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INTRODUCTION

- 5.1 When undertaking EIAs and preparing an ES, it is conventional practice to carry out a review of relevant planning policy. This is not an express requirement of the EIA Regulations, but the exercise acts as a useful checklist in terms of environmental topics considered in the EIA, and allows the conclusions reached by the EIA/ES to be assessed against planning policy objectives and requirements.
- 5.2 It is considered that this approach identifies and isolates the key environmental issues associated with a particular development, and assists in arriving at a judgement of the overall merits of the development balanced against its environmental effects. In this respect, it is not the role or purpose of the ES to set out the planning balance, but to objectively consider those policies relevant to the scheme being assessed.
- 5.3 Policies in the Development Plan will conventionally seek to safeguard environmental interests, and will aim to resist developments which are likely to give rise to significant adverse environmental and amenity effects.
- 5.4 This chapter will set out the context of the main national and local planning policies relevant to the development at Carlton Main and the EIA that has been undertaken. Chapter 4 within the Planning Application Statement (Volume 1) provides an assessment of how the proposed development complies with the relevant policies in the Development Plan.

LEGAL BACKGROUND

- 5.5 Schedule 4 to the EIA Regulations does not make any specific reference to the inclusion of an assessment of planning policy. However, Chapter 6 of the former DTLR Good Practice Guide on the preparation of an ES included a section on '*Policies and Plans*'. Paragraph 6.1 stated that "*An ES should include a section on policies and plans which are relevant to the environmental assessment of the development in question*". The objective of this is to "*demonstrate how these policy guidelines have been taken into account in developing the project and compiling the ES, and to provide a picture of the decision-making context in which the environmental impacts will be evaluated*."
- 5.6 It can be seen that there is some ambiguity between the Regulations and the guidance provided by the Government. However, it is clear from the published guidance that the Government is committed to a plan led system, with the Development Plan forming the basis of all planning decisions. Accordingly, policies and plans play an important role in determining any planning applications. Therefore, in the spirit of the guidance, this chapter provides an overview of the policies that have been considered in undertaking the EIA.

NATIONAL POLICY

General

- 5.7 National Planning Policy guidance is set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The NPPF is accompanied by the internet based Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).
- 5.8 As noted in Chapter 2, in terms of land use planning constraints, the application site is not located within a National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). Neither does it directly impinge upon any archaeological or ecological designations of international or national importance. It is though located within a Green Belt and the existing mineral workings are designated as a geological Site of Special Scientific Interest. As a result of the clear lack of many land use planning constraints, many sections of national guidance are not relevant to the EIA.

The NPPF

- 5.9 The NPPF does not change the fundamental premise of Section 38(6) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004.
- 5.10 Beyond the general principles of the plan-led system, sustainable development and the approach to decision making, much of the main guidance relates to the development of the built environment. Those parts relevant to the proposed development are considered within the subsequent sections.

Sustainable Development

- 5.11 At the heart of the NPPF is a presumption in favour of sustainable development, for which three 'objectives' are identified:
- an economic role - contributing to building a strong, responsive and competitive economy, by ensuring that sufficient land of the right type is available in the right places and at the right time to support growth and innovation; and by identifying and coordinating development requirements including the provision of infrastructure;
 - a social role - supporting strong, vibrant and healthy communities, by providing the supply of housing required to meet the needs of present and future generations; and by creating a high quality built environment, with accessible local services that reflect the community's needs and support its health, social and cultural well-being; and
 - an environmental role - to protect and enhance the natural, built and historic environment; including making effective use of land, improving biodiversity, using natural resources prudently, minimising waste and pollution, and mitigating and adapting to climate change, including moving to a low carbon economy.

- 5.12 These roles should not be undertaken in isolation, because they are mutually dependent. To achieve sustainable development, economic, social and environmental gains should be sought jointly and simultaneously through the planning system.

Green Belt Policy

- 5.13 National planning policy on the approach to the Green Belt within both plan-making and decision-taking is set out in Section 13. The protection of the Green Belt is a component of the purpose of the planning system to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.
- 5.14 Paragraph 137 indicates that the Government attaches great importance to Green Belts. The fundamental aim of Green Belt policy is to prevent urban sprawl by keeping land permanently open; the essential characteristics of Green Belts are their openness and their permanence.
- 5.15 Inappropriate development is, by definition, harmful to the Green Belt and should not be approved except in very special circumstances (VSC). However, at paragraph 150, the NPPF identifies certain operations that are not inappropriate in the Green Belt provided they preserve its openness and do not conflict with the purposes of including land within it. These include mineral extraction and engineering operations (such as formation of screen bunds). This does not mean that a minerals development is automatically allowable in Green Belt as consideration needs to be given to how it affects openness for example. However, the temporary nature of minerals developments weighs in favour as the effects are reversible (i.e. they are not a permanent effect, even if considered long term).

