

# Aberaeron Coastal Defence Scheme

**Client :**  
Ceredigion County Council

**Designer :**  
Atkins

**Location :**  
West Wales

**Date :**  
2008 - 2009



Work started on this Welsh Assembly Government funded project in November 2008. The scheme consisted of 75,000 tonnes of rock and a new raised promenade wall which will improve protection to the town against sea flooding and storm damage. It also included new timber groynes designed to slow down long shore drift and build up the beach. Steps and a ramp to improve accessibility were also added.

71,000 tonnes of locally sourced limestone rock was transported to the site by road along an alternative, temporary access route to avoid taking lorries through the town. This method of transport provided considerable savings when compared to delivery by sea.

The construction work involved 11 timber and rock groynes and rock revetment topped with a reinforced concrete wave wall.

The rock armour blocks typically weighed between 4 and 6 tonnes and up to a maximum of 9 tonnes. They were placed using 35 and 45 tonne excavators with fitted hydraulic grabs. Rocks were transported from the beach stockpile using a fleet of 40 tonne dump trucks along a defined haul route to avoid any environmentally sensitive areas.

Greenheart timber piles were driven into the beach shingle using a leader rig, walings and boarding and were fixed using stainless steel fixings to form the timber groynes. A flood cut-off wall was also constructed, in steel sheet piling, to provide further flood protection to a local caravan park.

This was an environmentally sensitive site situated adjacent to the Cardigan Bay SAC and home to protected species, including the Honeycomb Worm (*Sabellaria Aleolata*), Bottle Nose Dolphin and Little Ringed Plover.

Our public liaison process was used to actively promote the project and its benefits, such as improving tourism. We also supported local events such as the Tug-of-War competition, the Aberaeron Cob and Pony Festival, Aberaeron Rugby 7's, and the Town Carnival.