



Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Natural Resources Wales

National Habitat Creation Programme

Challenges and opportunities – delivering coastal squeeze compensation habitat in Wales

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Stear Peninsula, Somerset – Severn Estuary (Photo – WWT)

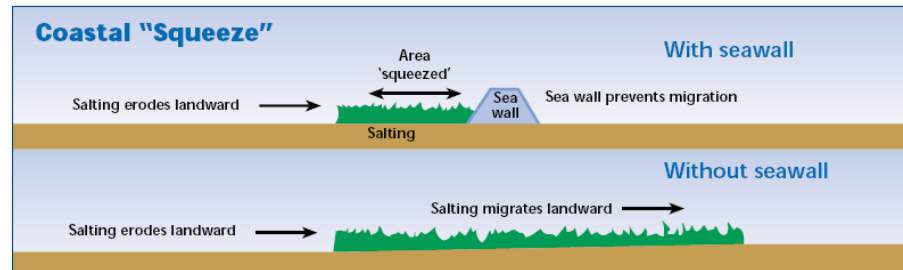


Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru Natural Resources Wales

- Responsible for leading on the National Habitat Creation Programme (NHCP)
- Facilitates delivery of compensation habitat creation for local authorities who share responsibilities for coastal squeeze
- Targets identified within the Shoreline Management Plans



Compensatory measures are a must-have!



- Coastal protection plans – offset negative effects
- Maintain ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network
- Mitigate for hydro-morphological pressures in HMWBs
- Offset adverse effects of sea level rise “squeezing” habitats against hard surfaces maintained in the Shoreline Management Plans (SMP2’s)



Compensate for coastal squeeze and adverse effects of sea level rise

Habitat Regulation Appraisals (HRA) of SMPs:



- **Sea Level Predictions - UKCP09** (medium emission projection 95th %ile)
- **80cm rise over 100yrs (2105)** (BUT 93cm-1.9m within physical plausibility!)

