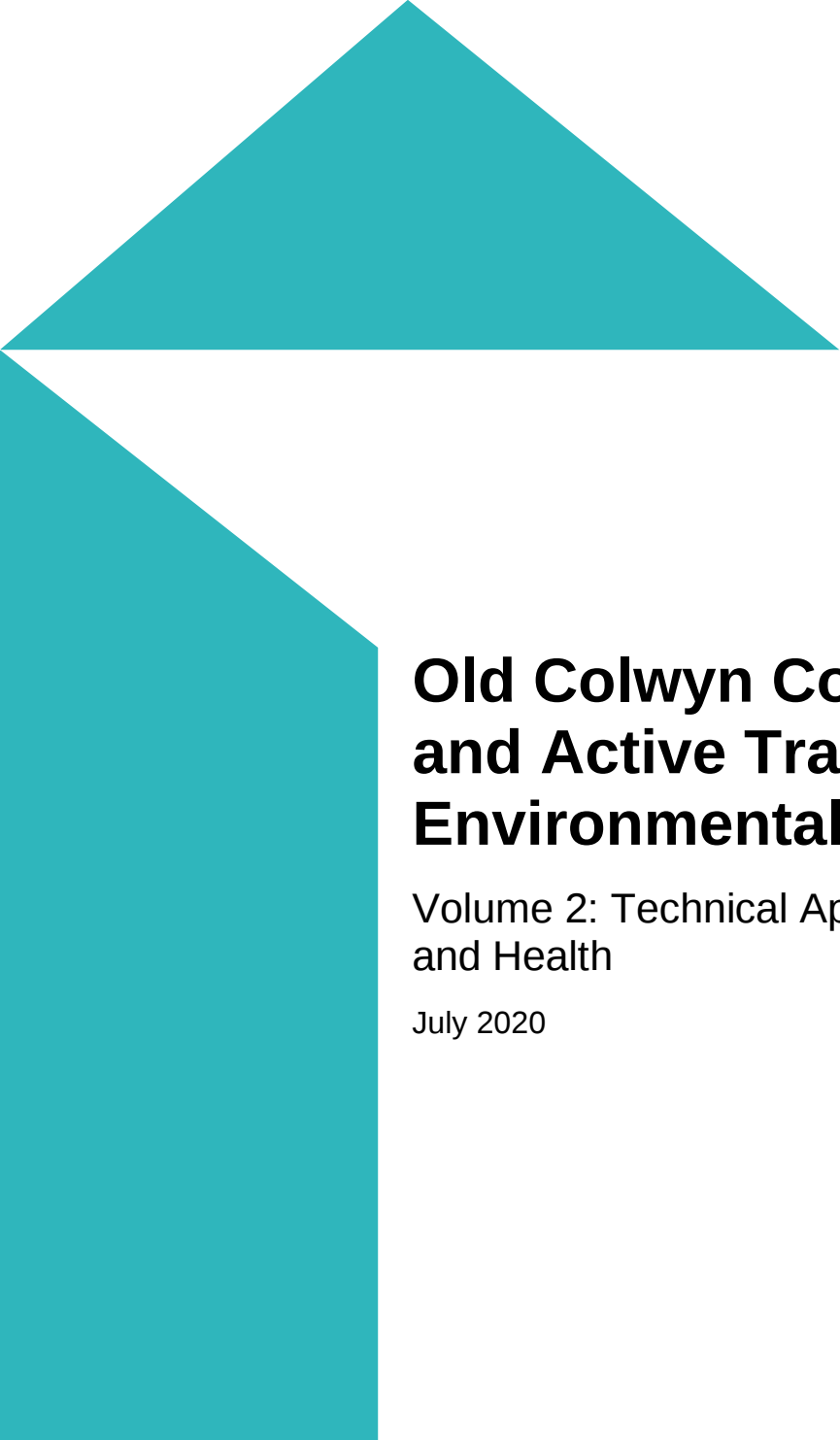




Old Colwyn Coastal Defence and Active Travel Scheme Environmental Statement

Volume 2: Technical Appendix 14 - Population
and Health

July 2020

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Contents

Appendix 14.1 Assessment of Vulnerable Groups	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Assumptions/Limitations	1
1.3 Baseline	1
1.4 Methodology	1
1.5 Data for Relevant Social Groups	2
1.5.1 Population	2
1.5.2 Age	3
1.5.3 Under the Age of 16	3
1.5.4 Young People – Between the age of 16-24	3
1.5.5 Older People – Aged Over 65	3
1.5.6 People With a LTHD	3
1.5.7 The Welsh Language	4
1.6 Evidence for Question 3.2.1	4
1.7 Evidence for Question 3.2.5	5

Appendix 14.1 Assessment of Vulnerable Groups

1.1 Introduction

The purpose of this assessment is to provide evidence for specific elements of the CEEQUAL Assessment¹ which is being submitted separately to the Environmental Statement (ES). The evidence submitted specifically relates to the following questions which form part of the CEEQUAL Assessment:

- **Question 3.2.1** - The Client and/or the Designers have undertaken a social impacts and benefits assessment of the project on a wider scope than just the project owners' interests.
- **Question 3.2.5** - The diversity of the local community has been considered and respected in the design solution to promote equal access for all (for example, disabled, elderly people, and different cultures and religions) and the specification achieved in the completed project.

