

Trebanos Proposed Outfall Pipe and Headwall

Planning Statement

Reference: B16421-102503-07-ZZ-RP-TA-PN6702

P1 | 24 January 2024



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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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

This Planning Statement has been prepared by Ove Arup and Partners Limited (Arup) on behalf of Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water (DCWW), the applicant. The purpose of this statement is to support an application for full planning permission submitted to Neath Port Talbot Council, herein referred to as the Local Planning Authority.

The proposed development is described as follows:

“Provision of a proposed outfall pipe, headwall and associated development in connection with Trebanos Wastewater Treatment Works ”

Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 11 defines ‘waste development’ as ‘*development which is intended for use wholly or mainly for the deposit of waste into or on to land, not in accordance with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area*¹’. While wastewater treatment works (WwTW) contain the word ‘waste’ and may often be referred to as ‘waste developments’, the proposed development is not defined as ‘Waste Development’ in accordance with PPW Edition 10 and would be minor development. The proposed development should not be incorrectly categorised as ‘major development’.

The application site does not exceed 1 hectare in area (cumulatively) and therefore the proposed development does not constitute ‘major development’ as defined within The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012 (as amended). Subsequently, the application has been scoped to accord with the regulations associated with minor development.

This application for full planning permission for the provision of a proposed outfall pipe with associated development was submitted to the LPA on 22nd January 2024 via Planning Portal [PP-12691160].

1.2 Need for Development

The provision of a proposed outfall pipe, headwall and associated development (herein referred to as the proposed development) is associated with upgrades to the existing Trebanos WwTW to ensure compliance with the key Asset Management Plan 7 (AMP7) and future Asset Management Plan 8 (AMP8) drivers of Quality, Growth and Maintenance.

DCWW are progressing their AMP7 capital investment programme which is detailed in their Business Plan 2020-2025. AMP8 capital investment programme Business Plan would cover the period of 2025-2030. The overall aim is to significantly improve water infrastructure at various locations during the plan period to sustainably increase its operational capacity. The existing site is being upgraded as part of AMP7/AMP8 in order to significantly improve water infrastructure at this location.

There have been concerns from the local angling club ‘Fish Legal’ regarding the visual impact of the existing outfalls (2no.) output located 20m west of the proposed site. DCWW have therefore proposed that the existing outfalls are decommissioned and the outfall relocated, to resolve the impact of the existing outfall pipe to the angling club.

The existing outfalls present health and safety concerns with regard to their ongoing maintenance. In their current form, there are no operational non-return valves (flap valves), which causes operational issues with river water entering outfall pipework and flooding the site.

As a result DCWW are providing a single new outfall to reduce the impact on the local community, improve water and river environment quality, ensure resilience of DCWW assets and that they can be safely maintained in the future. The proposed development would combine the storm and final effluent flows

¹ Page 11 of the Planning Policy Wales (PPW) Edition 11 (2021). Welsh Government. Available: https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/planning-policy-wales-edition-11_0.pdf

resulting in the decommissioning the existing outfalls. These outfalls would be decommissioned in accordance with DCWW arrangements.

The proposed development represents a key enabling work for the successful essential upgrade of Trebanos WwTW. The provision of the proposed development will be crucial to unlocking the full suite of social, environmental and economic benefits associated with the essential upgrade of Trebanos WwTW.

1.3 Purpose and Structure of this Planning Statement

This statement outlines the context within which the application has been submitted, rationale for the proposed works, detailed assessment of the planning considerations appurtenant to the development and justification for consent being granted. The statement is structured as follows:

- Section 2 of this report provides a description of the location and surrounding area/land uses;
- Section 3 provides a detailed description of the development and rationale for the proposed works;
- Section 4 reviews the relevant national and local planning policies relating to the application;
- Section 5 considers the key planning issues relevant to the proposed development; and,
- Section 6 provides a summary conclusion.

2. Application Background

2.1 The Application Site

As stated in Section 1 and illustrated in Figure 1 below, the application site is located in Trebanos, Neath Port Talbot. The village of Trebanos is situated 11km northeast of Swansea. Trebanos has a population of approximately 1700.

The application site comprises a singular application area, located in Trebanos, Neath Port Talbot (Easting 270951, Northing 202130, Ordnance survey SN 70951 02130, nearest postcode: SA7 9JE)

The application site is located immediately south of Trebanos Wastewater Treatment Works (WwTW), and immediately north of the River Tawe. The site is bounded by the River Tawe to the south and open field space to the north.

Trebanos Rugby Football Club is approximately 480m north of the site, which shares the same access road as the application site. It is approximately 470m south from Green Farm and approximately 495m south from Trebanos Park. The closest residential receptors are residential properties located on Swansea Road, approximately 180m west of the site. There are not any Public Right of Ways (PRoW) within or close proximity of the application site.

