

Environmental Impact Assessment Report

Chapter 5 Stakeholder Engagement

Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme 2024
Falkirk Council



GRANGEMOUTH
Flood Protection Scheme
Protecting the heart of our communities

Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme Environmental Impact Assessment Report

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Acronyms

EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
FSA	Flood Storage Area
GI	Ground Investigations
HES	Historic Environment Scotland
HRA	Habitats Regulations Appraisal
IROPI	Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest
LDP	Local Development Plan
SEPA	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
SGN	Scottish Gas Networks
SPA	Special Protection Area

5 Stakeholder Engagement

5.1 Overview

Stakeholder engagement refers to the process of sharing information and knowledge, as well as understanding the concerns of key interested parties and the public. Stakeholder consultation and disclosure are key elements of engagement.

Stakeholder engagement is also an important feature in developing the Scheme design through mitigation and enhancement. Key feedback from stakeholders and the public has helped develop the Scheme design and includes:

- aligning the coastal defences to reduce potential effects on estuarine habitats and species, whilst still maintaining the operation of the port and petrochemical site;
- minimising the amount of flood defences within the centre of Grangemouth as much as possible, to reduce potential severance and effects on visual amenity and townscape/landscape character (especially at the Grange Burn);
- minimising potential impacts on Zetland Park's open space and the Zetland Park Regeneration Project;
- adjusting the measures proposed at Westquarter Burn to minimise potential effects on the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site;
- minimising disruption to pedestrian and vehicular traffic; and
- reducing the disruption and duration of construction as much as possible.

5.2 Approach to Stakeholder Engagement

5.2.1 Aims and Approach

In order to facilitate a consistent, coordinated and comprehensive approach to the stakeholder engagement process, a Communications and Engagement Strategy has been developed that sets out the arrangements for engagement, including the roles and responsibilities of the project team and the approach to be applied throughout the project.

The objectives for communication and stakeholder engagement throughout the project are to:

- involve key stakeholders in developing an understanding of the baseline environment;
- involve, where possible, key stakeholders in the decision-making around the selection of the preferred flood defence options;
- raise public awareness of the Scheme, particularly with reference to the potential effects of the Scheme (positive and negative) on the natural environment and the local community;
- ensure communications around key messages are consistent throughout the project and that stakeholders and the public have clarity regarding the different elements of the Scheme; and
- seek the views of those who wish to comment on the Scheme and provide appropriate channels for them to provide feedback.

Several engagement exercises and methods were undertaken by the project team and its dedicated stakeholder and communications team. These have included: issuing seven dedicated newsletters to a wide audience across the scheme area, multiple engagement events and exhibitions, both online and

in person over a period of seven years. A dedicated Science Technology English and Maths (STEM) Education Programme has also been launched with over 800 pupils and youth group members taking part from primary and secondary schools. Winners of a competition, which was held as part of the primary school programme, included Carronshore Primary School, Bowhouse Primary school, Moray Primary School, Beancross Primary School, St Frances Xavier's Primary School and Grangemouth Sea Cadets.

Engagement has also included a virtual exhibition, over 100 face-to-face meetings with statutory authorities, landowners and third-party interest groups; site meetings; stakeholder workshops; working group meetings; public exhibitions; written consultations (letters and emails); and telephone conversations and key stakeholder workshops. The project team has also issued a wide range of press releases, developed and updated the dedicated Scheme website and opened a range of social media channels to disseminate information on the proposals and planned consultation events.

The purpose of engaging with stakeholders has been varied but can be broadly summarised as follows:

- to gather baseline data, including land ownership details;
- to inform the Scheme options appraisal, option selection process and refine the details of the Scheme during the outline design stage;
- to provide information about the Scheme as it develops and discuss operational requirements and land-take;
- to identify potential issues/ conflicts of interest and allow opportunity for these to be resolved;
- to define the scope of environmental studies to be undertaken as part of the EIA, and identify the potential for significant environmental effects and mitigation measures; and
- to outline the process for Scheme confirmation under the FRM Act.

