

**Swansea Council**

## Swansea Local Development Plan 2: Pre-Deposit Plan (Preferred Strategy)

Shadow Stage 1 Habitats Regulations Assessment Screening Report Executive Summary

Issue | December 2024

**Mae'r ddogfen yma hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg**

**This document is also available in Welsh**

This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client. It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

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# Executive Summary

Swansea Council is currently preparing the Swansea Local Development Plan which runs from 2023-2038 and will be known as the 'Swansea Local Development Plan 2023-2038 (LDP2) Pre-Deposit Plan ('Preferred Strategy')'. This document, prepared by Ove Arup and Partners Ltd (Arup) on behalf of Swansea Council, is a shadow Habitats Regulations Assessment (sHRA) stage 1 screening of the Preferred Strategy.

Public consultation on the LDP2 Preferred Strategy, Candidate Site Register, Habitat Regulations Assessment and Integrated Sustainability Appraisal will occur between February and April 2025. Details can be found here: [Swansea Local Development Plan 2023-2038 \(LDP2\) - Swansea](#).

The screening assessment concluded that Likely Significant Effects (LSE) on Internationally Designated sites could not be ruled out due to implementation of the Preferred Strategy 'alone', in relation to potential effects associated with habitat loss / physical damage, non-physical disturbance, changes to hydrological regime / water levels and water quality, air pollution and recreational disturbance / damage.

The majority of the preferred strategies strategic policies were screened out as having no likely significant effect either alone or in combination, however eight strategic policies (SP1, SP2, SP3, SP8, SP9, SP11, SP12 and SP13) which promote development of residential and mixed-use sites, industry, set targets and strategies for housing levels across the Preferred strategy area were screened in. An appropriate assessment (which is stage 2 of the HRA process) will need to be undertaken on these screened in policies to consider additional detail and any mitigation proposed to determine if any LSE from the policies will undermine the integrity of an Internationally Designated Sites' conservation objectives, and therefore, be subject to the derogations process.

The 13 Strategic Placemaking and Regeneration Areas (SPRAs) discussed under SP8 were also screened. It was not possible to rule out a LSE on all 13 of the SPRAs alone due to their geography and the types of potential impact anticipated from delivery of the sites.

An assessment of in-combination effects was not required at this stage of the HRA process due to the Preferred Strategy being either screened out completely, or screened in due to not being able to exclude an LSE alone.

The appropriate assessment will take place during preparation of the Deposit Plan and mitigation (only considered in the appropriate assessment stage) could include avoidance measures, recommending amendments to policy wording and the need for project level HRA screening and appropriate assessment to ensure no LSE on Internationally Designated sites.