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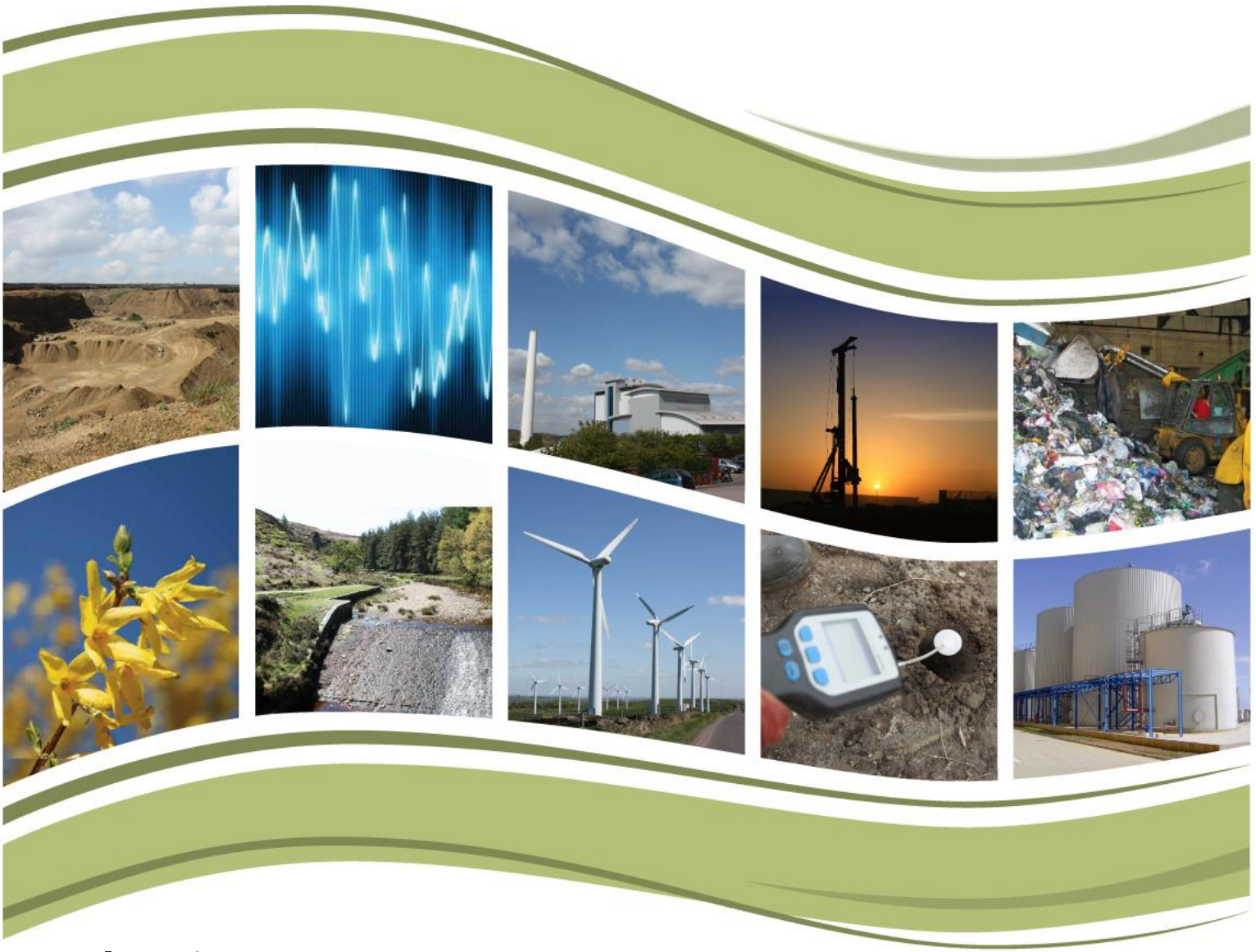

Planning Statement

Planning Application for the Development of Houghton Main Renewable Energy Park (REP) comprising a Timber Resource Recovery Centre and an Anaerobic Digestion Facility (AD) Including Associated Infrastructure

Land located off Houghton Main Colliery Roundabout, Park Spring Road, Houghton Main, Barnsley

Peel Environmental Management (UK) Limited and Houghton Main Waste Limited

'Experience and expertise working in unison'

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Project:	CRM.066.001
Location:	Land Located off Houghton Main Colliery Roundabout, Park Spring Road, Houghton Main, Barnsley
For:	Peel Environmental Management (UK) Limited and Houghton Main Waste Limited
Status:	**FINAL**
Date:	May 2014
Authors:	Saiqa Noreen **Planning Consultant**
Reviewer:	Lee Searles **Director of Planning**

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1.0 Introduction

Introduction

1.1 This Planning Statement supports a planning application made by Peel Environmental Management (UK) Ltd and Houghton Main Waste Limited (hereafter to referred to as **Peel**) to develop a Renewable Energy Park (**REP**). The proposed REP comprises a 150,000 tonnes per annum (**tpa**) Timber Resource Recovery Centre (**TRRC**) and a 60,000 tpa Anaerobic Digestion (**AD**) facility on land located off the Houghton Main Colliery Roundabout, Park Spring Road, Houghton Main, Barnsley shown on Plan A (Site Location).

1.2 The development of the site will create two distinct but compatible energy generation facilities with the potential to generate 23 megawatts (**MW**) of electricity (20MW from the TRRC and 3MW from the AD facility) and to provide a direct heat and/or electrical supply to appropriate off-takers in the local area.

1.3 This planning statement sets out the following:

- Details of the background and the application site;
- A description of the development proposals;
- An explanation of why the proposals are consistent with European, national and local planning policy; and
- A justification of the need of the proposed development, both in terms of renewable energy generation and availability of feedstock.

The Site

1.4 The application site is 4.14 hectares (ha). The red line application area is shown on the Site Location Plan (PL002). The site is former colliery land located off the Houghton Main Colliery Roundabout, Park Spring Road, Houghton Main, Barnsley. The land has regenerated naturally with scrub vegetation. The nearest postcode to the site is S71 5EX and the National Grid Reference of the centre of the site is SE 41696 06515.

1.5 The site is bounded by the A6195 Park Spring Road to east and curved flood defence bunds to the north and west which follow the alignment of a disused rail line. The River Dearne runs in a north-south direction to the west of the site.

1.6 The proposal involves a masterplan-type development of the site under a single planning application for an AD facility and TRRC. Site layout details are shown on the Proposed Site Layout Plan (PL003).

Proposed Facilities

1.7 The AD facility will be constructed and operated by Tamar Energy, a renewable energy company with significant experience in delivering AD projects in the UK. Tamar Energy is currently establishing a network of some 40 AD plants around the UK, having several already in commissioning and successful operation.

1.8 The AD facility will be located on the northern and eastern portion of the site and will receive and process approximately 60,000tpa of material to generate an estimated 3MW of electrical energy in modern gas engines on site. The biomethane fuel for the engines will be derived via anaerobic digestion.

1.9 The TRRC will be developed by Northern Bio Power Limited. Zerum Consult a joint venture company between O-Gen UK and the UNA Group. Carbonarius is currently developing similar facilities in Plymouth and Tyseley, Birmingham.

1.10 The TRRC will be located on the southern and western portion of the site. It will receive approximately 150,000tpa of biomass which may include waste timber from the commercial and industrial sectors and will subject it to a process that recovers clean ferrous and non-ferrous material for recycling and generates approximately 20MW of renewable electrical power. The land ownership boundary is shown at Appendix 2: plan B.

Site Access

1.11 Both facilities will share the existing western access off the Houghton Main Colliery Roundabout with each facility enjoying a dedicated access into its own portion of the site. The final design of the access to each site has been determined following the completion of a Transport Assessment as part of the EIA process (the results of which are contained at Chapter 6 of the Environmental Statement) and is shown on the Proposed Site Layout Plan PL003.

Fuel Source

1.12 The TRRC will be fuelled by biomass which may include timber, derived primarily from commercial and industrial sources. The AD facility will be fuelled by locally and sub-regionally sourced food waste derived from the municipal and commercial market.

1.13 The TRRC will have capacity to process 150,000 tpa of biomass (waste wood), which will be supplied through a single contract. Northern Bio-Power intends to include provisions within these arrangements for as much waste wood as possible to be supplied from local and sub-regional markets. A single contract provides advantages in terms of improving the ability of the operators to manage heavy vehicle traffic routes to the plant, to manage and limit delivery hours in accordance with operational, traffic and local amenity considerations. From an operational viewpoint, a single contract also provides more control over the quality and consistency of waste materials and greater security in terms of power generation. A feedstock availability assessment to quantify the amount of commercial and municipal food wastes, suitable for the AD facility, within a 30 mile radius of the site was undertaken for Tamar Energy in March 2013.

1.14 In summary, the assessment identified 256,485 tonnes of potentially suitable food waste material within the survey.

1.15 From the tonnages potentially identified within the catchment area of the proposed AD plant at Houghton Main, only 23% of the identified tonnage would need to be sourced in order to meet the supply requirements of the proposed AD facility. The assessment also concluded that the facility is required immediately to receive already available material currently being transported long distances throughout the UK.

The Applicant

1.16 Peel owns, manages and develops infrastructure in the waste, minerals and environmental sectors. The company identifies sites suitable for development and is at the forefront of developing new infrastructure by working with technology partners to address the energy challenges faced. Peel is seeking to develop a network of energy facilities across England and Scotland, and is currently pursuing opportunities in the North West of England, Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire.

Community Consultation

1.17 A comprehensive programme of community engagement has been completed in the preparation of this planning application. This programme is detailed in full in the Statement of Community Involvement (**SCI**) which accompanies this application at Section 4 of the Planning Application documents.

Planning Supporting Statement

1.18 The proposed REP represents an opportunity to provide sustainable and renewable energy to industrial development in the area and to the wider National Grid.

1.19 The Planning Application contains the following documents:

- **Part One: Forms, Notices and Certificates:**
  - Completed Planning Application Forms;
  - Completed Ownership Certificates;
  - A summary of the Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council's Planning Validation 'Local List' as it relates to this proposal, and details of where to find each validation requirement within the application documents;
- **Part Two:** This **Planning Statement**, containing information in support of the planning application;
- **Part Three: Design & Access Statement**, containing information in support of the planning application (see Section 3);
- **Part Four: Statement of Community Involvement**, detailing the means by which the community was engaged in the development of the application proposal and the outcomes of that community engagement (see Section 4);
- **Part Five: Alternative Site Assessment,** A comprehensive Alternative Site Assessment (see Section 5);
- **Part Six: Sustainability Statement**, detailing how the proposed development meets sustainable policy objectives, achieves carbon reduction benefits and contributes to regional renewable targets (see Section 6);
- **Part Seven: Energy Statement,** (see Section 7)
- **Part Eight: Surface Water Drainage Scheme Details** (see Section 8);

- **Part Nine: Tree Survey** (see Section 9);
- **Part Ten: Figures and Drawings** (see Section 10)

1.20 In addition to the planning documents detailed above, the application is accompanied by a comprehensive Environmental Statement which provides a full appraisal of the environmental baseline conditions of the site and surrounding area, an assessment of the likely and potential environment impacts of the proposed development when considered against and in combination with the environmental baseline and, where necessary, recommendations for mitigation measures to ensures the environmental impacts of the proposed development are acceptable.

1.21 The Environmental Statement has been prepared in full accordance with the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011.

- **Technical Assessments** (see Volume 3) covering the following topics:
  - Background, Introduction and Context**;**
  - Site Description;
  - Proposed Development;
  - Planning History and Policy Context;
  - Need and Alternatives;
  - Transport Assessment;
  - Hydrology, Flood Risk and SUDS;
  - Air Quality Assessment;
  - Landscape and Visual Amenity Assessment;
  - Noise and Vibration Assessment;
  - Ecology and Nature Conservation Assessment;
  - Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions Assessment;
  - Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Assessments;
  - Socio-Economic Impact Assessment;
  - Socio-Economic Impacts;
  - Other Amenity Issues;
  - Cumulative Impacts and
  - Summary

1.22 A scoping request was submitted to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) on 10th February 2014. BMBC issued their Scoping Opinion Response on the 10th April 2014 and it is included for reference at Volume 3, Appendix 1.2 to the Environment Statement. The technical assessments identified above have been produced in accordance with the scope of work identified in the Scoping Request Response.

2.0 Site Description

Introduction

2.1 The subject site is 4.14 in area in an approximately triangular shape to the west of the A6195 Park Spring Road. The site is located approximately 1km west of Little Houghton and 6.5km east of Barnsley town centre.

2.2 The site is bounded by the A6195 Park Spring Road to east and curved flood defence bunds to the north and west which follow the alignment of a disused rail line. The River Dearne runs in a north-south direction to the west of the site.

2.3 The site is brownfield land primarily vegetated with rough restored grassland. Some scattered shrubs and small trees are also present on the site. The site is flat except for the bunding at its northern and western boundaries.

2.4 The site was subject to open cast colliery workings between 1997 and 2001 which included the removal of any earthworks associated with the former railway lines. The colliery was previously used for mining by UK Coal between the 1890s and 1991. Once open casting was completed, the land was reclaimed and compacted to provide a platform suitable for industrial development. There is an ASOS Fulfilment Centre on adjacent land to the east and south east of the site. The warehouse was developed by Prologis and was constructed under Reserved Matters Approval 2005/1441 (which followed Outline Planning Permission B/03/0762/HR granted in 2003 for Class B1, B2 and B8 development of the site). The existing warehouse has recently been granted planning permission for an extension (ref: 2012/1018).

2.5 The site is relatively remote from any residential properties. There are a few scattered farms and properties nearby, the closest being Crook Farm located approximately 0.8km to the west, Store Mill Farm located 1.5km to the north west, Tyers Hall Farm located to 1.8km to the south west and a housing development located on Doncaster Road, located 1.8km south west of the proposed development.

Access

2.6 Access to the site is from a spur off an existing roundabout (known as Houghton Main Colliery Roundabout) on the A6195 Park Spring Road.

2.7 The existing spur access will be improved as part of the proposed development and tailored to suit the development proposals. Both parts of the Proposed REP (*i.e.* the TRRC and the AD facility) will use the same spur off the existing roundabout. The TRRC and AD facilities will have their own individual entry points off that spur with separate entry gates and weighbridges as shown on drawing PL003 Proposed Site Layout Plan which accompanies the planning application.