→ **Habitat creation and monitor SLR / Natura 2000 network!**

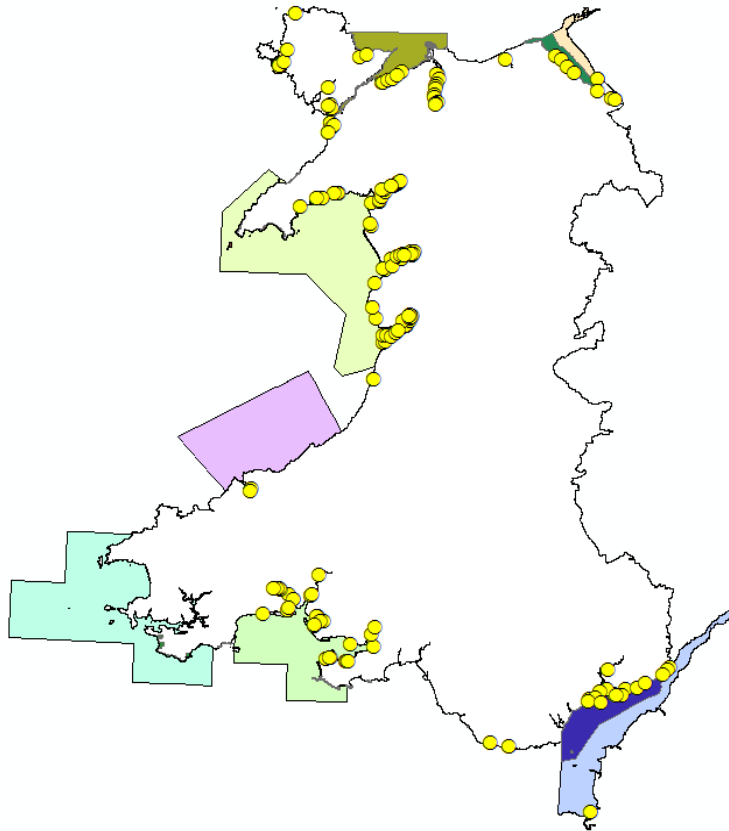
The Scale of the Challenge

Designated site name	Coastal Squeeze Intertidal Losses (Ha) - Wales			
	By 2025	By 2055	By 2105	Total
Severn Estuary SAC/SPA *	679	1388	3670	5737*
Burry Inlet/Carmarthen Bay SAC/SPA	59	163	411	633
Pembrokeshire Marine SAC	2	4	5	11
Lleyn Peninsula and the Sarnau SAC	40	150	111	300
Anglesey Coast Saltmarsh SAC	1	4	11	16
Menai Strait and Conwy Bay SAC	3	12	1	16
Dee Estuary SPA	0	140	454	594
Total	784	1861	4663	7310

Severn Estuary SAC/SPA* = 1/3 in Wales



Risk Based Appraisal



Assessing Scale of Restraints:

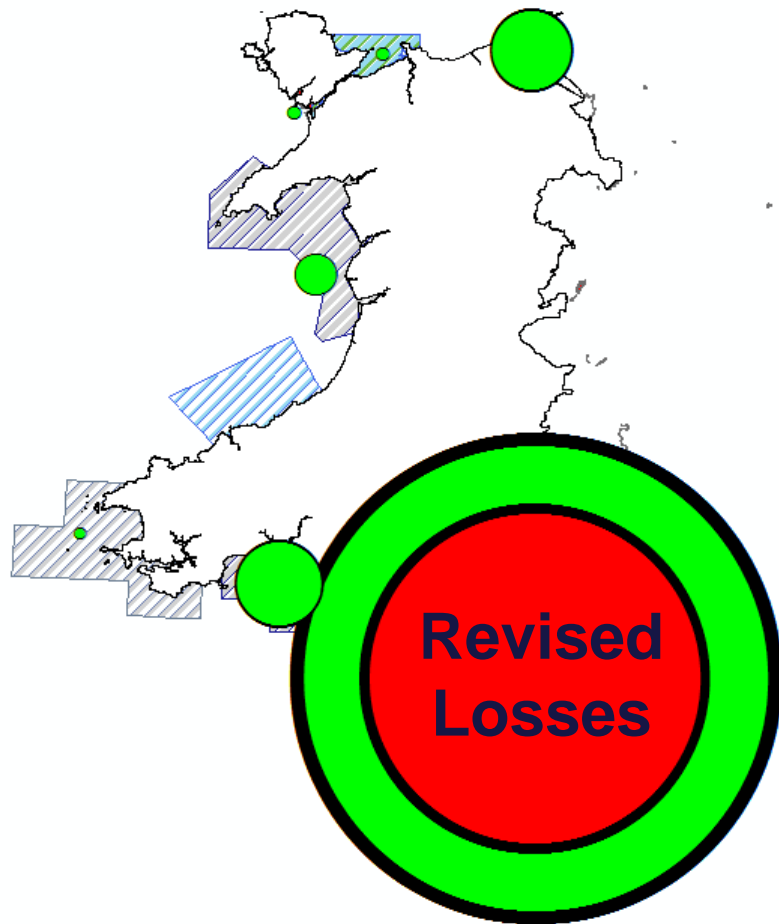
- Physical suitability
- Costs
- Infrastructure
- Heritage
- Land owner
- Land use
- Landscape
- Conservation
- Access
- Other

