



Comhairle Contae Chiarraí
Kerry County Council



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
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OPW Oifig na n-Obreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme



Newsletter March 2024

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Project Overview

This issue (Issue 07) of the Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme newsletter describes the progress which has been made in the development of the scheme from the end of 2023 to end of March 2024. During this period, ground investigation works have commenced on site, several environmental surveys have been progressed and completed and the hydraulic modelling of the catchment has been further developed.

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: 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 was not on-site during March but will return to site in April 2024 to complete 46no rotary core boreholes.

Upon completion of the on-site works, the contractor will repair and reseed any grassed areas which have been disturbed by the machinery used to carry out the works and will reinstate any disturbed road surfaces to their original condition.

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 cable percussion borehole machine set up in the Scarteen Park area in late January 2024.

Hydraulic Modelling

The design team are continuing to develop the hydraulic model of the watercourses in and around the Kenmare catchment. Once completed, the flood relief scheme hydraulic model will be used to simulate flood events in the catchment. The simulations will be interpreted by the flood relief scheme design team to 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.

The data which was gathered as part of the topographic survey and culvert condition and CCTV survey is being used to accurately represent the flows, water levels and flow velocities which occur within the watercourses during various storm and flood events. The hydraulic modelling works will continue until mid-2024.

River Bank Erosion

Erosion prevention works commenced on site along the banks of the Finnihy River immediately north of Kenmare town in January 2024.

These works are required to protect an area of river bank where flood defence structures (flood defence walls and embankments) are proposed to be built as part of the flood relief scheme.

The erosion prevention works consisted of nature-based engineering solutions where the branches of willow trees have been fixed to the riverbank in a weave like arrangement known as 'stakes and spilling'. The willow stakes and spilling have been securely fixed to the river bank and river bed to ensure that it resists the hydraulic force of the river. This will protect the river bank from further erosion caused by the hydraulic action of the Finnihy River.

The erosion prevention works were completed in early March 2024. The image below shows the willow stakes and spilling which has been constructed.



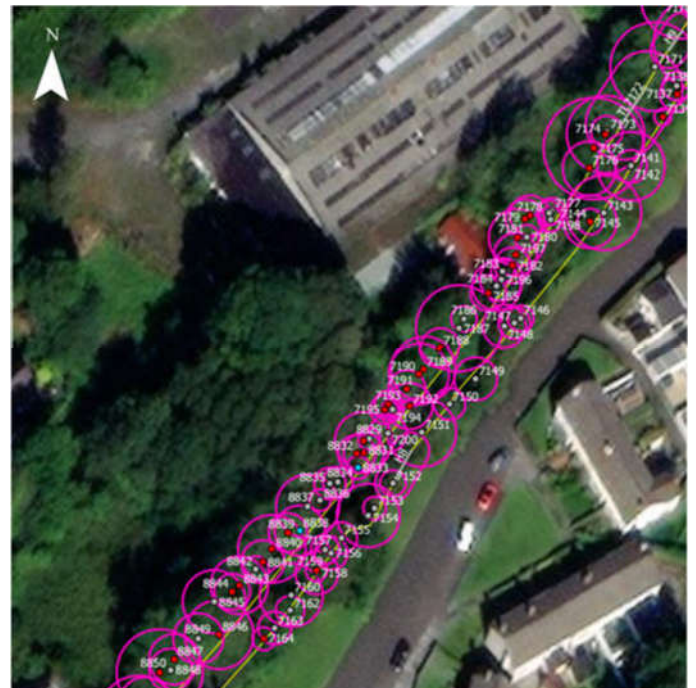
Environmental Surveys & Reports

Bat Survey: Bat Surveys were completed during Autumn, 2023 by specialist environmental consultants. The resulting report was submitted in December 2023. The report has now been reviewed by the design team and Kerry County Council and finalised.

Aquatic Ecology Survey: Aquatic ecology survey works have been completed. The resulting report has been submitted, reviewed by the design team and Kerry county Council, and finalized.

Freshwater Pearl Mussel Survey: Unusually high-water levels within Kenmare's watercourses over the late Summer and Autumn months have prevented this survey from progressing in 2023. The survey will be carried out this year when river conditions are suitable.

Tree Survey: The tree survey was completed in July 2023. A draft report summarising the results of this survey results was received in November 2023. The design team and Kerry County Council have reviewed the report which was then finalised. The image below is an extract from the tree survey report which gives an indication of the trees which have been identified and surveyed along the Kealnagower River in the Scarteen Park area.



Bird Surveys: A specialist environmental consultant has been appointed to carry out wintering bird surveys. Four wintering bird surveys have now been completed. An additional, final wintering bird survey will be undertaken in early April 2024. Once the on-site survey works have been completed, a resulting report will be issued to the project design team for review. Breeding bird surveys will be carried out through Summer 2024, commencing in late April 2024.

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.
- ➔ Continuation of the hydraulic modelling.
- ➔ 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/