



Comhairle Contae Chiarraí
Kerry County Council



Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040



OPW Óifig na nOibreacha Poiblí
Office of Public Works



Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme

Newsletter
September
2025



IN THIS ISSUE

Project Overview

This issue (Issue 13) 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 July 2025 to the end of September 2025. 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

Page 1

Recent Progress

A summary of the various items of work which have been progressed recently as part of the flood relief scheme development.

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: The previous project newsletter (covering the period from April to June 2025) described the initial options assessment tasks which were undertaken to identify viable flood defence options to be short listed for detailed options assessment. Six fluvial (i.e. from river) flood defence options and three coastal flood defence options were identified in the preliminary options assessment stage.

In recent months, the design team have assessed these six fluvial options and three coastal options in detail to identify the flood defence measures which will result in the most effective and practical flood relief scheme for Kenmare. The options assessment tasks which have been progressed recently are described as follows.

MCA (Multi Criteria Analysis): The MCA process has been progressed in accordance with guidance provided by the Office of Public Works (OPW). The MCA process is a standardized process used to evaluate multiple alternative options against a set of set criteria to identify the most viable flood relief scheme option. The MCA criteria considered are described as follows.

- **Social Criteria:** How effectively each option minimises the flood risk to the local community as well as local services and amenities.
- **Economic Criteria:** How effectively each option minimises risk to local businesses, transport infrastructure, utilities and agriculture.
- **Environmental Criteria:** The impact each option presents with respect to local water quality, fisheries, flora and fauna.
- **Technical Criteria:** How practical each option is to operate and maintain and what risks to health and safety do each option present.

Economic Assessments: In addition to the MCA process described in the previous section, economic assessments have been carried out for each option as described below.

- **Cost Estimates:** Cost estimates have been prepared to assess the capital cost of each option considered.
- **Economic Damage and Benefit Analysis:** The hydraulic flood model has been used to determine the economic impact of flooding to domestic and commercial properties within the Kenmare flood relief scheme area (i.e. economic damage).

The economic benefit is also assessed to determine the cost saving which will be observed once a flood relief scheme to design standard has been constructed.

Ground Investigations: The on-site ground investigation field work began in early 2024 and was completed in September 2024.

Additional ground investigation works were carried out in Kenmare between April and July 2025 to provide additional data in relation to ground conditions to account for the development of the flood relief scheme since the initial ground investigation works were completed in 2024.

In recent months, the ground investigation contractor has completed laboratory testing on soil and rock samples collected during the field works.

The laboratory testing has now been completed and the ground investigation contractor has drafted a resulting report summarising the results of the ground investigation works completed to date. The draft report has now been received and is being reviewed by the design team as of early October 2025.

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.

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 as part of the flood relief scheme on an annual basis since 2023.

The IAS survey work for 2025 was completed in early Summer 2025 and the IAS treatment works were completed for 2025 during September 2025.

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

The IAS treatment contractor will provide a report summarising the 2025 IAS treatment works in October 2025.

Breeding Bird Survey: The initial Kenmare flood relief scheme breeding bird survey was completed during Summer 2024. In recent months, an additional breeding bird survey has been completed to survey areas which were not covered during the initial survey. The specialist breeding bird surveyors have recently provided a report summarising the outcome of the 2025 survey.

Species of bird identified during the 2025 survey include Greay Wagtail, Peregrine Falcon and Meadow Pipit.

Mammal Survey: The initial mammal survey was completed during Summer 2023.

In recent months, an additional mammal survey has been completed to survey areas which were not covered during the initial survey and to revisit the areas surveyed during the 2023 survey to ensure that the habitats conditions have not changed in the interim.

The purpose of the survey is to identify the presence of all mammal species in areas where flood defence construction works might be carried out as part of the flood relief scheme so that any potential negative impacts on these species can be avoided or mitigated.

The specialist mammal surveyors have recently provided a report summarising the outcome of the 2025 survey.

Bat Survey: The initial bat survey was completed in Summer 2023. During Summer 2025 an additional bat survey has been completed to survey areas which were not covered during the initial survey. The specialist bat surveyors have recently provided a report summarising the outcome of the 2025 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 the third quarter 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:

- ➔ Completion of Ground Investigation contract
- ➔ Continuation of the optioneering work.
- ➔ 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:

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/