

Cardigan Tidal Flood Risk Management Scheme Screening for Potential Coastal Squeeze

This paper sets out the initial screening for potential coastal squeeze arising from the proposed Cardigan Tidal Flood Risk Management Scheme. This initial screening has been undertaken in line with Natural Resources Wales's Guidance Note "Assessment of Coastal Squeeze" 2022 (Reference Number GN065) [GN 062 Assessment of coastal squeeze](#).

Screening for potential coastal squeeze

Screening Step 1: Is there potential for coastal squeeze to occur?

If the answer to any of the questions below is no, no further action is required to assess coastal squeeze. If the answer to all questions is yes, then there will be a need to proceed to screening step 2.

- A) Is there a plan or project to undertake works to a structure or an activity occurring which implements hold the line and/or maintains the current shoreline position (this can include works to the landward side of a defence)? Note that maintenance activities are considered at screening step 2.

Yes

- B) Would the habitats be able to migrate landwards in response to sea level rise if there was no coastal structure or the management activity was stopped (i.e., the land behind the defence would be susceptible to flooding if the defence failed or would be expected to erode rapidly)? This includes land which is currently developed as explained in section 1.2 above).

Yes. Although the town of Cardigan (buildings, car park and road) is immediately behind the proposed defence line.

- C) Is there a National Site Network designated site with Annex 1 habitats present in the area seaward of the defence? Note that the designated site does not need to be immediately adjacent to the proposed works or structure, and the site boundary could be nearby or lower down the shore.

No. Whilst works to deliver the flood scheme will be located within and adjacent to the River Teifi Specail Area of Conservation (SAC). There are no River Teifi SAC Annex 1 habitats present in the area seaward of the defence. Furthermore the Annex 1 habitat features of the SAC are not susceptible to coastal squeeze processes. River Teifi SAC Annex 1 habitats: 3260 [Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation](#) ; 3130 [Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or of the Isoetes-Nanojuncetea](#).

- D) If the proposed works are in a 'Hold the line' policy unit, does the SMP HRA identify coastal squeeze losses? If the proposed works are in a 'No active intervention' or 'Managed realignment' policy unit then this question does not apply as coastal squeeze will not have been assessed for these policy types. The preferred policy may change over time. Consideration should be given to the policy periods (SMP epochs) relevant to the proposed lifespan of the works. For works which overlap or cross 2 policy units or more than one epoch you would need to consider the policies for all.

No. There are no coastal squeeze losses given Annex 1 habitats susceptible to coastal squeeze are not present or relevant to the River Teifi SAC.

Conclusion

Given the answer to question C and D is "No", there is no requirement to proceed to screening step 2 and no further coastal squeeze assessment is necessary.