Risks/Constraints & Issues

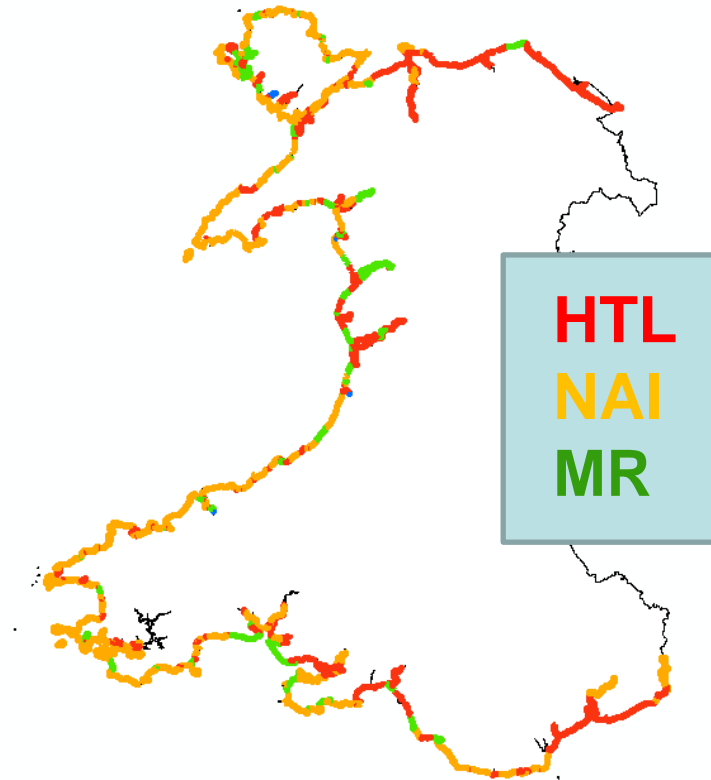


Scale of loss vs opportunities in SMP2

Relative Losses



SMP2 Policies



Delays to FORM capital works

e.g. Flood Alleviation Schemes



E.g. Pen Clawdd FRMS

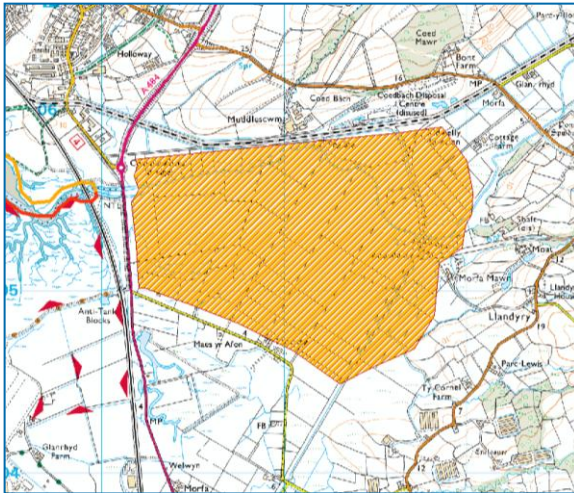
Challenge:

- Adequate/timely creation of compensation habitat
- Inflexible Capital/ EU Funding Timetables

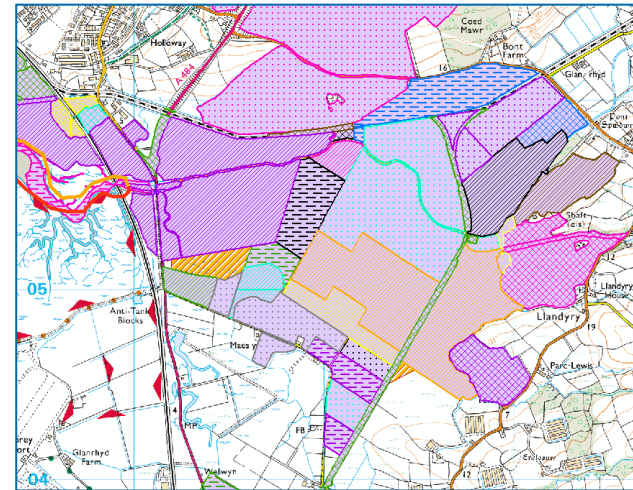
Land Owner Constraints

voluntary land agreement or purchase – with no CPO

Challenge: Matching suitability with opportunity



One or two land owners?



28 land owners!