2.8 The site is well connected to the strategic highway network, with the both the A1 (M) and M1 approximately 9km away to the east and west respectively. Access to the motorway network can be gained using the A6195 and other A class roads linking to it. Similarly, a good class of road (A635) provides connection to Barnsley town Centre.

Site History

2.9 The site is part of the former Houghton Main Colliery which has been subject to both deep shaft mining and, more recently, opencast working. Following opencast working the site was backfilled and restored to original levels.

2.10 The South Yorkshire Mining Advisory Service, in its pre-application consultation response of 6 January 2014, confirmed that:

> "*The site predominantly lies in an area which used to form part of Houghton Main Colliery which operated from the late 1800s and closed in the early 1990s. Previous land use included railway sidings associated with the colliery and opencast coal extraction. Opencast operations began in 1997 and were completed in 2001, which involved working the Shafton, Highgate and Highgate Rider Coal Seams. The site was restored to original levels using earthwork compaction methods; however, according to past site investigations for this site (White Young Green Environmental) areas of the fill material will require further compaction/improvement in order to minimise the potential for ongoing creep settlement.*"

2.11 The Coal Authority, in its pre-application consultation response of 19 December 2013, confirmed that:

> "*The site was subject to underground mining in 10 seams at depths from 316m to 851m, which were last worked in 1991. The site has also been subjected to surface coal mining which has subsequently been restored. The site also has recorded probable historic shallow coal workings and thick coal outcrops."*

2.12 The site is therefore considered to be brownfield, previously developed land suitable for redevelopment. Since restoration the site has been the subject of a planning application, granted in 2008 and extended in 2011, for 19 light industrial units using the existing site access. Full details of the site's planning history are provided in Chapter 4 of this Statement.

Sensitive Receptors

2.13 The nearest residential properties to the application site are Crook House Farm located approximately 0.8km to the west, Store Mill Farm located 1.5km to the north west, Tyers Hall Farm located 1.8km to the south west and a housing development located on Doncaster Road located 1.8km south west of the site. Potential impacts of the proposal on these and other nearby residential dwellings, including noise and visual, have been taken into account and fully assessed throughout the application. Amenity impacts deriving from the proposed operations (such as noise) have been alleviated through the appropriate design and layout of the site. Mitigation measures will also be implemented including on-site landscaping and planting to address any residual visual impacts.

2.14 There is an existing warehouse (ASOS Fulfilment Centre) on land to the east of the site on the opposite side of Park Spring Road.

2.15 The site is not within the green belt but is surrounded by the Barnsley Green Belt on three sides. The impact of the proposal on the setting of the Barnsley Green Belt has been

considered in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (Chapter 10) of the Environmental Statement which accompanies this application.

2.16 A public footpath runs alongside the north east tip of the application site.

2.17 The RSPB Dearne Valley Old Moor wetlands nature reserve lies approximately 5km to the south of the site. The reserve is based around several lakes which form marshland and reedbeds. There are also open water and land habitats present at the reserve.

Nature Conservation

2.18 There are a number of designated nature conservation sites, included Local Nature Reserves (**LNR**) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (**SSSI**) within 15km of the application site. The potential impacts of the proposed development on these sites are considered in the accompanying Environmental Statement.

2.19 There are no European Designated Sites (Ramsar, Special Areas of Conservation or Special Protection Areas) within 15km of the site.

2.20 The site is located within Landscape Character Area C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor.

Flood Risk

2.21 The majority of the site is within Flood Zone 1. Part of the site, in the North West corner, is within Flood Zone 2. The proposed site layout has been designed to minimise the flood risk to the site and surrounding area. The part of the site within Flood Zone 2 is largely free of built form. The Air Cooled Condensers which are in that area are built on stilts and therefore are raised above the flood risk area.

2.22 A meeting was held with Environment Agency Representatives in the Yorkshire and North East Regional Offices on the 19th February 2014 regarding the location of the site in relation to the current Flood Zone 2 outline. After discussions were held, it was agreed that topographic information for the site illustrates that the Flood Zone 2 outline may not be truly representative and that further modelling work not required to discount the Flood Zone 2 location of the site.

2.23 Enzygo has mapped the modelled flood levels after consultation with the Environment Agency. This modelling work was conducted by JBA Consulting Ltd in May 2004. Using detailed topographical information for the site area and modelled flood levels from the Environment Agency, it can be seen that the flood zone associated with a 1 in 200 year flooding event (0.5% AEP) does not extend to the site area.

Planning Allocations / Designations

2.24 The application site is previously developed land. In the current context, the development plan for the application site comprises:

- The Barnsley Core Strategy (Adopted September 2011);
- The remaining Saved Policies of the Barnsley Unitary Development Plan (**UDP**) (adopted December 2000); and

- Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Plan (adopted March 2012).

2.25 The site is allocated in the UDP (Saved Policies) as an '*Area of Investigation for Potential Employment Development*' (Policy DA4). The allocation is surrounded by Green Belt and an area of 'Washlands' (Policy DA12) to the south and west.

2.26 Policy DA4 states:

> "*The site of the former Houghton Main Colliery is designated as an area of investigation for potential employment development.*"

2.27 Policy CSP 19 of the Core Strategy seeks to safeguard existing employment land and land previously used for employment to protect future employment potential.

2.28 The subject land was not considered for allocation in the Joint Waste Plan because, as set out in the Site Assessment Report undertaken in October 2008, "*Part of the site [was] already developed*". As such, the site was not taken any further in the allocation of sites for waste development. It is understood from this statement that the merits of the site for allocation were not considered as part of the process.

2.29 The Development Sites and Places Consultation Draft (July 2012) considers the future use of all land within the borough to "*Create the conditions for economic growth and greater prosperity through the provision of quality employment sites...*" It also contains general and site specific policies which will be used to determine planning applications.

2.30 The site is identified in this document as an '*Employment Land Option*' (Site N2). Policy EMP1 '*Uses on employment land*' which relates to allocated employment land states:

> "*On allocated Employment Sites, or land currently or last used for employment purposes, we will allow the following uses:*
>
> - *Research and development, and light industry*
> - *General industrial*
> - *Storage or distribution*
>
> *Ancillary uses will be allowed where appropriate in scale.*
>
> *Other uses may be considered on their merits, particularly their contribution to the borough's economic offer and job density.*"

2.31 The former Houghton Main Colliery site was allocated within the Unitary Development Plan for Major Employment site. A range of potential employment sites were assessed as part of the preparatory process for the Development Sites and Places DPD. The proposed site was selected potentially for Employment development within this DPD.

2.32 A full assessment of the proposal against relevant national, regional and local planning policy is provided in Chapter 5 of this planning statement, which confirms that the proposal is consistent with relevant planning policy.

3.0 Proposed Development

Introduction

3.1 The proposed Renewable Energy Park (REP) comprises a 150,000 **tpa** Timber Resource Recovery Centre (**TRRC**) and a 60,000 tpa Anaerobic Digestion (**AD**) facility.

3.2 The application site is 4.14 hectares (**ha**) in area and is located off the Houghton Main Colliery Roundabout, Park Spring Road, Houghton Main, Barnsley. The red line application area is shown on the Site Location Plan PL002.

3.3 The development of the site will create two distinct but compatible energy generation facilities with the potential to generate 23 megawatts (**MW**) of electricity (20MW from the TRRC and 3MW from the AD facility) and to provide a direct heat and/or electrical supply to appropriate off-takers in the local area.

Anaerobic Digestion proposals and process

3.4 The AD facility will be constructed and operated by Tamar Energy, a renewable energy company with significant experience in delivering AD projects in the UK. Tamar Energy is currently establishing a network of some 40 AD plants around the UK, having several already in commissioning and operation.

3.5 The AD facility will be located on the northern and eastern portion of the site and will receive and process approximately 60,000tpa of material to generate an estimated 3MW of energy via anaerobic digestion for the creation of bio-methane for use in modern gas-engines on site.

3.6 The proposed AD will comprise the following key elements;

- Reception Building (42.0m X 28.0m X 11.0m to eaves, 12.47 to top of upstands);
- Admin/ Welfare (n/a within Process Building);
- Digestion Tanks;
- Storage Tanks (21.1D X 15.7);
- Buffer Tanks (10.1D X 16.0);
- Surface Water Storage Lagoon;
- Gas Holder (8.0D X 7.8m);
- CHP Engines (12.2m X 2.5m X 3.0);
- Oil Store (12.2m X 2.5m X 3.0m);
- Flare (1.0D X 9.0m)
- Sub-station and
- Weighbridge Kiosk (1.8m X 1.2m X 2.5M)

Anaerobic Digestion Facility – Process Description

3.7 The proposed AD Facility will be an entirely enclosed process, receiving feedstock via road transportation, into a new reception building, or receiving liquids directly into on-site storage tanks.

3.8 The feedstock will be initially pasteurised before moving into the primary digestion tanks, where the materials are broken down and digested; releasing bio-methane gas. This gas is

then captured and used to power a generator. The site will generate around 3 MW of renewable electricity, for export to the local grid. This level of generation is sufficient to supply the electrical power requirements of about 6,000 homes.

3.9 The remaining material, digestate, is a completely clean product which will be used as a direct replacement for petro-chemical based fertiliser in the surrounding agricultural area.

3.10 The AD facility will be operational for approximately 8,000 hours (90%) a year. The remainder of the time the process will be offline for routine maintenance.

Timber Resource Recover Centre proposals and process

3.11 The TRRC will be developed by Northern Bio Power Limited, Zerum Consult and Carbonarius; a joint venture company between O-Gen UK and the UNA Group. (The construction and operation of the TRRC will be carried out under contract). Carbonarius is currently developing similar facilities in Plymouth and Tyseley, Birmingham.

3.12 The TRRC will be located on the southern and western portion of the site. The TRRC will receive approximately 150,000tpa of biomass which may include Civic Amenity Waste and waste timber from construction and demolition, which will be subjected to a process that recovers clean ferrous and non-ferrous material for recycling. The TRRC will generate approximately 20MW of renewable power.

3.13 The facility will source previously used wood from the surrounding area to process in the TRRC. The biomass used will include wood products recovered from commercial and industrial sources after the removal of other valuable recyclable materials. Other wood-derived fuels such as paper products may also be used in the process.

3.14 The proposed TRRC will comprise the following key elements;

- Reception Hall (65.0m X 45.0m X 9.0to eaves, 11.37 to top of upstand);
- Process Building (102.0m X 30.0 X 30.0m to top of parapet);
- Admin/Welfare (12.3m X 18.0m X 17.87m to top of parapet);
- Turbine Hall (25.7m X 18.0m X 17.9m);
- Workshop (12.3m X 18.0m X 17.9m);
- Condensers (53.7m X 13.4m X 23.0m);
- Fuel oil storage tank (3.0m X 2.4m X 2.5m);
- Standby generator (13.2m X 3.2m X 2.0);
- Fire Water pumps enclosure (4.0m X 3.0m X 2.5m) and
- Fire water tank (13.0mD X 7.0m)

3.15 Both facilities will require the following;

- Weighbridges;
- Site fencing;
- External Lighting

3.16 The feedstock, pre-prepared biomass, will arrive at the facility in a form ready for use in the gasification process. This material may, due to its source, still have some valuable ferrous and

non-ferrous metals included in the deliveries. The first stage of the process is to recover these materials from the feedstock using a combination of magnets and eddy current separation. These recovered materials are then removed from the facility and also recycled.

3.17 The remaining prepared/cleaned feedstock is then transferred into a gasification chamber where it is heated in a low oxygen environment (gasification) to a point where the material is forced to drive off its valuable gases. These gases are where the process derives most of its energy.

3.18 As the gasses leave the gasification process they enter a combustion chamber where they are ignited to produce a sustainable and consistent energy level. This energy (heat) is then passed through a boiler to produce steam.

3.19 The steam generated is produced at a temperature and pressure sufficient to power a turbine connected to an alternator for the production of renewable electricity which either goes directly to local businesses that can use it or it is sent directly to the National Grid.

3.20 Remaining gases from the process pass through an advanced cleaning process to remove any harmful emissions and particulates to regulated levels before exiting the plant via a stack. All emissions are monitored and controlled by the Environment Agency under an Environmental Permit to ensure they do not permit any form of harmful emissions through the facilities operation.

3.21 Where possible all residuals (*e.g.* recycled metals/ash from the gasification process) from the plant are products with a value to other market sectors and these are also recovered and reprocessed.

TRRC Stack

3.22 The TRRC will have a stack for the cleaned gases from the gasification process. The height of the stack has been determined through detailed air dispersion modelling as 45.m.

Hours of Construction and Operation for both facilities

3.23 The hours of construction and operation proposed are set out in Table 3.1 below.

Table 3.1: Hours of Construction and Operation of the Facility

Activity	Monday-Friday	Saturday	Sunday/Public Holidays
Construction	0700-1900	0700-1300	No Working
AD Deliveries	0700-1900	0700-1300	No Deliveries
AD Operations	24 hours (manned 0700-1900)	24 hours (manned 0700-1900)	24 hours (manned 0700-1900)
TRRC Deliveries	0700-1900	0700-1300	No Deliveries
TRRC Operations	24 hours	24 hours	24 hours

3.24 Although no fuel deliveries are proposed on Sundays or Public Holidays, there may be occasions (following periods of unplanned outage for example) where some Sunday deliveries may be required to catch up. In those instances, it is proposed to notify BMBC of any such intention in advance.

Access and Vehicle Movements for both facilities

3.25 Both facilities will be accessed via an existing spur off the Houghton Main Colliery Roundabout, Park Spring Road, Houghton Main. This existing roundabout has been designed for industrial use and is a suitable access point for the proposed development.

3.26 Both the TRRC and the AD facility will have their own weighbridges at the site entrances. This will reduce the potential for queuing and provide a backup arrangement if necessary.

3.27 The anticipated vehicle movements generated by the proposed AD development and TRRC are set out in Table 3.2 below.

Table 3.2 AD and TRRC Heavy Vehicles Daily Movement Summary

	AD Heavy Vehicle Traffic		
	IN	OUT	TOTAL
AM (peak)	4	3	7
PM (peak)	0	2	2
Daily	35	35	71
	TRRC Heavy Vehicle Traffic		
	IN	OUT	TOTAL
AM (peak)	3	3	6
PM (peak)	1	1	2
Daily	30	30	60

3.28 The AD facility will employ 5 members of staff. The operator has advised that there will be one 12 hours shift per day (7am-7pm) with a maximum of 5 staff. The timing of the shifts is such that staff traffic movements will occur outside the typical network peak periods. The TRRC will employ a total of 25 members of staff. The operator has advised that a maximum of 4 shift staff will be on site at any one time and that the facility will operate two 12-hour shifts per day (7am-7pm).

