



Comhairle Contae Chiarraí
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OPW
Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme



Newsletter September 2024

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Project Overview

This issue (Issue 09) of the Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme newsletter describes the progress which has been made in the development of the scheme from the beginning of July 2024 to end of September 2024. The progress which has been made during this period includes the completion of ground investigation field works, progression of environmental surveys, the completion of the draft hydraulics report and the commencement of preliminary scheme options assessment.

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.

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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

Ground Investigations: The on-site ground investigation field works were completed in early September 2024. The on-site work consisted of cable percussion boreholes, trial pits, dynamic probes and rotary core boreholes.

Laboratory testing is underway to test various soil and rock samples which have been collected during the on-site ground investigations works. The lab testing will determine various characteristics of the samples taken including compressive strength of rock and permeability of soil and rock as well as numerous other parameters.

Once the laboratory testing has been completed, the ground investigation contractor will compile a report summarising the results of the work. This report will then be used by the design team to inform the design of the flood relief scheme.

Hydraulic Modeling

The design team have completed the initial stages of the hydraulic modelling work in recent months and have produced the first draft of the hydraulics report.

The hydraulics report summarises the data which has been used to produce the scheme's hydraulic model including information in relation to the review of historic flood events within the Kenmare catchment, the analysis of river flows within the catchment as well as rainfall data, assessment of water levels and other information which is vital to the design of a flood relief scheme.

The adjacent image shows the Kenmare study area (or catchment) which has been assessed as part of the hydraulic modelling and hydraulics report.



Optioneering

Now that the hydraulic modelling report has been drafted, the design team are using the data presented in the report along with the various engineering and environmental surveys which have been completed in Kenmare since the flood relief scheme works commenced in Summer 2022 to begin to consider various flood defence options which could be progressed to provide the best flood relief scheme for Kenmare with respect to technical effectiveness, environmental impact, social impact and economic requirements.

Some of the potential options which are being considered include the provision of upstream flood storage volume, construction of hard defences (flood defence walls and embankments), the provision of a flood warning system, the removal of structures which constrain flows within the river channels among other options.

Environmental Surveys & Reports

Invasive Alien Species: The invasive alien species treatment contractor revisited Kenmare in September to carry out treatment works on invasive alien species such as Japanese Knotweed and Giant Rhubarb. This concludes the treatment works for 2024. Additional monitoring and treatment works will be carried out once more in Summer 2025.

The image below shows the invasive alien species contractor carrying out herbicidal treatment works in Kenmare.



Freshwater Pearl Mussel Survey: The freshwater pearl mussel survey works were completed during May 2024. The resulting report summarising the findings of the survey works was received in June 2024. The report has been reviewed by the design team and the contractor is revising the report to account for comments from the design team.

Bird Surveys: A specialist environmental consultant has been undertaking bird surveys in and around Kenmare since late 2023. The wintering birds survey works were completed in early 2024.

The second part of the bird survey works (breeding bird survey) was completed over the 2024 Summer months. The bird survey specialist is currently drafting a report which will summarise the results of both the winter bird survey and the breeding birds survey works.

The information presented in the report will be used by the design team to design a flood relief scheme which minimises the impact of the required construction activities on the bird species which are found in and around Kenmare town.



The image above shows a Grey Heron, Black-headed Gull and Curlew which were recorded in the Kenmare Bay area as part of the breeding bird survey.

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
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 late 2025. 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 the following:

- ➔ Completion of the Ground Investigation contract
- ➔ Finalisation of the Hydraulics Report.
- ➔ Continuation of the optioneering work.
- ➔ Continuation of various environmental surveys
- ➔ Natural Flood Risk Management Measures Assessment.
- ➔ 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/