

The wider context

Shoreline Management Plans (SMP2s) are policy responses to environmental changes. They provide the framework for managing the long-term impact of tidal flooding across Wales.

They break the coastline down into smaller sections known as 'policy units' and explain how each unit should be managed in the short, medium, and long term, taking into account the sustainability of flood risk management activities and assets and priorities for flood protection.



Coastal Squeeze

Where man-made structures have been built to protect communities and land from coastal flooding and erosion, such as sea walls or rock revetments, the habitat may be prevented from moving landward as sea levels rise whilst it continues to be lost from the lower shore. This is known as 'coastal squeeze'.

Coastal squeeze means that the saltmarsh size and function is reducing over time, along with the habitats and species that it supports.

A lot of saltmarsh habitat is legally protected therefore we are required to create new saltmarsh to offset losses in the future with sea level rise.



Livelihoods

Landowners and farmers may have noticed that the environment is changing and we want to hear your adaption concerns and ideas.



Natural Environment

The study area forms an important blend of coastal and wetland habitats that act as green corridors into surrounding countryside.

The environmental importance of this area is reflected in the large number of protected habitats and species.

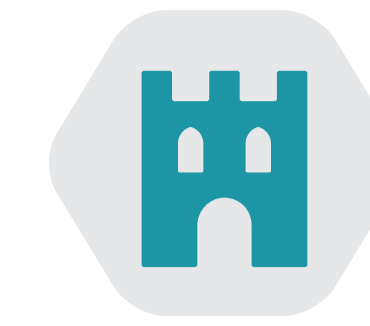
Many of these are of National and International importance and these too are being threatened by the effects of flooding and climate change.



Recreation

This study area offers many opportunities for diverse recreational pastimes.

These too will be carefully considered, as they are of vital importance for people's health and wellbeing, and also bring income to the community.



Historic Environment

The area surrounding Pwllheli has a long and fascinating history. Pwllheli itself has been a settlement since the 13th Century with a strong association with the sea, having been the main fishing port of the Llyn.

The coastline here has however changed considerably over time. Over the last 150 years there has been significant human intervention and development. These actions will have affected the shoreline development during this period and will continue to do so into the future. For example, the construction of the railway enclosed the marsh areas along the east coast, and in doing so has restricted any landward movement of the dunes themselves. There have been extensive changes to the Pwllheli South Beach, with land reclamation having taken place during the 19th century. The railway was extended across the north quay to Pwllheli in 1910, which effectively fixed the position of the shoreline at Pwllheli itself.

In 1813 the Pwllheli embankment (Embankment Road) and tidal flood gates were constructed connecting the main town with the South Beach. This created the basic structure of the inner and outer harbour that exist today as well as having a marked impact on how the land west of here has adapted.



Landscape

The outstanding natural beauty of the area with its close association with the Eryri National Park needs careful consideration when project planning.