



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



Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**



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



# Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme



## Newsletter March 2026

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## Project Overview

This issue (Issue 15) 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 January 2026 to the end of March 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

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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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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.

**Options Development Report:** The first issue of the scheme Options Development Report was completed in February 2026. This report provides details of numerous flood defence measures which were considered as part of the flood defence scheme to determine whether they would effectively provide flood protection to properties in Kenmare and surrounding areas. Measures considered include bypass channels, flood defence walls, demountable barriers, flood warning systems among others.

The report then groups the relevant flood defence measures into options which are a combination of measures which provide flood protection to the town as a whole. These options are then assessed in terms of their technical metrics, economic cost, environmental impact among other considerations to identify the best flood relief scheme which could be progressed. This report will be revised and updated over the coming months before being finalised at which point the preferred scheme option will be identified.

**Buildability Assessment:** The scheme Preliminary Buildability Report was issued in February 2026. The Buildability Report 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.

**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 out once weather conditions improve, 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 Q2 2026.

**CCTV Survey:** A CCTV survey was completed in early February 2026 in the Pairc Clonee and Cill Mhuire areas. A specialist CCTV surveying contractor was appointed to trace the line of a culvert in Pairc Clonee which is currently unmapped and to survey surface water drainage networks.

**Topographic Survey:** An additional topographic survey was completed in Kenmare during January 2026 informed by the emerging options. Areas surveyed included private properties in Gortamullen and Kenmare Bay.

The additional topographic survey was required in areas where flood defence works such as embankments may be constructed as part of the flood defence scheme, emerging preferred option. Accurate topographic survey data is imperative to the design of the flood defence scheme so that the design team can accurately determine the heights of defences which will be required to provide flood protection to residential and commercial properties in Kenmare.

## Environmental Surveys & Reports

Below is a summary of the environmental surveys which will be progressed in Spring / Summer 2026.

**River Hydromorphology Assessment Technique (RHAT):** Additional RHAT surveys will be carried out in the River Finnihy upper catchment. The surveys will be carried out once weather conditions improve. Optimal weather conditions for these surveys require relatively low water levels in the watercourses and ideally clear skies so that river banks and beds can be inspected.

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:** Initial breeding bird surveys were completed as part of the scheme in September 2024. To ensure that current survey data is attained, 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.

**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*.

**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 during Summer 2026 which will be informed by the emerging options.

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.

**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 340) 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.

These impacts will be identified at an early stage so that the flood relief scheme can be designed to eliminate the impact on these sites or so the impact can be mitigated if it cannot be eliminated.

### 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 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:

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