Agricultural Land

- Agric-environment schemes (Glastir) limited to 5 yrs
- Land purchase or agreement options
- Need to incentivise farm land-owners!



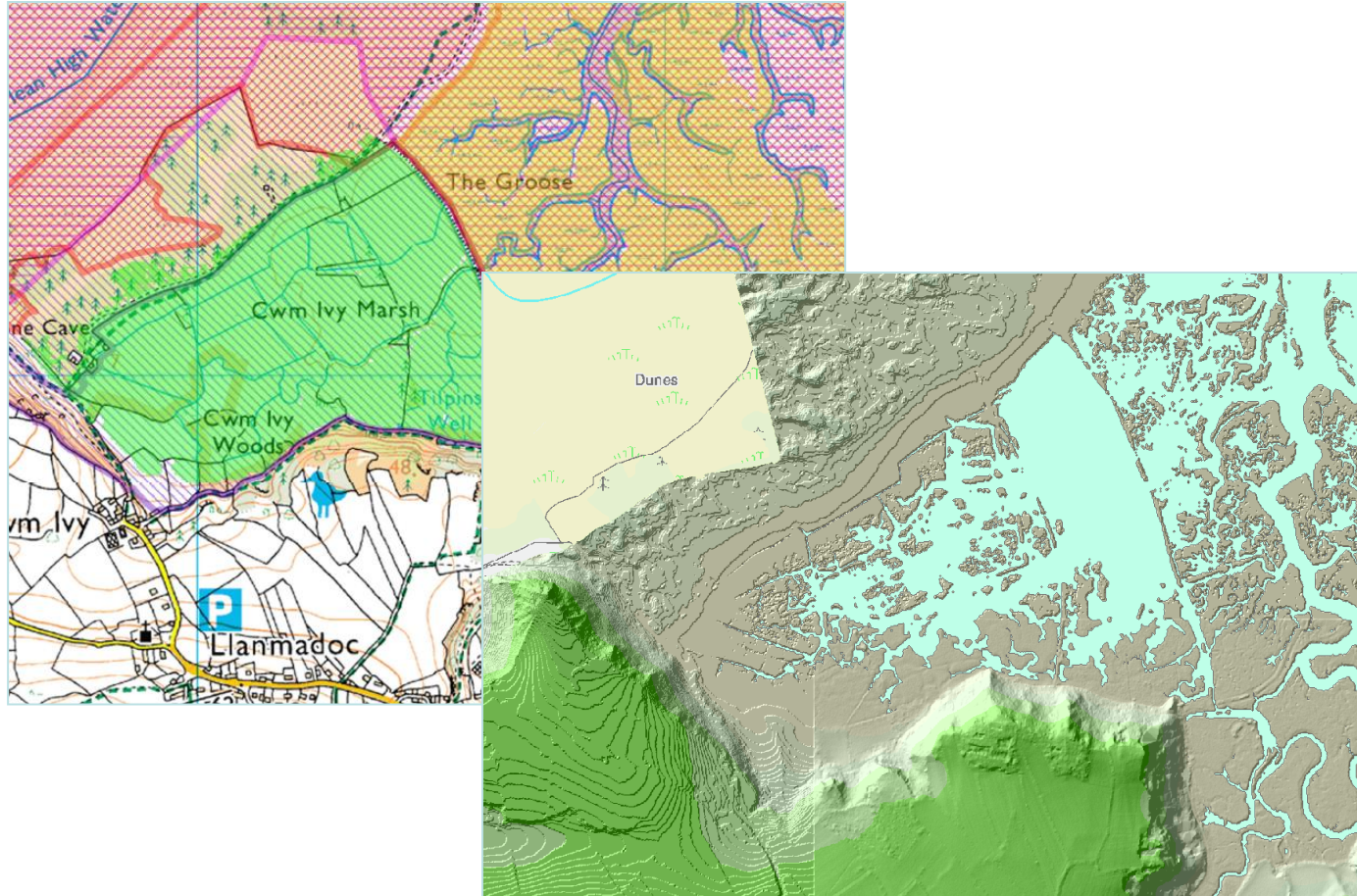
Conflict with other conservation agendas

