1 CHAPTER

1.1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 The purpose of this Environmental Statement (ES) is to report the findings and conclusions of the Environmental Impact Assessment which has been undertaken for the proposed redevelopment of land off Old Mill Lane, Barnsley. This ES accompanies an outline planning application submitted by GVA Ltd on behalf of the applicants, Peel Holdings Ltd. The application is for the comprehensive redevelopment of the site, including the removal of existing gas storage facilities and remediation of contaminated land for a retail store with associated parking and landscaping scheme incorporating the creation of a new riverside park.

1.1.2 The submission of the ES comprises two documents:

- The Environment Statement (plus technical appendices);
- A Non Technical summary.

1.1.3 In addition to this ES, the outline planning application is accompanied by the following supporting documentation:

- Planning Application Forms;
- Planning Statement;
- Design and Access Statement;
- Indicative Masterplan;
- Transport Assessment;
- Travel Plan Framework;
- Sustainability Assessment;
- Statement of Community Involvement;
- Retail Impact Statement; and
- Employment Land Report.

1.1.4 All of the documentation is available for inspection, on request, at the offices of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC), Barnsley Connect, Eldon Street, Barnsley (Tel: 01226 772593).

1.1.5 The Non-Technical Summary (NTS) presents a brief description of the proposed development and identifies the potential environmental impacts. Mitigation measures are included in relation to potential adverse impacts. Copies of the Non-Technical Summary are available free of charge from BMBC or GVA upon written request.

1.1.6 In view of the scale, type and location of the development, the applicant, in discussions with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, determined that an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) should be undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England & Wales) Regulations 1999. This ES has been produced in line with the regulations and guidance in Government Circular 2/99 on Environmental Assessment and the EIA Guide to Procedures (November 2000).

1.1.7 The ES has been prepared by a consultant team led by GVA Ltd, with technical assessment work undertaken by the relevant specialist consultants as set out in Section 2. In preparing the ES, the team has consulted officers of BMBC and a range of other appropriate organisations including statutory consultees. The ES provides detailed information of the likely main environmental effects of the proposed development. It also describes the measures that are proposed to mitigate any adverse effects and provides a statement as to the significance of predicted impact following mitigation.