Mineral Policy

- 5.16 All mineral proposals also need to be considered in the light of paragraph 211 of the NPPF, and in particular, those aspects which are relevant to the EIA are:
- ensure that in granting planning permission for mineral development that there are no unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment, human health or aviation safety, and to take into account the cumulative effect of multiple impacts from individual sites and/or from a number of sites in the locality;
 - ensure that any unavoidable noise, dust and particle emissions and any blasting vibrations are controlled, mitigated or removed at source, and establish appropriate noise limits for extraction in proximity to noise sensitive properties;
 - provide for restoration and aftercare at the earliest opportunity to be carried out to the highest environmental standards, through the application of appropriate conditions, where necessary. Bonds or other financial guarantees to underpin planning conditions should only be sought in exceptional circumstances; and

Environmental Considerations

- 5.17 The NPPF, together with the web based PPG, sets out the overarching national policy and associated guidance respectively aimed at protecting the environment and local communities. This is further considered under the heading of ‘*Protection of the Environment*’ later in this chapter.

National Planning Policy for Waste

- 5.18 National Planning Policy for Waste (NPPW) is the latest Government policy on planning for waste management facilities and objectives for sustainable waste management, replacing Planning Policy Statement 10¹. NPPW sets out the key planning objectives, decision making principles and advice on determining planning applications.
- 5.19 Paragraph 1 of the NPPW links it to the Waste Management Plan for England emphasising the role planning can play in providing a more sustainable and efficient approach to resource use and management. In this respect, the key points relating to the proposed development are:
- recognising the positive contribution waste management can make to the development of sustainable communities;
 - providing a framework in which communities and businesses are engaged with and take more responsibility for their own waste including by enabling waste to be disposed of in line with the proximity principle; and
 - helping secure the disposal of waste without endangering human health and without harming the environment.
- 5.20 The NPPW carries forward from PPS10 the concept of the waste hierarchy, which indicates that landfill is the least desirable solution, to be used where none of the options higher up the hierarchy are appropriate. Paragraphs 4 and 5 of the NPPW set out the policy considerations for the location of waste management facilities, referring to the ‘*proximity principle*’ and going on to consider² the extent to which the site supports other policies in the NPPW; the physical and environmental constraints on the development; the capacity of the transport infrastructure and the cumulative impact of existing and proposed waste facilities. As noted from Chapter 4, in the context of the physical and environmental constraints a formal scoping exercise has been undertaken which has identified the areas that need to be considered as part of the EIA. The issues contained in Annex B of the NPPW have been fully addressed in Chapters 6 to 9 of this ES in the context of land use planning. In this regard:
- “*protection of water quality and resources and flood risk management: Considerations will include the proximity of vulnerable surface and groundwater or aquifers. For landfill or land-raising, geological 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, with consequent issues relating to the management of potential*

¹ Planning Policy Statement 10: Planning for Sustainable Waste Management. 2005

² Paragraph 5, NPPW.

risk posed to water quality from waste contamination, will also need particular care” – This is considered through Chapter 8 of this volume.

- *“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”* – there are no such stability issues at the site (This has been scoped out of the EIA; see Chapter 10 of this volume).
- *“landscape and visual impacts: Considerations will include (i) the potential for design-led solutions to produce acceptable development which respects landscape character; (ii) the need to protect landscapes or designated areas of national importance (National Parks, the Broads, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Heritage Coasts) (iii) localised height restrictions.”* – This is considered through Chapter 6 of this volume.
- *“nature conservation: Considerations will include any adverse effect on a site of international importance for nature conservation (Special Protected Areas, Special Areas of conservation and RAMSAR sites), a site with a nationally recognised designation (Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Nature Reserves), Nature Improvement Areas and ecological networks and protected species”* – This is considered through Chapter 7).
- *“conserving the historic environment: Considerations will include the potential effects on the significance of heritage assets, whether designated or not, including any contribution made by their setting.”* – This has been scoped out of the EIA; see Chapter 10 of this volume).
- *“traffic and access: Considerations will include the suitability of the road network and the extent to which access would require reliance on local roads, the rail network and transport links to ports”* – This has been scoped out of the EIA).
- *“air emissions, including dust: Consideration will include the proximity of sensitive receptors, including ecological as well as human receptors. and the extent to which adverse emissions can be controlled through the use of appropriate and well-maintained and managed equipment and vehicles”* – air quality has been assessed in detail as part of the EIA and the existing approved mitigation measures will be continued to ensure there would be no adverse impacts on air quality - This has been scoped out of the EIA; see Chapter 10 of this volume.
- *“Odours: Considerations will include the proximity of sensitive receptors and the extent to which adverse odours can be controlled through the use of appropriate and well-maintained and managed equipment”* – the nature of the waste is not odorous and so odour is not an issue that needs to be assessed through the EIA. This has been scoped out of the EIA; see Chapter 9 of this volume.
- *“vermin and birds: Considerations will include the proximity of sensitive receptors. Some waste management facilities, especially landfills which accept putrescible waste, can attract vermin and birds. The numbers, and movements of some species of birds, may be influenced by the distribution of landfill sites. Where birds congregate in large numbers, they may be a major nuisance to people living nearby. They can also provide a hazard to aircraft at locations close to aerodromes or low flying areas. As part of the aerodrome safeguarding procedure (ODPM Circular 1/2003) local planning authorities are required to consult aerodrome operators on proposed developments likely to attract birds. Consultation arrangements apply within safeguarded areas (which should be shown on the policies map in the Local Plan). The primary aim is to guard against new or increased hazards caused by development. The most important types of development in this respect include facilities intended for the handling, compaction, treatment or disposal of household or commercial wastes.”* - Such matters are normally addressed through the Environmental Permit. Again, the nature of the waste is such that vermin and birds are not a significant issue that needs to be addressed through the EIA process. This has been scoped out of the EIA; see Chapter 10 of this volume.