The application site adjoins the River Tawe and is partially located within Flood Zone 3. The site is not located within any internationally designated sites and the closest Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) is the Glais Moraine located approximately 1.7km to the south.

The application site is not designated for or within the setting of any heritage assets. The nearest Listed Building (Grade II Listed) to the application site is located approximately 670m north (Trebanws Multi-Overflow & Outlet Sluice from the Swansea Canal).



Figure 1: Site Location

2.2 Constraints and Designations

An assessment of the proposed development against the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council (CBC) Local Development Plan Interactive Policies Maps and the Local Development Plan (LDP) illustrated in Figure 2 has confirmed that the site is situated within the designated areas listed below:

- Welsh Language Sensitive Area (Strategic Policy SP22);
- Minerals Supply and Safeguarding (Policy M1);
- Valleys Strategy Area (Policy S6);
- Settlement Protection Zone (Policy M2).

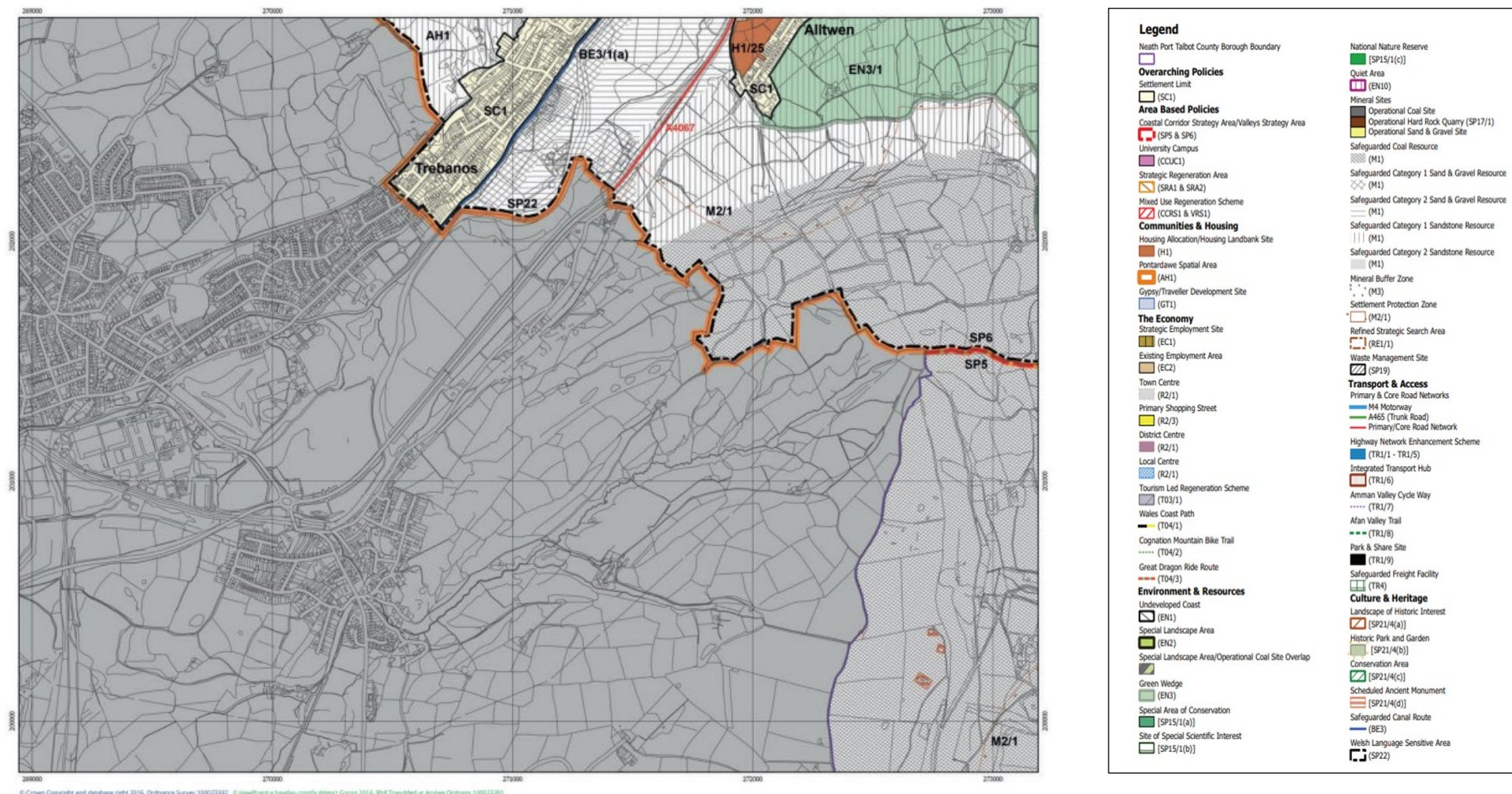


Figure 2: Neath Port Talbot LDP Proposal Map and Legend

3. The Proposed Works

3.1 The Proposed Development

The proposed development would be provided in connection to existing sewerage infrastructure appurtenant to DCWW statutory undertakings. A summary and spatial distribution of the proposed works are illustrated in the Site Layout Plan [B16421-102503-01-ZZ-DR-CA-CI5051] and Plan & Profile [B16421-102503-01-ZZ-DR-CA-CI5050] submitted as part of the application. The intended works comprise the following:

- 1no. Headwall built in situ with piles and reinforced concrete planks in between, approximately 3m in height finished in concrete (grey coloured);
- Handrailing at the top of the headwall approximately 1.1m high;
- Concrete / Galvanised Steel Steps to access the Headwall, approximately 7m in length and 1000mm in width;
- 1no. Security access gate, approximately 2.4m in height;
- 1no. reinforced concrete Outfall pipe approximately 900mm in diameter;
- Galvanised metal Safety Grill on front of pipe stretching approximately 4.35m; and
- Existing boulders maintained.

3.2 Permitted Development

Below ground work is proposed from the existing WwTW to the proposed outfall pipe, however this is classed as permitted development under Schedule 2, Part 16, Class A of the General Permitted Development (Order) 1995 (the GPDO), the rationale for which is set out below.

The Legislative Context

Schedule 2, Part 16, Class A of the GPDO contains the relevant Permitted Development (PD) rights which authorises certain works and development appurtenant to DCWW's statutory undertaking. The GPDO states that development carried out by, or, on behalf of a sewerage undertaker comprising the following elements of development shall be considered PD.

Part 16 Class A of the GPDO

A) Development not above ground level required in connection with the provision, improvement, maintenance or repair of a sewer, outfall pipe, sludge main or associated apparatus;

B) The provision of a building, plant, machinery or apparatus in, on, over or under land for the purposes of survey or investigation;

C) The maintenance, improvement or repair of works for measuring the flow in any watercourse or channel;

D) Any works authorised by or required in connection with an order made under Section 73 of the Water Resources Act 1991 (power to make ordinary and emergency drought orders);

