

CARDIGAN TIDAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEME

Appendix 8.2 – Landscape and Visual Assessment Tables



Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales



CARDIGAN TIDAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT SCHEME

Environmental Statement

Appendix 8.2 - Landscape and Visual Amenity
Impact Assessment Tables

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APPENDIX 8.2: Landscape and Visual Amenity Impact Assessment Tables

1.1 Assessment of landscape impacts during construction

Landscape receptor					
LCA1 - Cardigan urban area Host character area.					
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the landscape		Sensitivity of the receptor	
Low		National		Medium	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Medium	Localised	Moderate	Short term	Slight	Moderate-Minor (not significant)
Description of effects					
During the construction period, moving plant and equipment would lead to an increase in traffic and noise, however as this character area is an urban one, this movement would be absorbed somewhat within the context of the urban area, and tranquillity is not a key feature of this LCA. The flood defence wall would have a piled core, which would be visible and would be an incongruous material prior to being clad. Modern buildings on the settlement edge are noted as being incongruous and detracting from the traditional character of the town's historic core, and this would be exacerbated during the construction period of the Scheme when the sheet pile is visible. The sheet piled wall would appear out of place in the context of Cardigan Conservation Area and Cardigan Castle, Town Walls and Bridge Scheduled Monuments. However, this would only be seen temporarily during the construction period, prior to being clad. A key feature of the character area is the relationship with the adjacent Afon Teifi, which could be partly screened during the construction period with site hoarding or fencing; and the character of the Afon Teifi itself could be temporarily changed through the addition of construction plant on the temporary haul road on the riverward side of the flood defence. This haul road is temporary and would be integrated into the constructed riverbank towards the end of the construction period. This would only affect a limited part of the character area however, as due to the area's contained nature, only a limited part of it has a direct relationship with the river. Two temporary construction compounds would be located within LCA1; one to the north of the Scheme off Pont-Y-Cleifion near the A487 roundabout and one within Pentood Industrial Estate on the south bank. Neither are located within the area's historic core and both are within or adjacent to areas of current industry or heavy traffic on the fringe of the settlement, and would not appear out of place in the context of their immediate surroundings. The scale of change is judged to be medium, as although there is some alteration to the key landscape characteristic of the riverside interface, and the receptor is in close proximity to the					

Scheme, the proposed built form will largely be located on the settlement edge amongst modern commercial buildings. Furthermore, compounds have been sited in urban fringe areas where they will not be out of place. Due to the contained nature of the character area as a result of its built form and characteristic narrow streets, the change would only affect a localised part of the character area along the river frontage in the immediate vicinity of the Scheme. It is noted that the extent affected would be slightly wider during the construction period than during operation, as the effect would extend to compounds and access routes in addition to the footprint of the permanent works. The medium scale of change and localised extent result in a stage 1 result of Moderate, albeit at the lower end of the Moderate band. This lower-end Moderate result combined with the short term duration, results in an overall magnitude of change of slight. The effect would be negative, due to the incongruous material use and separation from the river. The change would be short-term, during the construction period only.

The effect on this receptor during construction is deemed to be not significant, as the Scheme would not materially alter the defining characteristics of LCA1. The Scheme would be situated in the context of surrounding built form and urban activity, with compounds sited sensitively on the more modern fringes of the LCA. Effects of the Scheme would be limited to only a small part of the wider LCA and the duration of construction effects is short term and reversible.

Cardigan urban area is judged to have a low susceptibility to change, as it is judged to be able to accommodate the type and nature of the Scheme. This is an urban landscape, with existing built form, including linear features and a variety of construction materials, where the character is enclosed and contained. This low susceptibility reduces the overall Significance of effects when Magnitude and Sensitivity are combined.

Landscape receptor					
LCA2 - River and intertidal habitat Host character area.					
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the landscape		Sensitivity of the receptor	
High		National		High	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Large	Intermediate	Substantial	Short term	Moderate	Major-Moderate (significant)
Description of effects					
During the construction period, moving plant and equipment would disturb the tranquillity and peacefulness which is a key feature of this character area. Although this would be in the context of the urban area of Cardigan, construction of the flood defences would be from the riverward side, with construction plant situated within the river corridor, on a temporary haul road. The haul road would be integrated into the constructed riverbank towards the end of the construction period. The temporary haul road would extend into the river, limiting the presence of the intertidal mudflats which are a key feature of the area.					

Large scale plant could break up the open nature of the river around the location of the Scheme, and affect the perceptual qualities of this wide, open landscape through movement and noise. The flood defence wall would have a piled core, which would be an incongruous material prior to being clad. Varied floodwall construction is noted as a detracting feature of this LCA, which would be exacerbated during the construction period of the Scheme.

The scale of change is judged to be large, as there is loss or alteration to key landscape characteristics and the receptor is in close proximity to the Scheme. As the LCA takes a sinuous form, even though the LCA has an open character, there would not be intervisibility with the Scheme across the whole of the character area; intervening topography and vegetation from other character areas would provide screening and the extent is therefore intermediate. The large scale of change and intermediate extent result in a Substantial stage 1 result. This, combined with the short term duration results in an overall magnitude of change of Moderate. The effect would be negative. The change would be short-term, during the construction period only.

The effect of the Scheme on the character of LCA2 during construction is deemed to be significant, as a result of the alteration to the key characteristics of intertidal mudflats, open landform and tranquillity on this highly sensitive receptor.

Landscape receptor					
LCA4 - Southern enclosed slopes Distance from Scheme: 180m.					
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the landscape		Sensitivity of the receptor	
Medium		Regional		Medium	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Small	Limited	Negligible	Short term	Negligible	Minor-Negligible (not significant)
Description of effects					
This LCA would experience indirect effects only, as it is not a host character area. As shown by the ZTV, around the Bridgend area within LCA4 there is intervisibility with the Scheme. Occasional views out over the Teifi valley and estuary are a key feature of this character area, however as the Scheme would be in the context of the already urban area of Cardigan, the introduction of new features into the character of the view would be limited. The Scheme may affect the perceptual qualities of the LCA from this localised area closest to the Scheme by introducing noise and plant movement, though the scale of this indirect effect is likely to be small. As such there would be a small scale of change over a limited extent of LCA4, resulting in a magnitude of change of Negligible. The effect would be negative and the duration short-term, during the construction period only.					

The effect on this receptor group during construction is deemed to be not significant, due to distance and lack of intervisibility limiting any indirect effects.

1.2 Assessment of landscape impacts during operation

Landscape receptor					
LCA1 - Cardigan urban area Host character area.					
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the landscape		Sensitivity of the receptor	
Low		National		Medium	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Medium	Limited	Slight	Permanent	Slight	Moderate-Minor (not significant)
Description of effects					
A key feature of the character area is the relationship with the adjacent Afon Teifi. The Scheme would introduce a flood defence wall along the river's edge which at times would screen the river from the town and therefore affect this key feature of the character area. The wall would vary in height relative to the adjacent landward-side ground level and would not provide a full screen along its entire length. This would only affect a limited part of the character area however, as due to the area's contained nature, only a limited part of it has a direct relationship with the river. Cladding of the wall in locally characteristic slate compatible with the appearance of Cardigan Castle and Bridge would integrate the wall into its environment and be in keeping with its historic character, reducing its impact on the local landscape character. A consistent cladding approach would be used along the length of the wall on both faces. This consistent cladding approach would have a positive effect on the character of the area, whose current inconsistent mix of modern building materials on the urban fringes is considered a detracting feature. Two flood gates would be introduced within the new wall, but even so the wall would have a more consistent finish than the current situation. Public realm improvements along Strand would provide a positive change to a space which is currently incongruous and detracts from the integrity of the landscape. The existing tarmac footpath and overgrown riverside plateau with concrete paving and utilitarian railings would be replaced with a slate footpath in keeping with adjacent Prince Charles Quay and Cardigan Castle entrance, as well as street trees and planting beds. The scale of change is judged to be medium, as although there is some alteration to the key landscape characteristic of the riverside interface, and the receptor is in close proximity to the Scheme, the proposed built form would largely be located on the settlement edge amongst modern commercial buildings where it will not be out of place, and clad sensitively to minimise its impact. Due to the contained nature of the character area as a result of its built form and characteristic					

narrow streets, the change would only affect a limited part of the character area. Although the Scheme would have both positive and negative effects on LCA1, it is considered that the overarching effect would be negative, due to the separation from the river which is a key characteristic. The change would be permanent.