3.29 The total forecast of traffic in and out of the proposed REP is shown in Table 3.3 below.

Table 3.3 Total REP Traffic two-way

	Total HV Traffic			Total Staff Car Traffic			Total Traffic		
	IN	OUT	TOTAL	IN	OUT	TOTAL	IN	OUT	TOTAL
AM (peak)	7	6	13	3	0	3	10	6	16
PM (peak)	1	3	4	0	3	3	1	6	7
Daily	65	65	130 (65 in and 65 out)	9	9	18	74	74	148

Employment

3.30 The proposed scheme will generate 30 full time equivalent (**FTE**) jobs during operation of the facility and an estimated 200 FTE jobs during the peak of construction activities.

4.0 Planning History

4.1 A search of the BMBC's Planning Explorer database on 10 April 2014 reveals the planning permission history for the site and surrounding area set out in Table 4.1 below.

Application Number	Site Address	Development Description	Status	Date Registered	Decision
2013/0860	Park Spring Road, Little Houghton, Barnsley	Erection of 3 no. turbines wind farm with a height of 80m to hub and 126.5m to blade tip, including substation building and ancillary infrastructure. (Environmental Impact Assessment)	Registered	09-09-2013	Approved with conditions
2012/1018	ASOS, Park Spring Road, Little Houghton, Barnsley, S72 7GX	Erection of extensions to southern and western elevations of existing distribution warehouse and extension to existing surfaced car parking area	Final Decision	13-09-2012	Approved with Conditions
2011/1443	Land off Park Spring Road, Houghton Main, Little Houghton, Barnsley	Erection of 19 industrial units with associated external works and landscaping (Extension to time limit of application 2008/1426)	Final Decision	20-12-2011	Approved with Conditions
2011/0951	Land off Park Spring Road, Little Houghton, Barnsley, S72	Installation of a 70m high meteorological data gathering mast (Temporary for 2 Years).	Final Decision	08-08-2011	Approve for a Temporary Period
2008/1426	Land off Park Spring Road, Houghton Main, Grimethorpe Barnsley	Erection of 19 industrial units with associated external works and landscaping	Final Decision	11-09-2008	Approved
2005/1441	Park Springs, off Park Spring Road, Little Houghton, Barnsley.	Erection of a distribution warehouse and associated offices, car parking, service areas and landscaping (Reserved Matters).	FINAL DECISION	22-08-2005	Approved with Conditions
B/03/0762/ HR	S/O Houghton Main Colliery, Middlecliffe Ln, Little Houghton	Outline for modification of Condition No. 1 of planning consent B/99/1064/HR for use of land for industrial/employment uses	Final Decision	14-05-2003	

Table 4.1: *Planning History of the site and surrounding land (as at 12 May 2014). Orange highlighting indicates permissions covering the subject site.*

5.0 Planning Policy

Introduction

5.1 This chapter considers the proposed development against the relevant provisions of national planning policy, the Development Plan and other material considerations relevant to the proposal.

5.2 This chapter includes a review and analysis of key European, national and local policies which relate to renewable energy generation and waste management infrastructure and development policies relevant to the proposed development.

European Policy

- *The Framework Directive on Waste (2008/98/EC);*
- *The Landfill Directive (1999/31/EC)*

National Energy Policy

- *Climate Change Act (2008)*
- *UK Bioenergy Strategy (April 2012)*
- *UK Biomass Strategy (2007)*
- *The 2007 White Paper: Meeting the Energy Challenge*

National Planning Policy

- *National Practice Guidance*
- *National Planning Policy Framework (2012)*
- *PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management, revised March 2001*
- *Government Review of Waste policy in England 2011*
- *Waste Strategy for England 2007*
- *Anaerobic Digestion Strategy and Action Plan (DEFRA)*

Local Planning Policy

- *Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Plan (Adopted March 2012);*
- *The Barnsley Core Strategy (Adopted September 2011); and*
- *The remaining Saved Policies of the Barnsley Unitary Development Plan (adopted December 2000).*

5.3 Guidance on energy generation and waste management, both in terms of the siting of facilities and the treatment of waste and energy stream starts at the European level, with Central Government and the LPA all having a role to play in the formation of the policy and guidance to developers.

European Policy

The Framework Directive on Waste (2008/98/EC)

5.4 The Waste Framework Directive (**WFD**) is a European Union Directive that was originally published in 1975 and substantially amended in 1991 and 2008. The aim of the WFD is to provide an overarching legislative framework for the collection, transport, recovery and disposal of waste across Europe.

5.5 The WFD introduces two key concepts in waste management, namely the Proximity Principle and the Waste Hierarchy:

The Proximity Principle

5.6 Article 16 of the Waste Framework Directive states:

> *"The network shall enable waste to be disposed of or waste referred to in paragraph 1 to be recovered in one of the nearest appropriate installations, by means of the most appropriate methods and technologies, in order to ensure a high level of protection for the environment and public health"*

5.7 This identifies the concept of the '*Proximity Principle*' which is that waste should be treated close to the source of arising assuming that health and the environment are protected.

The Waste Hierarchy

5.8 The Waste Hierarchy is a tool for prioritising the management of waste. It is presented in Article 4 of the WFD as the priority order for waste prevention and management legislation and policy. It is presented in the WFD as:

- *Prevention;*
- *Preparing for re-use;*
- *Recycling;*
- *Other recovery, e.g. energy recovery; and*
- *Disposal*

5.9 The role of the waste hierarchy is to guide sustainable waste management. The hierarchy gives top priority to waste prevention, followed by preparing for re-use, recycling, and other types of recovery (including energy recovery), and last of all disposal (*e.g.* landfill).

5.10 The WFD states that:

> *"When applying the waste hierarchy referred to in paragraph 1, Member States shall take measure to encourage the options that deliver the best overall environmental outcome. This may require specific waste streams departing from the hierarchy where this is justified by life-cycle thinking on the overall impacts of the generation and management of such waste".*
>
> *"Member States shall take into account the general environmental protection principles of precaution and sustainability, technical feasibility and economic*

viability, protection of resources as well as the overall environmental, human health, economic and social impacts, in accordance with Articles 1 and 13"

5.11 Paragraph 31 of the WFD states that:

"The waste hierarchy generally lays down a priority order of what constitutes the best overall environmental option in waste legislation and policy, while departing from such hierarchy may be necessary for specific waste streams when justified for reasons of, inter alia, technical feasibility, economic viability and environmental protection".

5.12 **Assessment of proposals against these policies -** The proposed development facilitates a move up the waste hierarchy by managing and recovering energy from material that would otherwise either be disposed to landfill or exported overseas for treatment.

5.13 It is considered that the principle of the proposed REP is in accordance with European policy as it is an established technology which will successfully direct waste wood away from landfill and generate a renewable source of energy and heat, without significant adverse effects on the environment and human health.

National Energy Policy

Climate Change Act (2008)

5.14 The Climate Change Act 2008 makes it the duty of the Secretary of State to ensure that the net UK carbon account for all six Kyoto greenhouse gases for the year 2050 is at least 80% lower than the 1990 baseline, toward avoiding dangerous climate change.

5.15 The Act aims to enable the United Kingdom to become a low-carbon economy and gives ministers powers to introduce the measures necessary to achieve a range of greenhouse gas reduction targets. An independent Committee on Climate Change has been created under the Act to provide advice to UK Government on these targets and related policies. In the act Secretary of State refers to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change.

5.16 **Assessment of proposals against these policies –** The proposed REP would be a secure low carbon energy development and would therefore make a direct contribution towards the Government's Climate Change objectives.

UK Bioenergy Strategy (April 2012)

5.17 It is widely recognized that bioenergy has an important role to play if the UK is to meet its low carbon objectives by 2050. The strategy sets out the Coalition Government's approach to securing the benefits of bioenergy.

5.18 The UK Government has a responsibility to ensure that its policies only support bioenergy use in the right circumstances. This strategy is based on a statement of four principles which will act as a framework for future government policy on bioenergy.

5.19 In summary the four principles state that:

- *Policies that support bioenergy should deliver genuine carbon reductions that help meet UK carbon emissions objectives to 2050 and beyond;*
- *Support for bioenergy should make a cost effective contribution to UK carbon emission objectives in the context of overall energy goals: and*
- *Support for bioenergy should aim to maximise the overall benefits and minimise costs (quantifiable and non-quantifiable) across the economy.*

5.20 **2020 Renewables Target**: The 2009 Renewable Energy Directive sets a target for the UK to achieve 15% of its energy consumption from renewable sources by 2020. This compares to 3.3% in 2010. The scale of the increase over the next 8 years represents a huge challenge and will require strong contributions from all three sectors of electricity, heat and transport.

5.21 **2050 Carbon Reduction Target**: The Climate Change Act 2008 establishes a long-term framework to tackle climate change.

5.22 The Act aims to encourage the transition to a low-carbon economy in the UK through unilateral legally binding emissions reduction targets. This means a reduction of emissions of at least 34% by 2020 and a domestic greenhouse gas emissions reduction of at least 80 percent by 2050. Both targets are against a 1990 baseline.

5.23 **Assessment of proposals against these policies -** It is clear there is a need for renewable energy developments in relation to both demand and the achievement of the Government's climate change objectives. On this basis substantial weight should be given to the contributions made by renewable energy developments such as the proposed REP.

UK Biomass Strategy (2007)

5.24 This strategy, published with the Government's Energy White Paper, meets the commitment made in the Energy Review (2006) and in the Government's response to the 2005 Biomass Task Force Report and brings together current UK Government policies in biomass for energy, transport and industry.

5.25 The Biomass Strategy acknowledges the importance of fuels sourced from biomass in tackling climate change. Biomass will have a central role to play in meeting the EU target of 20% renewable energy by 2020. The Climate Change Bill, published in draft in March 2007, sets out a proposed UK target of at least 60% cuts in carbon dioxide emissions by 2050 and a strong new system of carbon budgeting. We need to explore every avenue for achieving these cuts in emissions in sustainable ways over the decades ahead.

5.26 Biomass is renewable and generally has low carbon characteristics. Where biomass is produced and processed with due regard to sustainability and carbon savings, it can be carbon-neutral (the CO2 released when it is used to create energy can be offset by the CO2 it consumes when growing).

5.27 Biomass is also very versatile and can be used as fuel across the energy spectrum for electricity, heat and transport as well as the production of industrial material. At current usage levels biomass can be considered as an untapped resource.

5.28 The Government's strategy for biomass is intended to:

- *"realise a major expansion in the supply and use of biomass in the UK*
- *facilitate the development of a competitive and sustainable market and supply chain*
- *promote innovation and low-carbon technology development so biomass can deliver relatively higher energy yields contribute to overall environmental benefits and the health of ecosystems through the achievement of multiple benefits from land use*
- *facilitate a shift towards a bio-economy through sustainable growth and development of biomass use for fuels and renewable materials*
- *Maximise the potential of biomass to contribute to the delivery of our climate change and energy policy goals: to reduce CO2 emissions, and achieve a secure, competitive and affordable supply of fuel"*

5.29 Paragraph 2.1 of the strategy states:

> *"Biomass is an important tool for tackling climate change, as well as offering new commercial opportunities. For the purposes of this Strategy, we are taking biomass to mean any biological material, derived from plant or animal matter, which can be used for producing heat and/or power, fuels including transport fuels, or as a substitute for fossil fuel-based materials and products"*

5.30 **Assessment of proposals against these policies -**The proposed development will contribute to a more diverse and secure mix of energy generation, and in turn contributes to the security of the UK's renewable energy supply at a time when energy demand is increasing and the impacts of climate change are gaining prominence in Government policy agendas.

5.31 National waste and energy policy contains a clear message: positive planning which facilitates renewable energy developments is essential if the government commitments to climate change and renewable energy are to be met. The role of biomass and AD is helping to meet these commitments is widely recognised and its use is encouraged.

The 2007 White Paper: Meeting the Energy Challenge

5.32 UK energy policy is set out in the Energy White Paper of May 2007 and Low Carbon Transition Plan of July 2009.

5.33 The 2007 White Paper: "Meeting the Energy Challenge" sets out the Government's international and domestic energy strategy to address the long term energy challenges faced by the UK, and to deliver four key policy goals:

1. *"To put the UK on a path*
2. *to cut carbon dioxide emissions by some 60% by about 2050, with real progress by 2020;*
3. *To maintain reliable energy supplies;*
4. *To promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond, helping to raise the rate of sustainable economic growth and to improve productivity; and*
5. *To ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated"*

5.34 The Government has set national targets for electricity generated from renewable sources and expects 10% of total electricity generation by 2010, 15% by 2015 and 20% by 2020.

5.35 The Government recognises the importance of recovering energy from biomass. Facilities should be sized and contracts designed in accordance with the local availability of fuel. The Government's targets on renewable energy generation, power generation processes such as energy from Biomass must be considered.

5.36 There are a number of benefits of recovering energy from biomass, as follows:

- Improved energy security;
- Meeting UK energy demand in more sustainable way;
- Biomass heat generation can provide a cheap sustainable heat resource;
- Biomass heat generation can replace coal for industrial sites, industrial processes and off grid locations; and
- Energy is recovered from material that may otherwise be landfilled or exported.

5.37 In particular, the White Paper confirms that applicants for energy development do not need to demonstrate either the overall need for renewable energy or its distribution, nor question the energy justification for why a proposal for such development must be sited in a particular location.

National Practice Guidance

5.38 On 6 March 2014 the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) launched planning practice guidance web-based resource. This was accompanied by a Written Ministerial Statement which includes a list of the previous planning practice guidance documents cancelled when this site was launched.

5.39 Planning Practice guidance is now available entirely online in a usable and accessible way. The web-based resource was developed following the recommendations of the External Review of Planning Guidance which the Government previously consulted on.

5.40 DCLG will be actively managing the planning practice guidance, and any necessary updates will be made as soon as possible.

5.41 Paragraph 001 states:

> "*Addressing climate change is one of the core land use planning principles which the National Planning Policy Framework expects to underpin both plan-making and decision-taking*"

5.42 Paragraph 002 states:

> *"Good quality design is an integral part of sustainable development. The National Planning Policy Framework recognises that design quality matters and that planning should drive up standards across all forms of development. As a core planning*

principle, plan-makers and decision takers should always seek to secure high quality design"

5.43 **Assessment of proposals against these policies –** The proposed REP will develop two renewable energy facilities to manage waste in a sustainable manner and generate heat and power from renewable sources. The Design and Access Statement in Appendix 1 demonstrates that an appropriate design approach has been adopted to achieve a high quality design concept that takes account of the existing urban form, and the natural and heritage features of the surrounding area.