E) Any other development in, on, over or under their operational land, other than the provision of a building but including the extension or alteration of a building.

Part 16 Class A of the GPDO states that development not above ground level required in connection with the provision, improvement, maintenance or repair of a sewer, outfall pipe, sludge main or associated apparatus shall constitute PD. Therefore the proposed underground pipework from Trebanos WwTW to the proposed development would be permissible under the PD rights set out in this part, and would not therefore require full planning permission.

4. Planning Policy Framework

4.1 The Development Plan

Section 70(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 requires that in dealing with an application for planning permission, a local planning authority “*shall have regard to the provisions of the development plan, so far as material to the application*”.

Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 states that “*if regard is to be had to the development plan for the purpose of any determination to be made under the planning Acts the determination must be made in accordance with the plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.*”

The Development Plan is defined by Section 38(3) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 (in Wales) as:

“a) the National Development Framework for Wales,
b) the strategic development plan for any strategic planning area that includes all or part of that area, and
c) the local development plan for that area.”

The Development Plan for the planning application comprises:

- Future Wales – The National Plan 2040 – National Development Framework (2021)²;
- Neath Port Talbot CBC Local Development Plan (2011-2026) Written Statement³; and
- Neath Port Talbot CBC Local Development Plan (2011-2026) Proposals Map⁴

4.1.1 Future Wales – The National Plan 2040 – National Development Framework (2021)

Future Wales - The National Plan 2040 constitutes the national development framework which sets out the direction for development in Wales to 2040. The development plan sets out the strategy for addressing key national priorities including climate resilience and improving the health and well-being of communities.

The National Plan states that changes in the climate and weather patterns will have a significant impact on well-being on both current and future generations. Increased temperatures and extreme weather events caused by climate change will put additional pressure on infrastructure, the built environment and social and economic, resilience. By 2050, it is projected that average summer temperatures will increase by 1.34 degrees and winter precipitation increasing by 5%. Trebanos is situated within the ‘South West’ Regional Growth Area as identified within the National Plan 2040.

Policy 4 – Supporting Rural Communities – This policy states that the Welsh Government supports the creation of sustainable and vibrant rural communities. Strategic and Local Development Plans must identify their rural communities, assess their needs and set out policies that support them. Policies should consider how age balanced communities can be achieved, where depopulation should be reversed and consider the role of new affordable and market housing, employment opportunities, local services and greater mobility in tackling these challenges.