The effect on this receptor during operation is deemed to be not significant, as the Scheme would not materially alter the defining characteristics of LCA1, and would largely blend in with its surrounding built form. The area and therefore the effects within it are well contained, limiting effects to only a small part of the wider LCA, and the use of materials appropriate to the local environment are proposed.

Cardigan urban area is judged to have a low susceptibility to change, as it is judged to be able to accommodate the type and nature of the Scheme. This is an urban landscape, with existing built form, including linear features, and a variety of construction materials, where the character is enclosed and contained. This reduces the overall Significance of effects when Magnitude and Sensitivity are combined.

Landscape receptor					
LCA2 - River and intertidal habitat Host character area.					
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the landscape		Sensitivity of the receptor	
High		National		High	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Medium	Localised	Moderate	Permanent	Moderate	Major-Moderate (significant)
Description of effects					
As the flood wall would be constructed on the very edge of this LCA, it would not bisect the landscape or break up the large scale and openness which are some of its key features. Existing flood defences are present along the riverbank through Cardigan, though built of varied construction materials in an incoherent pattern, and this piecemeal approach detracts from the existing character of the area. It is considered that the change to a consistent defence design as part of the Scheme would provide an improvement, as would limiting intervisibility with modern inconsistent built form on the north bank of the river, particularly corrugated metal warehouse-style buildings. Two flood gates would be introduced within the new wall, but even so the wall would have a more consistent finish than the current situation. The footprint of the flood defence would also extend further into the river than the existing defence, thereby limiting the presence of the intertidal mudflats which are a key feature of the area. A constructed riverbank would support the flood defence wall; this riverbank, which would be mostly surfaced with rock rolls, and with a vegetated upper slope, would be a new feature. The upper vegetated slope is likely to be similar in character to the current assemblage of exposed mud and short vegetation, as it would be seeded with grass and forbs suited to growing in this environment.					

The lower slopes surfaced with rock rolls are however likely to be incongruous; although there are some rocky banks downstream of Cardigan Bridge within LCA2 which has provided the inspiration for the rock roll clad riverbank, those natural rock banks are of much shallower elevation. The mesh enclosing the installed rock rolls would be out of place. The new up and over canoe/kayak access ramp from the flood gate to the south of the Old Foundry site down to the river would not be a new type of feature in the area, where there are existing slipways present.

The scale of change is judged to be medium, as there is loss or alteration to key landscape characteristics and the receptor is in close proximity to the Scheme, but contained only to a localised part of the landscape character area. Due to the sinuous nature of the river, once the river has turned the corner downstream past Cardigan Bridge, there would no longer be intervisibility with the Scheme. Although the coherent design of the defence would improve the visual consistency of the river edge, this is outweighed by the loss of intertidal mudflat and introduction of artificial rock roll riverbank, and the effect would overall be negative. Although the character of the rock rolls would soften over time as moss and seaweed develops, it is not considered that this would reduce the magnitude of the change. The change would be permanent.

The effect of the Scheme on the character of LCA2 during operation is deemed to be significant, as a result of the alteration to the key characteristics of intertidal mudflats and open landform, and addition of new rock rolls, on this highly sensitive receptor.

Landscape receptor					
LCA4 - Southern enclosed slopes Distance from Scheme: 180m.					
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the landscape		Sensitivity of the receptor	
Medium		Regional		Medium	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Negligible	Limited	Negligible	Permanent	Negligible	Minor-Negligible (not significant)
Description of effects					
This LCA would experience indirect effects only, as it is not a host character area. As shown by the ZTV, around the Bridgend area there is localised intervisibility with the Scheme. Occasional views out over the Teifi valley and estuary are a key feature of this character area, however as the Scheme would be located in the context of the already urban area of Cardigan, it would not introduce new features into the character of the view, or affect the perceptual qualities of LCA4. As such there would be a negligible scale of change over a limited extent of LCA4. The effect would be negative, and the duration permanent. The effect on this receptor group during operation is deemed to be not significant, due to distance and lack of intervisibility limiting any indirect effects.					

1.3 Assessment of visual amenity impacts during construction

Visual receptor				Viewpoints	
Residents of homes on the north bank of the Afon Teifi (Church Street and Strand)				VP 6: Gloster Row car park	
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
High		Community		High-Medium	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Large	Localised	Moderate	Short term	Moderate	Major-Moderate (significant)
Description of effects					
The scale of change during construction is judged as large. Residents would experience close views of construction machinery and also potentially partial views of the temporary haul road, depending on how the work is screened. They would also have views of the unclad sheet pile flood defence before the final finish is applied. Parts of Gloster Row car park would be temporarily closed during construction, with site fencing demarking the separation of public and the works. Views would be constantly changing. The construction work would occupy most of the horizontal field of view. There would be oblique views of the southern compound on the south bank of the river. Although residents of properties closest to the works on Church Street and Strand would experience this large scale of change, the extent of this large scale of change would be localised to only a few properties closest to or directly facing the works, with residents of other properties experiencing only a moderate or small scale of change. For those residents most affected, the large scale of change and localised extent results in a stage 1 result of Moderate, albeit at the upper end of the Moderate band. For these receptors at the upper end of the Moderate band, the short term duration would not reduce the magnitude of effect, which would remain Moderate. The effect would be negative as construction machinery and activities would not blend into the wider context. The change would be short-term, during the construction period only. The effect on this receptor group during construction is deemed to be significant, as the Scheme would be readily visible in the foreground, occupying most of the receptors' field of view and blocking existing views.					

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Indoor users of buildings on the north bank of the Afon Teifi (indoor workers)		VP 6: Gloster Row car park			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
Low		Community		Low	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Large	Localised	Moderate	Short term	Moderate	Moderate-Minor (not significant)
Description of effects					
The scale of change during construction is judged as large. Users of these buildings would experience immediate views of construction machinery, hoardings or fencing and potentially the temporary haul road. The field of view occupied by construction works would be extensive. There would be oblique views of the southern compound on the south bank of the river. There would also be direct views of the unclad sheet pile flood defence before the final finish is applied. The extent of this large scale of change would however be localised to only a few properties closest to or directly facing the works, resulting in a stage 1 result of Moderate, albeit at the higher end of the Moderate band. It is considered that for these receptors at the higher end of the Moderate band, the short term duration would not be enough to reduce the magnitude of effect, which would remain Moderate. The effect would be negative as construction machinery and activities would not blend into the wider context. The change would be short-term, during the construction period only. The effect on this receptor group during construction is deemed to be not significant, primarily because these receptors are judged to be of low sensitivity, engaged in an activity not related to their surrounding views. This reduces the overall Significance of effects when Magnitude and Sensitivity are combined.					

