



**Comhairle Contae Chiarraí**  
**Kerry County Council**



Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
2040



**OPW** Oifig na  
nOibreacha Poiblí  
Office of Public Works

**BYRNELOOBY**  
AN **avesa** COMPANY

# Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme



## Newsletter June 2023

### IN THIS ISSUE

## Project Overview

Since the previous issue of the Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme newsletter in March 2023, Stage 1 of the project (Scheme Development and Design) has made steady progress. In particular, several engineering surveys and numerous environmental surveys have been either completed or progressed. 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.

Page 1

### Progress to Date

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

Page 2

### What's Next?

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

Page 4

# Progress to Date

## Engineering Surveys

**Culvert Condition & CCTV Survey:** The on-site culvert condition and CCTV survey works have recently been completed. The resulting data has been received from the contractor and is currently being reviewed by the project team. The Culvert Condition & CCTV survey data will give the project team an overview of the drainage networks (i.e. sewers, manholes, culverts and outfalls) within the scheme area and provide details of each component of the networks condition, size, location etc.

The survey data will enable the development of the scheme hydraulic model which will inform the scheme design.

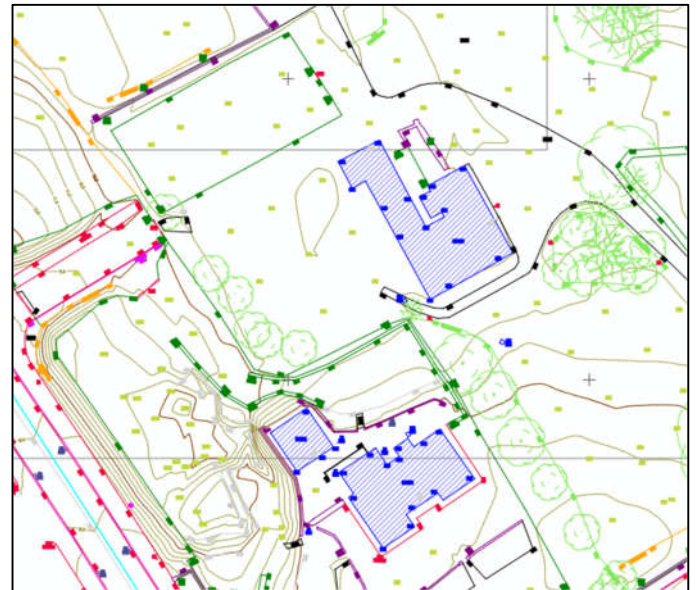
**Ground Investigations:** The project team are currently finalising the scope and tender documents for the initial ground investigation contract. The initial ground investigation contract will involve intrusive investigations (i.e. boreholes and trial pits etc) which will be carried out to establish the soil and rock profile and parameters within the Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme area. The works will be carried out in areas where flood defence measures such as flood defence embankments and flood walls could potentially be constructed. The results of the ground investigation works will facilitate the options selection for the Scheme and the preliminary design of proposed flood defence components.

The on-site ground investigation works are anticipated to commence in Autumn 2023.

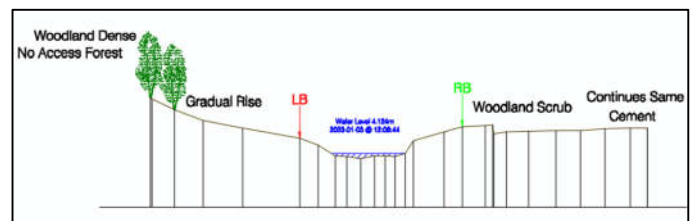
**Topographical Survey:** The on-site topographical survey works have now been completed. All survey data has been received and is currently being reviewed by the project team. The results of the topographical survey will provide a scaled map of the survey areas providing details of all natural (i.e. rivers, hills, trees etc) and artificial physical features (i.e. structures) within it. Topographic data enables a 2D or 3D model of the scheme area to be developed.

The topographical data will be used to develop the scheme hydraulic model and to design the flood defence components for the flood relief scheme thereafter.

The image below is an example of the data which was recorded as part of the topographical survey.



A typical river cross section which was recorded as part of the topographical survey works is shown below.



## Hydrology

The hydrological assessment has been completed and a report on the assessment has been prepared. The output from the assessment includes 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 upper catchment has been carried out to feed into the hydrology assessment.

The data from the topographical survey and the culvert condition & CCTV survey will be used to build the hydraulic model once the data is fully reviewed and quality checked.

## River Bank Erosion

A report is being prepared on erosion of the banks of the River Finnihy which includes an assessment of various options for erosion prevention and consideration of environmental and statutory aspects.

## Environmental Surveys & Reports

**Invasive Alien Species Survey:** A contractor was appointed to carry out the invasive alien species survey and treatment works as part of the flood relief scheme in April 2023. The appointed contractor carried out the initial survey works in June. Invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed, Rhododendron and Giant Rhubarb were identified in several locations relevant to the flood relief scheme during the survey.

Both mechanical (i.e. cutting, pulling etc) and herbicidal treatment methods will be used by the appointed contractor to manage and prevent the spread of invasive alien species. The treatment works will begin in late June 2023 and will continue periodically until the Autumn.

The image below shows an example Rhododendron (*Rhododendron ponticum*) which was identified during the survey works carried out in June.



**Mammal Survey:** ByrneLooby's environmental specialists carried out a mammal survey as part of the project in May 2023. The purpose of the mammal survey was to confirm the presence/absence of mammal habitats and species within the scheme area of the proposed flood relief scheme. Mammal species which are protected under the EU Habitats Directive and which are relatively common in Ireland include all bat species, otters (*Lutra lutra*), badgers (*Meles meles*), hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*), pine marten (*Martes martes*) and red squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*).

The on-site mammal surveys have now been completed and a resulting report is being prepared to summarise the findings of the survey works.

The image below shows red fox fur which was identified on barbed wire in the vicinity of the River Finnihy during the mammal survey.



### Additional Specialist Environmental Surveys:

Various additional environmental surveys will be progressed over the coming months including the following;

- Tree survey
- Bat survey
- Freshwater pearl mussel survey
- Aquatic ecology survey.

## What's Next?

A high level project programme is shown below.

| Stage | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 | 2030 |
|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| I     | █    | █    | █    |      |      |      |      |      |      |
| II    |      |      |      | █    | █    | █    |      |      |      |
| III   |      |      |      |      | █    | █    | █    |      |      |
| IV    |      |      |      |      |      | █    | █    | █    |      |
| V     |      |      |      |      |      |      |      | █    | █    |

As indicated above, we are currently in Stage 1 of the Flood Relief Scheme, this is the Scheme Development and Preliminary Design stage. This stage commenced in June 2022 and is expected to run until the end of 2024. Further information on the Projects Timeline and Stages are found on the Scheme website, link provided below:

<https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/kenmare/home/>

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

- ➔ Completion of the topographical survey contract.
- ➔ Completion of the culvert condition & CCTV survey contract.
- ➔ Commencement of Invasive Alien Species treatment works.
- ➔ Continuation of the hydraulic modelling.
- ➔ Procurement of the ground investigation contract.
- ➔ Environmental surveys such as freshwater pearl mussel survey, bat surveys, bird surveys and tree survey.
- ➔ 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:

### Email

[KenmareFRS@ByrneLooby.com](mailto:KenmareFRS@ByrneLooby.com)

### Post

Project Manager Kenmare FRS  
ByrneLooby  
Building 2100  
Cork Airport Business Park  
Kinsale Road  
Cork

### Phone

+353 (0) 21 240 7988

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

[www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/kenmare/home/](https://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/kenmare/home/)