Policy 5- Supporting the Rural Economy- States that the Welsh Government supports sustainable, appropriate and proportionate economic growth in rural towns that is planned and managed through Strategic

² Future Wales – The National Plan 2040 – National Development Framework (2021) (<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2021-02/future-wales-the-national-plan-2040.pdf>)

³ Neath Port Talbot CBC Local Development Plan (2011-2026) Written Statement – (https://www.npt.gov.uk/media/7321/ldp_written_statement_jan16.pdf?v=20170727124344)

⁴ Neath Port Talbot CBC Local Development Plan (2011-2026) Proposals Map (https://www.npt.gov.uk/media/7323/ldp_proposals_map_jan16.pdf?v=20170727124508)

and Local Development Plans. Strategic and Local Development Plans must plan positively to meet the employment needs of rural areas including employment arising from the foundational economy; the agricultural and forestry sector, including proposals for diversification; start ups and micro businesses. The Welsh Government also strongly supports development of innovative and emerging technology businesses and sectors to help rural areas unlock their full potential, broadening the economic base, and creating higher paid jobs.

Policy 8 – Flooding- Flood risk management that enables and supports sustainable strategic growth and regeneration in National and Regional Growth Areas would be supported.

4.1.2 Planning Policy Wales: Edition 11

Planning Policy Wales: Edition 11 (February 2021) (PPW11) sets out the land use planning policies of the Welsh Government. PPW11 provides advice on a wide range of issues and is supported by a number of Technical Advice Notes (TANs) which contribute toward the delivery of improved social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being in Wales. The Welsh Government is committed to sustainable development and PPW11 states that the planning system shall provide a presumption in favour of sustainable development.

PPW11 and the National Plan 2040 set out how the planning system at a national, regional, and local level should assist in delivering sustainable development in Wales.

Development should demonstrate suitable adaption to the existing and predicted effects of climate change. Challenges to Wales in terms of adaption include the impacts of flooding and coastal change to communities, businesses, and existing/planned infrastructure, as well as the risk to health and well-being.

Paragraph 3.4 outlines that design is an inclusive process, which can raise public aspirations, reinforce civic pride and create a sense of place and help shape its future. For those proposing new development, early engagement can help to secure public acceptance of new development. Meeting the objectives of good design should be the aim of all those involved in the development process and applied to all development proposals, at all scales. These objectives can be categorised into five key aspects of good design.

Paragraph 6.6.22 of PPW11 states that the climate emergency is likely to increase the risk of flooding as a result of sea-level rises, increased storminess, and more intense rainfall. Development proposals should consider the potential consequences of flooding, as well as the likelihood of an event occurring.

Paragraph 6.6.25 outlines that development proposals should reduce and must not increase flood risk arising from river flooding on and off the application site.

As of 18th October 2023, chapter 6 of the PPW states that a Green Infrastructure Statement will be required with all planning applications to demonstrate the stepwise approach and compliance with biodiversity net benefit and ecosystem resilience.

4.1.3 Technical Advice Note 5: Nature Conservation and Planning (2009)

The Technical Advice Note 5 (TAN5) states that wildlife and its habitats are of fundamental importance to our future well-being and prosperity because a rich and diverse environment supports a long-term sustainable economy and contributes to a healthier and happier society. Biodiversity is an important indicator of sustainable development. Biodiversity and geodiversity add to the quality of life and local distinctiveness.

Section 2 of TAN5 outlines that the planning system in Wales should integrate nature conservation into all planning decisions, provide a net benefit for biodiversity conservation with no significant loss of habitats and plan to accommodate and reduce the effects of climate change.

The proposed development should identify at an early stage the nature conservation interests likely to be affected and the likely significance of impacts. It should ensure that impacts of projects likely to have a significant effect on the environment are thoroughly investigated, understood, and considered.

European Sites are defined in Regulation 10 of the Habitats Regulations which include Special Protection Areas (SPAs), SACs and Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs).

Nationally designated sites include National Nature Reserves (NNRs), SSSIs and Marine Nature Reserves (MNRs).

4.1.4 Technical Advice Note 12: Design (2016)

Welsh Government is strongly committed to achieving the delivery of good design in the built and natural environment which is fit for purpose and delivers environmental sustainability, economic development, and social inclusion. Design is defined as:

“the relationship between all elements of the natural and built environment. To create sustainable development, design must go beyond aesthetics and include the social, environmental and economic aspects of the development, including its construction, operation and management, and its relationship to its surroundings.”