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Users of recreational open spaces on the north bank of the Afon Teifi (Old Foundry site and Gloster Row car park)		VP 6: Gloster Row car park			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
Medium		Community		Medium	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Medium	Localised	Moderate	Short term	Slight	Moderate-Minor (not significant)
Description of effects					
The scale of change during construction is judged as medium. Receptors would experience immediate views of construction machinery, hoardings or fencing and potentially the temporary haul road, but the field of view occupied by construction works would be limited, as would the impact on views of surroundings. There would be direct views of the southern compound on the south bank of the river and views of the unclad sheet pile flood defence before the final finish is applied. This medium scale of change would however be restricted to only a small spatial extent, from only two small recreational open spaces. This localised extent combined with the medium scale of change results in a stage 1 result of Moderate, albeit at the lower end of the Moderate band. For these receptors who are at the lower end of the moderate band, the short term duration would reduce the magnitude of effect to Slight. The effect would be negative as construction machinery and activities would not blend into the wider context. The change would be short-term, during the construction period only. The effect on this receptor group during construction is deemed to be not significant, as although the Scheme would be visible in the foreground, it would not occupy most of the receptors' field of view, and some existing elements of their views would remain. Furthermore, this change is restricted in extent to being visible from only two small open spaces, and the duration of construction effects is short term and reversible.					

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Pedestrians on Strand, Cardigan footbridge, Bridge Street and Prince Charles Quay. Members of public in the Grosvenor pub garden (and users of any future walkways along the river west of Cardigan Bridge)		VP 1: Cardigan footbridge VP 2: Junction of Bridge St and Strand VP 3: Prince Charles Quay VP 5: Strand bus stop			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
High		National		High	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Medium	Intermediate	Moderate	Short term	Moderate	Major-Moderate (significant)
Description of effects					
The scale of change during construction is judged as medium. Pedestrians would experience immediate views of construction machinery, hoardings or fencing and partial views of the temporary haul road, but the field of view occupied by construction works would be limited, as would the impact on views of surroundings. Views of the Southern compound would be oblique and distant. There would also be views of the unclad sheet pile flood defence before the final finish is applied. The pedestrian footway along the south side of Strand would be temporarily closed to the public for the duration of the works, however the footway along the northern side would remain open; receptors on Strand would therefore remain present during the construction period. It is considered that this medium scale of change would be experienced over an intermediate geographic extent, due to the spatial area covered by these pedestrian routes. This results in a Moderate stage 1 judgement at the upper end of the range. The short-term duration is not considered sufficient to reduce the overall magnitude below Moderate. The effect would be negative as construction machinery and activities would not blend into the wider context. The change would be short-term, during the construction period only. The effect on this receptor group during construction is deemed to be significant. The Scheme would be visible in the foreground with little screening, and would partially block views of the river which is a key focus of the view. Furthermore, this receptor group is judged to be of High sensitivity due to their activity being focussed on the appreciation of views, including to or from important features of cultural and historic interest. This increases the overall Significance of effects when Magnitude and Sensitivity are combined.					

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Visitors to Cardigan Castle and Gardens		Viewpoint 4: View from Cardigan Castle Gardens			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
High		National		High	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Small	Limited	Slight	Short term	Negligible	Minor (not significant)
Description of effects					
The scale of change during construction is judged to be small. Much of the construction work would be screened by vegetation on the edges of the Castle Gardens and buildings on Strand. Visitors would be able to see construction machinery and the temporary haul road at Strand and Gloster Row, only when looking over the Castle Walls. They would also have limited views of the unclad sheet pile flood defence at Strand and Gloster Row before the final finish is applied. The field of view occupied by the construction works would be limited. The extent is judged to be limited as visitors would only experience the change to their views when looking over the castle walls. The small scale of change and limited extent results in a stage 1 result of Slight, albeit at the lower end of the band. For these receptors who are at the lower end of the Slight band, the short term duration would reduce the magnitude of effect to Negligible. The effect would be negative as construction machinery and activities would not blend into the wider context. The change would be short-term, during the construction period only. The effect on this receptor group during construction is deemed to be not significant, as although the receptor group is of high sensitivity, they would have only limited, glimpsed views of the Scheme.					

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Residents of homes on the south bank of the Afon Teifi		VP 7: Riverside walk (Close to Cardigan Bridge) VP 10: Riverside Walk (midway between Cardigan and Priory bridges) VP 11: Station Road VP 12: From St Dogmaels Road			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
High		Community		High-Medium	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Small	Localised	Slight	Short term	Slight	Moderate-Minor (not significant)
Description of effects					
The scale of change during construction is judged to be small due to receptors being set back from the south bank of the river (the opposite bank to the Scheme) with intervening commercial buildings and their respective boundary treatments limiting views of the works on the north bank. Views of the southern compound would be screened by commercial buildings on Station Road. Residents would have views of the unclad sheet pile flood defence before the final finish is applied. The extent would be localised only to residents of a few properties, resulting in a stage 1 result of Slight, which is not considered would be reduced by the short term duration as these residents would experience changes to their views throughout the duration of the construction period, and are not near the lower end of the Slight band. The effect would be negative as construction machinery and activities would not blend into the wider context. The change would be short-term, during the construction period only. The effect on this receptor group during construction is deemed to be not significant, as although the Scheme would be visible, it would only occupy a small part of their field of view in the middle distance, and much of their existing view would remain.					

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Workers at industrial premises on the south bank of the Afon Teifi		VP 7: Riverside walk (Close to Cardigan Bridge) VP 10: Riverside Walk (midway between Cardigan and Priory bridges) VP 11: Station Road			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
Low		Regional		Medium-Low	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Medium	Intermediate	Moderate	Short term	Moderate	Moderate-Minor (not significant)
Description of effects					
The scale of change during construction is judged to be medium. Workers would be an intermediate distance from the construction machinery, works and temporary haul road, with uninterrupted views. The haul road would occupy a wide part of the horizontal field of view, although not the whole view, and existing elements on the south bank of the river and upstream/downstream of the Scheme would remain unchanged. The vertical field of view would be disrupted to the extent of active works. Workers would have views of the unclad sheet pile flood defence before the final finish is applied. This medium scale of change would be experienced over an intermediate extent, resulting in a Moderate stage 1 result. It is not considered that the short term duration would reduce the magnitude of effect, which would remain Moderate, as these receptors would experience changes to their views throughout the duration of the construction period, and are not near the lower end of the Moderate band. The effect would be negative as construction machinery and activities would not blend into the wider context. The change would be short-term, during the construction period only. The effect on this receptor group during construction is deemed to be not significant, primarily because these receptors are judged to be of Low susceptibility, engaged in an activity not related to their surrounding views. This reduces the overall Significance of effects when Magnitude and Sensitivity are combined.					

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Pedestrians and cyclists on riverside routes		VP9: From NCN route 82 east of Priory Bridge VP 7: Riverside walk (Close to Cardigan Bridge) VP 8: Priory Bridge VP10: Riverside Walk (midway between Cardigan and Priory bridges)			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
High		Regional		High-Medium	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Medium	Intermediate	Moderate	Short term	Moderate	Moderate (not significant)
Description of effects					
The scale of change during construction is judged to be medium, since pedestrians and cyclists would have unscreened views of the construction activities in the foreground as construction work moves along the length of the Scheme. They would also have unscreened views of the temporary haul route and the unclad defence before final finishes are applied. These changes would not occupy the whole field of view however, as existing elements on the south bank of the river and upstream/downstream of the Scheme would remain unchanged. At the western end of the Scheme lies Cardigan Castle and Cardigan Bridge Scheduled Monuments and the edge of the historic centre of Cardigan, raising the value of the view. The remainder of the Scheme would lie amongst modern industrial and commercial development on the urban fringe of the town. This medium scale of change would be experienced over an intermediate extent as pedestrians and cyclists pass the Scheme on a transitory route, resulting in a Moderate stage 1 result, albeit at the upper end of the band. It is not considered that the short term duration would reduce the magnitude of effect, which would remain Moderate, as these receptors would experience changes to their views throughout the duration of the construction period, and are at the upper end of the Moderate band. The effect would be negative as construction machinery and activities would not blend into the wider context. The change would be short-term, during the construction period only. The effect on this receptor group during construction is deemed to be not significant, as although the Scheme would be visible in the foreground, it would not occupy all of the receptors' field of view, and some existing elements of their views would remain. Views of Cardigan Castle and Cardigan Bridge Scheduled Monuments, which lead to the higher value attached to these views, would not be blocked by the Scheme due to their elevated positions, and the overall experience of the route would remain substantially intact. This receptor group would only experience these changes to their views from a small part of wider transitory routes, thereby reducing the Magnitude of change.					

