream of Limerick City aid in defending against tidal surges while the upstream embankments help defend against fluvial events.

The flood risk management measures put forward by CFRAM relies on flood protection being provided by some existing embankments. In the CFRAM study, there were concerns regarding the embankments ability to provide an appropriate standard of protection to Limerick City and the surrounding area and it was recommended that the integrity of these embankments be assessed at Project level.

RPS were appointed in May 2021 to advance and implement a Flood Relief Scheme for Limerick City and its Environs. The objective of the project is the identification, design, and submission (for planning consent) of a flood relief scheme, that is technically, socially, environmentally, and economically acceptable, to alleviate the risk of flooding to the

community of Limerick City and Environs, and to procure, manage and oversee the construction of that Scheme.

The entire scheme will be implemented in five different stages. Stage I is currently ongoing having commenced in May 2021.



Existing Embankments in Limerick City



River Shannon Flooding



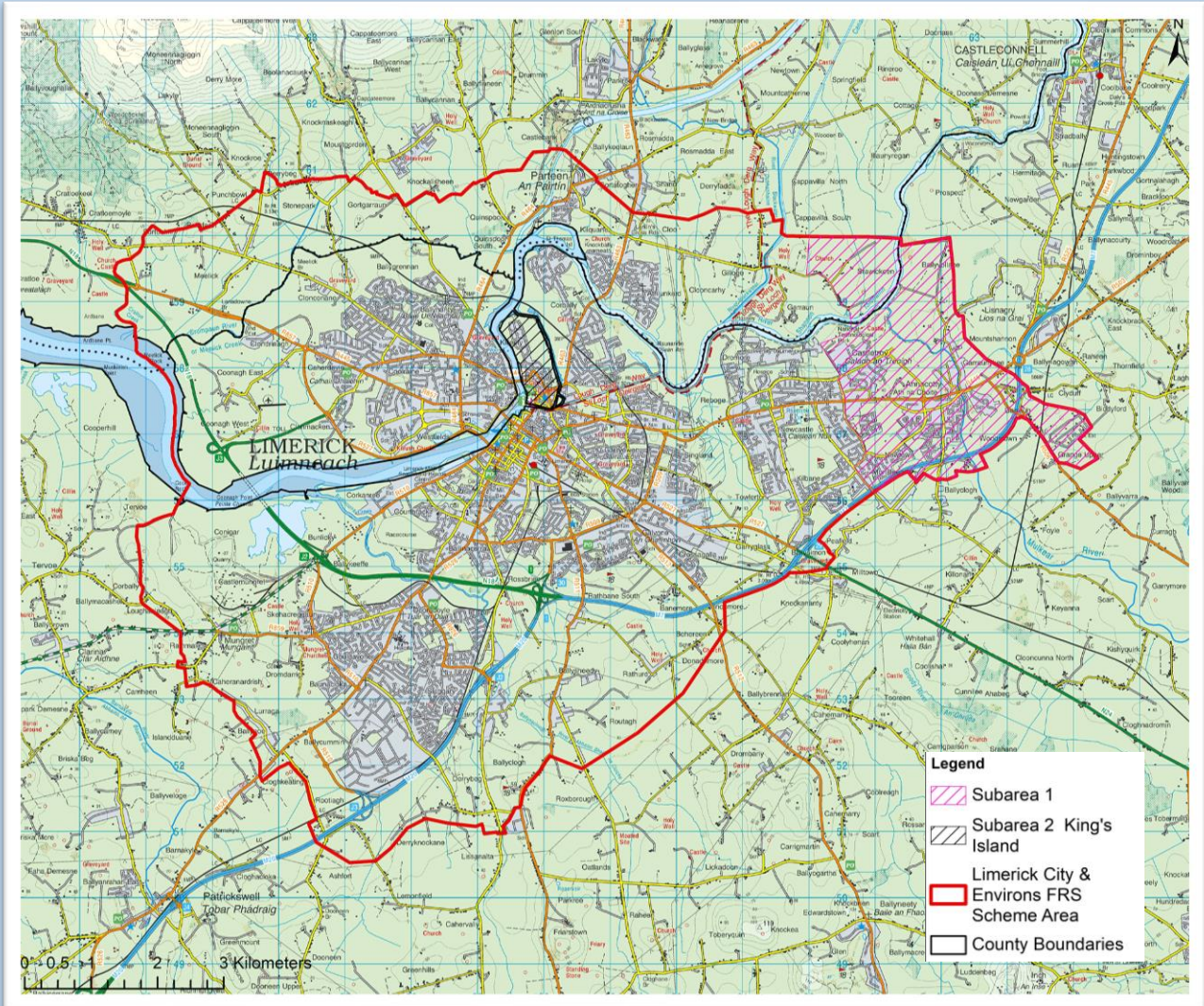
River Shannon Flooding



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## Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme

### Scheme Area



### Flood Relief Scheme Stages

#### Stage I: Option Assessment, Scheme Development and Design

- Data Gathering / Embankment Geotechnical study / Baseline Environmental Surveys
- Hydrological Analysis & Hydraulic Modelling
- Option Assessments & Preferred Option Selection
- Natura Impact Statement (NIS) / Environmental Assessment (EIAR)

#### Stage II: Planning / Development Consent

#### Stage III: Detailed Construction Design and Tender

#### Stage IV: Construction Supervision and Project Management

#### Stage V: Handover

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## Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme

### Outline Project Programme

Limerick City & Environs Flood Relief Scheme - Programme		2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031
Stage I:	Options Assessment, Scheme Development & Design	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Stage II:	Planning / Development Consent				█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Stage III:	Detailed Design & Tender					█	█	█	█	█	█	█
Stage IV:	Construction						█	█	█	█	█	█
Stage V:	Handover										█	█

### What stage is the study at?

Since the appointment of engineering and environmental consultants for the project in May 2021, the project steering group has been working to ensure that the development of the scheme is based on the most accurate and up to date information. The Limerick FRS Steering Group (comprising RPS, OPW, Limerick City & County Council) have continued to meet via video conferencing facilities to comply with government guidance during the COVID-19 pandemic.