Section 5.4 states that design must help sustainably manage resources, including water. Placing emphasis on doing this through low carbon modes.

4.1.5 Technical Advice Note 15: Development and Flood Risk (2004)

Technical Advice Note 15 (TAN15) provides technical guidance in relation to development and flooding and sets out the precautionary framework to guide planning decisions in respect of development in areas at high risk of flooding. It provides guidance on how to fully assess flood consequences and how to design and implement sustainable development.

Section 3.2 of TAN15 states that at least 162,000 properties in Wales face a 1 in 100 chance or greater of flooding in any given year from the sea, rivers and surface water.

Currently TAN 15 is being re-consulted on changes within the note that will allow for appropriate regeneration and redevelopment in flood risk areas. It also contains more detail on issues for the plan-led system and the justification for development.

4.2 Local Policy

4.2.1 Neath Port Talbot CBC Local Development Plan (2011-2026)

The Neath Port Talbot CBC Local Development Plan (2011-2026) was adopted by Neath Port Talbot Council on 27th January 2016. It is applicable to all of Neath Port Talbot.

Figure 2 includes the NPT LDP proposals map and associated key. The proposals map identifies that the application site is located within in an area where the following policies and designations are applicable:

Policy OS2 Protection of Existing Open Space, and any proposals which would result in the loss of an existing area of open space will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that:

1. The open space is no longer needed;
2. There is no shortfall of provision of that category of open space in the ward, before or as a result of the development; and
3. The site would not be suitable to provide an alternative type of open space for which there is a shortfall.

Strategic Policy SP6 Development in the Valleys Strategy Area – In the Valleys Strategy Area, the local economy and communities will be enhanced and reinvigorated and the distinctive environment will be protected through the area-specific measures.

Policy BE 3 The Canal Network – 1. In order to protect and conserve the canal network, the following lengths of canal will be safeguarded:

- The Swansea Canal from Pontardawe Town Centre to Godre'r Graig;

Policy M1 Development in Mineral Safeguarding Areas – Development proposals within mineral safeguarding areas will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that certain aspects are met.

Policy SC1 Settlement Limits – Development within settlement limits that is proportionate in scale and form to the role and function of the settlement as set out in the Settlement Hierarchy will be acceptable in principle. Outside settlement limits, development will only be permitted under certain circumstances.

Strategic Policy SP14 The Countryside and Undeveloped Coast – The countryside and undeveloped coast, including landscapes, seascapes and agricultural land, will be protected and where feasible enhanced through set measures.

Policy SP 16 Environmental Protection – Air, water and ground quality and the environment generally will be protected and where feasible improved through the following measures:

1. Ensuring that proposals have no significant adverse effects on water, ground or air quality and do not significantly increase pollution levels;
2. Giving preference to the development of brownfield sites over greenfield sites where appropriate and deliverable;
3. Ensuring that developments do not increase the number of people exposed to significant levels of pollution.

Strategic Policy SP22 Welsh Language – The Welsh language will be safeguarded and promoted in the specific language sensitive areas.

Policy EN8 Pollution and Land Stability – Proposals which would be likely to have an unacceptable adverse effect on health, biodiversity and/or local amenity or would expose people to unacceptable risk due to certain aspects will not be permitted.

4.3 Material Planning Considerations

As outlined in Section 70(2) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, applications are to be determined in accordance with the Development Plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise.

The other policy and guidance documents listed below would form material considerations in the determination of this planning application.

4.3.1 Adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance

Although Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) documents do not hold the same status as the adopted LDP, Welsh Government advice states that they may be taken into account as a material consideration in determining planning applications. The following SPG documents are considered to be relevant to the submitted planning application:

4.3.2 Open Space and Greenspace 2017 (SPG)

Reiterates the main points within TAN 16 and states it is vital that children and young people, including those who are disabled, can access areas for casual and more formal organised uses, which provide safe, secure opportunities to socialise and play.

4.3.3 Landscape and Seascape 2018 (SPG)

States it is important to recognise that the policies in the LDP, as well as national policy relating to landscape require development proposals to evaluate both the effects on the landscape as a resource in its own right and any effects on views and visual amenity. This will ensure the protection, preservation and/or enhancement the distinctive landscapes of Neath Port Talbot and adjoining areas.

4.3.4 Environment (Wales) Act 2016

Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016 places a duty on public authorities (including Statutory Undertakers) that exercise their function in Wales to maintain or enhance biodiversity and promote the

resilience of ecosystems. Section 6(2) states that public authorities should consider the following in undertaking their undertakings: diversity between and within ecosystems, connections, scale, conditions and adaptability of ecosystems.