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Road users		VP 1: Cardigan footbridge VP 2: Junction of Bridge St and Strand VP 8: Priory Bridge VP 11: Station Road			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
Medium		National		High-Medium	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Medium	Localised	Moderate	Short term	Slight	Moderate-Minor (not significant)
Description of effects					
Road users would experience views of construction machinery, hoardings or fencing and the temporary haul road. They would have views of the unclad sheet pile flood defence before the final finish is applied. The proximity to the works would be close on Strand and crossing Cardigan Bridge, where there would also be limited screening, allowing direct, unfiltered views of the works. Elsewhere, views would be increasingly distant, and screened by the intervening built environment. From roads on the south bank of the river, views of the Scheme would only be glimpsed through gaps between buildings. The works would generally occupy narrow sections of the horizontal and vertical fields of view of road users, with no change to the majority of their field of view. The scale of change during construction is judged to be medium for those road users experiencing the most change to their views (road users on Strand and Cardigan Bridge). For other road users the scale of change would be slight. The medium scale of change would be experienced over a localised extent, from only small parts of wider transitory routes. This results in a Moderate stage 1 result, albeit at the lower end of the Moderate band, bordering on Slight. It is considered that the short term duration would reduce the magnitude of effect to Slight, as these receptors are at the lower end of the Moderate band. The effect would be negative as construction machinery and activities would not blend into the wider context. The change would be short-term, during the construction period only. The effect on this receptor group during construction is deemed to be not significant, as although the Scheme would be visible in the foreground for some road users, it would not occupy all of the receptors' field of view, and many existing elements of their views would remain. Views of Cardigan Castle and Cardigan Bridge Scheduled Monuments, which lead to the higher value attached to these views, would not be blocked by the Scheme due to their elevated positions, and the overall experience of the routes would remain substantially intact. This receptor group would only experience these changes to their views from a small part of wider transitory routes, thereby reducing the Magnitude of change.					

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Individuals and groups using the river		VP1: Cardigan footbridge VP 10: Riverside Walk VP 8: Priory Bridge			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
Medium		Regional		High-Medium	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Large	Intermediate	Substantial	Short term	Moderate	Major-Moderate (significant)
Description of effects					
The scale of change during construction is judged to be large due to the very close proximity of the receptor to the works. Access along the river would continue during construction; exclusion zones would be established to ensure the safety of users, but the river would remain navigable. Further information regarding exclusion zones can be found in Chapter 5: Population and Human Health. The flood defence would be constructed from the riverward side, so plant would be within the river. Depending on the tides, users of the river would be below or at the same level to the temporary haul road and construction works and machinery. While the works would be to the side of the main receptor activity or focus of view, due to their incongruence with the surroundings and the construction activity itself, they may be difficult to ignore. River users would have views of the unclad sheet pile flood defence before the final finish is applied. The extent is considered to be intermediate as the open nature of the river corridor means that users may have views of the works for a relatively long section of their transitional route. The large scale of change and intermediate extent results in a Substantial stage 1 result, albeit at the lower end of the substantial band. When combined with the short term duration, this results in a magnitude of Moderate. The effect would be negative as construction machinery and activities would not blend into the wider context. The change would be short-term, during the construction period only. The effect on this receptor group during construction is deemed to be significant, as the Scheme would be readily visible in the foreground, occupying a large part of the receptors' field of view and introducing incongruous construction elements which would likely alter the overall experience of individuals and groups using the river.					

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Users of the Wales Coast Path		VP 1: Cardigan footbridge VP 2: Junction of Bridge Street and Strand VP 3: Prince Charles Quay VP 13: Wales Coast Path - on elevated open ground approx. 400m south of the town			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
High		National		High	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Medium	Limited	Slight	Short term	Slight	Moderate (not significant)
Description of effects					
Views range from immediately adjacent the Scheme Area as the Wales Coast Path passes over Cardigan footbridge and along Bridge Street, to distant views from high ground to the west. From most of this long distance route, the Scheme will not be visible. The scale of change during construction is judged as medium. Pedestrians crossing Cardigan footbridge would experience immediate views of construction machinery, hoardings or fencing and partial views of the temporary haul road, but the field of view occupied by construction works would be limited. Pedestrians would also experience views of the sheet pile wall before the final finishes are applied. This medium scale of change will however only be experienced over a very limited part of a user's transitional route along the Wales Coast Path, resulting in a stage 1 result of Slight. The stage 1 result is at the upper end of the Slight band, and therefore it is not considered it would be reduced by the short term duration. The effect would be negative, and the change short-term, during the construction period only. The effect on this receptor group during construction is deemed to be not significant, primarily as users would only experience the change for a very limited part of their overall route, which would not substantially alter their experience of the route as a whole. Furthermore, where the Scheme would be visible, it would not occupy all of the receptors' field of view, and some existing elements of their views would remain.					

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Users of Ceredigion Coast Path and other PRowWs in wider area		VP 14: PRow along Afon Teifi – approx. 1.1km east of Cardigan VP15: PRow leading to Wellelwyd – approx. 2.5km east of Cardigan			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
High		Regional		High-Medium	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Negligible	Limited	Negligible	Short term	Negligible	Minor-Negligible (not significant)
Description of effects					
There are distant and glimpsed views of the Scheme Area from PRowWs east and south of Cardigan. Construction machinery may be visible to users of these paths but would be too small to detract from wider views. The scale of change during construction is judged to be negligible, and the extent confined to only limited locations. The effect would be negative, and the duration short-term, during the construction period only. The effect on this receptor group during construction is deemed to be not significant, as although the receptor group is of high sensitivity, they would have only limited, glimpsed views of the Scheme from a far distance.					

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Residents in properties close to or overlooking the northern compound		N/A			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
High		Community		High-Medium	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Medium	Limited	Slight	Short term	Slight	Moderate-Minor (not significant)
Description of effects					
The scale of change during construction is judged to be medium. Residents on Pont-Y-Cleifon living next to the northern compound would have close but oblique views of the compound. Residents living in Bro Teifi, to the northeast of the compounds, with gardens backing onto the compound would have more distant views screened by vegetation. Due to scale construction machinery would be visible over the compound boundary. The compound should occupy a limited part of the residents' field of vision. The Medium scale of change is limited to only one property immediately adjacent the compound with windows overlooking the compound location. A localised extent of residents of other properties may experience a small scale of change; also resulting in a stage 1 result of Slight, albeit at the upper end of the Slight band. For these receptors at the upper end of the Slight band the short term duration would not reduce the magnitude of effect, which would remain Slight. The effect would be negative as construction machinery and activities would not blend into the wider context. The change would be short-term, during the construction period only. The effect on this receptor group during construction is deemed to be not significant, as although the Scheme would be visible in the foreground, it would not occupy most of the receptors' field of view, and some existing elements of their views would remain.					

