



**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
2026**



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Project Overview

This issue (Issue 17) 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 2026 to the end of September 2026. 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

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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 development.

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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

Options Development: The first issue of the scheme Options Development Report was completed in February 2026. The report has been reviewed by Kerry County Council and OPW and will be updated once the emerging scheme option has been further developed.

Hydraulic Modelling: The scheme Hydraulics Report has been reviewed and finalised during the last reporting period.

The hydraulics report summarises the data which has been used to produce the scheme's hydraulic model and includes outputs from the hydraulic model including flood extent mapping for various flood event scenarios including the design flood events (1% AEP fluvial flood event and 0.5% AEP coastal flood event).

The Hydraulics report will be published on the scheme website mid-October 2026.

Ground Investigations: Due to progression of the scheme since the initial ground investigation works were completed, additional ground investigation works are now being progressed to inform the design of the flood relief scheme. The design team have produced a proposed scope of works for the additional works which consists of additional boreholes (cable percussion and rotary core boreholes). Where ground investigation works are proposed on private lands, landowner engagement will be carried out in advance to agree locations and access routes to minimise disruption to landowners.

Environmental Surveys & Reports

Below is a summary of the environmental surveys which are currently being progressed as part of the Kenmare Flood Relief Scheme.

Breeding Bird Survey: Breeding Bird surveys have been completed in Kenmare through Summer 2026. Three separate bird surveys have been completed to record the presence of bird species in areas where construction work may be carried out as part of the flood relief scheme.

The survey recorded the presence of 59 species of bird. Three species listed on Annex I of the EU Birds Directive were recorded during the surveys: Little Egret, Common Tern and Sandwich Tern. Species of conservation concern recorded during the surveys included Barn Owl, Grey Wagtail, Meadow Pipit, Oystercatcher and Swift.

Mammal Surveys: The 2026 Mammal Survey work has been completed. The resulting report which summarised the findings of the survey and provides details of all mammals encountered is currently being prepared.

The mammal survey considers areas where construction work may be required as part of the scheme's construction phase to identify any mammal species or habitats which could potentially be impacted by the work so that the impacts can be avoided or mitigated.

The image below shows a potential otter hold which was identified during the survey work.



Bat Survey: A bat survey was completed as part of the scheme in Autumn 2023. An additional bat survey is underway Autumn 2026 to ensure that up to date environmental survey data is available to inform the design of the scheme to planning application submission stage.

All Irish bat species are protected under the *Wildlife Act (1976) and Wildlife Amendment Acts (2000 and 2010)*. Also, the EC Directive on *The Conservation of Natural habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (Habitats Directive 1992)*, seeks to protect rare species, including bats, and their habitats and requires that appropriate monitoring of populations be undertaken.

Invasive Alien Plant Species: An annual invasive alien species (IAS) treatment contract has been in place as part of the flood relief scheme since 2023. This involves annual instances of IAS surveying and treatment work each Summer.

The 2026 IAS survey and treatment work were completed during September 2026. Additional IAS survey and treatment works will be carried out in 2027.



Tree Survey: The 2026 Kenmare tree survey has now been completed and the resulting tree survey report summarising the findings of the survey has been received.

Tree surveys record and assess the condition (species, age, height, ecological value etc.) of each tree which could potentially be impacted by the proposed flood relief scheme so that the impact can be eliminated or mitigated in advance of the construction stage of the scheme.

Landscape and Visual:

A landscape and visual specialist has recently been appointed to consider the visual impact which the proposed flood relief scheme infrastructure will have on Kenmare so that the visual impact can be minimised where possible and so that landscaping and public realm works can be incorporated into the finished scheme.

The landscape and visual specialist will assist the design team in producing 3D representations of what the finished scheme will look like.

Intertidal and Subtidal Surveys: An intertidal and subtidal survey will be carried out in early October. The purpose of this survey is to establish and document the habitats and species which are present in the Kenmare Bay area. This will allow the coastal elements of the flood defence scheme to be designed in a manner that will avoid or mitigate any potential impacts which construction activities might have on the coastal environment.

Additional Specialist Environmental Surveys:

Various additional environmental surveys will be conducted in the future including the following.

- ➔ Architecture, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
- ➔ Air Quality and Climate
- ➔ Noise and Vibration

What’s Next

A high-level project programme is shown below.

Stage	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032
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 first quarter of 2027. 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:

- ➔ Ground Investigation contract
- ➔ Continuation of the options development.
- ➔ Public Consultation Day No2
- ➔ 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:

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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/