5.2.2 Stakeholder Working Groups

Stakeholder working groups were established to ensure that those parties affected by the Scheme or with an interest in its effects had the opportunity to input into the Scheme evolution from an early stage, such that any concerns or ideas could be identified and appropriately mitigated or explored. These groups have been able to disseminate information within their organisations and feedback information to the project team. Some of these consultees also formed part of the EIA scoping consultation, during which consultee opinions were addressed accordingly (see Chapter 3, Section 3.3 for details).

Three stakeholder working groups were formed that focussed on issues relating to specific disciplines as shown in Table 5-1. Some members of the Core Stakeholder Group were also members of one of the other working groups.

Table 5-1: The Scheme Stakeholder Working Groups

Stakeholder Group	Members	Purpose
Core Group	Falkirk Council (Roads, Planning, Flooding and Economic Development departments), Scottish Natural Heritage (now NatureScot), Scottish Government, Historic Environment Scotland (HES), Marine Scotland, Scottish Water, Falkirk Community Trust ¹ , Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA), Forestry Commission	<p>Representatives from Falkirk Council to provide feedback to the wider council departments.</p> <p>Falkirk Council, SEPA, NatureScot, Marine Scotland, HES, Falkirk Community Trust¹ and the Forestry Commission to focus on compliance with statutory requirements, identifying key environmental issues, and development of opportunities for incorporation into the Scheme.</p> <p>Scottish Water to ensure coordination with Scottish Water assets and future upgrade work on Scottish Water assets.</p> <p>Scottish Government to provide strategic guidance and advise on funding for the Scheme and the wider regeneration of Grangemouth.</p>
Industrial Group	Petroineos, INEOS FPS (Formerly BP), INEOS, Forth Ports (Port of Grangemouth), Eni Versalis, Scottish Power Energy Network – Transmission Department	<p>To assist with the identification of options that are feasible, and potential 'show-stopping' constraints within the Port and Petrochemical plant areas.</p> <p>To preview the preferred Scheme design together with the Core and Service & Utilities Groups and provide significant input to the project design team to assist with the design/ location of flood defences situated within the petrochemical plant and port area.</p>
Service & Utilities Group	Falkirk Council (Roads – Surface Water/ Road Drainage and Street Lighting departments), Vodafone, Virgin Media, BT, Scottish Gas Networks (SGN) – Distribution, ESSAR, BOC, INEOS – Pipelines, Petroineos – Pipelines, BP – Pipelines, Scottish Power Energy Network – Transmission, Scottish Power Energy Network – Distribution, Scottish Water, National Grid, Openreach	<p>To ensure any potential 'show-stopping' constraints have been identified/ avoided.</p> <p>To assist with identifying any residual (major) risks associated with utility/ service apparatus.</p>

5.2.3 Public Exhibitions/Community Engagement

Public exhibitions were held in the communities of Grangemouth, Wholeflats, Glensburgh, Langlees, Carron, Carronshore and Camelon (Stirling Road) to provide local residents and business owners with an opportunity to understand the need for the Scheme and comment on the proposed options. The first of these was held over two dates in Spring 2018, and the second over two dates in late May 2019.

In June 2021, seven online information sessions were held and in June 2022 there was mobile engagement, with a van, which moved around different communities in the Scheme areas. In 2024, two

¹ Falkirk Community Trust was dissolved on 1st April 2022 - all functions/responsibilities reverted back to Falkirk Council

online engagement sessions were held along with five in person events and exhibitions, across communities affected by the Scheme.

All of these served to promote engagement with local people, residents and businesses. Each public exhibition featured fly-through models and display boards that depicted various aspects of the Scheme, including information on the flood risk in Grangemouth, the various types of measures considered, and the proposed flood defences. Attendees were encouraged to complete feedback questionnaires in order to garner public opinion on the Scheme and to allow the project team to address any issues or concerns raised during the ongoing development of the Scheme.

The project team has regularly met with stakeholders throughout the development of the Scheme. This included during the outline design stage, where members of the project team met with individual stakeholders and groups to discuss the Scheme and identify any areas of concern.