5.44 Paragraph 003 states:

"Increasing the amount of energy from renewable and low carbon technologies will help to make sure the UK has a secure energy supply, reduce greenhouse gas emissions to slow down climate change and stimulate investment in new jobs and businesses. Planning has an important role in the delivery of new renewable and low carbon energy infrastructure in locations where the local environmental impact is acceptable".

5.45 Paragraph 004 states:

"…… all communities have a responsibility to help increase the use and supply of green energy, but this does not mean that the need for renewable energy automatically overrides environmental protections and the planning concerns of local communities"

Goes on to say…

"There are no hard and fast rules about how suitable areas for renewable energy should be identified, but in considering locations, local planning authorities will need to ensure they take into account the requirements of the technology and, critically, the potential impacts on the local environment, including the cumulative impacts"

5.46 **Assessment of proposals against these policies -** The proposed REP will accommodate established technologies which will successfully direct waste wood and organic food waste away from landfill to generate a renewable source of energy and heat. The proposed location is an established employment site on previously developed land, consistent with the locational policies and criteria set out in local plans.

National Planning Policy Framework (2012)

5.47 The *National Planning Policy Framework* (**NPPF**) is the current national planning policy document in England. Its publication in March 2012 introduced significant changes to the planning system and replaced a raft of Planning Policy Statements (including PPS22: Renewable Energy).

5.48 At the heart of the NPPF is a "*presumption in favour of sustainable development*". Through the NPPF the Government clarifies that where applications accord with policy there should be an approval without delay provided that the impacts do not significantly outweigh the benefits. In this case, there is strong evidence that the selected site is sustainable in terms of

renewable energy generation, waste management and transport, and the proposed built form and plant also reflect sustainable development principles.

5.49 Crucially, in terms of renewable energy the NPPF, at Paragraph 98, states that Local Planning Authorities should:

- *"not require applicants for energy development to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low-carbon energy and also recognise that even small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions; and*
- *Approve the application if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable. Once opportunity areas for renewable and low-carbon energy have been mapped in plans, local planning authorities should also expect subsequent applications for commercial scale projects outside these areas to demonstrate that the proposed location meets the criteria used in identifying opportunity areas."*

5.50 Paragraph 97 of the NPPF states:

"*To help increase the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy, local planning authorities should recognise the responsibility on all communities to contribute to energy generation from renewable or low carbon sources. They should:*

- *Have a positive strategy to promote energy from renewable and low carbon sources;*
- *Design their policies to maximise renewable and low carbon energy development while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily, including cumulative landscape and visual impacts;*
- *Consider identifying suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy sources, and supporting infrastructure, where this would help secure the development of such sources;*
- *Support community-led initiatives for renewable and low carbon energy, including developments outside such areas being taken forward through neighbourhood planning; and*
- *Identify opportunities where development can draw its energy supply from decentralised, renewable or low carbon energy supply systems and for co-locating potential heat customers and suppliers"*

5.51 The proposals comprise a sustainable development in this context, by increasing the use and supply of renewable and low carbon energy and providing the potential for the supply of energy and heat to local users.

5.52 Other sections of the NPPF relevant to the proposal are detailed below:

- **Building a strong, competitive economy - Paragraph 19** states: "*Planning should operate to encourage and not act as an impediment to sustainable growth. Therefore significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth through the planning system*";
- **Promoting sustainable transport - Paragraph 32** states: "*All developments that generate significant amounts of movement should be supported by a Transport*

Statement or Transport Assessment. *Plans and decisions should take account of whether:*

– ...safe and suitable access to the site can be achieved for all people; and - ------- _Improvements can be undertaken within the transport network that cost effectively limits the significant impact of the development. Development should only be prevented or refused on transport grounds where the residual cumulative impacts of development are severe."

- **Requiring good design - Paragraph 65** states: "*Local planning authorities should not refuse planning permission for buildings or infrastructure which promote high levels of sustainability because of concerns about incompatibility with an existing townscape, if those concerns are mitigated by good design."*
- **Meeting the Challenge of climate change and flooding – Paragraph 97** identifies that local planning authorities should recognise the responsibility on all communities to contribute to energy generation from renewable or low carbon sources. Planning authorities should therefore, *'Have a positive strategy to promote energy from renewable and low carbon sources*; [and] *design their policies to maximise renewable energy while ensuring that adverse impacts are addressed satisfactorily, including cumulative landscape and visual impacts.'*

5.53 **Assessment of proposals against these policies -** The statements below assess the proposal against those Core Planning Principles of the NPPF which are relevant to the proposed development.

Achieving Sustainable Development

5.54 The NPPF sets the focus of planning as contributing to sustainable development. This requires planning to have an economic, social and environmental role.

5.55 The Environmental Statement which accompanies this application contains the findings of a number of technical assessments and confirms that the proposal will have no unacceptable environmental or social impacts in the local or wider area that cannot be satisfactorily mitigated through the incorporated measures put forward in the development proposals. In accordance with paragraph 14 of the NPPF, the proposal has been demonstrated to be in line with the Development Plan.

5.56 It is demonstrated throughout this Planning Statement and accompanying documents that the development proposed represents sustainable development.

Strong, Competitive Economy

5.57 Chapter 4 of this statement and Chapter 14 of the Environmental Statement demonstrate the economic benefits of the proposal in terms of direct and indirect employment, construction and the establishment of new local supply chains. The proposed REP will create 200 jobs during construction and 30 permanent jobs (Full Time Equivalent). The proposed REP will generate 23 megawatts of decentralised energy available to local businesses and will be able to supply heat to local users.

5.58 Having stable local sources of energy supply is of increasing importance to business. The proposed REP will bring wider economic benefits to the area as a result of its presence and renewable energy contribution. The AD facility will be able to supply soil improvement products to local farmers as a sustainable by-product of its process.

Sustainable Transport

5.59 The Environmental Statement which accompanies this application includes a Transport Assessment which confirms that the traffic impacts of the proposal are acceptable.

5.60 A travel plan is a tool for managing access to a site that aims to promote access by sustainable modes. The opportunities for walking, cycling and public transport for access to the site have been considered. Use of these modes offers the opportunity to reduce the amount of traffic generated by the proposal thereby minimising the negative effects of traffic associated with the scheme.

5.61 Given the limited population within an acceptable walking distance of the site it is considered that walking is unlikely to make a significant contribution to travel to the site, but routes are available from the nearest settlement areas.

5.62 National cycle network routes run to the west and south of the site. Cycling can offer a realistic alternative to car trips up to 5km.

5.63 Bus stops are available on both sides of Park Spring road adjacent to the site. These are of a good standard with shelters, timetable information and footway connections. The existing bus services offer a good level of coverage and timings for access to the site by bus.

Good Design

5.64 On the 4th March 2014 the proposed development was presented to Barnsley Urban Renaissance Design Advisory Panel, an independent design panel who offer advice to designers to help develop schemes into those with a high design quality that may be supportable for planning approval in design terms. The opportunity to present the proposed REP project to the Panel was welcomed and found the review process to be supportive and informative.

5.65 The Panel were presented with the design development process undertaken and agreed that the adopted 'form follows function' and the design approach was appropriate. The comments by the advisory panel are covered in Section 3 of this planning application.

Meeting the Challenge of Climate Change

5.66 The NPPF identifies the need to increase the supply of renewable and low carbon energy. The application site is not identified as a strategic site for renewable energy within the local plan however its location is considered suitable for the following reasons:

- The majority of the site is within Flood Zone 1. Part of the site, in the North West corner is within Flood Zone 2. The proposed site layout has been designed to minimise the flood risk to the site and surrounding area. Therefore the site it not within an area at risk of flooding nor will the development affect the risk of flooding elsewhere;

- The facility will provide direct heat and/ or electrical supply to appropriate off takers in the local area, therefore avoiding the transportation of gas at long distances;
- Built development such as tanks are built to endure the effects of climate change and can withstand heavy snow loads, strong winds and excessive heat.

Decision-Taking

5.67 To set the scope of the technical assessments carried out in support of this application, discussions have taken place with BMBC planners and other statutory bodies such as the Highways Authority, Environmental Health and the Environment Agency.

5.68 It has been demonstrated that the development proposal is consistent with the Development Plan and represents sustainable development. It is therefore considered that the development as proposed is afforded a high level of support by the NPPF.

5.69 The application site is not identified as a strategic site for renewable energy within the local plan. However, the site location has a number of benefits which make it suitable for the proposed development from a planning policy perspective:

- A detailed alternative site assessment has been undertaken in support of the application. That assessment confirms that there are no more suitable sites for the development proposed within the Barnsley, Doncaster or Rotherham areas;
- The site is identified as being suitable for employment use in local planning policy documents;
- The site is restored colliery land and therefore considered to be previously developed land;
- There is potential to supply power and/or heat to neighbouring industrial uses.

5.70 The proposed REP is considered to be entirely consistent with the relevant terms of the NPPF.

PPS10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management, revised March 2011

5.71 PPS10 remains the extant national planning policy document for waste management In England and Wales. It sets out the guidance for all those involved in making decisions about the management of waste and relies on the waste hierarchy principle to bring waste management in line with the objectives of sustainable development.

5.72 One of the Key Planning Objectives of PPS10 states that all planning authorities should:

> *"deliver sustainable development through driving waste management up the waste hierarchy, addressing waste as a resource and looking to disposal as the last option, but one which must be adequately catered for"* (paragraph 3)

5.73 The proposed development site comprises the development infrastructure required to drive material (in this case surplus timber and food waste) up the waste hierarchy by recovering energy from it, therefore satisfying this objective.

5.74 PPS10 sets out four key principles of waste management which strategies and proposals for waste planning must conform to. They are as follows:

- **Best Practicable Environmental Option**: This ensures the selection of the most cost efficient and least environmentally damaging option;
- **Waste Hierarchy**: This is a framework, which guides the development of waste management options when assessing their performance in terms of BPEO (reduction, re-use and recycling are the highest options in the waste hierarchy);
- **Self Sufficiency**: Most waste should be treated and disposed of within the region which it is generated; and
- **Proximity Principle**: Waste should generally be managed as near as possible to the place of production as the process of transporting waste has an environmental impact.

5.75 It should be noted that the process of assessing the Best Practicable Environmental Option is no longer required for individual waste developments. This requirement has largely been replaced by the use of Sustainability Appraisals which are applied to all Development Plans to ensure compliance with the EU Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment 2001.

5.76 Annex E of PPS10 sets out the main factors waste planning authorities should take into account when testing the suitability of a site for waste management purposes. These are:

- Protection of water resources, considerations will include the proximity of vulnerable surface and groundwater. For landfill or land raising, geology conditions and the behaviour of surface water and groundwater should be assessed both for the site under consideration and the surrounding area. The suitability of locations subject to flooding will also need particular care;
- Land instability, locations, and/or the environs of locations, that are liable to be affected by land instability will not normally be suitable for waste management facilities;
- Visual intrusion, considerations will include: (i) the setting of the proposed location and the potential for design-led solutions to produce acceptable development; (ii) the need to protect landscapes of national importance (National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Heritage Costs); and
- Nature conservation considerations will include any adverse effect.

5.77 **Assessment of proposals against these policies -** The proposals comprise a sustainable development in this context, providing necessary waste management infrastructure in line with principles including the waste hierarchy, self-sufficiency and the proximity principle.

5.78 PPS10 states that local authorities should give priority to the re-use of previously developed land. The Houghton Main proposals are located on brownfield land.

Government Review of Waste Policy in England 2011

5.79 In June 2011 the Government published its review of waste policy in England. This document contains actions and commitments, not only of government but of other key actors, which together set a clear direction toward a zero waste economy. These actions have formed the implementation plan for waste policies in the Waste Review and for the rest of this parliament.

5.80 Some of the principle commitments of this document are to:

- *Prioritise efforts to manage waste in line with the waste hierarchy and reduce the carbon impact of waste;*

- *Develop a range of measures to encourage waste prevention and reuse, supporting greater resource efficiency;*
- *Support energy from waste where appropriate, and for waste which cannot be recycled;*
- *Work to overcome the barriers to new increasing the energy from waste which Anaerobic Digestion provides, as set out in the new AD strategy;*
- *Consult on restricting wood waste from landfill and review the case for restrictions on sending other materials to landfill;*

5.81 AD is identified as the preferred treatment of food waste above composting and incineration because it offers the greatest environmental benefit. It is therefore considered that the proposal garners significant support from the Government's proposed waste policy direction as embodied in the Waste Review.

5.82 The goals of the Government review of waste policy in terms of recovery of energy are as follows:

- *Recovery of energy from waste and its place in the waste hierarchy is understood and valued by households, businesses and the public sector in the same was as re-use and recycling;*
- *Energy is recovered in variety of ways, using the best technology available for the circumstances. The resulting electricity, heat, fuel or other products are seen as commodities with real economic value;*
- *Recovery of energy from waste makes an important contribution to the UK's renewable energy targets, minimising waste to landfill and helping to meet UK carbon budgets.*

5.83 **Assessment of proposals against these policies -** The proposals accord with the expectation for England that around 5 million tonnes of food waste and around 20-60million tonnes of animal waste be available for anaerobic digestion.

5.84 Paragraph 212 states that:

"Our overarching goals are to ensure that:

- *Recovery of energy from waste and its place in the waste hierarchy is understood and valued by households, businesses and the public sector in the same way as re-use and recycling;*
- *Energy is recovered in a variety of ways, using the best technology available for the circumstances;*
- *Recovery of energy from waste makes an important contribution to the UK's renewable energy targets, minimising waste to landfill and helping to meet UK carbon budgets;*
- *With increased trust in energy from waste and innovative incentives, recovery infrastructure is generally accepted, and industry and communities make use of energy from waste to routinely meet a proportion of their energy and waste management needs.*

5.85 The goals of the National Waste Policy Review 2011 in terms of recovery of energy are as follows:

- *Recovery of energy from waste and its place In the waste hierarchy is understood and valued by households, businesses and the public sector in the same way as re-use and recycling;*
- *Energy is recovered in a variety of ways, using the best technology available for the circumstances. The resulting electricity, heat, fuel or other products are seen as commodities with real economic value; and*
- *Recovery of energy from waste makes an important contribution to the UK's renewable energy targets, minimising waste to landfill and helping to meet UK carbon budgets*

5.86 Paragraph 239 states that:

"The role of government is to facilitate informed decisions by communities, local authorities and businesses about how they recover value from their residual waste. To do this we will:

- *Support the role of energy recovery from waste within hierarchy and aim to improve understanding of this role;*
- *Provide a clear position on the health implications of the*
- *recovery of energy from waste, based on the best available evidence, to support a reasoned, evidence based evaluation of risks and benefits;*
- *Work with all involved to identify commercially viable routes by which communities can realise benefits from hosting recovery infrastructure*

5.87 Paragraph 259 states:

"The planning system plays a key role in rebuilding our economy by ensuring that the sustainable development needed to support economic growth is able to proceed as easily as possible"

5.88 **Assessment of proposals against these policies -** The proposal accords with the expectation for England that around 5million tonnes of food waste and around 20-60million tonnes of animal waste is available for anaerobic digestion.