RPS has been reviewing all available sources of geotechnical, environmental, hydrological, and hydraulic data. Site walkovers of areas along the embankments have commenced as part of the ground investigations. The information gathered from the site walkovers and geotechnical data review will help inform the scope of the geotechnical study. Future issues due to Climate Change are being assessed and will be included in the project-level assessments. RPS is currently procuring third party contractors to undertake detailed surveys of the existing embankments and flood defences.

Environmental Walkthrough surveys are ongoing, the results from the walkthrough surveys will enable RPS prepare maps illustrating their findings. The RPS Environmental Team are also currently undertaking the Environmental Constraints Study. The study assesses key environmental issues relating to the study area of the Limerick and Environs Flood relief scheme which may impact on potential flood risk management measures and/or which may impose constraints on the technical design.

### What happens next?

#### Public Consultation Events

Members of the public are invited to make their views and comments known to the project's engineering, environmental and Public Realm teams. Dates for the Public Consultation Events will be made available on the project website.

#### Environmental Assessment

Environmental surveys such as habitat & species surveys, invasive species surveys, field Investigations, and water quality surveys will be undertaken to identify environmental sensitivities which may be impacted by the scheme.

#### Hydrological and hydraulic Analysis

Hydrological and hydraulic CFRAM data has been provided by the OPW. Once all the relevant data has been reviewed, the information gathered will be used in the development of the hydraulic models and will form part of the hydrology assessment.

#### Public Realm

The City Centre Riverside Public Realm forms part of the overall scheme area. Nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) will be assessed as part of the defence proposals for the Public Realm (public space) improvements.

#### Embankment Geotechnical Study

The Geotechnical study is currently underway to assess the viability of the existing embankments and determine any remediation or replacement defence requirements.

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## Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme

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