

2 APPROACH TO THE EIA

2.1 INTRODUCTION

2.1.1 The following method statement sets out the roles and skills of the development team in relation to the production of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and gives a clear framework for the production of the following chapters. This is to ensure that the EIA is carried out in a methodical manner in accordance with EIA regulations and that the ensuing document is clear and concise.

2.2 CONSULTANCY TEAM

2.2.1 Peel Holdings have instructed the consultants listed in Table 2.1 to undertake the EIA:

Table 2.1

Company	Specialism
GVA Ltd	Statement of Key Environmental Issues Assessment of Policies and Plans Socio Economic Impact Cumulative Impacts Non-Technical Summary
WSP	Air Quality and Dust Noise and Vibration Ground Conditions and Groundwater Water Resources Nature Conservation and Ecology Sustainability Landscape and Visual Analysis Lighting Impact Assessment
Curtins	Transport and Access

2.3 OBJECTIVES AND APPROACH OF ASSESSMENT

2.3.1 The main objective of the EIA is to produce a systematic assessment of the potential environmental effects, which could occur as a consequence of the redevelopment of the site.

2.3.2 The general approach to the production of this ES follows best practice guidance and covers those areas referred to in Schedule 4, "Information for Inclusion in Environmental Statements" of the Town & Country Planning (EIA) (England & Wales) Regulations, 1999 including the following:

- A Method Statement (Section 2);
- A description of the development scheme and existing environmental conditions within and surrounding the site, including an outline of the scheme and the reasons for progressing the proposed scheme (Section 3);
- Statement of Key Environmental Issues (Section 4); and
- An assessment of policies and plans relevant to the project (Section 5).

2.3.3 In addition, the ES includes a description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development, including in particular;

- Socio-economic (Section 6)
- Transport and Access (Section 7)
- Air Quality & Dust (Section 8)
- Noise and Vibration (Section 9)
- Ground Conditions and Groundwater (Section 10)
- Drainage, Flooding and Water Resources (Section 11)
- Nature Conservation and Ecology (Section 12)
- Sustainability (Section 13)
- Landscape and Visual Analysis (Section 14)
- Lighting (Section 15)
- Cumulative Impacts (Section 16)

2.4 EXISTING BASELINE CONDITIONS AND SURVEY WORK

2.4.1 Baseline studies have been carried out by the relevant specialists to examine the environmental character of the area. Natural and man-made processes which currently exist and may already be altering, and continue to alter the character of the site in the future, are identified. Details of the specific survey techniques utilised are provided in the relevant sections of the ES.

2.5 PREDICTED IMPACTS

2.5.1 The assessment of potential effects as a result of the Proposed Development has taken into account both the construction and operational phases. The significance level attributed to each effect has been assessed based on the magnitude of change due to the Proposed Development and the sensitivity of the affected receptor/receiving environment to change, as well as a number of other factors that are outlined in more detail in the relevant technical chapters. Magnitude of change and the sensitivity of the affected receptor/receiving environment are both assessed on a scale of high, medium, low and negligible.

Impact Significance

2.5.2 The following terms have been used to define the significance of the effects identified:

- **Major effect:** where the Proposed Development could be expected to have a very significant effect (either positive or negative);
- **Moderate effect:** where the Proposed Development could be expected to have a noticeable effect (either positive or negative);
- **Minor effect:** where the Proposed Development could be expected to result in a small, barely noticeable effect (either positive or negative); and
- **Negligible:** where no discernible effect is expected as a result of the Proposed Development.

2.5.3 It should be noted that the methodology utilised in Chapter 12 Ecology and Nature Conservation differs from this standard approach. This amended methodology follows IEEM's guidelines for ecological impact assessment where significance is determined on a geographical scale. Further details of this approach are included in Chapter 12.

2.6 ASSESSMENT OF EFFECTS, MITIGATION AND RESIDUAL EFFECTS

2.6.1 Assessment is made as to the likely effects of the predicted impacts in terms of nature, extent and magnitude for each stage of the development of the site (site clearance / preparation, construction and commissioning, operation, decommissioning and restoration). Appropriate mitigation measures, incorporating design and operational measures

which seek to minimise the effects of adverse impacts and enhance beneficial or positive impacts are proposed and assessment of the residual impact is provided in relation to each effect considered.

2.7 MONITORING AND FOLLOW UP

2.7.1 Monitoring of individual effects is recommended, where appropriate and based on the likely significance of an identified impact, both during the construction phase and for an appropriately identified period after the development has completed. This monitoring will enable residual effects of the development to be formally assessed. The results of this monitoring will be assessed in consultation with the relevant organisations and any additional future mitigation work potentially required agreed.

2.8 CONSULTATIONS AND SCOPING

2.8.1 Scoping has been carried out continuously throughout the design evolution process via a series of meetings, discussions and correspondence with the Council and relevant Statutory Consultees. This approach has been necessary to allow for changes in design whilst ensuring a robust approach to the EIA. Full details of all organisations that have been consulted can be found within the relevant technical chapters, however the following summarises those organisations that have been consulted:

- Environment Agency
- Natural England
- Yorkshire Water
- South Yorkshire Archaeological Service¹
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT);
- South Yorkshire Bat Group (SYBG); and
- Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (Planning Department and where necessary specific specialist departments)

2.8.2 The initial responses have been used to define the scope for the EIA, identify the main environmental issues (direct and indirect) that are to be assessed in detail, and identify available baseline data and any further surveys required. Consultation will continue with these bodies at appropriate stages of the consideration of the ES, where necessary.

2.8.3 In addition, pre-application public consultation was held at the Peel Centre, Barnsley on Friday 15th July and Saturday 16th July 2011. The exhibitions were advertised in the local press and through a leaflet drop to 4074 individual properties in surrounding communities. Over 300 comment cards were completed and returned.

2.9 GUIDELINES, METHODS AND TECHNIQUES USED

2.9.1 The ES is prepared in accordance with the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment England & Wales) Regulations 1999, S1293, 14 March 1999 and the Department of Environment, Transport and Regions Circular 02/99 Environmental Impact Assessment, 12 March 1999. Reference has been made to the DETR's Good Practice Guide for Environmental Assessment (1995). All relevant British Standards are referred to. Consideration has also been given to the proposed amendments to Circular 02/99. Additional guidelines, methods and techniques are considered under appropriate topic areas.

¹ A desk based archaeological study has been prepared by CFA Archaeology Ltd, which finds no features of archaeological interest within the site. This is included for reference in appendix 2.1 of this chapter.