The following have also been provided:

- **Information Boards:** The project team has installed five information boards throughout the Scheme extents at several locations including:
 - Dorrator Bridge Car Park, Stirling Road
 - Stenhouse Road, Carron
 - Chapel Burn at Carronshore Road
 - Rannoch Park, central footbridge to Rannoch Road
 - Polmont Woods Car Park, Smiddy Brae
 - Posters detailing further information have also been installed on the information board within Zetland Park.
- **Newsletters:** The project team has published seven newsletters, with further information and details about the Scheme. The most recent newsletter (January 2024) detailed information about engagement exhibitions planned in February/March 2024 and outlined the Scheme publication progress.
- **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) Programme and Events:** The project team also launched a dedicated presentation for local primary and secondary schools all across the Scheme area. This has already reached over 800 young people and helped to build their understanding of flooding, what a flood protection scheme does and indicated the type of careers involved in Scheme design, assessment and construction.
- **Members of the project team have also attended events** such as Falkirk Science Festival (including INNOVATE, STEM at The Helix Schools' Day, and Public Day) and the Zetland Park Gala day.
- **Local member briefings:** Four elected member briefings for Falkirk Council members have taken place with local elected members throughout the outline design stage. Two separate sessions were also held with MSPs and MPs. These briefings outlined developments to the project and key project milestones. Falkirk Council committee approved stage 5 – scheme notification for the project in January 2024.
- **Local Clubs:** Members of the project team have met with the Grangemouth Probus Club, Grangemouth Rotary Club and the Greener Grangemouth group during the outline design stage to provide them with an update of the Scheme.

5.3 Early consultation

5.3.1 Overview of Events (2016-2018)

Between 2016 and 2018, the project team undertook a wide range of formal and *ad hoc* consultation exercises with local businesses, residents and key stakeholders. These included meetings with various Falkirk Council departments, SNH (now NatureScot), industry and utilities; and the first public exhibition held in Spring 2018 as discussed further below. This consultation helped to confirm whether a Flood Protection Scheme for Grangemouth and surrounding areas was economically, socially, environmentally and technically viable. Such consultation helped develop an understanding of historic flood events, key constraints and opportunities, and the baseline conditions to inform the options appraisal process, as well as aiding in the early discounting of options. Further detail on the option appraisal process can be found in Chapter 4: The Proposed Scheme and in Appendix C4.1: Options Appraisal Report.

5.3.2 Community Engagement Event February 2018

The first public exhibition for the Scheme was held over two dates and venues; on 27 February 2018 at Carron & Carronshore Bowling Club, and on 19 April 2018 at Bowhouse Community Association Centre. The events were advertised through local media, with local residents being sent flyers. The aim of these events was to provide the residents and business owners of Grangemouth and surrounding areas with an opportunity to comment on the options appraisal of the Scheme. Attendees were encouraged to complete feedback questionnaires which asked a variety of questions including:

- What is your opinion of the Grangemouth Flood Protection Scheme?
- Are you concerned with any of the possible options?
- What is your preferred Option for the Grange Burn?

The questionnaires also provided space for attendees to note any additional comments or issues not addressed by the questionnaire itself. The responses were analysed and developed into a short report, which was posted on the Scheme's website in July 2018 (<https://www.grangemouthfloodscheme.com/consultation-event-no-1>).

Key feedback from the first public exhibition is summarised as follows:

- 83% of the 66 people who completed a questionnaire were in favour of a Scheme for Grangemouth and surrounding areas.
- 62% had concerns relating to at least one of the proposed options for the Scheme.
- 77% identified a preferred option on the Grange Burn.
- 48% indicated a preference for Option C (FSA of Westquarter Burn).

Key concerns noted by attendees included the Scheme's potential effect on visual amenity and landscape at various locations (especially at Zetland Park), the removal of trees and the potential for disruption in the town centre during the Scheme's construction. Other comments were noted over the perception that the vegetation on the banks of Grange Burn increases current flood risk. More detail on the event is provided on the Scheme website, including a post event report (<https://www.grangemouthfloodscheme.com/consultation-event-no-1>).

5.4 Outline Design Consultation

5.4.1 Overview

Following the early consultation events discussed in Section 5.3, stakeholder engagement has continued during the outline design process through a range of formal and *ad hoc* consultation exercises with local businesses, residents and key stakeholders. This engagement has assisted in further understanding the baseline environment, community aspirations, consenting requirements and key design issues, as well as informing the identification of potential environmental mitigation measures and opportunities.