1.4 Assessment of visual amenity impacts during operation

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Residents of homes on Church Street and Strand, on the north bank of the Afon Teifi		VP 6: Gloster Row car park			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
High		Community		High-Medium	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Medium	Limited	Slight	Permanent	Slight	Moderate (not significant)
Description of effects					
During operation these residents would experience change to their views from the appearance of the dry side of the flood wall as it passes Gloster Row car park; of the existing approximately 300m² grassed space east of the car park being reduced in size and seeded with a shade tolerant wildflower mix; and of the car park being reduced in size from 23 to 16 parking spaces. The proposal for the Scheme at Gloster Row car park is to build the flood defence wall up to approximately 10m inland from the existing gabion walled riverbank, removing a section of the car park and a section of the grassed space east of the car park. The grassed space would be reduced in size by approximately half its current size due to the realignment of the flood defence wall. Effects are limited to residents in houses adjacent to and close to Gloster Row car park. This is in accordance with the ZTV and reinforced by the site visit. The flood defence would range approximately 1m to 2m above adjacent ground levels, restricting views of the Afon Teifi for these residents. Some residents would have direct views of the flood defence while for others the defence would be partly screened by boundary treatments to properties and vegetation, or by cars parked within Gloster Row car park. It is likely that the latter group currently experience limited views of the river. Residents with gardens directly backing on to the river would experience a noticeable change where current boundary treatments are significantly lower (by 1m) than the proposed defence would be. The proposed slate cladding for the flood defence, reflecting existing materials in the town, would result in the defence looking less out of place. The concrete coping would also not be out of place in this part of the urban area, and within the context of views of industrial development on the opposite bank, which already comprise a variety of building materials. The scale of change for these receptors is judged to be medium for those residents of properties with gardens backing directly on to the defence, i.e. for a limited extent of residents only. Residents of properties on the other side of Gloster Row car park are likely to experience only a small scale of change. There would be a loss of river views, and the introduction of a new built feature. Whilst the receptors are in relatively close proximity to the defence, the defence would not dominate the field of view experienced by these receptors. It would be seen in the context of other surrounding built form due to the urban location of the development and would not appear out of place. Buildings and trees on the opposite side of the river would still be visible over the flood defence. It is not considered that the reduction in size of the grassed space and car park would result in a noticeable change.					

The effect for these receptors is judged to be negative due to the loss of open river views, even though it is mediated through use of sympathetic building materials.

The effect on this receptor group during operation is deemed to be not significant. Although the proposed flood defence wall would be readily visible in the foreground and block existing views of the river, these residents are located at the eastern end of the Scheme within the more modern urban fringe, and aside from the river their existing view comprises a car park and on the opposite side of the river an industrial park. The river itself is constrained by walls as it passes through Cardigan and is not of natural physical form. It is not considered that the presence of the flood defence situated within this context would significantly affect the visual amenity of these receptors. Furthermore, this receptor group is limited in spatial extent to only a handful of affected properties, thereby reducing the magnitude of change.

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Indoor users of buildings on the north bank of the Afon Teifi (indoor workers)		VP 6: Gloster Row car park			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
Low		Community		Low	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Large	Localised	Moderate	Permanent	Moderate	Moderate-Minor (not significant)
Description of effects					
Indoor users of buildings on the north bank will experience change to their views from the introduction of the flood defence wall. The defence would stand approx. 1.7m to 2m relative to the ground outside the buildings, largely blocking the views from ground floor windows of the Bathroom Centre showroom and Bathroom centre offices (the warehouses on the north bank do not have windows overlooking the river). Views from the outside space outside these buildings would also be blocked. Effects are however limited to workers in buildings adjacent to the river. Views from buildings further away are blocked by intervening built form, in accordance with the ZTV. The scale of change is judged to be large due to the very close proximity of the flood defence to the receptor, the direct angle of view from windows towards the defence, and field of view that would be occupied by the defence. Windows of these properties currently have unfiltered views of the Afon Teifi which would be blocked by the flood defence. Buildings and trees on the opposite side of the river may however still be visible over the flood defence, depending on floor levels and window heights. The loss of views of the river from windows and space between buildings is judged as negative, even though it is mediated through use of sympathetic building materials.					

The effect on this receptor group during operation is deemed to be not significant, primarily because these receptors are judged to be of low sensitivity, engaged in an activity not related to their surrounding views. This reduces the overall Significance of effects when Magnitude and Sensitivity are combined.

Visual receptor				Viewpoints	
Users of recreational open spaces on the north bank of the Afon Teifi (field of scout hut and boathouse; and open space at Gloster Row car park)				VP 6: Gloster Row car park	
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
Medium		Community		Medium	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Large	Localised	Substantial	Permanent	Substantial	Major-Moderate (significant)
Description of effects					
During operation these receptors would experience change to their views from the introduction of the flood defence wall and slight changes to surrounding open space. At the Scout field/old foundry site, the defence would stand approximately 2m relative to ground level and 1.7m higher than the existing wall, blocking views of the Afon Teifi for the entire length of the field, and blocking views of trees and buildings on the other side of the river. It is noteworthy that the river is constrained by walls as it passes through Cardigan and is not of natural physical form. The flood defence would form the skyline. The dry side of the boat ramp would be visible. The proposal for the Scheme at Gloster Row car park is to construct the flood defence wall up to approximately 10m inland from the existing gabion walled riverbank, removing a section of the car park and a section of the small grassed open space east of the car park. The defence would stand 1m to 1.6m above ground level, where currently there is no barrier between the car park and the river. Trees and buildings in the surrounding area would still be visible over the flood defence. The proposed slate cladding for the flood defence, reflecting existing materials in the town, would result in the defence looking less out of place. It is not considered that the reduction in size of the grassed space and car park would result in a noticeable change; the large scale of effect will result mainly from the introduction of the flood defence wall. The scale of change is judged to be large due to the close proximity of the defence to the receptor, the direct angle of view from the open spaces, and the broad horizontal and vertical fields of view occupied by the defence. Clear, uninterrupted views of the river would be blocked and this effect is judged as negative, even though it is mediated through use of sympathetic building materials. The effect on this receptor group during operation is deemed to be significant, as the Scheme would be readily visible in the foreground, occupying most of the receptors' field of view and blocking existing views.					

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Pedestrians on Strand, Cardigan footbridge, Bridge Street and Prince Charles Quay. Members of public in the Grosvenor pub garden (and users of any future walkways along the river west of Cardigan Bridge)		VP 1: Cardigan footbridge VP 2: Junction of Bridge Street and Strand VP 3: Prince Charles Quay VP 5: Strand bus stop			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
High		National		High	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Medium	Localised	Moderate	Permanent	Moderate	Major-Moderate (significant)
Description of effects					
The view from Cardigan footbridge along the north bank of the Afon Teifi would transition from a view of a partially vegetated bank consisting of a varied and broken line of walls and gabions to a view of a continuous slate clad flood defence with an engineered riverbank starting midway along Area 1 and terminating at the east end of the defence. The riverbank would be mostly surfaced with rock rolls with a vegetated upper slope. The flood defence wall would be clad with locally characteristic slate compatible with the appearance of Cardigan Castle and Bridge, tying the flood defence in with its surrounding context, which would be a positive change to the current views of mis-matched materials along the northern riverbank. The defence would occlude the lower parts of modern commercial and industrial buildings along the north bank and limit views of traffic on Strand. The flood gate allowing access to the DCWW outfall asset would be visible within the flood defence, as would the flood gate and up and over canoe/kayak access ramp at the Old Foundry site. The change would be more apparent at low tide, when the rock roll surfaced riverbank and canoe/kayak access ramp would be most visible. At high tide the change experienced would be of the vegetated upper slope and flood wall, but the rock rolls would not be visible. Views from this bridge are however oblique. In Area 1 towards the Bathroom Centre the flood defence would be nearly 2m above pavement height. Pedestrians between the Bathroom Centre and the western end of the bus stop layby would have their views of the river and Cardigan Bridge blocked by the flood defence. Towards the Cardigan Bridge pedestrians on Strand would still be able to see the river as the wall lowers to 1.1m relative to the pavement. It is noteworthy that the river is constrained by walls as it passes through Cardigan and is not of natural physical form. Currently this area consists of a narrow tarmac pavement separated by a low slate wall from an area of unmaintained paving with self-set buddleia and functional railings, as well as the DCWW outfall asset and associated security fencing. For pedestrians on Strand and Bridge Street the visual experience of the landward side of the defence would change through public realm enhancements consisting of a widened pavement with slate surfacing, a raised planting bed with integrated seating, and roadside planting bed and trees. There would also be a seeded plateau on the riverward side of the defence which would be visible where the wall is lower relative to the pavement. Existing functional railings would be removed.					