5. Scheme Appraisal

5.1 Principle of Development

An assessment of planning application data has confirmed that there are no extant or committed developments upon the application site that would be prejudiced by the proposed development.

Strategic Policy SP3 (Sustainable Communities) of the LDP states that infrastructure improvements that secure the future of sustainable communities throughout Neath Port Talbot will be supported. This includes schemes intended to mitigate and adapt to climate change necessary to deliver the priorities of the Local Plan where this will have no significant adverse impact upon recognised environmental assets.

As set out in section 1.2, the proposed development is necessary to facilitate essential sewerage infrastructure upgrades under the AMP7/AMP8 Capital Investment Programme detailed in DCWW Business Plan 2025-2030. The proposed development would contribute to the protection of the environment promoted by this policy from the adverse effects of untreated urban wastewater.

The proposed development would reduce the impact on the local community, improve water and river environment quality, ensure resilience of DCWW assets and ensure DCWW can be safely maintained in the future in accordance with Strategic Policy SP3 (Sustainable Communities) of the LDP.

Strategic Policy SP14 (The Countryside and the Undeveloped Coast) states that the ‘countryside’ and ‘undeveloped coast’ are designated as environmental assets. To protect these assets, development which requires a countryside location and cannot be accommodated within an identified settlement would be restricted.

The proposed development is located within an area designated as Neath Port Talbot Countryside. The proposed development is deemed as essential upgrade work and is replacing existing outfalls. Given the association with the existing nearby WwTW and the fact that the proposed development is replacing an existing outfall pipe that discharges into the river, it is not deemed reasonable that the proposed development could be located elsewhere outside of the countryside and identified settlement designations.

The proposed development is proportionate to the nature and scale of the existing WwTW and its setting to deliver essential sewerage infrastructure upgrades. The proposal would give rise to significant benefits to local waterways, environment, and soil water quality which contribute to improved residential amenity and the health of the local community. The proposed development would provide and enable essential sewerage infrastructure upgrades which increases protection of the environment from the adverse effects of untreated urban wastewater in accordance with Strategic Policies SP3 and SP14 of the LDP.

The NPPF (2023) illustrates the importance of planning decisions should “enable and support healthy lifestyle” and “preventing new and existing development from contributing to, being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by, unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability” in accordance with sections 8 (Promoting healthy and safe communities) and 15 (Conserving and enhancing the natural environment) of the NPPF. The proposed development would fully accord with the requirements stated in the NPPF.

5.2 Design and Character

As outlined in section 3 of this statement, the proposed development would include a suite of works for the provision of an outfall in connection with Trebanos WwTW. The WwTW would extend to an area of approximately 112sqm and would be of a scale and form subservient to the composition of the wider land parcel.

The proposed development would be replacing existing outfalls which would be decommissioned following the completion of works. As such, the design has precedent in the area and would be appropriate in the context of the surroundings as it is replacing an existing outfall pipe, and has been done to have regard to the qualities and amenity of the surrounding area, local infrastructure and resources.

The proposal is in keeping with the existing nearby outfalls it is replacing. The proposed development location would be obscured by the river bank to the north as the topography slopes down to the River Tawe.

The view of the proposed development would be screened by the existing foliage and would be approximately 30m from the opposite side of the river Tawe to south. The southern bank of the River Tawe does not have any existing pathways or public viewing sites which the proposed development would be easily visible from. It is considered that the proposed development would respect the character of the surrounding area and would not impact views of the local area.

The proposed development would not extend above the existing river bank and would not be visible from the north of the site. The tallest element of the proposed development would be stairs to access the headwall outfall with an overall height of approximately 7m following the topography of the river bank. The proposed development has been designed to minimise the impact on the surrounding landscape.

Alongside this, and due to the low scale of the headwall and associated development in combination with the material palette which ensures that the works blend into the wider area, it is considered that the massing, height and siting would not result in an unacceptable adverse effect on the valued characteristics and qualities of the Neath Port Talbot landscape.

Taking the above into consideration, it has been demonstrated that the proposed design and layout would comply with Policies EN2 (Landscape) and BE1 (Design) of the LDP.

5.3 Access and Highway Safety

The connected WwTW site is accessed via a private road off Swansea Road. The access is shared the Trebanos Rugby Football Club, which is approximately 135 metres north of the existing WwTW. The site itself includes a rugby pitch and a Café.

To the north of the proposed application site there is an existing informal footpath which runs along the river. Following an assessment of Neath Port Talbot definitive map and local plan designations within the area, this existing footpath is not considered to be an adopted footpath, bridleway and byway. The proposed development would not impact the informal footpath.

The proposal would not result in increased intensification of the site, as such there would not be increased traffic accessing and egressing the site. Due to the low level of vehicle movements anticipated to and from the highway and the lack of intensification of the site, it is considered that there would be a negligible impact on the road network.