Challenge: conflicting needs for creating compensation habitat while maintaining protection of designated sites and providing essential mitigation for scheme impacts

- SSSIs
- NERC Act – Section 42 species
- Protected species (e.g. water voles)
- Birds Directive (Art. 3)



Cwm Ivy – SSSI conflict of interests



Funding

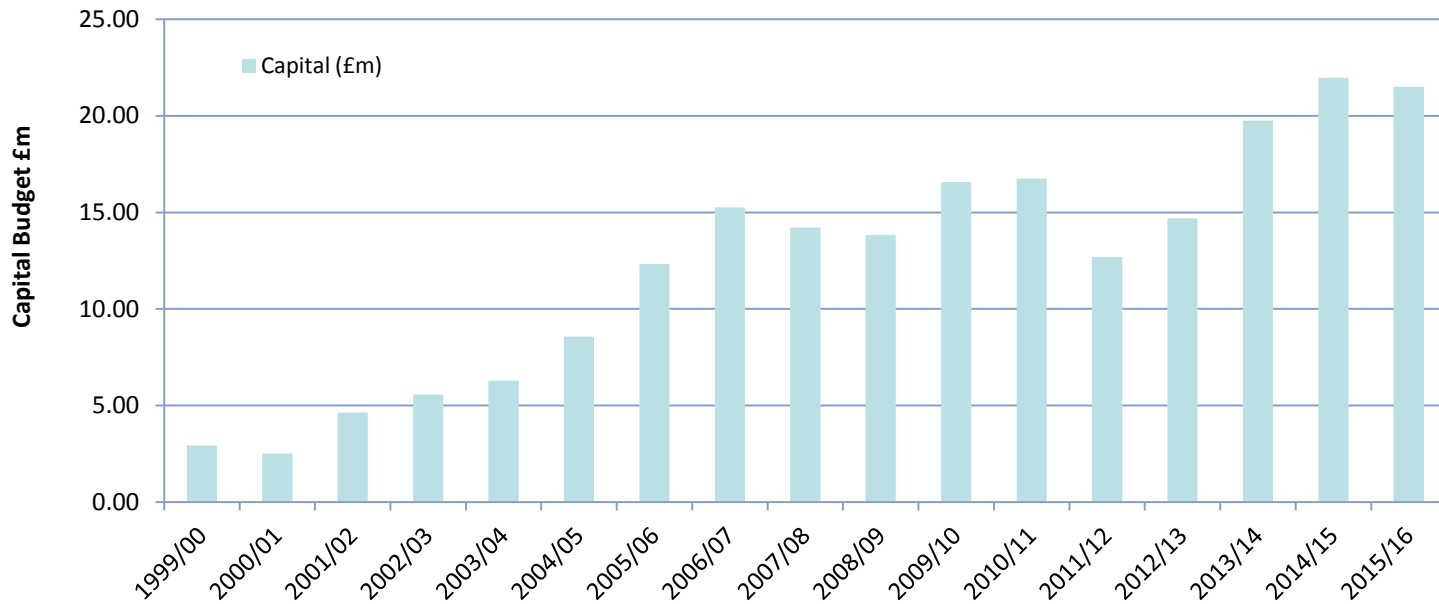
*funding of expensive MR Schemes
during a period of austerity*



FCRM Budget 2014/15: £21M.....

