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OPW Óifig na n-Obreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme

Newsletter June 2025



IN THIS ISSUE

Project Overview

This issue (Issue 12) 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 2025 to the end of June 2025. The progress which has been made during this period includes the progression of environmental surveys and the progression of preliminary scheme options assessment.

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.

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: In recent months, the design team have continued options development work to identify the flood defence measures which will result in the most effective and practical flood relief scheme for Kenmare.

The flood relief scheme options development process is being progressed to consider two separate sources of flooding, which are coastal flooding and fluvial flooding (i.e. river flooding).

Coastal Flooding

Five potential flood defence options were initially considered to protect the properties around Kenmare Bay from flooding. These options consisted of flood defence measures such as flood walls, flood embankments, raising ground and road levels and demountable barriers or flood gates.

The five options initially considered have now been reduced to the three most viable options. The design team are now progressing with assessing these three options in detail to identify the option which provides the required level of flood protection while minimizing the flood relief schemes impact in terms of environmental, economic and social impacts.

Fluvial Flooding

Fluvial flood defences will be required to protect Kenmare from flooding from flooding from rivers and watercourses. The fluvial flood defences will be required along the banks of the River Finniyh, along the banks of the Kealnagower Stream and around Kenmare town centre. The options being considered currently consist of flood measures such as flood walls, flood embankments, upstream storage, diversion channels and other measures.

Currently eleven different options are being considered. As the options assessment

progresses, the number of options being considered will be reduced so that the best, most viable options are considered and assessed in detail.

The coastal and fluvial options development is anticipated to continue over the coming months.

Ground Investigations: The on-site ground investigation field work began in early 2024 and was completed in September 2024. Since the field works were completed, the ground investigation contractor has revisited each area where works were carried out to ensure that the area has been reinstated to its original condition.

The flood relief scheme has developed further since the completion of the ground investigation works in September 2024. As such additional ground investigation works are required. Additional on-site ground investigations commenced in April 2025 and are anticipated to be complete by the end of June 2025.

The additional ground investigation work consists of thirteen boreholes and two trial pits.

The image below shows a rotary coring borehole rig set up in Kenmare during the initial ground investigation works in Summer 2024.



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 2025.

Current Surveys

Wintering Bird Surveys: The wintering bird survey was completed in early 2025. The resulting report was finalised in the Spring of 2025 and as such, the wintering bird survey has now been completed.

The purpose of the bird surveys is to identify any bird species and habitats within the Kenmare flood relief scheme area so that the flood relief scheme is designed to avoid impacting on these species and habitats wherever possible.

Invasive Alien Species Survey and Treatment: Invasive alien plant species (IAS) survey and treatment works have been carried out by a specialist contractor in and around Kenmare town during Summer 2023 and 2024.

The IAS survey work for 2025 has recently been completed. The purpose of the IAS survey is to revisit areas where IAS have been recorded to assess how effective the IAS treatment works completed in 2023 and 2024 have been. The IAS treatment contractor then uses the information gathered during the survey period to plan the required IAS treatment work.

The IAS treatment works will be carried out in two stages, one in early Summer 2025 and a follow-on round of treatment in late Summer 2025.

Invasive species such as *Japanese Knotweed*, *Rhododendron* and *Giant Rhubarb* have been identified and will be treated using both mechanical (i.e. pulling / cutting etc.) and herbicidal treatment methods.

Upcoming Surveys

Breeding Bird Survey: Following completion of the wintering bird survey work, it is anticipated that a breeding bird survey will be carried out during Summer 2025.

Mammal Survey: The initial mammal survey was completed during Summer 2023. During Summer 2025, the flood relief scheme area will be reviewed to ensure that the Summer 2023 survey captured all areas relevant to the flood relief scheme and to note any significant changes to identified mammals and habitats in the interim.

Bat Survey: The initial bat survey was completed in Summer 2023. During Summer 2025 the bat survey will be updated to account for additional areas which were not covered during the 2023 survey.

Water Quality Survey: The initial water quality survey was completed in Summer 2023. It is proposed to revisit the water quality survey in 2025 to take water samples from additional areas of watercourse once the proposed flood relief scheme has been defined.

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 middle 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:

- ➔ Management of Ground Investigation contract
- ➔ Continuation of the optioneering work.
- ➔ Continuation of various 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/