Pedestrians on Prince Charles Quay, depending on their exact location may no longer see the existing slate wall and would instead see the flood defence further set back towards the river. The wall would stand approximately 40cm higher than the existing wall, restricting the view of the river.

The scale of change is judged to be medium along Strand where a large part of the field of view would be affected. The effects would be most acute in the limited length along Strand from the Bathroom Centre to the bus stop where river views would be lost. Views of Cardigan Castle and Cardigan Bridge Scheduled Monuments however, which lead to the higher value attached to these views, would not be blocked by the Scheme, and would remain within the views of these receptors. The scale of change would reduce to slight at Prince Charles Quay, Bridge Street and Cardigan footbridge, where Cardigan Castle and Cardigan Bridge respectively would largely block views of the Scheme. The extent of the medium scale change is therefore localised to pedestrians on Strand.

Overall the effect on these pedestrians is judged to be neutral as it incorporates a combination of positive and negative effects in equal measure. Negative effects arise from the height of the wall leading to loss of river views from Strand, and views of new rock rolls from Cardigan Bridge. Positive effects are the public realm enhancements along Strand and removal of the current detractive open space, and for users of Cardigan footbridge, the coherent appearance of the flood defence wall and limiting visibility of incongruous development on the north bank. The use of locally characteristic slate compatible with the appearance of Cardigan Castle and Bridge for the flood wall cladding would create a more harmonious appearance.

Although the appearance of the rock rolls would soften over time as moss and seaweed develops, it is not considered that this would reduce the magnitude of the change. The change would be permanent.

The effect on this receptor group during operation is deemed to be significant. The Scheme would be visible in the foreground, even though it would not occupy all of the receptors' field of view and some existing elements of their views would remain, including the highly valued Cardigan Castle and Bridge. The significant effect includes a mix of both positive and negative changes; the flood defence would partially block views of the river which is another key focus of the view, and would introduce the new elements of a higher wall and rock rolls. The positive changes are judged to balance out these negative changes; the transformation of a currently derelict area of public realm which is a detractor in views to high-end public realm in keeping with the surrounding area's material palette.

As this receptor group is judged to be of High sensitivity due to their activity being focussed on the appreciation of views, including to important features of cultural and historic interest. This increases the overall Significance of effects when Magnitude and Sensitivity are combined.

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Visitors to Cardigan Castle and Gardens		Viewpoint 4: View from Cardigan Castle Gardens			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
High		National		High	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Negligible	Limited	Negligible	Permanent	Negligible	Minor (not significant)
Description of effects					
Cardigan Conservation Area Appraisal identifies views to the south and south-east from the Registered Historic Park and Garden at Cardigan Castle as important. From Cardigan Castle, views of the Scheme would mostly be screened by vegetation in the castle gardens, though there are glimpsed views from the Castle Walls of Strand between Cardigan Bridge and the Bathroom Centre, and of the riverbank at Gloster Row car park. Visitors to Cardigan Castle will therefore have glimpsed views of the flood defence as it passes Strand, and of the public realm improvements along Strand including planting and use of materials in keeping with the setting. The flood gate allowing access to the DCWW outfall asset would be visible within the flood defence in these glimpsed views. Further along Strand existing buildings would block views of the flood defence. The flood defence would be visible as it runs along Gloster Row car park and the adjacent open space. Here it would be visible as a 1-1.5m slate clad wall. The open space would also be reduced in area. Given the distance from the castle these are unlikely to be noticeable changes. The effects are judged as negligible. Only a minimal proportion of the field of view would be occupied by the Scheme, and it would be seen in context of other built development, so would not appear as a new feature. The elevated views from the Castle mean that views of the river would not be blocked by the new flood defence wall; these viewers will therefore experience the positive changes of seeing the enhanced public realm at Strand, and change of materials to be more coherent with their setting, without experiencing negative impacts of views of the river being blocked. Although the flood gate may appear out of place, its negative effect is outweighed by the positive changes. The overall effect would therefore be positive. The duration would be permanent. The effect on this receptor group during operation is deemed to be not significant, as although the receptor group is of high sensitivity, they would have only limited, glimpsed views of the Scheme.					

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Residents of homes on the south bank of the Afon Teifi		VP 7: Riverside walk (Close to Cardigan Bridge) VP 10: Riverside Walk (midway between Cardigan and Priory bridges) VP 11: Station Road VP 12: From St Dogmaels Road			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
High		Community		High-Medium	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Small	Localised	Slight	Permanent	Slight	Moderate-Minor (not significant)
Description of effects					
Views of the north bank would change along the length of the Scheme altering the views residents have of the affected stretch. At Strand below the castle, the metal railings on top of the river wall would be removed and the slate clad flood defence would be taller than the existing slate wall obscuring the view of the road as the ground lowers towards the Bathroom Centre. The roadside trees planted would be visible above the wall and would be situated so as not to block views of the defensive part of the castle. Lower parts of the Bathroom Centre buildings and other buildings along the north bank would be obscured by the wall. The flood defence would be visible as a uniform wall clad in locally characteristic slate compatible with the appearance of Cardigan Castle and Bridge, helping it to not appear out of place in the context of these structures. The flood gates allowing access to the DCWW outfall asset and canoe/kayak access ramp at the Old Foundry site would be visible within the flood defence, breaking up the continuity of the wall. The wall would be visible above a rock roll surfaced engineered riverbank, with a vegetated upper shelf, running from just east of Castle Bridge to where it ties in at the eastern end of the Scheme. The artificial appearance of the rock rolls is likely to appear out of place, although the varied form of the defence would break up what would otherwise be an imposing wall, and the vegetated upper slope will provide a softening effect. The new canoe/kayak access ramp would not be a new type of feature in these users' views, as there are existing slipways present in the area. The change would be more apparent at low tide, when the rock roll surfaced riverbank and canoe/kayak access ramp would be most visible. At high tide the change experienced would be of the vegetated upper slope and flood wall, but the rock rolls would not be visible. The scale of change is judged to be small due to receptors being set back from the south bank of the river (the opposite bank to the Scheme) with intervening commercial buildings and their respective boundary treatments limiting views. Only a small part of the Scheme would be visible from properties and would occupy only a small proportion of the field of view. The Scheme would be interpreted in the context of surrounding buildings, structures and walls. The overall effect is judged to be neutral as it incorporates a combination of positive and negative effects in equal measure. The changes to the appearance of Strand would be positive. The riverside planting and trees, along with the removal of the metal railings would enhance the view, while still retaining views of the castle. The defence would partially screen detractive development on the north					

bank and due to the cladding used would be unified in appearance in contrast to the existing incoherent pattern of materials. At the same time, however, its height may be imposing and the introduction of artificial rock rolls appear out of place.

Although the appearance of the rock rolls would soften over time as moss and seaweed develops, it is not considered that this would reduce the magnitude of the change. The change would be permanent.

The effect on this receptor group during operation is deemed to be not significant, as although the Scheme would be visible, it would only occupy a small part of their field of view in the middle distance, and much of their existing view would remain.