5.89 The overall objective for waste policy is the protection of human health and the environment by producing less waste and by using it as a resource wherever possible. Through more sustainable waste management the Government aims to break the link between economic growth and the environmental impact of waste.

5.90 Paragraph 24 of this document states that:

"The Government wishes to encourage local authorities and businesses to consider using anaerobic digestion…… Our recent research has suggested that anaerobic digestion has significant environmental benefits over the options for food waste (and may be particularly cost effective for food waste"

"The digestate, produced by anaerobic digestion has a range of potential uses on land, including as a fertiliser or soil improver".

5.91 Paragraph 28 of the statement states:

"Any given technology is (where applicable) more beneficial if both heat and electricity can be recovered. Particular attention should therefore be given to the siting of plant to maximise opportunities for Combined Heat and Power".

5.92 Paragraph 31 states:

"The merits of recovering energy from waste wood were highlighted in recent research. Of the estimated 7.5 million tonnes of waste wood arising's in the UK, the vast majority (6million tonnes just 0.3 million tonnes (4%)…… The key to realising the carbon benefits for wood waste that cannot be readily re-used or recycled lies in the availability of markets for waste wood (in the form of suitable combustion facilities for clean and/or contaminated wood that satisfy Waste Incineration Directive standards) and development of supply chains.

5.93 **Assessment of proposals against these policies –** The proposals contribute to the achievement of these policies through the provision of anaerobic digestion, energy recovery from waste wood and combined heat and power.

Anaerobic Digestion Strategy and Action Plan (DEFRA), 2011

5.94 In conjunction with the Waste Review, *the Anaerobic Digestion Strategy and Action Plan* (**ADSAP**) has been developed. This publication highlights the Government's commitment to an expansion of the UK's network of facilities using food waste to generate energy by AD and details an action plan which will facilitate a substantial increase in the deployment of AD. The ADSAP has been developed in partnership with different organisations within the sector to set out a shared programme of work to be delivered jointly by industry and the Government.

5.95 The Government made a commitment to work toward a 'zero waste' economy in the Coalition Programme for Government of 20 May 2010, and to introduce measures to increase energy from waste through AD.

5.96 This Strategy does not set specific targets or regional strategies for the adoption of AD. The Action Plan should help ensure there are no unnecessary obstacles to the development of AD, by addressing the barriers that have been identified by industry representatives during this process.

5.97 The ADSAP identifies that "*AD can play an important role as a means of dealing with organic waste and avoiding, by more efficient capture and treatment, the Green House Gas (GHG)emissions that are associated with its disposal to landfill. The technology offers other benefits such as recovering energy and producing valuable bio-fertilisers*." (Paragraph 21)

5.98 As stated in this strategy the targets for renewable energy set in the EU Renewable Energy Directive. This requires the UK to source 15% of its energy from renewable sources by 2020.

5.99 **Assessment of proposals against these policies –** The proposals at Houghton Main for a 60,000tpa anaerobic digestion plant will contribute to renewable energy generation targets for 2020 and contribute to the provision of alternative means of managing organic waste, in the process avoiding greenhouse gas emissions and producing bio-fertilisers for local markets.

Local Planning Policy

Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Plan, Adopted March 2012

5.100 The Joint Waste Plan (**JWP**) forms part of each borough's development plan, known as the Local Development Framework. The JWP is the detailed planning strategy for providing waste management facilities across Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham over the period to 2026. More specifically, it sets out:

- *A long term vision and a series of aims that will guide and inform decisions regarding waste management facilities;*
- *The overall approach to managing and reducing waste In the three boroughs;*
- *The role that waste management will play in the context of South Yorkshire and the wider region;*
- *A range of waste management facilities and sites in accessible locations to meet our recycling, recovery and landfill diversion targets and waste capacity needs over the plan period; and*
- *A detailed policy framework against which planning applications for waste development (including small-scale facilities) will be assessed.*

Policy WCS1: Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham's Overall Strategy for achieving sustainable Waste Management

5.101 Policy WCS1 sets out the overall strategy for achieving sustainable waste management across all waste streams. It states that that new facilities will be assessed on a case by case basis. Each proposal will be assessed against the criteria set out within this policy. It is therefore appropriate to demonstrate how the proposed development is consistent with Policy WCS1. Of relevance to this assessment is the following:

- The proposed development is not allocated for strategic waste management in the JWP. However, the site did form part of the evidence base during the production of the Joint Waste Plan as a potential site for Waste Management. At the time of consideration, the site was deemed unavailable and therefore not taken forward for consideration. As such, no assessment of the site's merits as a location for a strategic waste management facility was made.
- The proposed development is located on previously developed land – the site was part of the Houghton Main Colliery which was subject to both deep shaft mining and, more recently, opencast working and is therefore considered to be brownfield and land suitable for redevelopment.
- The site is allocated for employment purposes in other policy documents.
- The site is well connected to the strategic highway network, with both the A1 (M) and M1 approximately 9km away to the east and west respectively. Access to the

motorway network can be gained using the A6195 and other A class roads linking to it. The existing site access off the Houghton Main Colliery Roundabout has been designed and constructed to a standard suitable for the development proposed.

- The majority of the site is within Flood Zone 1. A small part of the site, in the north west corner, is within Flood Zone 2. The proposed site layout has been designed to minimise the flood risk to the site and surrounding area. This has included locating the Air Cooled Condensers (which are to be built on stilts) in the north west corner, whilst keeping the rest of the area in Flood Zone 2 is largely free of built form.
- The proposed development is not located within any known designations for ecology, nature conservation or Green Belt. The site is adjacent to the Barnsley Green Belt. The impact of the proposal on the setting of the Green Belt has been taken into account in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment which has been carried out and reported in the Environmental Statement which accompanies this application.

5.102 **Assessment of proposals against these policies –** The proposed development site was not considered for allocation in the Joint Waste Plan because, as set out in the Site Assessment Report undertaken in October 2008, "*Part of the site (was) already developed*". As such, the site was not taken any further in the allocation of the sites for waste development. The proposed development at Houghton Main Colliery site was allocated within the Unitary Development Plan for Major Employment site. A range of potential employment sites were assessed as part of the preparatory process for the Development Sites and Places DPD. The proposed site was selected as potentially for Employment development within this DPD.

5.103 It is therefore considered that the proposed development is consistent with the principles and criteria set out in Policy WCS1.

Policy WCS4: Waste Management proposals on non-allocated sites

5.104 Policy WCS4 sets out criteria against which waste management proposals on non-allocated sites are to be assessed. The proposed development is in accordance with these criteria, as follows:

- The proposed development is not located within any European or Local designated areas;
- Would contribute towards the aims of sustainable waste management in line with the waste hierarchy;
- Provides a facility on previously developed land, the site was part of the Houghton Main Colliery which was subject to both deep shaft mining, more recently, opencast working and is therefore considered to be brownfield and land suitable for redevelopment;
- The site is adjacent to a large distribution centre to the east and south east of the site;
- Would not have an unacceptable effect on water resources or drainage;

5.105 The Joint Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster Waste Development Plan allocated sites and areas for waste management facilities. Sites were assessed and allocated for new waste management facilities. The proposed development at the Houghton Main site is not an allocated site for waste management. However the site did form part of the evidence base during the production of the Joint Waste Plan as a potential site for waste management. At the time of preparing the joint waste plan the site was not available as the site had gained

planning permission for *'**19 light industrial units***' and therefore was not considered for a new strategic waste management facility.

5.106 A number of criteria were set against which the allocated sites were assessed, the Houghton Main site was suitable in terms of Objective 6:Cutural and historic heritage: '*the site is not in close proximity to features of historic or cultural heritage', therefore no effects are expected*'; Objective 7: water quality and quantity: '*potential facilities are likely to be in enclosed buildings and therefore have no effect in water quality*'; Objective 8: '*Efficient use of land*: '*on previously developed land' 'not within the Green Belt', 'not within the Countryside Policy Area*' and '*the site is previously developed, therefore positive effects in efficient use of land are expected*'; and, Objective 11: '*Flooding 'Entirely within Flood Zone 1 (not in Flood Zone 2 or 3) therefore no effects on flooding are expected, 'development of facility is likely to create a small number of jobs and may include education centre*, '*development of modern waste facilities may encourage investment and growth of green industry, as well as a sustainable local economy'*. The site is now available for waste uses.

5.107 It is therefore considered that the proposed development is compliant with policy WCS4.

Policy WCS6: General Considerations for all Waste Management Proposals;

5.108 Policy WCS6 sets out the criteria against the general considerations for all Waste Management Proposals. The proposed development has considered in turn the criteria set out in policy WCS6:

- Criteria 1: The proposed development demonstrates that it supports the vision and objectives of the Joint Waste Plan. The AD facility will be fuelled by locally and sub-regionally sourced food waste derived from the municipal and commercial market. The Joint Waste Local Plan sets a 67% target for diverting waste from landfill by 2015. It is therefore considered that the proposals will contribute to the targets set out in the Waste Joint Plan;
- Criteria 2 & 3: Access to the site is from a Spur off an existing roundabout (known as Houghton Main Colliery Roundabout) on the A6195 Park Spring Road. The site is well connected to the strategic highway network with both A1 (M) and M1 approximately 9km away to the east and west respectively. Access to the motorway network can be gained using the A6195 and other A class road linking to it. Similarly, a good class road (A635) provides connection to Barnsley town centre.
- Criteria 4: The design and layout of the proposals have been designed to make best use of the land available and to make best use of adequate space on site for vehicles entering, waiting, unloading and leaving safely. This is further explained in the Design and Access Statement which accompanies this planning application.
- Criteria 6: Aims to protect and enhance the attractiveness and character of the surrounding area. As explained in the Design and Access Statement and the Environmental Statement, the quality and visual appearance and impact of the Houghton Main proposal has been given very close attention and have been designed to a high quality to enhance the proposed built development;

- Criteria 7: States that effective on-site waste management measures will need to be provided to ensure safety and security. Security will be an important consideration for the REP.
- Criteria 9: The proposal seeks to protect and enhance air quality, including the reduction of air pollution and the emission of greenhouse gases. Peel proposes to meet the stringent emission standards that will be required by the Environment Agency. The operation of the proposed REP could give rise to odour and dust, which will be contained within the buildings. In addition, the generation of electricity from waste will help reduce the burning of fossil fuels that causes greenhouse gas emissions. The reduction in the amount of waste going to landfill will also reduce the amount of landfill gases such as methane which also contributes to the greenhouse effect;
- Criteria 12: The Houghton Main proposal is located outside of any such protected areas. However, given that the site is surrounded on all sides by land within the Barnsley Green Belt. As the land is not within the Green Belt, it is not necessary to demonstrate that Very Special circumstances exist to justify the proposed location of the development;
- Criteria 13 & 14: The planning application for the proposed REP is accompanied by an Environmental Statement that shows that the proposals are environmentally acceptable and can be mitigated;
- Criteria 15: The proposed development is not located in close proximity to an Airport and will therefore not have an impact on the safety or air travel;
- Criteria 16: The majority of the site is within Flood Zone 1. Part of the site, in the North West corner, is within Flood Zone 2. The proposed site layout has been designed to minimise the flood risk to the site and surrounding area. The part of the site within Flood Zone 2 is largely free of built form. The Air Cooled Condensers which are in that area are built on stilts and therefore are raised above the flood risk area.
- Criteria B: aims to provide sufficient information which should be provided within the planning application. This is further explained in this Planning Application and Environmental Statement which accompanies this planning application.

5.109 **Policy WCS7: Managing Waste in all development**

Policy WCS7 requires all major development proposals to include a waste management plan, which sets out a range of information required. This information is contained within this Supporting Statement and within various chapters of the Environmental Statement which accompanies this planning application.

Barnsley Core Strategy (Adopted September 2011)

5.110 The Core Strategy sets out the key elements of the planning framework for Barnsley, and the approach to its long term physical development to achieve the Council's vision of what sort of

place Barnsley wants to become. The document reflects the council's hopes and aims for the people who live, work, run businesses and enjoy leisure in Barnsley.

5.111 The Barnsley LDF will be made up of a number of different documents including the Development Plan Documents (DPD's) consisting of the Core Strategy, Town Centre Area Action Plan, Development Sites and Places and Proposals Map.

5.112 **Policy CSP 6: Development that Produces Renewable Energy**

Policy CSP6 states that support will be given to development proposals that produce renewable energy if proposals don't significantly harm character of the landscape, l biodiversity, highway safety and infrastructure. Although the site is located on all sides by the Barnsley's Green Belt, it is important to note that the site is an existing brownfield site located adjacent to industrial buildings. The Environmental Statement explains how the proposal seeks to minimise any potential adverse effects which could rise from the proposed development of the nature conservation of the surrounding area.

5.113 **CSP25: New Development and Sustainable Travel;**

The location of the proposed REP facilities has been selected to provide optimum transport efficiency. A Transport Statement has been prepared for the proposed development. Potential traffic generation arising from the construction and operation of the proposed REP has been assessed.

5.114 **CSP26: New Development and Highway Improvement**

The effects of traffic on local amenity are examined in detail in the Environmental Statement. The Transport Statement has confirmed the suitability of the road network to accommodate the likely volumes of traffic expected as a result of the proposed development during all stages of development.

5.115 **CSP28: Reducing the Impact of Road Travel;**

Peel has taken great care to minimise adverse environmental effects, and this is set out in detail in the Environmental Statement that accompanies the planning application. The Houghton Main proposals will generate traffic within the capacity of the road network. This is further explained in the Environmental Statement and Traffic Impact Assessment which accompany the planning application.

