

Comrie Flood Protection Scheme Newsletter

Introduction

The Council's consultants, Sweco, are continuing to develop the outline design of the Comrie Flood Protection Scheme. The following newsletter gives an update of recent progress up to the beginning of January 2019.

Survey Work

Topographic Surveys

Further topographic surveys were undertaken in July, October and November by Aspect Land and Hydrographic Surveys. These surveys were undertaken within localised areas of the river channels and floodplains, and have helped to refine the ongoing outline design process.

Ground Investigations

Further ground investigation works were carried out in October at various locations. These works were completed successfully and the results are now being used to inform the outline design. Since completion of the works all disturbed land has been reinstated to its original condition

Environmental Surveys

Throughout this period various ecological and landscape surveys have also been undertaken. Tree surveys have identified the location and condition of tree belts and mammal and plant surveys have identified any protected or invasive species which may be affected by the scheme. These surveys will ensure that the final outline design has the minimal environmental impact.



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Analysis and Engineering Design

The gathered survey information is being used in conjunction with a hydraulic model to test the outline design against various flood event scenarios. Work is also ongoing to examine the impact of the proposed scheme on the natural river behaviour (in terms of bank erosion and sediment transportation) and habitat. Modelling work has also been carried out to investigate the impact the scheme will have on local surface water drainage systems and to develop outline solutions. Consultation continues with statutory bodies such as the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and Scottish Water. Currently, the outline design of the flood defences includes a mix of hard engineered walls and more natural, earth embankments. Available space is the primary driver for the choice of defence type at each location. Sweco's Landscape Architects are working to ensure that the final scheme will blend in with its surroundings as much as possible.

Scheme Assessment

The Environmental Impact Assessment for the flood scheme has commenced. 'Baseline' condition assessments of the natural environment within the scheme area have been prepared and work is progressing on the environmental assessment of the final outline.

What's next?

Public consultation events on the outline design of the scheme are now planned for spring 2019. This is later than previously planned, however the main timescale for publishing the scheme in 2019, is still on track. The Council will present the outline scheme design including the defence types, alignments, proposed heights and indicative wall finishes to the community at these events.

The community's response will inform the final outline design. The Council will then seek to publish the final proposals under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act before proceeding to the detailed design and construction.

We will issue a further newsletter once we have set dates for the public consultation events. If, in the meantime, you require further information on the project please visit the webpage below or contact the project team at either of the following email addresses:

ComrieFloodScheme@pkc.gov.uk

ComrieFPS@sweco.co.uk

or visit the Council's webpage at:

www.pkc.gov.uk/comriefloodscheme

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