

Newsletter

Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme



King John's Castle and Thomond Bridge,
Limerick.



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Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme



What stage is the Project at?

The Limerick Flood Relief Scheme (FRS) is currently in Stage 1 of development, focused on identifying and evaluating potential flood defence solutions for the area.

Since the last update, the project team has advanced the design activities by developing and assessing a range of flood risk management options. Each option has been evaluated using a Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA), a collaborative appraisal that compares proposals against social, technical, economic and environmental criteria. The MCA helps the team identify the most appropriate flood defence measures to form an emerging preferred scheme design.

Current Progress

Hydraulic Modelling:

The project team has completed the hydraulic modelling for the Limerick area, identifying locations at risk of flooding. A comprehensive hydraulic report, which explains the model's findings and includes updated flood maps, has been prepared. The report has undergone review by LCCC and the OPW and is now being finalised. Once this process is complete, the report and the updated flood extent maps will be published on the project website.

The hydraulic modelling team will continue to use the latest model results to help refine and improve the proposed flood defence options, ensuring these measures are informed by the most up-to-date information.

Geotechnical Investigations:

Ground investigations have been carried out across Limerick by a number of contractors in the locations where flood defences structures are being considered. The current campaign of investigations is now complete; however further investigation may be scheduled in the future.

As part of this work, groundwater levels in key areas have been monitored over the past year. The information gathered has helped the project team understand how groundwater could affect the preferred flood relief options.

The geotechnical team has identified a small number of locations that would benefit from further, more detailed investigation; these additional works are being considered for inclusion in the current programme. The geotechnical team has also played an important role in developing the proposed defence options and contributed to the multi-criteria assessment process used to identify the most suitable solutions.



GI work in Limerick 2025



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Ecology Surveys:

Ecology experts appointed by Limerick City and County Council have undertaken a programme of specialist ecological surveys to assess how the Flood Relief Scheme may affect local wildlife and habitats. The surveys completed to date include:

- Terrestrial habitat surveys — Ayesa.
- Mammals, amphibians and reptiles — ORS.
- Bat surveys — Southern Scientific Services Ltd.
- Freshwater, floating river vegetation and estuarine surveys — Malachy Walsh & Partners.
- Ornithological surveys — MKO Ireland.



The findings from these ecological surveys have been incorporated into the MCA Assessment. The project team has commenced drafting the scope for tree and noise assessments surveys. These surveys will support the project and inform the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR). Ornithological monitoring will also continue to track bird populations within the scheme area until the end of August.

Seasonal monitoring and treatment of Japanese knotweed by FenceScape Ltd. will be carried out throughout 2026. These measures aim to control invasive plant species within the scheme area so they do not affect the construction of the proposed flood defences.

Flood Defence Design Options Development:

The design team is developing flood-defence solutions to address coastal and river (fluvial) flooding across the scheme area. Using outputs from the hydraulic model, the team prepared a number of potential defence options and assessed them through a Multi-Criteria Analysis (MCA).

To ensure a balanced appraisal the MCA considered:

- Technical Factors - the effectiveness of the proposed measures in reducing flood risk.
- Economic Factors - the cost of the defences and the practicality of construction and long-term maintenance.
- Social Factors - the extent to which the options protect public health and reduce risk to the local community.
- Environmental Factors - the potential impacts on habitats, biodiversity and the wider environment.

The team is now compiling an Option Development report that details the MCA findings. This is being prepared alongside a Buildability Report, which assesses how the proposed defences could be constructed in practice. Together, these reports will outline the feasibility of the preferred flood defence option and show how it meets the project's objectives.

National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) Consultation

A site walkover in late February 2026 with NPWS was carried out to review sensitive areas. Key outcomes include more surveys for protected species, careful review of river impacts, and further consideration of habitat improvements.



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Additional Information & Contact Details

Additional information in relation to overall progress, current news items and project reports can be found on the Limerick City and Environs Flood Relief Scheme project website. The project team can be reached at the Limerick City and Environs FRS email address.

Telephone:
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Next Steps:

Geotechnical Investigations: The project team will complete the assessment of the GI data, which will serve to assist in the option development process and help determine the viability of the available options.

Hydrology & Hydraulics: The hydraulic model and reports will be finalised and published.

Flood Defence Design Options Development: The identification and assessment of viable flood defence design options have been progressed. The team will continue to develop the Options and Buildability reports. The findings from the various surveys together with feedback from stakeholders will be used to inform the preferred flood defence option design.

Public Consultation Day (PCD): A PCD is scheduled to take place in the Q1/Q2 of 2027. The aim of this event will be to inform the public and stakeholders of the progress made since the project began and to present the emerging preferred and non-preferred flood defence options that have been considered to alleviate flooding within Limerick. This will provide an opportunity for collaboration between the project

team, public and stakeholders. Feedback from the PCD will be considered in the development of the preferred scheme.

Environmental:

The project team is developing detailed plans for upcoming environmental surveys. These include several important surveys such as tree, noise levels, and traffic.

These various surveys are to be undertaken in 2026, and the data collected will be integral to informing the EIAR for planning and consent.

Stakeholder Engagement: Engagement with stakeholders and the public is an ongoing process.

Input from the public and other stakeholders is welcomed by the project team at any time during the project.

All feedback / input should be submitted by email, post, or phone to the Tetra Tech project team using the contact details noted above. These inputs will be reported to the LCCC and OPW Steering Group for consideration as part of the scheme development.

Current Programme:

Limerick City & Environs Flood Relief Scheme - Programme	2021		2022		2023		2024		2025		2026		2027		2028		2029		2030		2031		2032		2033		2034		2035		2036			
	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Stage I: Options Assessment, Scheme Development & Design																																		
Stage II: Planning / Development Consent Process																																		
Stage III: Work Packages & Tenders for Contracts																																		
Stage IV: Construction																																		
Stage V: Handover Works																																		



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