5.116 **CSP29: Design Principles**

A Design and Access Statement (D&AS) has been produced in support of this REP. The D&AS demonstrates that an appropriate design approach has been adopted, and be followed throughout the process, to result in a development that can integrate successfully with the surrounding environment. The design approach has achieved a high quality design concept that takes account of the existing urban form, and the natural and heritage features of the surrounding area.

The proposed development is industrial in nature and the main components of the development will be industrial in appearance.

Policy CSP29 sets out criteria for the design, siting and external appearance of proposals. These have been taken in to account in the design of the REP. This is further explained in the D&AS accompanying this planning application.

The design and layout of the proposals have been designed to make best use of the land available and to fit into the local context and topography. The proposals will generate energy that will be used within the plant, and could also be used to heat adjacent or nearby buildings subject to take up. The Houghton Main proposals are therefore broadly in line with this policy

5.117 **CSP30: The Historic Environment**

Policy CSP30 requires that development should accord with the objectives of and not cause damage to character and appearance of conservation areas, listed buildings and archaeological remains. The proposed development is located outside of any such protected areas. There is however some adjacent site interest which might be affected. The nature conservation and related issues associated with the proposed development is set out in the Environmental Statement

5.118 **CSP34: Protection of Green Belt**

The proposed development at Houghton Main is surrounded on all sides by the land within the Barnsley's Green Belt. As the land is not within the Green Belt, it is not necessary to demonstrate that very special circumstances exist to justify the proposed location of the development.

5.119 **CSP37: Landscape Character**

Policy CSP37 requires development to sustain, conserve and, where possible, enhance the character, local diversity and quality of the landscape and natural and built environment of the area. The site is located within Landscape Character C2 Lower Dearne Lowland River Floor. The study area is characterised by the combination of agricultural and industrial land uses. The industry in the area comprises of former open cast workings and many modern industrial developments are located on the valley floor.

5.120 Technical assessments which support this application confirm that the proposals will not have an unacceptable impact on the environment and is therefore consistent with policy CSP30 and CSP34.

5.121 **CSP39: Contaminated and Unstable Land**

The proposed development constitutes re-use of contaminated land. The proposals are designed to ensure that risk of future pollution is minimised. A Phase 1 Environmental and Mining Report has been carried out and the results are reported in the Environmental Statement.

5.122 **CSP40: Pollution Control and Protection**

Policy CSP40 states that development will be expected to demonstrate that is it not likely to result, directly or indirectly in an increase in air, surface water and groundwater, noise, smell, dust, vibration which would unacceptably affect or cause a nuisance to the natural and built environment. The effects of the proposed REP on air and land quality are set out in the

Environmental Statement that accompanies the planning application. It is therefore considered these the proposals comply with the requirements of policy CSP40.

5.123 **CSP41: Development in Air Quality Management Areas**

Policy CSP40 states that support will be given to the monitoring of air quality. The policy seeks to protect and enhance air quality, including the reduction of air pollution and the emission of greenhouse gases. The Houghton Main proposals will meet the emission standards that will be required by the Environment Agency. All elements of the proposed REP are likely to give rise to odour and as such odour abatement measures have been factored into its design, as well as ensuring that all feedstock is discharged within the buildings whilst doors are closed. Dust will also be contained within the main building.

The remaining Saved Policies of the Barnsley Unitary Development Plan, (Adopted December 2000

5.124 The adopted Core Strategy supersedes a number of the Unitary Development Plan Policies.

5.125 However, until all the Local Development Framework documents are in place, some parts of the Unitary Development Plan (**UDP**) are being "saved" to ensure comprehensive planning policy coverage remains in place. Saved parts of the UDP remain in force and will be used in determining planning applications until replaced. The following policies are considered relevant to the planning application.

5.126 **Policy ED7:** Areas defined on the proposals maps as employment policy areas will remain in employment use. Unless otherwise stated in community area volumes, development will normally be permitted for business, industry and storage and distribution. Other employment generating uses may also be permitted if they are compatible with adjoining uses. Class A1 (shops) and Class A2 (Financial and professional services) will not be permitted.

5.127 The proposed REP will be an employment generating use on identified employment land and so is consistent with this policy.

5.128 **Policy T3:** The existing strategic highway network for the borough, as set out in diagram 11, has been designated and will be reviewed as appropriate in order to concentrate heavy flows of traffic, particularly HGVs's on the currently most appropriate routes.

5.129 A Transport Assessment (see Volume 3 of the Environmental Statement) has been undertaken and is submitted in support of this application. The proposed development is located in close proximity to the highway network and this will reduce the impact of traffic through residential areas. It is therefore considered that the proposed development is consistent with Policy T3.

5.130 **Policy TC21:** The external areas of Built Development will be expected to achieve good standards of both hard and soft landscape treatment. The design proposals set out in Section 3 of the Planning Application and the landscape scheme proposals set out in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment contained within the Environmental Statement address the requirements of this policy.

5.131 **Policy DA4:** The site of the former Houghton Main Colliery is designated as an area of investigation for potential employment development.

Compliance with the Development Plan

5.132 It has been demonstrated that the development proposal is consistent with the Development Plan and represents sustainable development. It is therefore considered that the development as proposed is afforded high level of support by the NPPF.

6.0 Consideration of Need and Alternatives

6.1 The Environmental Statement (Chapter 5) assesses the need and alternatives for proposed REP comprising a 150,000 tonne per annum (tpa) Timber Resource Recovery Centre (TRRC) and a 60,000 tpa Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility.

6.2 The NPPF, at Paragraph 98, states that:

"*When determining planning applications, local planning authorities should:*

- *not require applicants for energy development to demonstrate the overall need for renewable or low carbon energy and also recognise that even small-scale projects provide a valuable contribution to cutting greenhouse gas emissions; and*
- *approve the application* [unless material considerations indicate otherwise] *if its impacts are (or can be made) acceptable. Once suitable areas for renewable and low carbon energy have been identified in plans, local planning authorities should also expect subsequent applications for commercial scale projects outside these areas to demonstrate that the proposed location meets the criteria used in identifying suitable areas.*"

6.3 In the context of this clear national policy, it is not considered necessary to provide detailed justification of the need for a renewable energy park to process up to 150,000tpa of biomass and up to 60,000tpa of food waste at this site.

6.4 Notwithstanding this, Policy WCS4 (*Waste Management proposals on non-allocated sites*) of the JWP states:

> "*Proposals for waste development on non-allocated sites will be permitted provided they demonstrate how they…do not undermine the provision of waste development on strategic sites set out under Policy WCS3…*"

6.5 In addition, Part B of Policy WCS6 (*General Considerations for all Waste Management Proposals*) includes a requirement for applications for waste management proposals to include details regarding "*The origins of the waste and where it is going".*

6.6 It is therefore against this context that this chapter assesses the need for the proposed development. This chapter focuses on the availability of feedstock for the proposed development and the suitability of the processes proposed and the site location.

Suitability of Site Location

6.7 A detailed Alternative Site Assessment (**ASA**) has been undertaken to assess the suitability of alternative sites and to justify the selection of the application site for the proposed REP.

6.8 The ASA has been undertaken with full consideration to the requirements of Policy WCS4 of the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Plan, saved UDP policy DA4, Core Strategy Policies for employment land and information from the Barnsley Employment Land Review 2010. Full details of the findings of the ASA are provided in Section 5 of the planning application.

6.9 The alternative site assessment has been undertaken following a methodology agreed with BMBC planning officers. The ASA has used a wide range of methods to identify potential sites for assessment and a total of 56 employment sites and 4 Joint Waste Plan sites were evaluated in a Stage 1 assessment process. 43 of these sites were found to have either significant constrains or to lack the necessary available site area. 13 employment sites and 2 Joint Waste Plan sites were further examined in a Stage 2 assessment.

6.10 The suitability of potential alternative sites in stage 2 was evaluated on the basis of access, visual impact, other amenity impacts (such as air quality and noise), proximity to waste markets, technical considerations and availability.

6.11 The main conclusion from the assessment is that whilst there are a number of suitable sites available, no site performs any better than the proposed Houghton Main site, the proposed development of which has been fully evaluated through an Environmental Impact Assessment.

6.12 Constraints of varying levels of significance were identified for most of the Stage 2 sites assessed. For the majority of the alternative sites identified, the potential for visual and amenity impacts would need to be fully assessed in order to determine suitability. If required, the suitability of mitigations to reduce to an acceptable level the visual and amenity impacts on sensitive receptors in the proximity to the alternative sites would need to be carefully evaluated.

6.13 Some sites experience access constraints for the heavy vehicle traffic associated with the proposed development. Other sites are more remote from waste sources in the Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham area. On three sites, the site is either unavailable or there is concern about the technical operational aspects of the site's ability to accommodate the proposed development.

6.14 In the light of these factors and within the constraints set by the assessment, no potential alternative sites were identified that are considered to be more suitable for proposed aggregated development than the Houghton Main Site, which is the subject of this application.

Feedstock Availability

6.15 The AD facility will be fuelled by locally and sub-regionally sourced food waste derived from the municipal and commercial market. The TRRC will be fuelled by biomass which may include timber derived primarily from civil commercial and industrial sources.

6.16 The TRRC will have capacity to process 150,000 tpa of biomass (waste wood), which will be supplied through a single contract. Northern Bio-Power intends to include provisions within these arrangements for as much waste wood as possible to be supplied from local and sub-regional markets. A single contract provides advantages in terms of improving the ability of the operators to manage heavy vehicle traffic routes to the plant, to manage and limit delivery hours in accordance with operational, traffic and local amenity considerations. From an operational viewpoint, a single contract also provides more control over the quality and consistency of waste materials and greater security in terms of power generation.

6.17 A feedstock availability assessment to quantify the amount of commercial and municipal food wastes, suitable for the AD facility, within a 30 mile radius of the site, was undertaken for Tamar Energy in March 2013.

6.18 The Initial guideline for the feedstock availability assessment was that approximately 60,000 tonnes of suitable food waste was required for the facility and the scope of the report was therefore set to assess the availability of suitable feedstock.

6.19 The study assessed 5 waste generating sectors and in total identified in excess of 272,501 tonnes of potential food waste arisings for the proposed plant annually. However, this includes a potential tonnage of food waste arisings of 158,403 tonnes per year from local authorities. It is likely that the districts not currently collecting food waste or collecting food waste but diverting to other treatment facilities would be more likely to be a potential source for the Houghton Main AD facility, representing a total of 142,389 tonnes of potential feedstock per year. This would make a more accurate total figure of 256,485 tonnes per annum available. Potential food waste arisings from local authorities within a 30 mile radius could amount to over 158,403 tonnes per annum with a potential 16,015 tonnes per annum in a 10 mile radius and a further 63,984 tonnes per annum within 20 miles.

6.20 450 smaller food manufacturers and 51 large food manufacturers and processors were identified within the 30 mile radius and average tonnage waste arisings were used to assess potential feedstock from these local sources, totalling in excess of 45,630 tonnes annually. There were 11 retailer distribution centres within the 30 miles with a potential annual feedstock tonnage of 28,600 available.

6.21 6,582 food waste producing hospitality establishments (including pubs, hotels and restaurants) were identified. Potential food waste arisings from this sector could be in excess of 31,275 tonnes per year if 100% participation was achieved. This shows that to achieve the desired balance of feedstock from this sector, a more immediate catchment area could be established to reduce vehicle miles to capture these waste sources, ideally a 20 mile radius which is required by waste companies offering food waste collection rounds.

6.22 A total of 2,166 schools were identified, identifying in excess of 8,592 tonnes of food waste annually from this sector. As with the hospitality sector the catchment for the capture of food waste from this source could be significantly reduced to achieve the balance of feedstock required.

6.23 In summary, 256,485 tonnes per annum of potentially suitable material was identified within the survey. This figure only includes local authorities which are either collecting separate food waste or not collecting food waste at all: authorities co-mingling food and green waste are excluded from this number.

6.24 From the tonnages potentially identified within the catchment area of the proposed AD plant at Houghton Main, only 23% of this tonnage would need to be sourced in order to supply the facility. The assessment concluded that the facility is required immediately to receive already available material currently being transported long distances throughout the UK.

Alternative Design and Layout

6.25 As part of the design development process for the facility on the application site various site layouts and configurations of the proposed REP were developed and each reviewed against design criteria and the overall architectural design approach. Section 3 of the planning application, the Design and Access Statement, provides full details of the design approach taken.

6.26 From the outset, a number of design constraints were identified as key drivers in developing the proposed site layout and architectural design for the Houghton Main site and the proposed REP.

6.27 The locations of the AD and TRRC facilities forming the proposed REP are in this instance very much dictated by the site's boundaries and in particular the triangular shape. Their siting is also influenced by having to ensure that the location and interrelationship of all of the buildings and external equipment, together with the road infrastructure that serves them, delivers an efficient and safe layout.

6.28 The development of the design and layout of the facility has also been guided by the site constraints and operational requirements of the proposed activities. The final layout and design of the development was considered to be the most operationally efficient means of using the space available for the activities proposed.

6.29 Peel has been keen to ensure that the evolution of design approaches takes place within a framework supported locally and which is consistent with the principle of Core Strategy policy CSP29 on design. The advice of the Barnsley Urban Renaissance Design Advisory Panel (BURDAP) has been sought and its input has been valuable in informing the proposed design. The Design and Access Statement, explains how the design has responded to BURDAP advice.

6.30 The design approach has also sought to meet the requirements of Core Strategy policy CSP37 in relation to the retention and enhancement of the distinctiveness of Landscape Character Areas. There has been a close relationship between the development of the alternative design options and assessments of landscape character, and landscape and visual impacts. Within practical technical constraints, this has influenced approaches to site layout, building design and profile, materials and landscape proposals. Extensive engagement with local communities has also been a very important influence on design approach.

Summary

6.31 Based on the proven suitability of the site and the established availability of suitable feedstock for the two facilities, it is considered there is a justifiable need for the proposed REP on the subject site and adopting the technology and processes proposed.

7.0 Consideration of Potential Environmental Impacts

Introduction

7.1 This chapter details how the application has taken into account the planning policies and development framework (identified in Chapter 5) by summarising the findings of technical assessments and describing the mitigation measures which will be implemented as part of the proposal to minimise any residual impacts on the local environment.

7.2 Full details of the technical assessments undertaken are provided in the Environmental Statement (Volume 3) which supports this planning application.

Transport

7.3 A comprehensive Transport Assessment (TA) has been undertaken by SK Transport Planning Ltd (SKTP) to identify current traffic movements associated with the proposed development, forecast the number of traffic movements generated by the proposal, ascertain any impacts the development may have on the local road network and recommend any mitigation measure which should be implemented. The TA is set out in Volume 3 of and is discussed in Chapter 6 of the Environmental Statement.

