



Comhairle Contae Chiarraí
Kerry County Council



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
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OPW Óifig na n-Obreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme



Newsletter December 2023

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Project Overview

The December issue of the Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme newsletter describes the progress which has been made in the development of the scheme since September 2023. During this period, engineering surveys have been completed, several environmental surveys have been progressed and the hydraulic modelling of the catchment has been further developed. Further information on how the flood relief scheme has developed is presented overleaf.

Project Overview

Outline of the project progress since the previous issue of the newsletter.

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Progress to Date

A summary of the various items of work which are currently underway as part of the flood relief scheme.

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What's Next?

A summary of the tasks which the project team will be prioritising over the coming months.

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Recent Progress

Engineering Works

Culvert Condition & CCTV Survey: The survey has been completed and the survey data has been finalised. This survey data enables the design team to determine the adequacy and functionality of the existing public drainage networks in Kenmare to determine whether the drainage network will be fully functional in storm conditions (i.e. flood conditions) and to identify areas of the network which must be upgraded.

Ground Investigations: A contractor has been appointed to carry out ground investigation works as part of the Kenmare flood relief scheme. Preliminary work is underway currently and on site works are anticipated to commence in early 2024.

The on-site ground investigation works will consist of 46no boreholes, 14 trial pits and 4no dynamic probes. The results of the ground investigation works will facilitate the options selection for the Scheme and the preliminary design of proposed flood defence components.

Kerry County Council have begun to engage with landowners who will be impacted by the proposed works. The Contractor will also engage with impacted landowners in advance of the works to arrange access and to minimise the impact on the landowners.

Hydrology

The hydrological assessment has been completed and a hydrology report has been finalised. The report provides data in relation to design river flows and coastal water levels for the current and future scenarios. This will feed into the hydraulic model in due course.

Hydraulic Modelling

Hydraulic modelling of the watercourses in and around the Kenmare catchment is continuing. The data which was gathered as part of the topographic survey and culvert condition and CCTV survey is being used to accurately represent the flows, water levels and flow velocities which occur within the watercourses during various storm and flood events. The hydraulic modelling works will continue until mid-2024.

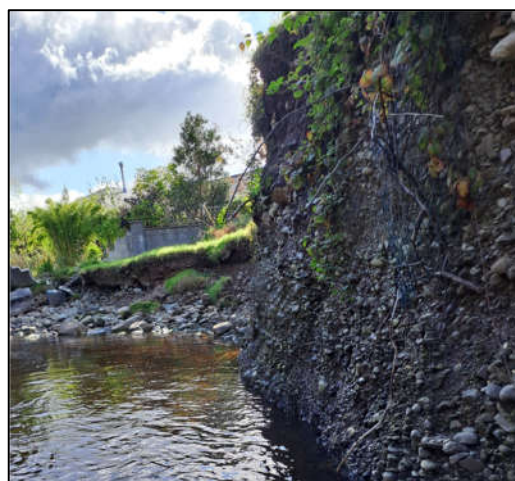
River Bank Erosion

A contractor has been appointed to carry out erosion prevention works to prevent further erosion along the banks of the Finnihy River immediately north of Kenmare town.

These works are required to protect areas of river bank where flood defence works will potentially be required as part of the flood relief scheme.

The appointed contractor will use nature based engineering solutions to protect the river bank from the hydraulic action of the Finnihy River which causes such erosion. The contractor has met with impacted landowners to discuss the proposed works and on-site works are expected to commence in early January 2024.

The image below shows the erosion which has been occurring along the Finnihy River.



Environmental Surveys & Reports

Tree Survey: The tree survey was completed in July 2023. A draft report summarising the results of this survey results was received in November 2023 which is currently being reviewed by the design team. .

Bat Survey: A Bat Survey was completed during the Autumn by specialist environmental consultants. The resulting report was finalised in December 2023.

The Bat survey was undertaken to ensure that the construction works which will be carried out as part of the flood relief scheme works avoid causing adverse effects on bats such as through loss of habitats and breeding/resting areas.

The image below shows a structure which was identified as a winter bat roost during the bat survey works.



Freshwater Pearl Mussel Survey: Unusually high water levels within Kenmare's watercourses over the late Summer and Autumn months have prevented this survey from progressing. The freshwater pearl mussel survey works will be attempted again in 2024.

Aquatic Ecology Survey: A specialist ecologist has completed an aquatic survey in the watercourses in and around Kenmare and has issued the resulting survey report. Presence of Juvenile Salmon and European Eel were recorded in the Finnihy River and its adjoining tributaries.

Bird Surveys: A specialist environmental consultant has been appointed to carry out wintering bird surveys. Two out of the four required bird surveys have now been completed. The surveying will conclude at the end of February with the resulting survey report to be submitted thereafter. An additional, breeding bird survey will be carried out later in 2024.

Additional Specialist Environmental Surveys: Various additional environmental surveys will be progressed during the year 2024.

- Landscape and Visual
- Noise and Vibration
- Air Quality and Climate
- Architectural and Archaeological Surveys

Rebranding

ByrneLooby rebranded to Ayesa on the 19th of October 2023. The name 'ByrneLooby' will be replaced with 'Ayesa' on any new documentation or associated material produced after this date.

The ByrneLooby team's member and scheme emails have been updated to Ayesa addresses. All social media has also rebranded to Ayesa marketing.

Please refer to the *Contact Us* details or scheme website for our new contact information.



What's Next?

Over the next few months, the Project Team will be working on the following:

- On site Ground Investigation works.
- Continuation of the hydraulic modelling.
- On site Finnihy Banks erosion prevention works.
- Continuation of various environmental surveys
- Architectural surveys (Including cultural heritage).



Contact Us

If you would like to contact our Project Team about any matter relating to the Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme you can do so through the following:

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If you would like any further information on the Scheme, please visit our website:

www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/kenmare/home/