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Workers at industrial premises on the south bank of the Afon Teifi		VP 7: Riverside walk (Close to Cardigan Bridge) VP 10: Riverside Walk (midway between Cardigan and Priory bridges) VP 11: Station Road			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
Low		Regional		Medium-Low	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Medium	Intermediate	Moderate	Permanent	Moderate	Moderate-Minor (not significant)
Description of effects					
Views of the north bank would change along the length of the Scheme altering the views workers have of the affected stretch. At Strand below the castle, the metal railings on top of the river wall would be removed and the slate clad flood defence would be taller than the existing slate wall, obscuring the view of the road as the ground lowers towards the Bathroom Centre. The roadside trees planted would be visible above the wall and would be situated so as not to block views of the defensive part of the castle. Lower parts of the Bathroom Centre buildings and other buildings along the north bank would be obscured by the wall. The flood defence would be visible as a uniform wall clad in locally characteristic slate compatible with the appearance of Cardigan Castle and Bridge, helping it to not appear out of place in the context of these structures. The flood gates allowing access to the DCWW outfall asset and canoe/kayak access ramp at the Old Foundry site would be visible within the flood defence. The wall would be visible above a rock roll surfaced engineered riverbank, with a vegetated upper shelf, running from just east of Castle Bridge to where it ties in at the end of Area 4. The artificial appearance of the rock rolls is likely to appear out of place, although the varied form of the defence would break up what would otherwise be an imposing wall, and the vegetated upper slope will provide a softening effect. The change would be more apparent at low tide, when the rock roll surfaced riverbank and canoe/kayak access ramp would be most visible. At high tide the change experienced would be of the vegetated upper slope and flood wall, but the rock rolls would not be visible.					

The effects are judged to be of a medium scale. The receptor is an intermediate distance from the Scheme, on the other side of the river but on the bank with uninterrupted views. The Scheme would occupy a wide part of the horizontal field of view, although not the whole view, and existing elements on the south bank of the river and upstream/downstream of the Scheme would remain unchanged. The Scheme would be interpreted as part of the wider built up area.

The overall effect is judged to be neutral as it incorporates a combination of positive and negative effects in equal measure. The changes to the appearance of the north bank below the castle would be positive. The riverside planting and trees, along with the removal of the metal railings would enhance the view, while still retaining views of the castle. The defence would partially screen detractive development on the north bank and due to the cladding used would be unified in appearance in contrast to the existing incoherent pattern of materials. At the same time, however, its height may be imposing and the introduction of artificial rock rolls appear out of place.

Although the appearance of the rock rolls would soften over time as moss and seaweed develops, it is not considered that this would reduce the magnitude of the change. The change would be permanent.

The effect on this receptor group during construction is deemed to be not significant, primarily because these receptors are judged to be of Low susceptibility, engaged in an activity not related to their surrounding views. This reduces the overall Significance of effects when Magnitude and Sensitivity are combined.

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Pedestrians and cyclists on riverside routes		VP9: From NCN route 82 east of Priory Bridge VP 7: Riverside walk (Close to Cardigan Bridge) VP 8: Priory Bridge VP10: Riverside Walk (midway between Cardigan and Priory bridges)			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
High		Regional		High-Medium	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Medium	Intermediate	Moderate	Permanent	Moderate	Moderate (not significant)
Description of effects					
Views of the north bank would change along the length of the Scheme altering the views pedestrians and cyclists have of the affected stretch. Currently, at the western end of the Scheme lies Cardigan Castle and Cardigan Bridge Scheduled Monuments and the edge of the historic centre of Cardigan, raising the value of the view for these receptors. The remainder of the Scheme would lie amongst modern industrial and commercial development on the urban fringe of the town.					

At Strand below the castle, the metal railings on top of the river wall would be removed and the slate clad flood defence would be taller than the existing slate wall, obscuring the view of the road as the ground lowers towards the Bathroom Centre. However, views of the castle would not be blocked due to its elevated position. Lower parts of the Bathroom Centre buildings and other buildings of modern construction along the north bank would be obscured by the wall. The flood defence would be visible as a uniform wall clad in locally characteristic slate compatible with the appearance of Cardigan Castle and Bridge, helping it to not appear out of place in the context of these structures. The flood gates allowing access to the DCWW outfall asset and canoe/kayak access ramp at the Old Foundry site would be visible within the flood defence.

The wall would be visible above a rock roll surfaced engineered riverbank, with a vegetated upper shelf, running from just east of Cardigan Bridge to where it ties in at the end of Area 4. The artificial appearance of the rock rolls is likely to appear out of place, although the varied form of the defence would break up what could otherwise be an imposing wall, and the vegetated upper slope will provide a softening effect. The new canoe/kayak access ramp would not be a new type of feature in these users' views, as there are existing slipways present in the area. The change would be more apparent at low tide, when the rock roll surfaced riverbank and canoe/kayak access ramp would be most visible. At high tide the change experienced would be of the vegetated upper slope and flood wall, but the rock rolls would not be visible.

The effects are judged to be of a medium scale. The receptor is an intermediate distance from the Scheme with uninterrupted views, and the Scheme will introduce the new feature of the rock roll surfaced riverbank. These changes would not occupy the whole field of view however, as existing elements on the south bank of the river and upstream/downstream of the Scheme would remain unchanged, and the new wall would be seen in the context of the surrounding built form, with which it would blend in.

The overall effect is judged to be neutral as it incorporates a combination of positive and negative effects in equal measure. The changes to the appearance of the north bank below the castle would be positive. The riverside planting and trees, along with the removal of the metal railings would enhance the view, while still retaining views of the castle. The defence would partially screen detracting development on the north bank and due to the cladding used would be unified in appearance in contrast to the existing incoherent pattern of materials. At the same time, however, its height may be imposing and the introduction of artificial rock rolls appear out of place.

Although the appearance of the rock rolls would soften over time as moss and seaweed develops, it is not considered that this would reduce the magnitude of the change. The change would be permanent.

The effect on this receptor group during operation is deemed to be not significant, as although the Scheme would be visible in the foreground, it would not occupy all of the receptors' field of view, and some existing elements of their views would remain. Views of Cardigan Castle and Cardigan Bridge Scheduled Monuments, which lead to the higher value attached to these views, would not be blocked by the Scheme due to their elevated positions, and the overall experience of the route would remain substantially intact. This receptor group would only experience these changes to their views from a small part of wider transitory routes, thereby reducing the Magnitude of change.

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Road users		VP 1: Cardigan footbridge VP 2: Junction of Bridge St and Strand VP 8: Priory Bridge VP 11: Station Road			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
Medium		National		High-Medium	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Medium	Localised	Moderate	Permanent	Moderate	Moderate (not significant)
Description of effects					
The view from Cardigan Bridge along the north bank of the Afon Teifi would transition from a view of a partially vegetated bank consisting of a varied and broken line of walls and gabions to a view of a slate clad flood defence with an engineered riverbank starting midway along Area 1 and terminating at the east end of the defence. The flood gates allowing access to the DCWW outfall asset and canoe/kayak access ramp at the Old Foundry site would be visible within the flood defence. The riverbank would be mostly surfaced with rock roll with a vegetated upper slope. The defence would occlude the lower parts of the modern industrial and commercial buildings along the north bank. In Area 1 towards the Bathroom Centre the flood defence would be nearly 2m above pavement height. This would extend the stretch of Strand by approximately 50m where there are no views of the river or Cardigan Bridge for the majority of road users (views dependent on vehicle height). From roads on the south bank of the river, views of the Scheme would only be glimpsed through gaps between buildings. The scale of change during construction is judged to be medium for those road users experiencing the most change to their views (road users on Strand and Cardigan Bridge). For other road users the scale of change would be slight. The Scheme would be screened in many locations from the receptor group by the built environment. The proximity to the Scheme would be close on Strand but elsewhere increasingly distant. The Scheme would occupy narrow sections of the horizontal and vertical fields of view, except for on Strand. The Scheme would be seen in the context of the wider built environment. Overall the effect on road users is judged to be neutral as it incorporates a combination of positive and negative effects in equal measure. Negative effects are the loss of river views from Strand, the height of the defence resulting in an imposing presence, and the view of the rock roll surfaced riverbank when viewed from the south bank. Positive effects are the public realm enhancements along Strand, the coherent appearance of the flood defence wall and limiting intervisibility of detractive development on the north bank. The use of locally characteristic slate compatible with the appearance of Cardigan Castle and Bridge for the flood wall cladding would create a more harmonious appearance in Area 1.					