The structure of this assessment is as follows:

- Baseline – the purpose is to provide analysis on the proportions of each the relevant social groups within the study areas.
- Analysis to provide evidence required for question 3.2.1.
- Analysis to provide evidence required for question 3.2.5.

1.2 Assumptions/Limitations

- This assessment is intended form part of the evidential requirements for the questions listed above. Additional information may be required.
- The data and information in this appendix are separate to the conclusions provided within population and human health assessment provided in chapter 14 of the ES.

1.3 Baseline

1.4 Methodology

Data for relevant social groups was obtained for the Colwyn Bay Wider Impact Area (WIA), the Conwy Borough Council Area (CCBC) and for Wales. These areas are shown on Figure 1.

The social groups relevant to this assessment have been chosen primarily based on accessibility considerations. This is because the focus of question 3.2.5 is requiring the design solution to 'promote equal access for all'.

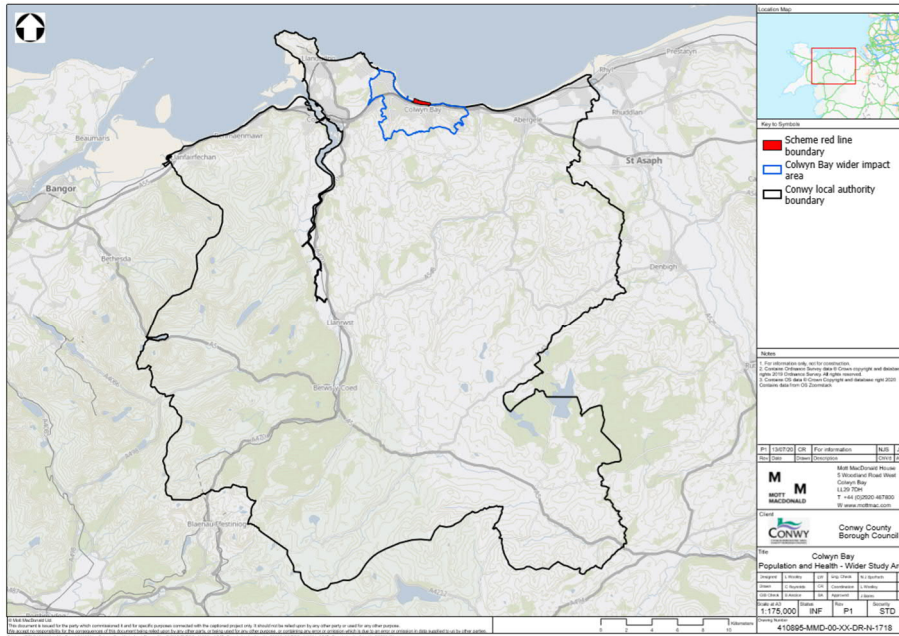
Data on the following social groups has been collated for the WIA, CCBC and Wales:

- Younger people (under the age of 16);
- Young people (between 16-24);
- Older people (over the age of 65);
- People with a long-term health problem or disability (LTHD); and

¹ A CEEQUAL Assessment is the international evidence-based sustainability assessment, rating and awards scheme for civil engineering, infrastructure, landscaping and works in public spaces.

- Data on the proportion of people who have skills in Welsh (written or speaking) has also been collated as this is relevant to providing evidence for question 3.2.5.

Figure 1 The Study Area used for Data Collation Compared to the Scheme



1.5 Data for Relevant Social Groups

In addition to the data provided below on the proportion of relevant social groups within the impact areas, section 14.5 of Chapter 14 (Population and Health) within the ES provides analysis of general population characteristics such as deprivation, employment, economic activity and health.

1.5.1 Population

Table 1 below shows the Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2018 mid-year population estimates for the WIA, CCBC and Wales.

Table 1 Population baseline data

Area	Total Population
WIA	17,935
CCBC	117,181
Wales	3,138,631

Source: Office for National Statistic (ONS) 2018 mid-year population estimates

There are 17,935 people living in the WIA used for the population and health assessment provided in chapter 14 of the ES. It is assumed that most people using the Scheme will primarily be from this area.

1.5.2 Age

1.5.3 Under the Age of 16

Table 2 below shows the proportion of population under the age of 16.

Table 2 Population under the age of 16

Area	Population under the age of 16 (%)
WIA	19
CCBC	16
Wales	18

Source: Office for National Statistic (ONS) 2018 mid-year population estimates

The proportion of children under the age 16 in the WIA is more than the proportion of children in the CCBC but is consistent with the overall proportion in Wales.

1.5.4 Young People – Between the age of 16-24

Table 3 below shows the proportion of young people in the population aged between 16-24.

Table 3 Proportion of young people (aged between 16-24)

Area	Population aged between 16-24 (%)
WIA	9
CCBC	8
Wales	11

Source: Office for National Statistic (ONS) 2018 mid-year population estimates

The proportion of young people in the WIA is consistent with proportions in both CCBC and Wales.

