

Appendix 6.C National and Regional Planning Policy

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This appendix sets out national and regional planning policy relevant to the Proposed Project.

1.2 National Planning Policy

- 1.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework 2019 (NPPF) gives an overview of the government's planning policies for England. A number of policies within the NPPF are pertinent to the context of the Proposed Project.

Table 1.1: The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

Policy	Relevant Information
The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)	
NPPF 12. Achieving Well Designed Places (para 124 – 132)	Section 12 lays out the need for all development to adhere to good design principles and to respond to the character of its surroundings: <i>(Ensure that developments) “are sympathetic to local character and history, including the surrounding built environment and landscape setting, while not preventing or discouraging appropriate innovation or change”</i> Para 127
NPPF 13. Protecting Greenbelt Land (para 133 – 147)	The NPPF considers Green Belt land very important and aims to maintain the openness and permanence of Green Belts: <i>“As with previous Green Belt policy, inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances.”</i> Para 143
NPPF 15. Conserving and enhancing the natural environment (para 170 – 173)	Section 15 states the importance of protecting valued landscapes from development. National parks are considered to be of particular importance: <i>“Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues.”</i> Para 172

- 1.2.2 The English National Parks and the Broads UK Government Vision and Circular 2010 (2010) was produced by the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). It guides the long term planning and strategic decision-making for the National Park Authorities and gives an indication of the government's aim to enhance, rather than just conserve the National Parks.

Table 1.2: The English National Parks and the Broads UK Government Vision and Circular 2010

Priority Outcomes	Relevant Information
The English National Parks and the Broads UK Government Vision and Circular 2010	
Conserving and enhancing the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the Parks	<p><i>“Authorities should assess any external risks and seek to minimise the harmful and maximise the beneficial effects.</i></p> <p><i>Supported by the relevant authorities (guided by s11A of the 1949 Act and s17A of the 1988 Act), they are expected to put in place measures which capture opportunities, mitigate and/or resist adverse pressures and which restore and/or recover damaged landscapes and sites from historical and/or ongoing damage”</i></p>
Manage landscape, heritage and improve quality of place	<p><i>“Cultural heritage and landscape are fundamental to quality of place and, as they are central to attractiveness, distinctiveness, diversity and quality of place in the Parks, should be protected and enhanced.”</i></p>

1.3 Barnsley Metropolitan Regional Planning Policy

- 1.3.1 The Study Area straddles the divide between the Peak District National Park and Barnsley Metropolitan Borough. The application boundary for the proposed SEC sits within the remit of Barnsley Metropolitan Borough. Both planning authorities planning policy is pertinent and has been considered.
- 1.3.2 The Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Local Plan was adopted in January 2019. This Local Plan supersedes the former Barnsley Local Development Framework Core Strategy (2011) and the saved policies of the Barnsley Unitary Development Plan (2000).

Table 1.4: Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Local Plan adopted January 2019

Policy	Relevant Information
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Local Plan (Adopted January 2019)	
Policy D1 High Quality Design and Place Making	<p><i>“Design Principles:</i></p> <p><i>Development is expected to be of high quality design and will be expected to respect, take advantage of and reinforce the distinctive, local character and features of Barnsley, including:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• landscape character, topography, green infrastructure assets, important habitats, woodlands and other natural features</i> <i>• views and vistas to key buildings, landmarks, skylines and gateways</i> <i>• heritage and townscape character including the scale, layout, building styles and materials of the built form in the locality</i>

Policy	Relevant Information
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Local Plan (Adopted January 2019)	
	<p><i>Development should:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>contribute to place making and be of a high quality, that contributes to a healthy, safe and sustainable environment</i> • <i>help to transform the character of physical environments that have become run down and are lacking in distinctiveness</i> • <i>complement and enhance the character and setting of distinctive places, including Barnsley Town Centre, Penistone, rural villages and Conservation Areas</i>
Policy LC1 Landscape Character	<p><i>“Development will be expected to retain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of the individual Landscape Character Area in which it is located (as set out in the Landscape Character Assessment of Barnsley Borough 2002 and any subsequent amendments).”</i></p> <p>Relevant to this assessment is the strategy for Landscape Character Area B1: Upland Don River Valley as set out in the Barnsley Borough Landscape Character Assessment, (2002) (and 2016 review):</p> <p><i>The overall landscape strategy should be to conserve the intimate, rural quality of the valley and to retain its recreational value, historic features and industrial archaeology. Landscape strategy objectives should include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Encourage investigation into the ecological and recreational value of the dismantled railway line and promote management plans if appropriate.</i> - <i>Conserve and maintain the stone walls and stone bridges that accentuate the field patterns on the valley floor and sides and provide a human scale to the valley.</i> - <i>Maintain a balance of grazing in the valley and resist extensive compartmentalisation of field units on the flood plain for horse and pony grazing, and the introduction of temporary ‘suburban’ style boundaries.</i> - <i>Seek to conserve the vernacular buildings including the old mills and weaver’s cottages that are integral to the character of the valley, and seek opportunities to provide historic interpretation of these buildings.</i> - <i>Enhance the wooded character of the landscape, seeking opportunities for planting new deciduous woodlands on the valley sides.</i> - <i>Resist development on the floodplain and maintain the rural, undeveloped character of the valley.</i>