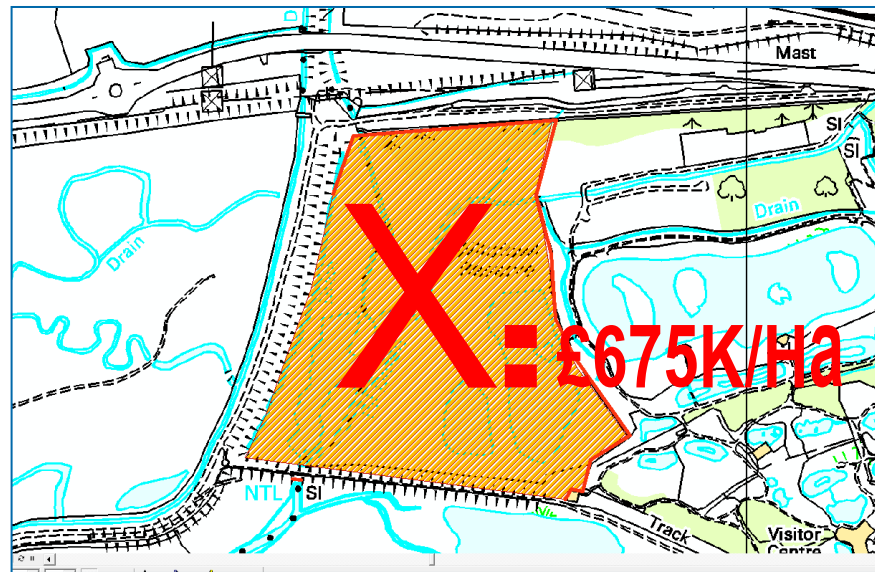
but £21M has to do a lot!

FCRM Capital Funding



Cost – value for money

£50K - £100K/Ha?



Funding the Gap

Habitat creation costs: £50-200K per Ha

- European funding (e.g. Life Plus)
- Other funding (third sector partnership)
- LA and other partnership working

The way forward?

⇒ sharing the costs (capital recovery).....



Sharing the costs?

responsibilities for coastal squeeze

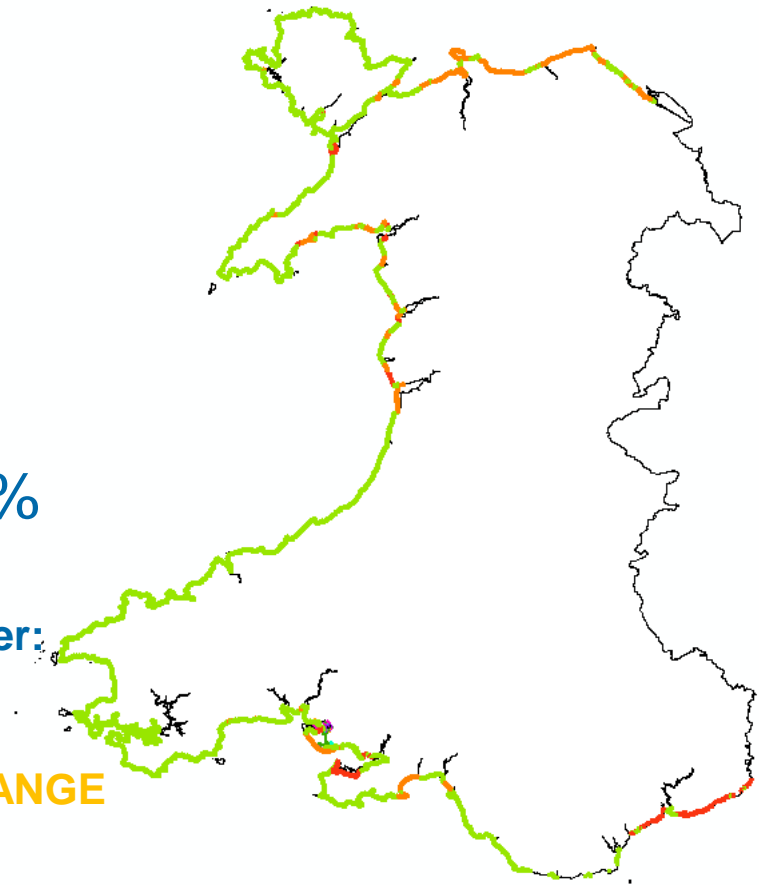
Coastal Defence Assets

Lleyn Peninsula & Sarnau SAC

- NRW – 32%
- Local Authority – 51.4%
- Private e.g. Network Rail – 16.4%

Asset Owner/Maintainer:

- NRW – RED
- Local Authority – ORANGE
- Private – GREEN



Responsibility – Welsh Government

Article 6(4) of the Directive states:

‘...the member state shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected.....’

