



Comhairle Contae Chiarraí
Kerry County Council



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OPW

Oifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme

Newsletter
June 2024



IN THIS ISSUE

Project Overview

This issue (Issue 08) of the Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme newsletter describes the progress which has been made in the development of the scheme from the beginning of April 2024 to end of June 2024. During this period, ground investigation works have continued on site, several environmental surveys have been progressed and completed and the hydraulic modeling of the catchment has been further developed.

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

Ground Investigations: Ground investigation works commenced on site in late January 2024. The cable percussion borehole and trial pit works have been completed as of the end of February 2024. The contractor is currently on site around Kenmare completing rotary core boreholes and several dynamic probes.

Rotary coring is a type of borehole technique which is used to collect soil and rock strata samples and to determine the depth, thickness and condition of rock strata in a given location where works will potentially be carried out as part of the flood relief scheme. The drilling rigs use high levels of torque and rotation to enable the penetration of very dense soil and rock strata. The drill has a rotary cutting head at the end of the drill shaft, which rotates rapidly and advances through the ground.

Dynamic probes will be carried out where access restrictions prevent borehole works from being carried out. Dynamic probes can be used to determine the bearing pressure of soils by driving a steel cone vertically into the ground using a sliding hammer and recording the number of blows required to achieve 100mm of penetration.

The on-site ground investigation works will continue until late July 2024.

Kerry County Council will continue to engage with landowners who are impacted by the works to ensure that disruption to impacted residents and landowners is minimised during the works and to arrange access to private lands to facilitate the works.



The image above shows the ground investigation contractors rotary core borehole rig set up in the near the River Finnihy in June 2024.

Hydraulic Modeling

The design team have made significant progress in developing the hydraulic model over recent months. The design team are currently drafting the Hydraulics Report which will summarise the methodology used to develop the hydraulic model and will present the results of the hydraulic model.

Once completed, the hydraulic model and the Hydraulics Report will be used by the design team to develop flood extent and flood depth mapping for current and future flood events, identify areas where flood defence structures are required in the catchment to ensure that water doesn't exceed the capacities of the local watercourses in times of heavy rainfall, causing flooding to public and private properties and to evaluate potential flood defence options.

Environmental Surveys & Reports

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 freshwater pearl mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) is a large filter-feeding bivalve, which is found in near-pristine freshwater habitats. It has a shell with two halves enclosing the soft body of the animal. Adult freshwater pearl mussels can reach lengths of 12-15cm, and live buried, or partially buried in the riverbed. These animals are extremely long lived and are capable of surviving for up to 140 years, making them Ireland's longest living animal.

Freshwater pearl mussels are a highly threatened animal, categorised as critically endangered in Ireland and across Europe.

The image below shows two freshwater pearl mussels which were identified in the River Finnihy during the May 2024 survey.



Invasive Alien Species: Surveying and treatment of Invasive alien plant species as part of the Kenmare flood relief scheme began in 2023 and will continue annually until the flood relief scheme has been completed. The 2024 surveying and treatment works re-commenced in June 2024. Additional treatment works will be carried out in August 2024.

Bird Surveys: A specialist environmental consultant has been undertaking bird surveys in and around Kenmare since late 2023. The wintering birds survey works have now been complete and the resulting report summarising the wintering bird survey has been received. The second part of the bird survey works (breeding bird survey) is currently underway and it is anticipated to be completed in late Summer 2024.

The image below shows a Little Egret which was identified during the winter bird survey. The Little Egret is a species of small heron.



The various environmental assessments which have been undertaken to date will be used to inform the optioneering and scheme development. Additional environmental survey works may be required once the preferred flood relief scheme has been identified in advance of planning application submission.

Additional Specialist Environmental Surveys:

Various additional environmental surveys will be progressed during the year 2024 including the following.

- Landscape and Visual
- Noise and Vibration
- Air Quality and Climate
- Architectural and Archaeological Surveys

What's Next?

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

- ➔ Completion of the on-site Ground Investigation works.
- ➔ Preparation of the Hydraulics Report.
- ➔ 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:

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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/