

CARDIGAN TIDAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEME

Volume 1: Environmental Statement

Chapter 1 - Introduction

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of Environmental Statement

This Environmental Statement (ES) presents the findings of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) that has been undertaken for the Cardigan Tidal Flood Risk Management Scheme (TFRMS), hereafter referred to as 'the Scheme'. This ES has been prepared by Binnies UK Ltd (BUKL) on behalf of Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

The purpose of the ES is to identify, assess, and report on potential environmental effects of the Scheme. The ES outlines strategies to mitigate any adverse effects and serves as a tool to inform decision makers, stakeholders and the public. The EIA process ensures that potential environmental effects are given due consideration within the decision-making.

This ES has been prepared to support an application for Planning Approval from Ceredigion County Council under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, and an application for a Marine Licence from Natural Resources Wales under the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009.

1.2 Need for the Scheme

Cardigan is located on the River Teifi (Afon Teifi) in Ceredigion, west Wales (see Plate 1-1), Figure 1.1 shows the Scheme Area including the proposed construction compound locations. The Strand area of Cardigan on the north bank of the Afon Teifi, which includes residential and commercial properties, is vulnerable to flooding. Flood events occurred in 2007, 2008, 2012 and 2014. In 2007 the lower quayside, including Strand and Cattle Market flooded with flood depths exceeding 0.5m. A tidal flood on 3 January 2014 inundated 29 properties on St Mary's Street. This area will become increasingly vulnerable with predicted future sea levels rise.



1.3 Project aims and objectives

The overall aim of the Scheme is to reduce tidal flood risk to approximately 90 properties on the north bank of the Afon Teifi in the Strand area, east of Cardigan bridge, providing protection from floods of up to a 1 in 200 (0.5%) annual chance of occurrence including an allowance for 100 years of climate change.

The specific objectives of the Scheme are to:

1. Reduce the risk of tidal flooding to the town and community of Cardigan, taking account of predicted sea level rise.
2. Maintain and enhance the natural environment, and the well-being of the community, helping to achieve NRW's Well-Being Objectives and satisfy Environment (Wales) Act duties.
3. Provide a solution that is sensitive to Cardigan's important historic and landscape interest.
4. Apply green-grey estuarine infrastructure to deliver a multi-functional Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) asset.
5. Engage the community and deliver a publicly acceptable solution.
6. Provide a solution that is cost beneficial.
7. Work with Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW) and Ceredigion Council to discuss their responsibilities, in terms of different types of flooding within the area.

NRW are working collaboratively with Ceredigion County Council (CCC) as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) towards achieving the objectives outlined in the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy for Ceredigion (Ceredigion County Council, 2014), complementary to the National Strategy launched by the Welsh Government in 2011 and updated in 2020 (Welsh Government, 2020).

1.4 Compliance with EIA regulations

The EIA Regulations relevant to the Scheme are:

- The Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (Wales) Regulations 2017 as amended; and
- The Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007 (as amended).

The Scheme constitutes a Schedule 2 development under the Town and Country Planning EIA Regulations under Paragraph 10(h) *'Inland-waterway construction not included in Schedule 1, canalisation and flood-relief works'*. The applicable threshold is if the area of the works exceeds 1 hectare.

The Scheme constitutes a Schedule A2 development under the Marine Works EIA Regulations under Paragraph 64 *'Inland-waterway construction not included in Schedule A1, canalisation and flood relief works'*.

As the Scheme constitutes Schedule 2 / Schedule A2 development an EIA would be required if the Scheme is likely; because of its size, nature or location; to have significant effects on the environment. A Screening Opinion was requested from CCC and the NRW Marine Licencing Team. Both CCC (Ref. Q230180, 14/11/2023) and the Marine Licencing Team (Ref. SC2303, 14/12/2023) have confirmed that the Scheme comprises EIA development and therefore requires a statutory EIA.

The Scheme has been assessed in relation to the requirements of both sets of EIA regulations. Further details of the EIA process are provided in Chapter 4: EIA Methodology.

1.5 Structure of the Environmental Statement

This ES structure is outlined within Table 1-1.

Table 1-1 – Structure of the Environmental Statement

Volume 1 - Environmental Statement Chapters	
Chapter	Content
-	Statement of competence
1	Introduction - this chapter
2	Project Development – outlines the strategic context for the Scheme, provides an overview of the Scheme's design evolution to date and discusses the alternatives that have been considered throughout the process, and a summary of consultation.
3	Project Description - outlines the Scheme and associated works.
4	EIA Methodology - outlines the EIA methodology used throughout the ES and describes the outcomes of the EIA Scoping stage.
5 to 12	The main content of the impact assessment which will cover the following topics: Population and Human Health Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Historic Environment Landscape and Visual Traffic and Transport Water Environment Land Use and Soils Cumulative Effects
13 to 15	Summary and Conclusions Glossary Abbreviations

Volume 2 - Figures
This includes all figures referenced in the Environmental Statement Chapters.
Volume 3 - Appendices
Appendices include technical reports produced to inform the assessment of effects. An Environmental Action Plan (EAP) is included, which provides a record of the actions identified for the purpose of managing environmental impacts prior to, during, and after construction. The project Environmental Clerk of Works (EnvCoW) will monitor compliance against the EAP and the contractor will utilise the EAP in developing the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) prior to construction.
Volume 4 - Non-technical summary
This presents a concise summary of the key information contained within the Environmental Impact Assessment Report in non-technical language.

1.6 Availability of the Environmental Statement

The ES and all supporting information will be available for review during the planning and marine licencing determination periods. The following supporting information will be provided:

- Habitat Regulations Assessment
- Design and Access Statement
- Planning Statement
- Green Infrastructure Statement
- Scaled plans and drawings.

The ES and associated application documents will be available to view on the Ceredigion County Council website (<https://www.ceredigion.gov.uk/resident/planning-building-control-and-sustainable-drainage-body-sab/planning-applications/>) and NRW website (<https://naturalresources.wales/permits-and-permissions/public-register-environmental-permitting/?lang=en>).

1.7 References

Ceredigion County Council, 2014. *Local Flood Risk Management Strategy*, s.l.: s.n.

Welsh Government, 2020. *The National Strategy for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management in Wales*, s.l.: s.n.