Regulation 66 of the Regulations states:

‘...the appropriate authority must secure that any necessary compensatory measures are taken to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected’

Successes



Steart Peninsula (contribution)?



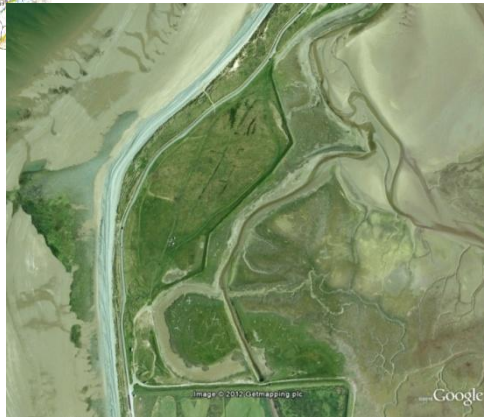
Steart Peninsula, Somerset – Severn Estuary

- 100 Ha (£5M)*
- Linked to Severn Estuary Strategy
- Compensation for epoch 1 (2025)
- Decision by Minister pending
- If a “No!” ?

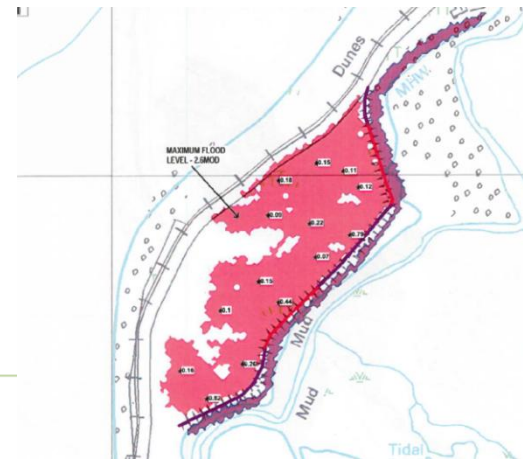
* 100Ha= 79ha from Steart and 21ha from Plustwines and Congesbury Yeo

Morfa Friog (Fairbourne) – 5 Ha

Mitigation for Flood Alleviation Scheme



- Planning approved
- Marine consent approved
- Fairbourne FRMS – completed
- c.5Ha by October 2014



Cwm Ivy – 40Ha (Carmarthen Bay & Estuaries SAC)



- £38K/Ha / £1.5M
- Partnership with National Trust
- Land owner negotiation underway
- Approved for development of business case and Project start-up

Planned – 2/3 more schemes to appraisal and design phase in 2014-16

Setting the scene for compensation habitat creation schemes in:

- Carmarthen Bay SAC
- Anglesey Saltmarsh SAC
- Menai Strait Conwy Bay SAC
- Lleyn Peninsula & Sarnau SAC

⇒ Then looking at Pembrokeshire and the Dee and Severn Estuary Epochs 2

Conclusions

- **Compensation requirements are large** (c.3000Ha by 2105)
- **Risks** are infraction, capital and reputational
- **Severn Estuary SAC is a risk area**
- Habitat creation is **tricky & costly!**
- **Land issues and funding** – restraints to success!
- NRW making **good progress** on all fronts
- **NRW: an opportunity** to work more effectively to create N2K habitat ahead of SLR
- NRW looks forward to **closer WG involvement in the NHCP**



Thank you for Listening!

