

RENARD LOCAL AREA PLAN

1.0 CONTEXT

1.1 Location

Renard is a rural area situated on the Iveragh Peninsula c. 5km to the southwest of Cahersiveen. It is located on a headland less than 1km to the east of Knightstown, Valentia from which it is separated by sea.



Fig 1: Location map for Renard

1.2 Population

There is no specific census returns for Renard itself. Renard is located in the DED of Caher.

1.3 Functions & Facilities

Renard is essentially a rural area with a high density of dispersed rural housing. There is no village as such and the residents of the area use Cahersiveen for their everyday needs. The seasonal car ferry to Knightstown operates from Renard pier. There is a public house/restaurant and a fish processing facility located at the pier. The pier is used by local fishing boats, leisure craft and other tourist related boats.

1.4 Infrastructure

There is public water supply available in the area. There is no existing wastewater treatment unit in Renard and there are no proposals to construct one.

1.5 Urban Form

The development node of Renard is centred on the waterfront. This area contains the bar/restaurant and the fish processing plant. The area does not have any semblance of an urban settlement as such, but is simply a loose collection of mainly one- off dwellings in a rural location.

1.6 Built Heritage & Archaeology

There are no protected structures or archaeological monuments in or in close proximity to the plan area

1.7 Natural environment and Amenity

Renard is adjacent to Valentia Harbour/Renard Channel which is designated as a SAC, which contains important examples of reefs, shallow inlets and tidal mudflats.

The area is rich in natural beauty and amenities. Renard is comprised of a relatively flat open landscape almost devoid of trees. There are a number of vantage points in Renard where panoramic views of Valentia Harbour and neighbouring headlands are available.

1.8 Vehicular and Pedestrian Traffic

Renard is located on a busy route and is the main entrance to Valentia Island via the ferry. When the Valentia Island ferry is in operation from March –October there is a constant flow of traffic through Renard. During the winter months traffic is local.

1.9 Employment

Renard developed traditionally as a ferry port and fishing village. Kerry Fish Ltd is located at Renard Point and is the main source of employment in the area. The vitality of the area and its small businesses are dependant on the spending power of customers from the rural areas and the passing ferry bound tourists.

1.10 Harbour & Marine Activity

Renard has a pier & ferry that has an important role in the continuing success of the marine – leisure, recreation and tourism sectors in the area. Support for the fishing industry remains the central focus of the pier. Fishing is a major source of income and direct employment for the area and also contributes indirectly, through fish exports and processing.

Boat trips for Skellig Michael are on offer from the pier, and powerboat trips operate also.

1.11 Growth and Residential Development

This area is comprised of scattered one off housing developments. There has been a considerable level of ribbon development westward from Renard Cross over the years and this has largely been confined to the southern or landward side of the road.

The level of planning permissions demonstrates growth in the plan area and its immediate surrounds. Growth may be sustained if Renard develops the capacity to attract services and facilities. The future demand for detached dwellings would otherwise be met through rural development in accordance with the policies of the County Development Plan.

2.0 DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The overall vision for Renard is to maintain the character of this distinctive dispersed settlement pattern, to promote and enhance the tourism potential.

Given the lack of any facilities in the area and the absence of an existing village/settlement structure, the need to prioritise investment into existing settlements and the proximity of Cahersiveen which is a district centre 5km away, it is not intended to develop a new village settlement in Renard.

The development strategy for Renard therefore is to:

- Ensure that future development should support the existing role and function of the settlement node as a small fishing and tourist node.
- Development should have regard to the scale and setting of the existing settlement in an attractive rural landscape.
- Commercial developments which are open on a year round basis shall be encouraged.
- Promote the fishing and angling potential for the area in a sustainable manner.
- Promote the development of the waterfront/pier area in a sustainable manner.

3.0 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Objective No.	Infrastructure and Community Facilities It is an objective of the Council to:
ICF-1	Facilitate the provision of a public toilet in Renard adjacent to the carpark

Objective No	Tourism It is an objective of the Council to:
T-1	Promote the sailing and fishing/angling potential for the area.