



Comhairle Contae Chiarraí
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Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
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OPW Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme



Newsletter December 2025

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Project Overview

This issue (Issue 14) 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 October 2025 to the end of December 2025. 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

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Recent Progress

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

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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

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

Carbon Assessment: Each flood defence option has been assessed to calculate the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions which would be emitted should that option be constructed. The carbon cost is determined in relation to both financial and environmental costs. The results of the carbon assessment will inform the selection of the scheme's emerging preferred option.

Buildability Assessment: The buildability assessment considers all construction work which will potentially be required as part of the scheme and assesses the practicalities of the construction, the resources needed, the sequencing of the work, the potential environmental impacts and impacts on local residents and the town as a whole. The purpose of this assessment is to identify potential issues at as early a stage as possible so that issues can be avoided or mitigated before construction begins.

Seepage Assessment: The design team's geotechnical engineers are analyzing the results of the ground investigation works to determine whether ground conditions are suitable for the construction of flood defence measures such as flood walls and embankments. They will also determine whether sheet piling is required in each potential works area to prevent flood waters from permeating through the soil beneath the flood walls and embankments.

On completion of the options development stage, a second Public Consultation Day (PCD) event will be scheduled to present the updated flood risk assessments and the scheme flood defence options under consideration.

Ground Investigations: Due to recent progression of the scheme options development process, additional ground investigations are required in an area to the north of Kenmare town where ground investigation data has not previously been captured. The additional work consists of 2no boreholes.

The image below shows a borehole rig set up in Kenmare during works completed in 2025.



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 Q1 2026.

Topographic Survey: Due to progression of the options development tasks, a requirement for topographic survey of several areas which have not been surveyed previously has been identified. It is anticipated that the survey will be carried out Q1 2026.

Environmental Surveys & Reports

Below is a summary of the environmental surveys which have been progressed in the last reporting period as well as a description of additional survey work which will be progressed in Spring / Summer 2026.

River Hydromorphology Assessment Technique (RHAT): The RHAT was completed as part of the flood relief scheme during the last reporting period. 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. The results indicate that the sections of water courses within Kenmare town are generally scored lower than the sections of water courses in the upper catchment which is more rural in nature. This is to be expected as water courses are generally subject to a greater degree of modification within urbanized areas.

The following sections describe the environmental and ecological surveys which are anticipated to be carried out in Kenmare during Spring / Summer 2026.

Breeding Bird Survey: Initial breeding bird surveys were completed as part of the scheme in September 2024. Due to the lapse in time since the completion of the survey, it is anticipated that additional surveys will be completed during Summer 2026 in and around Kenmare town to ensure that the development of the scheme is informed by up-to-date survey results.

Mammal Surveys: Initial mammal surveys were completed as part of the scheme in May 2023. It is anticipated that 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 will 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. It is anticipated that 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*.

The image below shows a Lesser Horseshoe Bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*) which was identified during the previously completed Kenmare bat survey.



Tree Survey: A tree survey was carried out and completed in Kenmare during September 2023. An additional tree survey is anticipated to be carried out Spring/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.

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
- Architectural and Archaeological Survey

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 fourth quarter of 2026. 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 optioneering work.
- 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/