Policy	Relevant Information
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Local Plan (Adopted January 2019)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase recreational worth of the landscape by exploring the possibility of increased public access to the river.
Policy GI1 Green Infrastructure	<p><i>"We will protect, maintain, enhance and create an integrated network of connected and multi-functional Green Infrastructure assets that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• provides attractive environments where people want to live, work, learn, play, visit and invest</i> <i>• meets the environmental, social and economic needs of communities across the borough and the wider City Regions</i> <i>• enhances the quality of life for present and future residents and visitors</i> <i>• helps to meet the challenge of climate change</i> <i>• enhances biodiversity and landscape character</i> <i>• improves opportunities for recreation and tourism</i> <i>• respects local distinctiveness and historical and cultural heritage</i> <i>• maximises potential economic and social benefits</i> <i>• secures and improves linkages between green and blue spaces</i> <p><i>At a strategic level Barnsley's Green Infrastructure network includes the following corridors which are shown on the Green Infrastructure Diagram :....</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• River Don Valley Corridor...."</i> <p><i>The network of Green Infrastructure will be secured by protecting open space, creating new open spaces as part of new development, and by using developer contributions to create and improve Green Infrastructure.</i></p>
Policy GS2 Green Ways and Public Rights of Way	<p><i>"We will protect Green Ways and Public Rights of Way from development that may affect their character or function.</i></p> <p><i>Where development affects an existing Green Way or Public Right of Way it must:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Protect the existing route within the development; or</i> <i>• Include an equally convenient and attractive alternative route.</i> <p><i>Where new development is close to a Green Way or Public Right of Way it may be required to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Provide a link to the existing route; and/or</i> <i>• Improve an existing route; and/or</i> <i>• Contribute to a new route.</i>

Policy	Relevant Information
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council Local Plan (Adopted January 2019)	
	<i>In some cases, we will ask developers to make a financial contribution to meet these requirements in accordance with the Infrastructure and Planning Obligations Policy.”</i>
Policy GB1 Protection of Greenbelt	<p><i>“Green Belt will be protected from inappropriate development in accordance with national planning policy.</i></p> <p><i>In accordance with the NPPF and as set out in GB1, we will not allow proposals for ‘inappropriate’ development in the Green Belt unless it can be shown that there are very special circumstances that justify setting aside local and national policy. As set out in paragraph 88 of the NPPF very special circumstances will not exist unless the potential harm to the Green Belt by reason of inappropriateness, and any other harm, is clearly outweighed by other considerations.”</i></p>

1.4 Peak District National Park Planning Policy

1.4.1 The Peak District National Park Authority Local Development Framework Core Strategy was adopted in 2011 and is the principal document of the PDNP Local Development Framework. It sets out the core policies which will apply until 2026. A number of policies focus on landscape character and visual considerations.

Table 1.5: Peak District National Park Authority Local Development Framework Core Strategy

Policy	Relevant Information
Peak District National Park Authority Local Development Framework Core Strategy (Adopted 2011)	
GSP2: Enhancing the National Park	<p><i>“A. Opportunities for enhancing the valued characteristics of the National Park will be identified and acted upon.</i></p> <p><i>B. Proposals intended to enhance the National Park will need to demonstrate that they offer significant overall benefit to the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area. They should not undermine the achievement of other Core Policies.</i></p> <p><i>C. When development is permitted, a design will be sought that respects the character of the area, and where appropriate, landscaping and planting schemes will be sought that are consistent with local landscape characteristics and their setting, complementing the locality and helping to achieve biodiversity objectives.</i></p> <p><i>D. Opportunities will be taken to enhance the National Park by the treatment or removal of undesirable features or buildings. Work must be undertaken in a manner which conserves the valued characteristics of the site and its surroundings.</i></p>