The proposed development would not alter the existing access to the WwTW site access located in the north-east corner of the WwTW. The gated access would remain suitably recessed from the highway maintaining the opportunity for operatives to park off the highway and open the gate for others without causing stationary traffic upon the highway. The gated entrance would continue to open inwards to prevent any obstruction of the road.

The access arrangements would not pose any risk to pedestrian walkways and sufficient visibility would be maintained to ensure pedestrian safety. Taking the above into consideration, the proposed development would accord with policies TR2 (Design) and Policy SP4 (Infrastructure).

A Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) would be prepared in anticipation of the construction works. The CEMP would include construction traffic management details in order to minimise any potential disruption.

5.4 Ecology

As outlined in the submitted Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) submitted in support of the planning application, approximately 20m north of the proposed site and immediately west of the existing WwTW are fields of improved grassland, and directly east of the proposed site is an area of semi-natural broadleaved woodland.

An access track is situated northeast of the WwTW. The wider landscape is characterised by open fields directly north and by residential properties approximately 180m to the west. The River Tawe is situated directly south of the proposed site.

The site is located on the ‘Tawe – confluence with Twrch to tidal limit’ river water body. It is designated as a natural river in the Western Wales River Basin District. The site is 300m from Swansea Canal, which runs alongside the River Tawe’s western flank. Swansea Canal is an artificial water body in the Western Wales River Basin District, in the ‘Tawe to Cadoxton’ management catchment, in the ‘Tawe Canals’ operational catchment.

There is one statutory designated site located within 2 km of the application site; Cwm Du Glen & Glanrhyd Plantation Local Nature Reserve (LNR). There are fourteen non-statutory designated sites located within 2 km of the Site, including thirteen Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and one Wildlife Trust Reserve (WTR). The Glais Moraine SSSI is approximately 2km from the site but is designated for its geomorphological features and is not of ecological interest.

The survey conducted on 12th July 2022 found a total of six Phase 1 Habit types within the site; semi-natural broadleaved woodland, scrub, scattered trees, improved grassland, tall ruderal and amenity grassland.

Bat Aderyn searches found no Potential Roost Features (PRFs) within the site. The PEA has concluded that the site had negligible potential to support roosting and hibernating behaviours for bats. The PEA identified that foraging and/or commuting bats may be present in the area.

The PEA confirmed that there was no direct evidence of hazel dormouse, common amphibians, otter, badger, reptiles, breeding birds, plants and fungi, invertebrates (terrestrial), invertebrates (aquatic), other protected and notable mammals and/or invasive non-native species (INNS) within the site. Overall, the site offers limited potential for species. Potential and opportunity habitats are outlined in detail within the PEA supported in support of the planning application.

The proposed development would not include the removal of any of the semi-natural broadleaved woodland. There is not considered to be any impact to either statutory or non-statutory designated sites as a result of the proposed development.

Taking the above into consideration, it is considered that the proposed development would comply with Strategic Policies 14 (The Countryside and the Undeveloped Coast), 15 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity), and 16 (Environmental Protection) of the LDP.

5.5 Arboriculture

The Arboricultural Report [ArbTS_1810.1_Trebanos] submitted in support of the planning application covers an area not all subject to this planning application. The surveyed area includes Trebanos WwTW. This application and Arboricultural impact focuses on the collection of trees south west of Trebanos WwTW adjacent to the River Tawe:

Table 1: Summary of trees to be retained / removed

Description	Tree Reference	Opportunity
Trees retained	- T3 - Goat Willow - T5 - Wild Cherry - T6 - Wild Cherry - T9 - Ash - G16 - Ash, Sycamore	The proposed development is not considered to impact the low/poor quality trees adjacent to the application site. Adherence to the tree protection details in the Arboricultural Report ensures that the proposed development can be constructed without any significant long-term adverse impact on the retained trees or the area's amenity.
Trees removed to facilitate the proposed development	- T4 - Ash - T8 - Ash - T10 - Sycamore - To be removed - G15 - Ash - To be removed	All of the trees identified for removal are low-quality trees (C Category) which do not contribute to the area's amenity.

The trees listed above have all been assessed to be category C (Low Quality Trees) except for T9 – Ash which has been assessed to be category U (Poor Quality Tree).

The proposal does not include the loss of any significant trees and would not have an adverse impact on existing trees on, or immediately adjoining to the site.

There are no trees on the site that are protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) or by virtue of being located within a Conservation Area.

The construction of the proposed development, whilst complying with the tree protection scheme as detailed in section 6 of the Arboricultural Report, would ensure that no significant long-term adverse Arboricultural impact occurs on the health of any retained trees on or adjacent to this site or the long-term amenity of the area.