7.4 The type of development proposed, whilst not generating substantial volumes of traffic, will include heavy goods vehicle (HGV) traffic required for the transport of materials to the site, and to a lesser extent, exports from the site. The TA shows that the development will have a minimal impact on surrounding highway network and will generate less traffic than that associated with the permitted site use.

7.5 The TA considers the impact of the proposal on the A1695 Park Spring Road and site access. At the request of the BMBC, the traffic impact at the Broomhill and Cathill Roundabouts is also included within Chapter 6 of the Environmental Statement. The TA shows that the proposal will generate considerably less traffic than that already permitted for the site, and also that the new proposal will have an insignificant impact when compared to baseline traffic conditions. The development will have an insignificant impact on the local highway network when compared to both the background traffic and the baseline traffic volumes.

7.6 The operators have agreed to manage the timings of HGV movements to avoid periods of congestion on the local highway network, and to manage the routes used by HGV traffic accessing the site to reduce inconvenience to local communities. The TA concludes that the proposal meets the requirements of local and national policy, and that the residual impact of the proposal will not be severe.

7.7 The assessment concludes that the proposed REP will generate a low number of vehicle movements, substantially below the level that would be generated by the consented industrial scheme, and that the proposed schemes will have a minimal effect on highway operation and safety. The type of development proposed, whilst not generating substantial

volumes of traffic, will include HGV traffic required for the transport of materials to the site, and to a lesser extent exports from the site.

7.8 A Framework Travel Plan has been prepared to support and promote sustainable access to the site, and identify measures that can be implemented to further reduce the number of single occupancy car trips generated by the proposal.

7.9 The Transport Assessment concludes that the proposal meets the requirements of local and national policy. Chapter 6 of the Environmental Statement addresses the findings of the assessment and Table 6.25 shows that the residual impact of the proposal will be negligible (and therefore not 'severe' under the terms of the NPPF.)

Hydrology, Flood Risk and SUDS

7.10 A Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy have been prepared to identify if the site is at risk of flooding, if the development poses a risk to flooding elsewhere and establish a suitable drainage design for the development. The assessment also takes into account external factors such as climate change. The Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and Drainage Strategy is set out in Volume 3 and discussed in Chapter 7 of the Environmental Statement. The surface water drainage scheme details are also set out in Section 8 of the planning application.

7.11 The key findings from the Flood Risk Assessment are that, based on a discussion with the Environment Agency and a review of Environment Agency flood maps (based on historic air photographic information) which show the site to be located largely within Flood Zone 1 with a small section in the westernmost part of the site is located within the current mapped Flood Zone 2, the site would be considered to have a low to medium risk of fluvial flooding.

7.12 However, there has been further interpretation of this information, in combination with detailed site topographical information surveyed as part of this planning application, which provides updated and more accurate information. The position now agreed with the Environment Agency, reflected in its response to consultation on this matter, is that that a 'low' level of flood risk is posed by this source of flooding.

7.13 The proposed development is classified as 'less vulnerable'. Less vulnerable uses are appropriate within Flood Zones 1, 2 and 3 after the completion of a satisfactory FRA. All development is, however, appropriate within Flood Zone 1.

7.14 In addition, the FRA has considered the potential impact of the development on surface water and foul runoff rates.

Surface Water Drainage

7.15 The surface water management strategy for the proposed development will manage and reduce the flood risk posed by the surface water runoff from the site.

7.16 The site is 4.14ha in area and is currently a brownfield site which is largely grassland with limited areas of a mixture of young and mature tree cover located towards the westernmost boundary of the site, with a number of hedgerows around the site perimeter.

7.17 The attenuation volume required to reduce the post-application surface water runoff to the permissible Brownfield runoff rate of 140 l/s/ha (minus 30%) has been calculated in the detailed drainage design in Appendix 7.

7.18 The total storage requirement for this site has been designed to provide 740m^3 of attenuation.

7.19 This provides a suitable solution to the need to manage surface water effectively to standards agreed with BMBC.

Foul Water

7.20 Assuming a peak foul water discharge of 100 litres per person per day, for 30 FTE staff at an industrial unit with a canteen, the peak foul flow from the site will be approximately 0.04 l/s. An industrial unit without a canteen with similar staff levels will have a peak foul flow of 0.02 l/s.

7.21 There are no Yorkshire Water sewers located within the immediate vicinity of the site. As such, the use of an appropriately specified package treatment plant, located within the site, should be investigated further at detailed design.

7.22 The location and treatment requirement for these works would need to be developed with the Environment Agency and LPA as part of the Environmental permitting process set out by the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2010.

7.23 It has been demonstrated that both surface water and foul flows from the site can be managed such that flood risk to and from the site following the proposed development is not increased.

7.24 This FRA demonstrates that the proposed development would be operated with minimal risk from flooding, would not increase flood risk elsewhere and is compliant with the requirements of the NPPF. The development should not therefore be precluded on the grounds of flood risk.

Air Quality

7.25 An Air Quality Assessment was undertaken to ascertain the locality's baseline conditions, establish the level of dust, odour and air quality impacts the proposed development may have on sensitive receptors (such as residential properties and the ASOS building) and identify ways to mitigate any impacts. The Air Quality Assessment is set out in Appendix 8.1 in Volume 3 of the Environmental Statement.

7.26 Modelling was undertaken to assess the effect of emissions from the proposed facility, taking into account factors such other development in the local area. The assessments concluded:

- The construction works have the potential to create dust. During construction it will therefore be necessary to apply a package of mitigation measures to minimise dust emission. With these measures in place, it is expected that any residual effects will be insignificant.
- The operational impacts of increased traffic have been discounted as insignificant using published screening criteria.
- The operational impacts of the proposed gasification and AD plant on human health have been shown to be insignificant.
- The operational impacts of the proposed gasification and AD plant on ecosystems have been shown to be insignificant.
- Overall the operational air quality impacts on human health and sensitive ecosystems are considered to be insignificant.

Landscape and Visual Impact

7.27 A Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment produced by Enzygo in April 2014, has been undertaken to identify any visual impacts which may result from the proposed development on sensitive receptors such as nearby residential properties. The Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment is included in the Environmental Statement.

7.28 The surrounding land uses are predominantly agricultural in nature, with the village of Darfield approximately 1.1km south, Little Houghton is approximately 0.9km south east and Great Houghton 1.5km east.

7.29 There would be areas of landscaping on the periphery of the development, to the north of the AD facility and to the south of the AD facility next to the Houghton Main Colliery Roundabout. Existing areas of planting on the western and northern boundaries of the site would be supplemented.

7.30 The study area is characterised by the combination of agricultural land uses. The industry in the area comprises of former open cast workings and many modern industrial developments are located on the valley floor.

7.31 The valley floor of the River Dearne that characterises the study area is located approximately 100 metres to the west of the site.

7.32 The site itself is located between 25 metres and 35 metres AOD approximately.

7.33 The ASOS fulfilment centre building is a focal element within the study area. The building has a total height of 18 metres to the building's apex. Therefore the proposed TRRC building

elevation of 30 metres would be visible above the roof of the ASOS building for receptors to the east, particularly those located in Great Houghton and Little Houghton.

7.34 Due to the predominant industrial and commercial land uses surrounding the site, there is a low density of sensitive receptors.

7.35 It is unlikely that any residential receptors would be significantly affected by the proposed development, and where there are oblique or partial views of the development these would be seen as in combination with other detracting features within the view, predominantly the ASOS building.

7.36 Overall, the development is expected to have a slight adverse landscape impact and slight moderate adverse visual impact. The proposal mitigates some impacts through its design approach as detailed in the Design and Access Statement at Section 3 and in the Landscaping Scheme set out in the Environmental Statement.

7.37 A landscape scheme has been formulated and is set out within the Landscape and Visual Assessment within the Environmental Statement.

Noise and Vibration

7.38 A Noise and Vibration Assessment, undertaken by Enzygo in April 2014, examines the potential for noise impacts which may result from the construction and operation of the proposed development on sensitive receptors such as nearby residential properties. The Noise Assessment is set out in Chapter 10 of the Environmental Statement.

7.39 A noise survey has been undertaken at the closest receptors locations to the site, which has been used to inform the assessment.

7.40 Assessment of onsite operational noise has been undertaken based upon the methodology of BS4142, the measured background noise level data and predicted operational noise levels from the proposed REP (plant and on site vehicles). Within the scope of this application formal consultation exercise was undertaken with the planning authority (LPA), BMBC and with the Environmental Health Department at BMBC relating to the noise and vibration issues associated with the development of the REP.

7.41 As a result of the nature of the development and the separation distances involved between the operational plant and the nearest sensitive receptors, it is not considered that operational vibration would be a significant issue associated with the proposed REP.

7.42 The processes associated with the proposed REP are unlikely to generate significant levels of vibration that would be discernible beyond the site boundary and certainly not at the closest sensitive receptors which are some distance away.

7.43 The noise monitoring survey conducted within the vicinity of the Houghton Main site was undertaken through a combination of short term attended monitoring and longer term unattended monitoring surveys.

7.44 Impacts to specific identified receptors during the construction phase are expected to be relatively short-term in duration. Typical construction techniques employed within the scope

of a development would not generally give rise to significant vibration issues outside of the immediate vicinity of the operation.

7.45 The assessments of the daytime period for both the weekend and weekday periods, presented indicates that the proposed REP facility would operate at a level considered by BS4142 to 'Provide a positive indication that complaints are unlikely' and would not be considered to be detrimental to the amenity of the area and as such would not be considered prejudicial to development.

7.46 Further to this, the assessments indicate that the facility would conform to the criteria determined within the relevant planning guidance document, PCG No1 relating to both LA90 and LAeq criteria.

7.47 Based upon the site layout, plant complement and noise levels, as well as the inherent mitigation measures (detailed within Appendix 10B), it is apparent that the proposed R E P would conform to the criteria detailed by the LPA (L_{90} +3dB) and as such additional mitigation would not be necessary.

7.48 The short term effects of the construction activities could result in significant impacts depending upon the works being undertaken at the time and the area in which they occur. With the implementation of the proposed temporary mitigation measures, careful consideration of the construction programme, and adherence to a CEMP or S61 agreement, the resulting impact significance will be reduced to within acceptable levels.

7.49 The impacts of operational noise from the proposed facility, with the implementation of the incorporated mitigation measures as detailed within this Chapter and accompanying technical section, are predicted to be acceptable and are not, therefore, deemed to have an adverse effect within the vicinity of the application site.

7.50 Overall it is considered that the assessments undertaken within the scope of the Noise Assessment have shown that noise associated with the operation of the proposed REP, as defined within the scope of this report, would conform to the criteria determined by BMBC and as such, would not be detrimental to the amenity of the nearest noise sensitive receptor locations in the area.

Ecology and Nature Conservation

7.51 Enzygo Ltd was commissioned to conduct a preliminary ecological appraisal. The site has been subject to several visits over winter of 2013/14, in order to undertake a thorough ecological assessment of the site. The report of the preliminary ecological appraisal is set out in Volume 3 of the Environmental Statement.

7.52 The site was previously used for open cast mining in 2001, however upon ceasing work, efforts were made for the site to be restored. The northern boundary of the site is comprised of a dismantled colliery railway, bordered by a sparse immature hedgerow. The eastern edge of the site is comprised of wire fence and immature blackthorn hedge which separates the site from the A6195 (Park Spring Road). The south of the site is bordered partly by a new electricity generating compound, which utilises the same access point as the

proposed site. Finally, the western border of the site is made up of fencing and an intact hedgerow.

7.53 The site was assessed outside of the normal timing window that would be considered optimal for the conduct of this type of evaluation (April to September) so the survey is constrained as some vegetation would not be visible at the time of the survey.

7.54 The majority of the site comprises of land of relatively low ecological value (restored poor semi-improved grassland, and encroaching scrub. A 2km interrogation of the DEFRA MAGIC database and Barnsley Biological Records Centre (meeting Core Strategy policy requirement CSP36) revealed the following nationally important designated sites:

- West Haigh Wood at 1.6km from the proposed site boundary, designated as a Local Nature Reserve (**LNR**);
- Carlton Main Brickworks, Located approximately 1.3 km from the proposed site boundary, designated as a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

7.55 The proposal site is surrounded by land of agricultural value. The relative nature conservation value of the proposal site appears to be low and the site is considered to contain habitats and flora that are at most of local nature conservation significance, although this assessment will be revised after a full survey for lower plant species is undertaken in the summer of 2014.

7.56 There are important ecological areas on the immediate peripheries of the site including an RSPB nature reserve. Locally there are environmental initiatives underway to maximise the value of important habitat in the area.

7.57 Opportunities to enhance habitat linkage through planting on site has been considered and is included as part of the landscape scheme set out in the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment. For example, the inclusion of a pond on the site will provide an opportunity to create habitat linkage through the site.

7.58 The preliminary ecological assessment has recommended a number of additional surveys which have been commissioned and have commenced where appropriate. The additional surveys are a Bat Activity Survey, Badger Survey, Breeding Birds Survey, Reptile Survey, Great Crested Newt Survey, and a Problematic Species Survey.

Hydrogeology and Ground Conditions

7.59 Following the recommendation made by the South Yorkshire Mining Advisory Service in its letter to BMBC of 6th December 2014 and by the Coal Authority in its letter of 19 December 2013, Enzygo Limited has prepared a Phase I Environmental and Mining Report. Evidence supplied by the Coal Authority and the South Yorkshire Mining Advisory Service indicates that the site was used as an open cast coal pit from 1997 to 2000. The open case works was backfilled with compacted earthworks materials. There is a low moderate risk associated with the backfill materials.

7.60 Made Ground has been recorded on the site. This is associated with the backfill of the open cast coal pit. The permeability of the Made Ground is shown as very high to very low reflecting the mixed nature of the materials.

7.61 It is considered that there is a low/moderate risk associated with land quality issues at the site. Given the proposed end usage of the site with the majority of the site being covered with hardstanding with perimeter landscaping it is recommended that there will be no pollutant linkage for the areas of proposed hardstanding.

7.62 The Phase 1 Study recommends (at 12.1.66 and 12.1.67 of the report) intrusive ground investigations and the preparation of a geo-environmental report. These recommendations will be implemented as part of the project's development.

Archaeology and Cultural Heritage

7.63 A Cultural Heritage Environmental Impact Assessment produced in May 2014 has been undertaken to determine the likely presence of historic remains onsite and assess the possible impacts upon the historic assets arising from the proposals. The Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment is included in Volume 3 of the Environmental Assessment.