Policy	Relevant Information
Peak District National Park Authority Local Development Framework Core Strategy (Adopted 2011)	
	<i>E. Development in settlements necessary for the treatment, removal or relocation of non-conforming uses to an acceptable site, or which would enhance the valued characteristics of the National Park will be permitted. In such cases a site brief may be necessary to achieve the best mix of uses to secure the conservation and enhancement of the National Park and the most sustainable outcome for the community.”</i>
GSP3: Development management principles	<p><i>“All development must conform to the following principles:</i></p> <p><i>Development must respect, conserve and enhance all valued characteristics of the site and buildings that are subject to the development proposal. Particular attention will be paid to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>A. impact on the character and setting of buildings</i> <i>B. scale of development appropriate to the character and appearance of the National Park</i> <i>C. siting, landscaping and building materials</i> <i>D. design in accordance with the National Park Authority Design Guide</i> <i>E. form and intensity of proposed use or activity</i> <i>F. impact on living conditions of communities</i> <i>G. impact on access and traffic levels</i> <i>H. use of sustainable modes of transport</i> <i>I. use of sustainable building techniques</i> <i>J. ground conditions including any land instability from former mining, quarrying or industrial uses</i> <i>K. adapting to and mitigating the impact of climate change, particularly in respect of carbon emissions, energy and water demand”</i>
L1: Landscape character and valued characteristics	<p><i>“A. Development must conserve and enhance valued landscape character, as identified in the Landscape Strategy and Action Plan, and other valued characteristics.</i></p> <p><i>B. Other than in exceptional circumstances, proposals for development in the Natural Zone will not be permitted”</i></p> <p>Paragraph 9.15 of the Core Strategy states</p> <p><i>‘This policy raises the profile of Landscape Character Assessment, and requires all development to conserve and enhance the valued characteristics and landscape character of the National Park. The National Park Authority’s adopted Landscape Strategy and Action Plan makes it clear what should be conserved and enhanced....applicants are advised to familiarise themselves with the full Landscape</i></p>

Policy	Relevant Information
Peak District National Park Authority Local Development Framework Core Strategy (Adopted 2011)	
	<p><i>Strategy as an aid to making an application for planning permission which has landscape implications.'</i></p> <p>The Peak District National Park Landscape Strategy and Action Plan 2009 – 2019 (Peak District National Park, 2009) maps the eight broad character areas (LCA) of common identity and gives details of landscape features that are particularly important to protect. It also outlines land management guidance for each landscape character type (LCT).</p> <p>Relevant to this assessment is the landscape strategy and guidelines for the following as set out in the adopted Landscape Strategy and Action Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Moorland Slopes and Cloughs Landscape Character Type (LCT) within the Dark Peak Character Area (LCA); and</i> - <i>Slopes and Valleys with Woodland LCT within the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe LCA.</i> <p><i>Moorland Slopes and Cloughs LCT within the Dark Peak LCA (page 56):</i></p> <p><i>'...Priorities for this landscape character type should be to enhance landscape integrity and connectivity, particularly of the clough woods. This should be achieved through woodland expansion and conservation, whilst maintaining the valued recreational and cultural heritage resources and controlling associated localised impacts such as footpath erosion, within a sustainable land management system.'</i></p> <p>Landscape guidelines relevant to <i>Moorland Slopes and Cloughs</i> (taken from pages 59 & 60) are included below. Additional descriptions are included for those which are particularly relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Manage the sparse and historical patterns of development</i> - <i>Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape</i> - <i>Manage and enhance woodlands</i> <p><i>Within the Reservoir Valleys With Woodland, large coniferous plantation woods form a distinctive landscape feature. Plantation woods can also be found to a lesser extent within the Moorland Slopes & Cloughs, for example the Snake woodlands. Opportunities should be sought to integrate them into the wider historic landscape through improved management, including felling and increasing appropriate native tree species, whilst conserving cultural heritage features. This work is already</i></p>

