



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



Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
2040



**OPW** Óifig na n-Obreacha Poiblí  
Office of Public Works

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

# Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme

## Newsletter September 2023



### IN THIS ISSUE

## Project Overview

The September issue of the Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme newsletter describes the progress which has been made in the development of the scheme since June 2023. During this period, engineering surveys have been completed, several environmental surveys have been progressed and the hydraulic modelling of the catchment is underway. 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

# Recent Progress

## Engineering Surveys

**Culvert Condition & CCTV Survey:** The on-site culvert condition and CCTV survey was completed in May 2023. The final survey data has now been received from the contractor and reviewed by the project team. This will allow Kenmare's existing drainage networks to be included in developing the hydraulic model of the Kenmare catchment. The hydraulic model will inform the scheme design.

**Ground Investigations:** The project team have completed the preparation of tender documents for the ground investigation contract and the contract was advertised for tender in August. The tender period has now closed and a contractor has been recommended to carry out the works.

The 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 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 and will continue to do so before and during the on-site works. The on-site ground investigation works are anticipated to commence in Quarter 4 2023.

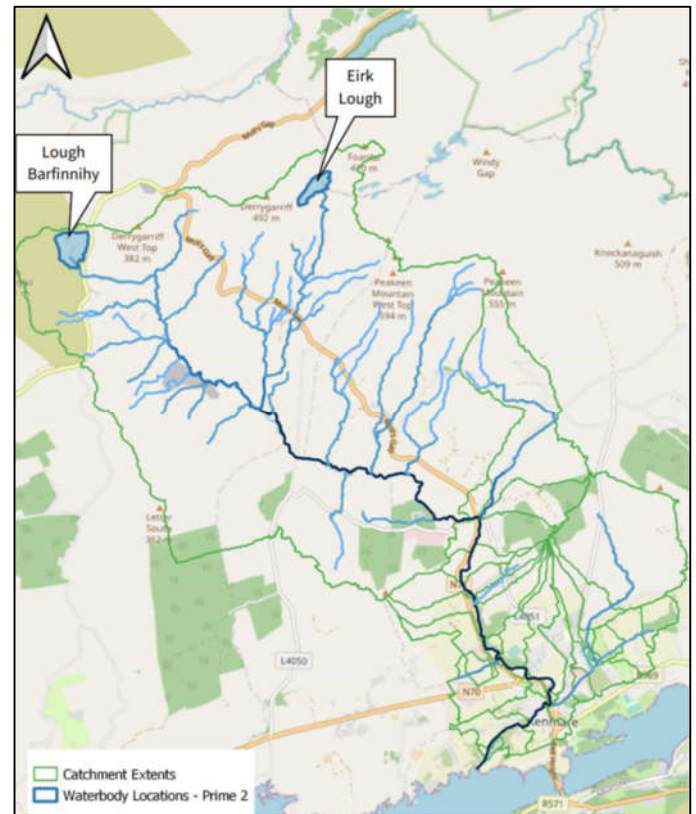
**Topographical Survey:** The survey data has been reviewed by the project team and the data is now acceptable for use on the project. The project team are now using the data from the survey to develop a hydraulic model for the scheme. The topographical survey data will also be used to design the flood defence components of the scheme as the design develops.

The data from the topographical survey provides a scaled map of the survey areas in and around Kenmare town including all natural (i.e. rivers, hills, trees etc) and artificial physical features (i.e. Buildings, bridges etc ) within it.

## Hydrology

The hydrological assessment has been completed and a draft hydrology report has been prepared. 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. A workshop has been held where the hydrology report was discussed with and reviewed by Kerry County Council and OPW and the report will be updated based on outcomes from the workshop.

The image shown below is an extract from the draft hydrology report which shows the extent of the Kenmare catchment and the primary watercourses within it.



## 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 has been received now that those surveys have been completed. This data is being used to build the hydraulic model which will inform the design of the flood relief scheme.

## River Bank Erosion

An erosion prevention engineering solution has been identified and designed to prevent erosion along the banks of the Finnihy River immediately north of Kenmare town to ensure that the bank is protected to allow the flood relief scheme to be progressed as planned. Tender documents have been prepared which will be used to appoint an appropriate contractor to carry out the engineering works. The works are anticipated to be carried out in quarter 4, 2023.

## Environmental Surveys & Reports

**Invasive Alien Species Survey and Treatment Works:** Invasive alien plant species (IAS) survey and treatment works have been carried out by the appointed contractor in and around Kenmare town throughout Summer 2023.

The appointed contractor completed the IAS survey works in July 2023. Invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed, Rhododendron and Giant Rhubarb were identified in several locations relevant to the flood relief scheme during the survey.

IAS treatment works for 2023 have been completed as of September. Additional survey and treatment works will commence again in 2024. Invasive alien species (IAS) treatment works are carried out at different times of the year depending on the plant species being treated to ensure that the treatment works are effective.

It is important to identify and treat all relevant IAS in advance of the flood relief scheme construction stage so that these species can ideally be eradicated or minimised/controlled before construction works commence. This will avoid the spread of these species to different areas due to construction activities.

The image below shows an example of Japanese Knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*) which was identified and treated during the works.



**Mammal Survey:** ByrneLooby's environmental specialists carried out a mammal survey as part of the project in May 2023. A report has been produced to summarise the results of the mammal survey.

**Tree Survey:** The tree survey was completed in July 2023. A report is currently being prepared summarising the results of this survey.

The tree survey recorded and assessed 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 reduced in advance of the construction stage of the scheme.

**Bat Survey:** Bat survey works are currently underway in Kenmare. These works are anticipated to be completed by the end of September 2023 with the resulting report expected in October 2023.

**Freshwater Pearl Mussel Survey:** A specialist ecologist has been appointed to undertake a freshwater pearl mussel survey in the watercourses in and around Kenmare. The survey period is underway however the survey has been delayed due to recent high water levels.

**Aquatic Ecology Survey:** A specialist ecologist has been appointed to undertake an aquatic survey in the watercourses in and around Kenmare. This included a survey of fish in the River Finnihy. The survey has been completed and a report is being prepared at present.

**Additional Specialist Environmental Surveys:** Various additional environmental surveys will be progressed over the coming months including the following;

- Wintering Bird survey .
- Breeding Bird survey.

## What's Next?

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

- ➔ Commencement of Ground Investigation works.
- ➔ Update of the Hydrology Report.
- ➔ Continuation of the hydraulic modelling.
- ➔ Progression of Finnihy Banks erosion prevention measures.
- ➔ Environmental surveys and reporting such as freshwater pearl mussel survey, bat surveys, wintering bird survey and breeding bird 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/](http://www.floodinfo.ie/frs/en/kenmare/home/)