Taking the above into consideration, the proposed development would comply with Strategic Policies 14 (The Countryside and the Undeveloped Coast), 15 (Biodiversity and Geodiversity), and 16 (Environmental Protection) of the LDP.

5.6 Flooding and Drainage

The Development Advice Map (DAM) recognises the site as being situated in Zone C2 which is defined as areas of the floodplain without significant flood defence infrastructure. The TAN15 guidance categorises types of development into three distinct groups: emergency services, highly vulnerable, and less vulnerable. The description for less vulnerable developments includes "*General industrial, employment, commercial and retail development, transport and utilities infrastructure, car parks, mineral extraction sites, and associated processing facilities, excluding waste disposal sites.*" It is considered that the proposed development would fall into the less vulnerable category as, "*utilities infrastructure*".

Based on the vulnerability classification of the development, it is appropriate to be situated in Zone C2, subject to the application of the justification test including the acceptability of consequences test. The existing outfalls (2 no.) are similarly situated within DAM Zone C2, and therefore it is considered that there is precedent for this type of development in the area. As part of the proposed development, the existing outfalls are to be de-commissioned according to DCWW arrangements. As such, the proposed works will replace the existing outfalls in terms of discharge to the River Tawe. The discharge rate from the outfall will be maintained as existing.

As the development pertains to an existing Wastewater Treatment Centre that is located within Flood Zone C2, it is considered that the proposed outfall and headwall cannot be relocated to an area with a lower flood risk classification as the surrounding area is situated in the same flood zone, and therefore the proposed development passes the justification test. The proposed headwall has been designed to tie in to the top of bank level, with only the handrail to be raised above floodplain level. Therefore it is considered that any potential displacement of floodwaters arising as a result of the development is negligible, as there is minimal infringement on the floodplain. The proposed development location is not in close proximity to receptors, with the closest residential receptors located approximately 160m to the west, on the other side of the Clydach Canal. Based on the small footprint of the proposed development, it is not considered that there would be any impact to the flood risk experienced by these receptors. Based on this, it is considered that the flood risk consequences of the proposed development have been considered and deemed acceptable.

Based on the factors detailed above, a Flood Consequences Assessment has not been produced for the development as it is considered that the proposal represents a replacement of existing infrastructure, and that any impact in terms of flood risk is negligible.

Taking the above into consideration, the proposal complies with TAN15 of the PPW and Strategic Policy 1 Climate Change of the LDP.

5.7 Heritage

The proposed site would not be located within a Conservation Area, nor would it include any impact to nearby heritage assets. The nearest Listed Building (Grade II Listed) to the application site is located approximately 670m north of the site (Trebanws Multi-Overflow & Outlet Sluice from the Swansea Canal).

The proposal does not include any tall structures which would have an impact on views of the heritage asset identified in the surrounding area. As such, the existing landscape, setting of the heritage assets, character and appearance of the area would be protected as a result of the proposed development.

Taking the above into consideration, the proposal would comply with Strategic Policy SP21 (Built Environment and Historic Heritage) of the LDP.

5.8 Odour and Noise

The proposed site would be located approximately 160m east from the nearest residential receptors. Given this considerable distance, in conjunction with the established use of the outfall pipe that the proposed development is replacing, there is not considered to be an unacceptable rise in the levels of odour and noise as a result of the proposed development which would impact the amenity of the nearest residential properties.

Any impacts arising from construction would be managed by a CEMP to ensure that any disruption would be kept to a minimum.

Taking the above into consideration, the proposal would comply with Policy BE1 (Design) of the LDP.

6. Conclusion

This statement has been prepared in support of a planning application for the proposed development, which would provide essential utilities infrastructure, improving the operation and treatment of wastewater at Trebanos WwTW, and demonstrates a proactive approach to utilities infrastructure and improved resilience. The proposed development enables future development to provide essential upgrades for the existing Trebanos WwTW.

The proposed development would provide visual and environmental betterments for the River Tawe and surrounding area in comparison to the existing situation.

The proposal has been well designed, and is sited a considerable distance away from residential receptors. The site would remain in keeping with the existing, established use and would not impact the character and appearance of the area.

There would no impact on ecology on site or on the surrounding areas. No designated sites, habitats or protected species would be harmed. Heritage assets in the surrounding area would not be impacted during the construction and operation of the proposed development, due to their distance away from the application site, and the nature of the proposed development.

The proposed development would not give rise to unacceptable flood risk on the existing site or to other surrounding areas.

As such, the application is considered to be an acceptable form of development and full planning permission should be granted accordingly.