Policy	Relevant Information
Peak District National Park Authority Local Development Framework Core Strategy (Adopted 2011)	
	<p><i>being carried out within the Alport valley, where the technique 'wild by design' is being used.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Manage and enhance plantation woodlands</i> - <i>Enhance and restore moorland landscapes</i> - <i>Manage relict quarries for recreation</i> - <i>Restore clough woods</i> - <i>Manage and enhance semi-natural grassland and wetland landscapes</i> - <i>Create clough woodlands</i> <p><i>Opportunities should be sought to extend and create clough woodlands within the Moorland Slopes and Cloughs, preferably by natural regeneration, without affecting cultural heritage features, historic landscapes and existing ecological features.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Create and link patches of wetland farmland habitats</i> - <i>Consider the reopening of small-scale quarries for local stone supply</i> - <i>Create, extend and link areas of heath/moor</i> <p>Slopes and Valleys with Woodland within the Dark Peak Yorkshire Fringe (page 96):</p> <p><i>'This is a small scale pastoral landscape which is heavily wooded in places. Woodland cover varies with irregular woodland hillside blocks, woods along cloughs, around buildings and reservoirs, and scattered trees along boundaries. There are patches of acid grassland on steeper slopes. The priority is therefore to protect the mosaic and diversity of existing woodlands, boundary trees, grasslands, cultural heritage components and semi-natural habitats. Opportunities should be sought to enhance the integrity of the woodland resource by restructuring plantation woodlands and creating new woodland where appropriate'</i></p> <p>Landscape guidelines relevant to <i>Slopes and Valleys with Woodland</i> (taken from page 99) are included below. Additional descriptions are included for those which are particularly relevant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Protect and maintain historic dry stone walls</i> - <i>Manage and enhance woodlands</i> <p>Some woodland is neglected or would benefit from enhanced management. Opportunities should be sought</p>

Policy	Relevant Information
Peak District National Park Authority Local Development Framework Core Strategy (Adopted 2011)	
	<p>to enhance diversity and improve woodland productivity, whilst conserving heritage features. There may be opportunities to link woodland management, to local wood fuel schemes and reduce reliance on traditional carbon based energies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Manage and enhance plantation woodlands</i> <p><i>Coniferous plantation woodlands form significant landscape features, particularly around the reservoirs within the Slopes and Valleys with Woodlands. Opportunities should be sought to integrate them into the wider historic landscape through improved management using methods such as felling and replacement with appropriate native tree species, whilst conserving cultural heritage features.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Manage and enhance the diversity of agricultural grasslands</i> - <i>Manage the built environment to enhance landscape character</i> - <i>Manage the network of tracks and footpaths to maximise opportunities to enjoy the landscape</i> - <i>Manage the network of minor roads to maintain character and local access</i> - <i>Manage and enhance clough woodlands</i> <p><i>In some areas clough woods are important landscape features as well as being important habitats. Opportunities should be sought to enhance the management of these woods, preferably by natural regeneration, without affecting cultural heritage features, historic landscapes and existing ecological features.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Create new native broadleaved woodland</i> <p><i>There are opportunities to extend woodland cover without affecting cultural heritage features and historic landscapes in the Slopes and Valleys with Woodland. There are opportunities to extend woodland by natural regeneration, although a balance will need to be reached between woodland expansion and the retention of acid grassland. Increased woodland cover creates areas of shelter and shade which may be useful for mitigating the impacts of climate change; on slopes it also reduces water flow and can reduce flood damage to lower lying landscapes.</i></p>

Policy	Relevant Information
Peak District National Park Authority Local Development Framework Core Strategy (Adopted 2011)	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Create clough woodlands</i> <p><i>Opportunities should be sought to extend and create clough woodlands within the Moorland Slopes and Cloughs, preferably by natural regeneration, without affecting cultural heritage features, historic landscapes and existing ecological features. In wet cloughs, increasing woodland cover can lead to slower water flow at times of heavy rainfall and thus help to reduce flood risks in lower lying landscapes.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Develop small-scale renewable energy for local needs</i>

- 1.4.2 The Peak District National Park Authority Local Plan (2001) is in the process of being replaced by the Local Development Framework Core Strategy, but contains a number of saved policies some of which are relevant to the proposed project.

