



**Comhairle Contae Chiarraí
Kerry County Council**



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



OPW Óifig na nObbreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme

Newsletter June 2026



IN THIS ISSUE

Project Overview

This issue (Issue 16) of the Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme newsletter describes the progress which has been made in the development of the Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme from the beginning of April 2026 to the end of June 2026. The progress which has been made during this period includes the progression of the scheme options development as well as engineering and environmental surveys.

Project Overview

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

Page 1

Recent Progress

A summary of the various items of work which have been progressed recently as part of the flood relief scheme development.

Page 2

What's Next?

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

Page 4

Recent Progress

Engineering Works

Options Development: Since the last issue of the project newsletter, the following options development tasks have been progressed.

Options Development Report: The first issue of the scheme Options Development Report was completed in February 2026. During June 2026, Kerry County Council and OPW reviewed the report. The Options Development Report will be revised and re-issued once the project has been further developed and once the preferred scheme option has been defined.

Buildability Assessment: The scheme Preliminary Buildability Report was issued in February 2026. During June 2026, Kerry County Council and OPW reviewed the report. The Buildability Report will be revised and re-issued once the project has been further developed and once the preferred scheme option has been defined.

Ground Investigations: Ground investigation will be carried out in the coming months to complete two boreholes in the Gortamullen area, north of Kenmare. This work will be carried over the summer months to reduce damage to grass areas and to minimise the impact on private landowners.

The impacted landowners have been made aware of the intention to carry out the work but will be contacted again once the work has been arranged. This will likely be carried out in Q3 2026.

Due to progression of the options development tasks, the design team are assessing the benefits of carrying out additional ground investigation works to ensure that sufficient data is available to confirm the ground conditions in and around Kenmare Town and to ensure that flood defence measures can be designed to ensure stability and water tightness. These works will also be carried out Q3 2026.

Environmental Surveys & Reports

Below is a summary of the environmental surveys which are currently being progressed as part of the Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme.

River Hydromorphology Assessment Technique (RHAT): During the last reporting period, additional RHAT surveys were completed in the River Finnihy upper catchment. The resulting RHAT report summarising the outcome of the survey work is expected to be received from the specialist surveyor in early July 2026.

The purpose of this assessment is to classify the physical condition of water courses within the catchment and assess whether they are in a natural state or whether they have been subjected to human-induced modification.

Breeding Bird Survey: Breeding Bird surveys are underway in Kenmare which are being carried out by specialist ecologists. The survey consists of three separate bird surveys being carried out at different time during Summer 2026 to identify bird species present in areas where construction works may be carried out as part of the flood relief scheme.

In addition, a dedicated Woodcock survey will be completed. The Woodcock (*Scolopax Rusticola*) is classified on the 'red list' in Ireland due to severe declines in its population and breeding range.

Mammal Surveys: Initial mammal surveys were completed as part of the scheme in May 2023. Now that the scheme options development stage has progressed, additional mammal surveys will be completed during Summer 2026 to provide more recent survey results. The mammal survey will consider all areas where construction work may be required as part of the scheme's construction phase to identify any mammal species or habitats which could potentially be impacted by the work so that the impacts can be avoided or mitigated.

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*).

Bat Survey: The initial bat survey was completed in Summer 2023. Now that the scheme options development stage has progressed, additional bat surveys will be completed during Summer 2026 to provide more recent survey results.

The species of bat recorded in Kenmare during the 2023 survey include *common pipistrelles*, *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, *soprano pipistrelles*, *Nathusius' pipistrelle*, *Leisler's bats*, and *brown long-eared bats*.

Tree Survey: A tree survey was carried out and completed in Kenmare during September 2023. Now that the scheme options development stage has progressed, an additional tree survey will be carried out during Summer 2026.

Tree surveys record and assess the condition (species, age, height, ecological value etc.) of each tree which could potentially be impacted by the proposed flood relief scheme so that the impact can be eliminated or mitigated in advance of the construction stage of the scheme.

Invasive Alien Plant Species: An annual invasive alien species (IAS) treatment contract has been in place as part of the flood relief scheme since 2023. This involves annual instances of IAS surveying and treatment work each Summer.

During June 2026, initial surveying and treatment works were completed. Additional treatment works will be carried out in August 2026.

Invasive species such as *Japanese Knotweed*, *Rhododendron* and *Giant Rhubarb* are present in Kenmare and are being treated using both mechanical (i.e. pulling / cutting etc.) and herbicidal treatment methods.

Architecture, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage:

The majority of Kenmare town is designated as an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA). The town contains protected structures both within (circa 34no) and outside the designated ACA.

A specialist will be appointed in the coming months to review the known architectural and archaeological sites in and around Kenmare town and to assess any potential impacts which the proposed flood relief scheme may have on these sites.

During the last reporting period, the design team have developed a scope of works which will be used to be an appropriate specialist to assess the potential impact of the flood relief scheme in relation to Architecture, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

Additional Specialist Environmental Surveys:

Various additional environmental surveys will be conducted in the future including the following.

- ➔ Landscape and Visual
- ➔ Air Quality and Climate
- ➔ Noise and Vibration

What’s Next

A high-level project programme is shown below.

Stage	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
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 first quarter of 2027. Further information on the Projects Timeline and Stages can be 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 the following:

- ➔ Completion of Ground Investigation contract
- ➔ Continuation of the options development.
- ➔ Management of 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:

Email

KenmareFRS@Ayesa.com

Post

Project Manager Kenmare FRS
Ayesa
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/