Throughout this process, members of the stakeholder working groups (referred to in Section 5.2.2) have met over thirty times and in a variety of formats, including site visits and workshops. Key EIA consultations and stakeholder engagement events undertaken on the outline design are discussed in Sections 5.4.2 - 5.4.10; while details of the individual consultations relevant to specific disciplines are outlined in the respective assessment chapters of this EIA Report (Chapters 6-14).

5.4.2 Community Engagement Event May 2019

The second Scheme public exhibition took place on 28 and 30 May 2019, with the former held at Carron & Carronshore Bowling Club and the latter at Bowhouse Community Association Centre.

The exhibition comprised a series of display boards providing details of the Scheme, a digital fly-through model of the Scheme depicting an impression of the proposed flood protection measures, and a map displaying the proposed alignment of flood defences, flood extent and depth for the 200-year event and environmental designated areas. For details on the public exhibition event and a post event report, refer to the scheme website (<https://www.grangemouthfloodscheme.com/consultation-event-no-2>).

In addition, members of the project team were in attendance to answer questions from the public. SEPA, the Scottish Flood Forum and Friends of Zetland Park also had supporting displays.

Visitors to the exhibition were encouraged to fill out questionnaire forms and provide written comments on the Scheme. Feedback provided during the event indicated that:

- 85% of respondents were in favour of the Scheme;
- 14% were undecided; and
- 1% were not in favour of the Scheme.

The most common topics on the feedback forms are shown in Figures 5.1 and 5.2 below.