Table 1.6: Peak District National Park Authority Local Plan (2001)

Strategy	Relevant Information
Peak District National Park Authority Local Plan (Saved policies)	
Policy LC4: Design, layout and landscaping	<p><i>“(A) Where development is acceptable in principle, it will be permitted provided that its detailed treatment is of a high standard that respects, conserves and where possible it enhances the landscape, built environment and other valued characteristics of the area.</i></p> <p><i>(B) Particular attention will be paid to:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I. scale, form, mass and orientation in relation to existing buildings, settlement form and character, landscape features and the wider landscape setting;</i> <i>II. the degree to which design details, materials and finishes reflect or complement the style and traditions of local buildings;</i> <i>III. and the use and maintenance of landscaping to enhance new development, and the degree to which this makes use of local features and an appropriate mix of species suited to both the landscape and wildlife interests of the locality;</i> <i>IV. the amenity, privacy and security of the development and of nearby properties;</i> <i>V. and any nuisance, or harm to the rural character of the area, caused by lighting schemes.</i>
Policy LC20: Protecting trees, woodlands or other landscape features put at risk by development	<p><i>“(A) Planning applications should provide sufficient information to enable their impact on trees, woodlands and other landscape features to be properly considered.</i></p> <p><i>(B) Where development that involves risk of damage to trees, woodlands or other landscape features is acceptable, adequate space must be left for their replacement with appropriate species of trees and shrubs or local materials. Appropriate maintenance that respects wildlife interests will be required.”</i></p>

Strategy	Relevant Information
Peak District National Park Authority Local Plan (Saved policies)	
Policy LT20: Public rights of way	<p><i>"Where a development proposal affects a public right of way, either the definitive line of the public right of way should be retained, or, in exceptional circumstances, where retention of the definitive line is not possible, the developer will be required to provide an alternative route that:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I. is of equal or better quality than the original;</i> <i>II. has a similar or improved surface appropriate to its setting;</i> <i>III. wherever appropriate, is of benefit to users with special needs, including those with disabilities;</i> <i>IV. is available before the definitive route is affected;</i> <i>V. is as convenient and attractive as the original.</i>

1.4.3 Peak District National Park Authority Local Development Framework Core Strategy formed part 1 of the Peak District Local Plan. The Development Management Policies forms part 2, and has been submitted for examination. When it is adopted it will supersede the Peak District National Park Authority Local Plan (2001).

Table 1.5: The Development Management Policies document

Policy	Relevant Information
The Development Management Policies (Submitted for examination)	
DMC1: Conservation and enhancement of nationally significant landscapes	<p><i>"B. Development which would not respect, would adversely affect, or would lead to undesirable changes in landscape character or any other valued characteristics¹⁷ of the site and the area will not be permitted;</i></p> <p><i>C. Where a building or structure is no longer needed or being used for the purposes for which it was approved and its continued presence or use is considered by the Authority, on the evidence available to it, to be harmful to the valued character of the landscape, its removal will be required"</i></p>
DMC3: Siting, design, layout and landscaping	<p><i>"A. Where development is acceptable in principle, it will be permitted provided that its detailed treatment is of a high standard that respects, protects and where possible enhances the natural beauty, quality and visual amenity of the landscape, including the wildlife and cultural heritage that contribute to the distinctive sense of place. Siting, mass, scale, height, design, building materials, and uses that are appropriate in their landscape/built context will be essential if permission is to be granted."</i></p>
DMC13 Protecting trees, woodland or other landscape features put at risk by development	<p><i>A. Planning applications should provide sufficient information to enable their impact on trees, woodlands and other landscape features to be properly considered in accordance with 'BS 5837: 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations' or equivalent.</i></p> <p><i>B. Trees and hedgerows, including ancient woodland, which positively contribute, either as individual specimens or as</i></p>

	<p><i>part of a wider group, to the visual amenity or biodiversity of the location will be protected. Other than in exceptional circumstances development involving loss of these features will not be permitted.</i></p> <p><i>C. Development should incorporate existing trees, hedgerows or other landscape features within the site layout. Where this cannot be achieved the onus is on the applicant to justify the loss of trees and/or other features as part of the development proposal.</i></p> <p><i>D. Trees, woodlands and other landscape features should be protected during the course of the development</i></p>
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- 1.4.4 The Peak District National Park Management Plan 2018-2023 sets out the vision for the Peak District National Park between 2018 and 2023. This document indicates the strategic priorities of the Peak District National Park Planning Authority. The management plan places a strong emphasis on conserving and enhancing the special qualities of the Peak District National Park. It does not set out policy, but is an important consideration in assessing development within and adjacent to the Peak District National Park.
- 1.4.5 Peak District National Park Landscape Strategy and Action Plan 2009 – 2019 sets out the valued characteristics of the Peak District National Park and “provides a framework for considering future landscape change in the different landscapes of the Peak District.” It does not set out policy, but is an important consideration in assessing development within and adjacent to the Peak District National Park.