1.5.5 Older People – Aged Over 65

Table 4 below shows the proportion of the population aged 65 and over.

Table 4 Proportion of people aged over 65

Area	Population aged over 65 (%)
WIA	23
CCBC	27
Wales	21

Source: Office for National Statistic (ONS) 2018 mid-year population estimates

The proportion of older people in the WIA is not consistent with CCBC average, but it is consistent with the Wales average. There is a lower proportion of people aged over 65 within the WIA compared to the CCBC area.

1.5.6 People With a LTHD

Table 5 shows the proportion of the population who live with a LTHD.

Table 5 Proportion of people with a LTHD

Area	Population with a LTHD (%)
WIA	24
CCBC	24
Wales	23

Source: Office for National Statistic (ONS) 2018 mid-year population estimates

The proportion of population with a LTHD in the WIA is consistent with both CCBC and Wales averages.

1.5.7 The Welsh Language

Table 6 below shows the proportions of people with no skills and some level of skills in the Welsh Language. This includes both reading, writing and speaking.

Table 6 Proportion of people with some skills in the Welsh Language

Area	No skills in Welsh (%)	Some level of skills in Welsh
WIA	68	32
CCBC	61	39
Wales	73	27

Source: Office for National Statistic (ONS) 2011 Census Data on Welsh Language Skills

The proportion of people with some level of skills in Welsh is less than the proportion within WBC but more than the proportion within Wales as a whole.

1.6 Evidence for Question 3.2.1

Question 3.2.1 of the CEEQUAL Assessment requires the Client and/or the Designers have undertaken a social impacts and benefits assessment of the project on a wider scope than just the project owners' interests.

The benefits of the Scheme are primarily presented within chapter 14 of the population and human health assessment provided in chapter 14 of the ES. These are:

- Increased opportunities for recreational activities and active travel along the waterfront in Old Colwyn. This would improve the quality of life for residents and visitors by providing more opportunities for physical activity and use and enjoyment of the coastal area.
- Potential increases in tourism activity within the WIA;
- An increase in business activity from increased footfall along the Promenade area; and
- Increased educational opportunities for the local community in relation to sustainability and ecology.

The project has a wider scope than just the projects owners' interests. Although the purpose of the Scheme is create a coastal defence structure to reduce risk to the railway and other infrastructure as well as other assets in the erosion risk zone, including the cycleway and coastal path, the project owner has created a design which provides benefits over and above this. The result is a safe, accessible and well-connected waterfront environment that is part of the wider regeneration of the Colwyn Bay area. There are also likely to be additional benefits for the community from wider regeneration activities that occur as a result of the investment in this Scheme.

As detailed within chapter 5 of the ES, extensive public consultation undertaken by CCBC played a key role in the development of the Waterfront Project Plan in 2006 and 2007. This was followed up additional consultation with key stakeholders to inform the 2019 Phasing Review. The results of these two sets of consultation have been used to inform the design of the Scheme to make sure it considers the needs of the community and key stakeholders.

1.7 Evidence for Question 3.2.5

Question 3.2.1 of the CEEQUAL Assessment requires the applicant to demonstrate that the diversity of the local community has been considered and respected in the design solution to promote equal access for all (for example, disabled, elderly people, and different cultures and religions) and the specification achieved in the completed project.

As outlined in section 1.5, the proportions of the relevant social groups within the WIA are consistent with the CCBC and Wales proportions apart from the following:

- There is a larger proportion of people under the age of 16 compared to the CCBC area;
- There is a smaller proportion of people over the age of 16 compared to the CCBC area; and
- There is smaller proportion of people with some level of skills in Wales compared to the CCBC area.

Although these statistics do not change accessibility requirements, they are useful to understand the existing proportions of each of the social groups in the area where the Scheme is proposed to be built.

The Scheme includes a number of design elements which are compliant with accessibility design standards. These are:

- The access structures landward of the new sea wall, including steps to the Promenade and ramps, have been designed in accordance with BS 8300 “Design of buildings and their approaches to meet the needs of disabled people. Code of practice”;
- The highways portion of the Scheme has also been designed in accordance with BS 8300;
- The accesses to the beach have been designed in accordance with the Environmental Agency - Access for all² design guide; and
- Within the parking allowances, specific consideration has been given to ensuring that there is disabled parking available.

Recognising the importance of promoting the Welsh language, all signs and information provided throughout the Scheme will be provided in Welsh. This includes any promotional material that is provided about the Scheme and updates to the community about construction activity.

There are range of recreational activities which are included as part of the Scheme which are detailed within the ES. These include both opportunities for both passive and active recreation. The Outdoor Classroom is likely to more well suited to a younger people but is still suitable for the wider population. Active recreational opportunities, such as the walking and cycling, are more likely to be undertaken by those who are physically able. However, there are also opportunities for more passive recreation, including a seating and picnic area. By providing a range of activities, the Scheme provides for the range of needs of the community.

² Environmental Agency (2014) Access for all design guide. Available at - <https://www.designcouncil.org.uk/access-all-design-guide-environment-agency>