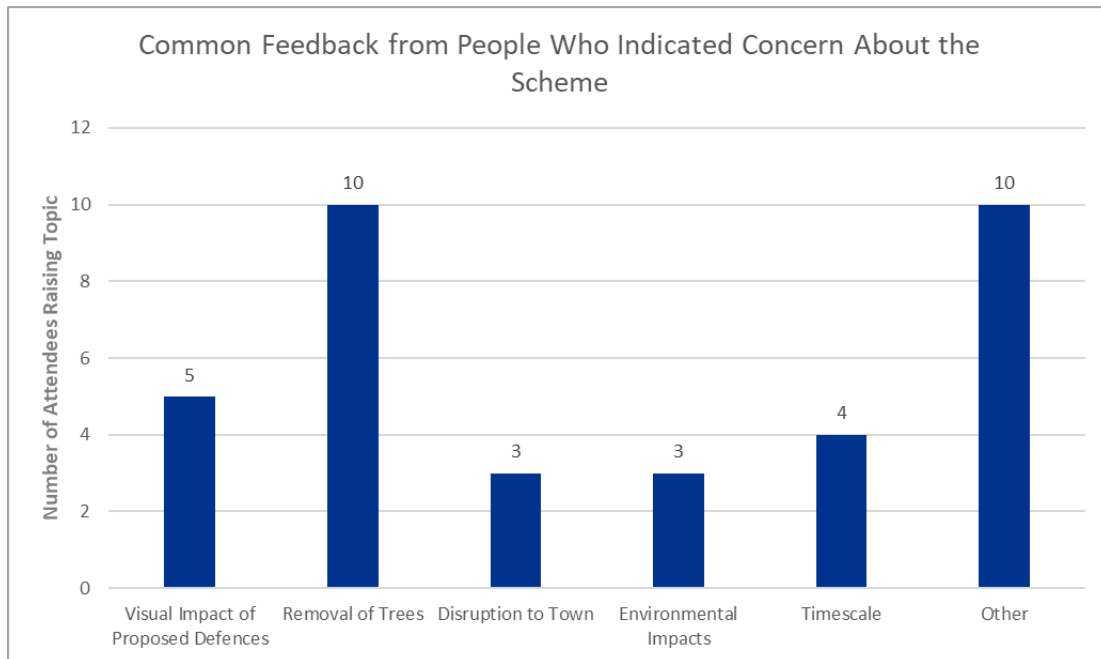


Figure 5-1: Common Feedback from People Who Indicated Concern About the Scheme

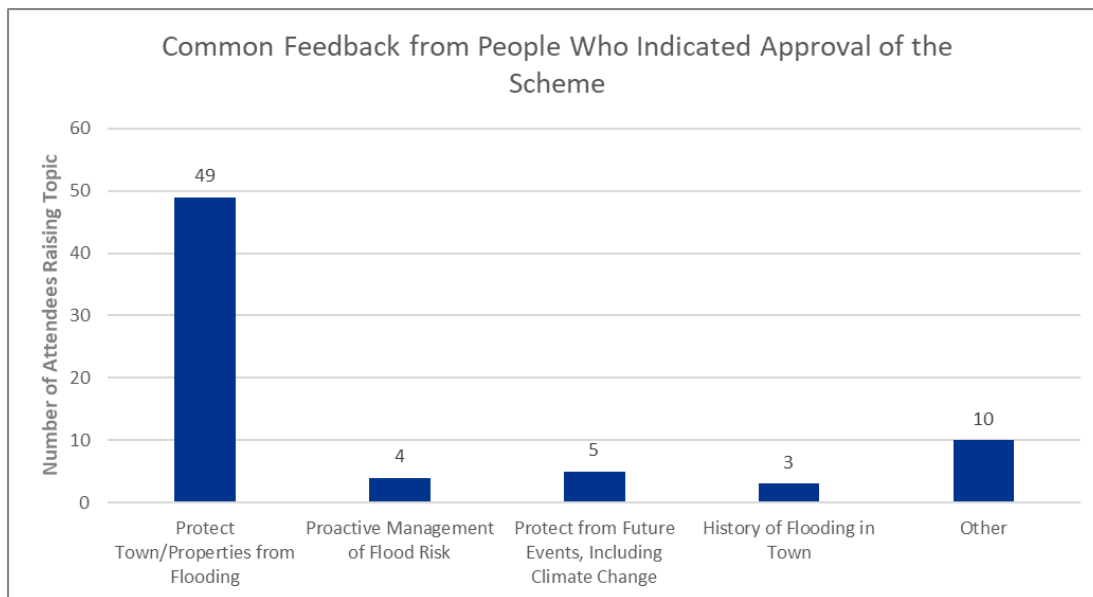


Figure 5-2: Common Feedback from People Who Indicated Approval of the Scheme

The attendee feedback indicated that the public were particularly concerned about the felling of trees in and around Zetland Park and on the banks of the Grange Burn. While previous discussions between the project team and the Zetland Park Project Team and the Friends of Zetland Park had already resulted in the decision to protect and avoid the felling of trees in the park where possible, the feedback from the community engagement event in 2019 reinforced the importance of this decision. Responses to the topics raised at this event were also reported in the Public Exhibition Report, which was posted on the Scheme website.

5.4.3 EIA Scoping Consultation

As discussed in Chapter 3: EIA Methodology, following submission of an EIA Screening and Scoping Report (Appendix C3.1: EIA Screening and Scoping Report), consultation comments were provided by Falkirk Council planning department and other stakeholders in February 2019. An EIA Scoping Opinion was also provided by Marine Scotland (now Marine Directorate) in February 2020. A copy of the scoping responses is provided in Appendix C3.2: EIA Screening Opinion and Scoping Report Responses.

Key comments that have influenced the development of the EIA and/or design included the following:

- To consider the potential for the Scheme to affect the Frontiers of the Roman Empire (Antonine Wall) World Heritage Site. Recommendation for the use of HES Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook (SNH and Historic Environment Scotland, 2018) as a guidance document to inform assessment of impacts on cultural heritage assets.
- To consider setting back structures from watercourses as far as feasibly possible.
- To consider enhancing watercourses (e.g. channel widening or restoration of riparian habitats) and mitigation for indirect impacts from erosion and sediments arising due to potentially increased flow.
- To assess the Heavily Modified Water Body in the Morphological Impacts Assessment System (a SEPA tool) as part of the EIA.
- To carry out an HRA to determine whether the Scheme will have significant effects on the Firth of Forth SPA. If there were no feasible alternatives and Falkirk Council were to propose to approve the proposal on the grounds of Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI), it is advised that the EIA Report include consideration of available options to provide compensatory habitat.
- To consider embankments rather than flood defence walls as a preferred option in more natural areas of the Scheme extents to allow better connectivity and use of the area for people and wildlife.