7.64 It is considered that the proposed development will not have an adverse impact on any designated cultural heritage sites or settings.

7.65 It is also considered that hitherto unknown and hence unrecorded sites may have once been present within the footprint of the proposed development. However such sites will have been destroyed by the intensive utilisation of the proposed development in the 19th and early 20th centuries and that there is a minimal potential for the development to impact directly on any archaeology that might previously have been present.

7.66 Overall, the heritage statement has identified sites of national and regional importance in the study area but these are not within the boundary of the proposed development and will not be adversely affected by the proposed development. The assessment determines that the proposed REP will not adversely affect any heritage assets within the wider vicinity of the site. No mitigation measures are recommended.

Socio-Economic Impacts

7.67 A Socio-Economic Statement is set out in Chapter 14 of the Environmental Statement. It details the positive economic benefits that will result from the development of the proposed REP. The development of the REP will generate at least 200 jobs during the construction phase and 30 permanent jobs during its operation. There will be opportunities (and commitments made by Peel to encourage) for local access to jobs and supply-chains.

7.68 The proposed REP will also contribute to strategic growth objectives for Barnsley through the provision of strategic renewable energy capacity to support local businesses and encourage inward investment based on secure and sustainably energy supplies.

Arboricultural Impact Assessment

7.69 An Arboricultural Impact Assessment (AIA) was undertaken on 25th April 2014 by Bowland Tree Consultancy Limited. The site was visited on 27 February 2014 and a survey of trees was carried out. The AIA is attached as Section 9 of the planning application.

7.70 The assessment identified seven individual trees, six groups of trees and one hedge which were surveyed for the purpose of the assessment. New tree planting as part of the site landscaping is proposed to the north-eastern and south-eastern sections of the site. The proposals include the provision of a substantial number of new trees, which is projected to adequately mitigate for the necessary development related tree losses.

7.71 Two trees were allocated high retention values, three trees and three groups were allocated moderate retention values, and two trees, three groups and the hedge were allocated low retention values. The site can be developed as proposed whilst retaining the better value individual trees and, in turn improving the overall quality if the tree cover.

Energy Statement

7.72 A short energy statement included at Section 7 of the planning application will address the requirements of Barnsley's Adopted Core Strategy policies CSP2 and CSP5. The proposed REP will directly provide renewable energy and heat to local users and will make a direct contribution to the lowering of carbon dioxide emissions. The design of the development will incorporate sustainable design and construction to adapt to the effects of climate change and achieve relevant building regulations requirements. Appropriate non-process elements of the scheme will seek to achieve very good BREEAM standards. The proposed REP fully meets the requirements of Barnsley Core Strategy Policies CSP2 and CSP5.

Sustainability Impacts

7.73 The Sustainability Statement is included as Section 6 of this planning application. The statement provides an assessment of the performance of the proposed REP against a basket of sustainable development indicators and policies at national and local level and concludes that the proposed REP performs well in sustainable development terms against the National Planning Policy Framework, Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Plan and Barnsley's Adopted Core Strategy.

7.74 The sustainability statement demonstrates that the proposals satisfy a number of key objectives, responding to local needs and requirements and conforming to current good practice.

8.0 Pre-Application Engagement

Introduction

8.1 The approach to engagement with the local community and other consultees was agreed with BMBC in January 2014. Given the scope and scale of the planning application, it was considered appropriate to undertake a full scheme of pre-application public engagement. The Applicant has undertaken a number of activities to liaise with the local community on the proposed development. The activities undertaken are detailed below. The Statement of Community Involvement (see Section 4 of the planning application) provides full information on the issues raised in this process and explains how they have been addressed in the planning application

8.2 Consultation is considered to be a vital part of the planning process. The NPPF has emphasised the importance of the social engagement element of planning and how this can assist in;

> *"ensuring that development contributes to the local economy such as creating jobs and encouraging business and enterprise"*

Pre-application Consultation and Engagement

8.3 The Applicant has held a number of discussions with the planning department at BMBC to discuss and agree the scope and scale of the planning application. In addition, the technical team have consulted with the relevant statutory bodies (including the Transport Officer, Ecology Officer, Flood Risk Officer and Landscape Officer) to agree the methodology of the technical assessments for air quality, transport, noise, landscape and visual impact, flood risk and ecology.

8.4 In order to establish the suitability of the proposed pre-application consultation, Peel submitted a Statement of Engagement to BMBC. Further details can be found in Section 4 of the planning application (Statement of Community Involvement).

8.5 All assessment work undertaken in support of the proposed development is based on the methodologies agreed with the relevant parties at the pre-application stage. Advice from these bodies has been taken into account and incorporated within the technical assessments and final design of the application.

8.6 The Localism Act 2011 places emphasis on the developer of any major application to consulting with the community and taking into account any responses prior to submission of an application. Pre-application advice request was sent to BMBC in November 2013. BMBC provided written feedback to the pre-application process on 7th March 2014 (ref: 2013/ENQ/01141). The content of the written feedback has been taken into account in the preparation of this planning application and Environmental Statement.

8.7 Pre- application meetings were held with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council on:

- 6th January 2014, with the leader of the Council
- 29th January pre-application meeting with officers
- 27th February, meeting with planners
- 3rd March, meeting with local ward councillors
- 4th March Barnsley Urban Renaissance Design Advisory Panel
- 10th April, meeting with planners
- 15th May, meeting with planners

8.8 As well as these meetings, members of the project team have remained in regular liaison with officers from various technical disciplines via phone and email regarding the application.

8.9 Due to the nature and size of the proposals it was felt important that a pre-application information day should be held to gather local opinion on the development and ensure that it meets the needs of the local community.

8.10 On the 12th and 13th March 2014 a Public Information Day held over two consecutive weekdays from 2-8pm was held at the Sandhills Golf Club, Middlecliff Lane, in Little Houghton. The purpose of the Information Day was to offer local people the opportunity to view the proposals for the REP and to raise any questions or concerns they might have with Peel, the project partners Tamar and Northern Bio-Power and their appointed consultants. Unsurprisingly for a project of this scale, there was a lot of interest in the design of the proposed REP and concerns were raised in relation to its visual impact on the surrounding area.

8.11 Much of the 3D design development work was made available and this was used to assist in responding to the specific concerns raised by the members of the public, and how the facility would be designed to best mitigate its visual impact when viewed from Great Houghton in the east, and from Darfield and surrounding areas in the south and south west, was a key issue for local residents. In fact, in all cases the preference of those attending the exhibitions would be for a 'camouflaged' REP facility. It was also clear that from these viewpoints, the REP would for the most part be viewed against a landscape background rather than one of sky. This is very much reflected by the conclusions of the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA).

8.12 A number of information exchange mechanisms were set up including;

- A dedicated page of the Peel website was created to provide web visitors with information about the project;
- Community contact points, including Freephone Information line, Freepost address and dedicated email address;
- Stakeholders letters- Peel wrote to key elected representatives to introduce the proposal, promote the upcoming public information days (which included an elected member preview session) and offer a meeting to discuss the proposals further;

- Community Newsletter: A four-page community newsletter was produced which included information about the project and upcoming public information days. Representatives of Peel were in Little Houghton on Thursday 27th February 2014 to hand-deliver leaflets to 380 homes and business in the village.
- Public Information days: two, one day drop-in public information days which provided an opportunity for interested parties to pose questions directly to the project.
- Feedback forms: were provided during the information days and all attendees were encouraged to complete a form either on site, or to take one away for return via Freepost address.
- Press Releases: at the launch of the project a press release was issued to media outlets to provide an overview of the proposed development.
- Community update: A community bulletin was circulated to those who took part in the consultation.

Continued Engagement

8.13 Peel will continue to engage with interested parties throughout the development process on an as-required basis.

8.14 Peel is willing to engage with any party with a genuine interest in, or concern regarding, the development of the proposed REP. They are also committed to maintaining the community contact points, including the Freephone Information Line, Freepost address and enquiries email address, as the application progresses. In addition, the dedicated project webpage will also be kept updated, whilst all application documents will be uploaded to the Peel Website and available to download in PDF format.

Summary

8.15 The programme of pre-application consultation detailed in the Statement of Community Involvement demonstrates that Peel has taken a comprehensive and thorough approach to community engagement on its proposal.

8.16 Peel is committed to ensuring that local residents and stakeholders are fully informed about the proposal and has employed a wide variety of methods to ensure that residents, elected representatives and stakeholder groups has a chance to learn about the proposed development and comment as part of the consultation.

9.0 Summary and Conclusion

9.1 This Statement supports the planning application to develop the site off the Houghton Main Colliery Roundabout, Park Spring Road, Houghton Main as a Renewable Energy Park comprising a 150,000tpa Timber Resource Recovery Centre and a 60,000tpa Anaerobic Digestion facility (AD) including associated infrastructure.

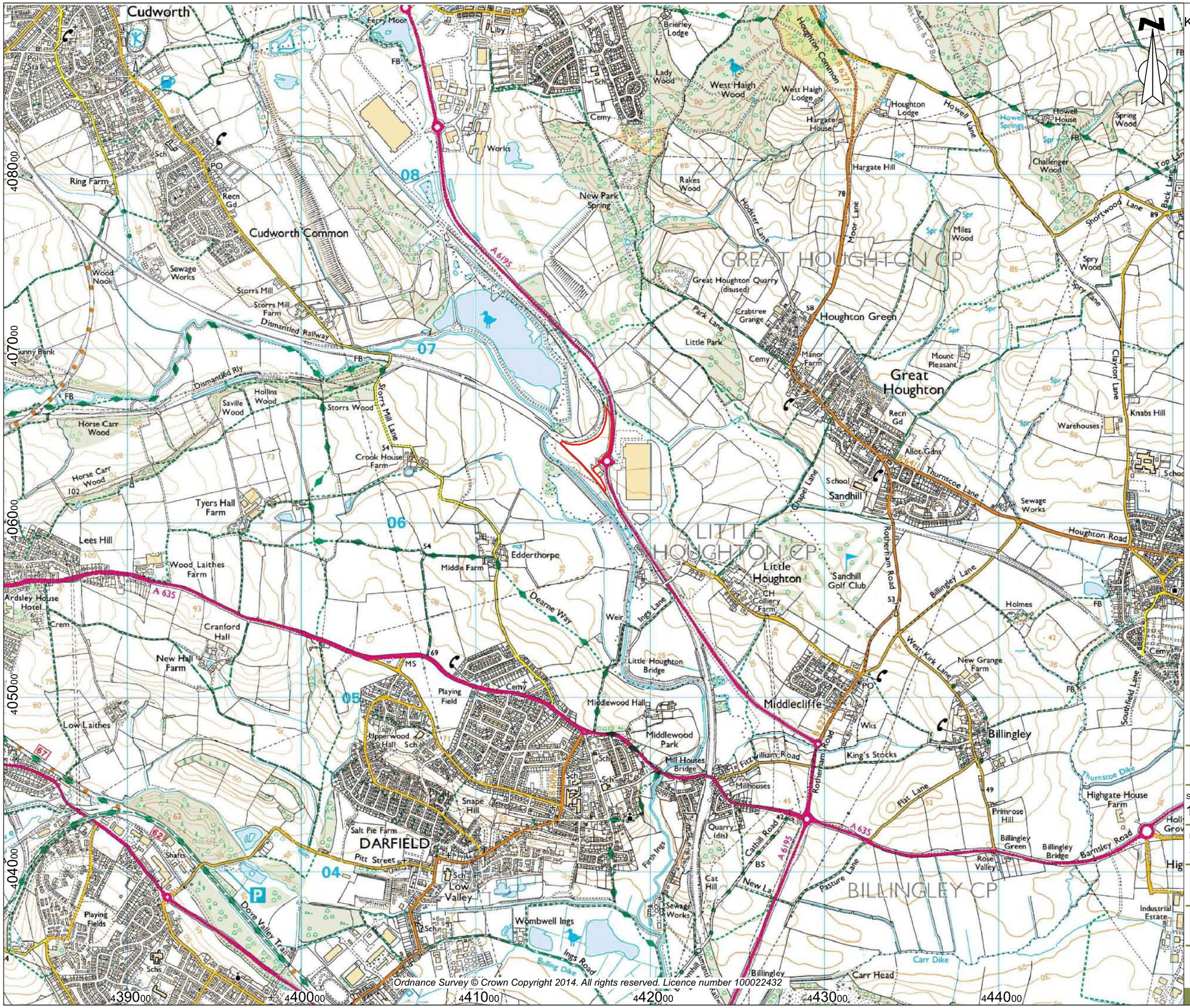
9.2 The application site is 4.14ha in area and is located off the Houghton Main Colliery Roundabout, Park Spring Road, Houghton Main, Barnsley. The red line application area is shown on the Proposed Site Location Plan PL002.

9.3 The development of the site will create two distinct but compatible energy generation facilities with the potential to generate 23MW of electricity (20MW from the TRRC and 3MW from the AD facility) and to provide a direct heat and/or electrical supply to appropriate off-takers in the local area.

9.4 This Planning Statement confirms that the proposed development is consistent with planning policy at national and local levels. The site is recognised within local planning policy as being suitable for employment uses and consequently potentially suitable for waste management uses. This is further supported by the alternative site assessment detailed in Section 5 of this planning application.

9.5 All technical assessments undertaken in support of this application are detailed in the Environmental Statement which accompanies the application, confirm that the environmental impacts of the proposed development are acceptable and/or can be appropriately mitigated using measures incorporated into the design of the proposed development.

9.6 This Planning Statement therefore concludes that the subject site is considered suitable for the development proposed. All relevant planning policy and other material considerations have been considered and it is concluded the development in the proposed location is appropriate and suitable.



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Key

Application Boundary
(SE 41676 06429)

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CLIENT: Peel Environmental Management (UK) Limited and Houghton Main Waste Limited

SCALE: 1:20,000@A3

PROJECT REF: CRM.066.001.001

DRAWN: SN

CHECKED: LS

DATE: May 2014

PROJECT: Houghton Main

TITLE: Site Location

FIGURE NO: Plan A

Key

Application Boundary

Ownership Boundary

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Peel Environmental Management (UK) Limited and Houghton Main Waste Limited — CLIENT:

SCALE: 1:20,000@A3

PROJECT REF: CRM.066.001.001

DRAWN: SN

CHECKED: LS

DATE: May 2014

PROJECT: Houghton Main

TITLE: Land Ownership Plan

FIGURE NO: Plan B

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