The effect on this receptor group during operation is deemed to be not significant, as although the Scheme would be visible in the foreground for some road users, it would not occupy all of the receptors' field of view, and many existing elements of their views would remain. Views of Cardigan Castle and Cardigan Bridge Scheduled Monuments, which lead to the higher value attached to these views, would not be blocked by the Scheme due to their elevated positions, and the overall experience of the routes would remain substantially intact. This receptor group would only experience these changes to their views from a small part of wider transitory routes, thereby reducing the Magnitude of change.

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Individuals and groups using the river		VP1: Cardigan footbridge VP 10: Riverside Walk VP 8: Priory Bridge			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
Medium		Regional		High-Medium	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Medium	Intermediate	Moderate	Permanent	Moderate	Moderate (not significant)
Description of effects					
The view of the north bank experienced by individuals and groups using the river would be substantially different from the baseline. Individuals and groups currently using the river experience a view of varied and small scale elements as they travel along the north bank, albeit that views include detractive development including corrugated metal warehouse style buildings, and current defences constructed from various materials in an incoherent pattern. After the Scheme is constructed the immediate view of the north bank would be the continuous rock roll surfaced riverbank, with a vegetated upper slope, and the slate clad flood defence wall visible above. The flood gates allowing access to the DCWW outfall asset and canoe/kayak access ramp at the Old Foundry site would be visible within the flood defence. The view would be more cohesive and cladding in locally characteristic slate compatible with the appearance of Cardigan Castle and Bridge would tie the defence into its setting. The height of the wall would likely feel imposing, although reduced by the constructed riverbank breaking up the height, and softened through the vegetated upper slope. The rock rolls used on the constructed riverbank would appear out of place; although stone and shingle are present elsewhere along the riverbanks, the mesh constraining the rock rolls will be an obviously artificial feature. The change would be more apparent at low tide, when the rock roll surfaced riverbank and canoe/kayak access ramp would be most visible. At high tide the change experienced would be of the vegetated upper slope and flood wall, but the rock rolls would not be visible. The new canoe/kayak access ramp would not be a new type of feature in these users' views, as there are existing slipways present in the area. The views below the castle would be more attractive due to the riverside planting and trees on Strand, along with the removal of the metal railings. The scale of change is judged to be medium. The receptor is in close proximity to the Scheme, and at a lower level than other receptors, meaning that the flood defence would block more views of					

structures on the north bank of the river, and be more imposing. The Scheme would however be to the side of the main receptor activity or focus of view, and would not fill the user's horizontal field of view; other existing elements would remain visible including the south bank and upstream/downstream of the Scheme.

The extent is considered to be intermediate as the open nature of the river corridor means that users may have views of the Scheme for a relatively long section of their transitional route, although the effect of the Scheme on views would decrease with distance, and the river corridor as a whole would remain substantially intact.

Some of the changes to the appearance of the north bank would be positive, as the defence would block views of traffic on Strand, would be more cohesive than the present situation and limit views of detractive development along the north bank. It is not considered however that these positive effects would outweigh the negative effects of imposing scale and height for those using the river, who are at a lower elevation. The overall effect would be negative.

Although the appearance of the rock rolls would soften over time as moss and seaweed develops, it is not considered that this would reduce the magnitude of the change. The change would be permanent.

The effect on this receptor group during operation is deemed to be not significant. Although it is acknowledged that the Scheme would be readily visible in the immediate foreground, the effect of it is reduced through sensitive cladding, and breaking up the vertical elevation through the mixture of constructed riverbank and flood defence wall. Located to the side of the receptors' direction of view, the Scheme would not occupy all of the receptors' field of view, and many existing elements of their views would remain. The Scheme would be seen during only part of the receptors' journey along a transitional route, with the overall experience of the route remaining substantially intact.

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Users of the Wales Coast Path		VP 1: Cardigan footbridge VP 2: Junction of Bridge Street and Strand VP 3: Prince Charles Quay VP 13: Wales Coast Path - on elevated open ground approx. 400m south of the town			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
High		National		High	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Medium	Limited	Slight	Permanent	Slight	Moderate (not significant)
Description of effects					

Views range from immediately adjacent the Scheme Area as the Wales Coast Path passes over Cardigan footbridge and along Bridge Street, to distant views from high ground to the west. From most of this long distance route, the Scheme will not be visible.

From Cardigan footbridge, users would experience a change to their view of the north bank of the Afon Teifi, which would transition from a view of a partially vegetated bank with a broken line of walls and gabions, to a view of a slate clad flood defence wall visible on top of an engineered riverbank. The flood gates allowing access to the DCWW outfall asset and canoe/kayak access ramp at the Old Foundry site would be visible within the flood defence. The riverbank would be surfaced with rock rolls with a vegetated upper slope. The flood defence wall would be clad with locally characteristic slate compatible with the appearance of Cardigan Castle and Bridge, tying the flood defence in with its surrounding context, which would be a positive change to the current views of mis-matched materials along the northern riverbank. The defence would occlude the lower parts of the buildings along the north bank and limit views of traffic on Strand, although proposed street tree planting along Strand would be visible over the flood defence wall. The artificial appearance of the rock rolls is likely to appear out of place, although the varied form of the defence would break up what would otherwise be an imposing wall, and the vegetated upper slope will provide a softening effect. The new canoe/kayak access ramp would not be a new type of feature in these users' views, as there are existing slipways present in the area. The change would be more apparent at low tide, when the rock roll surfaced riverbank and canoe/kayak access ramp would be most visible. At high tide the change experienced would be of the vegetated upper slope and flood wall, but the rock rolls would not be visible. Incongruous metal railings around an existing riverside plateau in the foreground would be removed.

The scale of this change is considered to be medium, due to the proximity of the receptor and the field of view occupied by the Scheme. This medium scale of change will however only be experienced over a very limited part of a user's transitional route along the Wales Coast Path, resulting in a magnitude of Slight, and a significance of effect of Moderate.

The overall effect is judged to be neutral as it incorporates a combination of positive and negative effects in equal measure. The defence would partially screen detractive development on the north bank and due to the cladding used would be unified in appearance in contrast to the existing incoherent pattern of materials. Removal of the metal railings would enhance the view. At the same time, however, the introduction of artificial rock rolls may appear out of place.

Although the appearance of the rock rolls would soften over time as moss and seaweed develops, it is not considered that this would reduce the magnitude of the change. The change would be permanent.

The effect on this receptor group during operation is deemed to be not significant, primarily as users would only experience the change for a very limited part of their overall route, which would not substantially alter their experience of the route as a whole. Furthermore, where the Scheme would be visible, it would not occupy all of the receptors' field of view, and some existing elements of their views would remain.

Visual receptor		Viewpoints			
Users of Ceredigion Coast Path and other PRowWs in the wider area		VP 14: PRow along Afon Teifi - approx 1.1km east of Cardigan VP15: PRow leading to Wellelwyd - approx 2.5km east of Cardigan			
Susceptibility of receptor		Value attached to the view(s) by the receptor		Sensitivity of the receptor	
High		Regional		High-Medium	
Scale of change	Extent	Stage 1 result	Duration	Magnitude	Significance of effect
Negligible	Limited	Negligible	Permanent	Negligible	Minor-Negligible (not significant)
Description of effects					
Users of PRowWs in the wider area would experience only limited glimpses of the Scheme, as shown by the ZTV and supported by the subsequent site visit. On this basis the scale of change for this receptor is judged to be negligible, and the extent limited. The magnitude would be Negligible and the effect would be negative. The effect on this receptor group during operation is deemed to be not significant, as although the receptor group is of high sensitivity, they would have only limited, glimpsed views of the Scheme from a far distance.					