A meeting was held on 11 December 2018 with SNH (now NatureScot) and Falkirk Council in order to discuss the HRA screening and scoping for the Scheme and associated Ground Investigations (GI) work. The meeting involved discussions about progress in the Scheme design to date, bird survey results, the scope for screening/ Appropriate Assessment (AA) for Natura 2000 sites and GI locations, biotope surveys and the likelihood of Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) being concluded.

5.4.4 EIA Stakeholder Engagement Workshop

On 26 June 2019, a meeting was held with environmental representatives from Falkirk Council and Falkirk Community Trust to provide an update on the development of the Scheme design and EIA process, gain feedback on the work completed to date, and provide any further knowledge on the local baseline, potential environmental sensitivities, constraints and opportunities that could be considered. The potential scope and frequency of future consultation was also discussed.

The workshop element of the meeting involved attendees being separated into four groups to discuss the following themes: Visual/ Landscape and Cultural Heritage; Water Environment and Biodiversity; Transport and Local Policy; and Amenity, Access and Population and Human Health.

The workshop resulted in several conclusions and recommendations being made, including:

- The consideration of species' connectivity and therefore preference for embankments instead of walls; and the removal of weirs to enhance fish passage and incorporation of ramps, tunnels and ledges into the design.
- The consideration of potential improvements to the local watercourses' morphology and riverbank enhancements.

- The retainment and reinstatement of date stones on historical stone bridges that are to be reinforced as flood defences.
- The relocation of a possible site compound within Flood Cell 4 due to proximity to the Antonine Wall.
- The consideration of local mitigation opportunities, such as wetland habitat creation at Cobble Brae woodland and woodland improvements of Abbotshaugh Woodland; as well as potential improvement to the current Non-Motorised Users facilities such as extension of the NCN76 route.

Actions were agreed between the attendees, including dissemination of data, and where required, further stakeholder engagement.

5.4.5 EIA Mitigation Meeting

On 30 October 2019, the project designers and EIA team met the Falkirk Council environmental representatives to discuss mitigation measures that could be incorporated into the Scheme. Topics of discussion included the following:

- Falkirk Council's aspiration to reach a net-zero carbon emission target by 2030 in relation to the Council's operational vehicle fuel and energy use; and the Council's approach to offsetting through the identification of Urban Woodland Management Areas and ambition to deliver 50% of planting under the Woodland Strategy by 2030.
- The emerging embodied carbon calculations for the Scheme, and potential approaches to offsetting this, and the areas of potential habitat loss and disturbance from the Scheme.
- Potential sites for biodiversity mitigation (e.g. planting or improving habitats) or offsetting, such as vacant and derelict sites, and riverbanks (subject to landowner agreement).
- How to deliver the project's commitment to a tree replacement ratio.

5.4.6 Pre-application Consultation Workshop

On 22 January 2020, the project team met Falkirk Council environmental representatives and a Falkirk Community Trust member to obtain feedback from Falkirk Council planning officers on an interim (first) draft EIA and HRA Reports, to discuss any further scope of assessment and to update Falkirk Council on the status of the Scheme design and EIA process.

The workshop involved presentations to the attendees on the Scheme design and EIA progress to date. The attendees were then separated into four tables which focussed on:

- Policy and Climate Change;
- Population and Human Health, Noise and Vibration, Traffic and Transport and Cumulative Effects;
- Biodiversity and HRA, Water Environment and Soils, Geology and Contaminated Land; and
- Cultural Heritage and Landscape and Visual Assessment.

Each table was provided with a series of maps illustrating the outline design construction layouts and an overall Scheme plan, a copy of the draft EIA Introductory chapters (Chapters 1-5) and a list of other developments considered within the cumulative assessment. Additionally, a Q&A form was provided for the participants.

The key points discussed during the workshop included:

- approach to the EIA, including methodology, baseline study and impact assessment;
- proposed mitigation and monitoring measures and their effectiveness and implementation;

- the anticipated residual and cumulative impacts of the Scheme; and
- further need for involvement in the development of the EIA Report.

The workshop resulted in several conclusions and recommendations being made, including:

- justification to be provided for the level of protection afforded;
- a virtual flyover to be prepared for the next public consultation event;
- a Communication Strategy to be prepared;
- LDP2 to be considered within the EIA;
- projects with no certainty of being built, or are non-EIA developments should be scoped out of the cumulative assessment;
- the EIA Report needs to clearly differentiate between proposed planting for offsetting carbon and proposed planting for mitigation purposes;
- a schedule of potential carbon offsetting planting sites to be sent to Falkirk Council for consideration to help achieve the net-zero aim of the Scheme;
- a detailed Quantitative Risk Assessment (refer to Chapter 10 Water Environment for details) for the water environment would likely be required with inputs from SEPA via Falkirk Council; and
- flood cells could be colour coded to make it easier for members of the public to understand the Scheme's impact on their personal interests.

5.4.7 Other Stakeholder Consultations

In addition to the formal consultations outlined, the project team has engaged with statutory authorities, stakeholders, landowners, tenants, businesses, user groups and local residents to discuss the project throughout its duration on an *ad hoc* basis. These consultations have included, but were not limited to, discussions with the following:

- Local Community Councils;
- Communities and landowners: Falkirk Community Trust; Carron House, Callendar Estates, Scottish Canals.
- Businesses: Forth Ports, INEOS, Petroineos, INEOS FPS, Versalis, Bell Ingram – agent for the William Dawson Trust; Falkirk Golf Club; Rosasco Property; Jarvie Plant; Franke - Carron Phoenix, EDF-Man Group, Brewers Fayre, Klondyke, Metroinns, CCB Scaffolding, Avondale Care Home,
- Interest groups: Forth District Salmon Fishery Board; Friends of Rannoch Park; Friends of Zetland Park.

5.4.8 Community Engagement Events June 2021

Several community engagement events were held in June 2021, with two of the events providing a general update on the overall scheme and five smaller online events focussing on specific communities (at Carron/Carronshore, Zetland Park/ Abbots Road, Rannoch Park/ Rannoch Road, Grangeburn Road, and Reddoch Road/ Smiddy Brae), and feedback was gathered from those with particular views or concerns. Recordings of the events and visualisations used, as well as a report of the event, are available on the Scheme website (<https://www.grangemouthfloodscheme.com/engagement-event-no-3>).

5.4.9 Community Engagement Sessions June 2022

Mobile engagement sessions were held in June 2022 using a Council van, which enabled access to local communities in the Grangemouth and surrounding areas. Information about the Scheme design was on display and attendees were invited to ask any questions about the Scheme. A social media campaign ran in conjunction with these sessions.

5.4.10 Final Public Exhibition

Six in person and two online events were held between 29 February and 11 March 2024 prior to the commencement of the statutory processes to gain the necessary approvals and consents (<https://www.grangemouthfloodscheme.com/engagement-event-no-4>). The events presented the final outline flood defence alignment (i.e. the location of the flood defences) and the proposed appearance of the flood defences across all six flood cells. As with all previous events, attendees were encouraged to complete questionnaires and provide any specific feedback on the proposals. Prior to the public events, local elected members, MSPs and MPs were briefed on the Scheme.

5.4.11 Internet Presence

A dedicated project website (<https://www.grangemouthfloodscheme.com/>) was set up in 2016 which sets out the key facts relating to the flood history in Grangemouth and surrounding areas and is regularly updated with progress on the Scheme. The website features a "Contact Us" page, allowing members of the public to provide their feedback on the Scheme at any time. In addition, social media presence is available on Facebook and Twitter (see <https://www.facebook.com/grangemouthfps> and <https://twitter.com/grangemouthfps> respectively).

5.5 References

SNH and Historic Environment Scotland (2018) Environmental Impact Assessment Handbook. Available at: <https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/publications/publication/?publicationId=6ed33b65-9df1-4a2f-acbb-a8e800a592c0> (Accessed January 2023).