- “noise, light and vibration: Considerations will include the proximity of sensitive receptors. The operation of large waste management facilities in particular can produce noise affecting both the inside and outside of buildings, including noise and vibration from goods vehicle traffic movements to and from a site. Intermittent and sustained operating noise may be a problem if not properly managed particularly if night-time working is involved. Potential light pollution aspects will also need to be considered.” - This has been scoped out of the EIA; see Chapter 10 of this volume.
- “litter: Litter can be a concern at some waste management facilities” – a litter management system will be maintained as part of the Environmental Permit. This has been scoped out of the EIA; see Chapter 10 of this volume; and
- “potential land use conflict: Likely proposed development in the vicinity of the location under consideration should be taken into account in considering site suitability and the envisaged waste management facility” – this is considered through each assessment and summarised in Chapter 11 of this volume (Cumulative Impacts).

THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Legislative Background

5.21 The Development Plan for the area within which the proposed Southern Extension is situated comprises the:

- Barnsley Local Plan (adopted January 2019); and
- Barnsley Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Local Plan (March 2012).

Barnsley Local Plan

5.22 The Local Plan was adopted in January 2019 and thus can be considered to be an ‘up to date’ plan in the context of the NPPF. The Plan covers the period up to 2033.

5.23 **Policy SD1** provides a presumption in favour of sustainable development indicating that the council will “take a positive approach that reflects the presumption in favour of sustainable development contained in the National Planning Policy Framework. We will work proactively with applicants jointly to find solutions which mean that proposals can be approved wherever possible, and to secure development that improves the economic, social and environmental conditions in the area”.

5.24 In terms of general development **Policy GD1** is applied to all development. This policy is the starting point for making decisions on all proposals. The policy provides that development will be approved if:

- There will be no significant adverse effect on the living conditions and residential amenity of existing and future residents;
- They are compatible with neighbouring land and will not significantly prejudice the current or future use of the neighbouring land;

- They will not adversely affect the potential development of a wider area of land which could otherwise be available for development and safeguards access to adjacent land They include landscaping to provide a high quality setting for buildings, incorporating existing landscape features and ensuring that plant species and the way they are planted, hard surfaces, boundary treatments and other features appropriately reflect, protect and improve the character of the local landscape;
- Any adverse impact on the environment, natural resources, waste and pollution is minimised and mitigated;
- Adequate access and internal road layouts are provided to allow the complete development of the entire site for residential purposes, and to provide appropriate vehicular and pedestrian links throughout the site and into adjacent areas;
- Any drains, culverts and other surface water bodies that may cross the site are considered;
- Appropriate landscaped boundaries are provided where sites are adjacent to open countryside.

5.25 In view of the nature of the planning application the main policy considerations can be found in Chapter 22 on Minerals. **Policy MIN1** forms the strategic approach towards mineral resources and their extraction. It indicates that provision will be made for non-aggregate mineral resources including primary and secondary resources as follows:

- Existing sites with planning permission for the extraction of minerals will be shown on the Policies Map which accompanies this Local Plan and will be protected from inappropriate development that could result in their sterilisation.
- Areas of Search are identified in this Local Plan.
- Areas of Safeguarding are identified in this Local Plan.
- It is expected that future extraction of minerals will normally take place within existing quarries or by site extensions rather than new sites.

5.26 The policy then goes on to add that all minerals proposals should:

- Be of limited duration.
- Have no unacceptable adverse environmental or amenity impacts.
- Be subject to high quality and appropriate reclamation and afteruse within a reasonable timescale; and
- Result in a net increase in biodiversity and/or geodiversity interests

5.27 At paragraph 22.20 it is noted that Carlton Main Brickworks has been allocated (Site MIN1) as an existing site with planning permission for the extraction of minerals. The policy notes that “*Carlton*

Main Brickworks which was originally part of the Grimethorpe Colliery complex but is now a separate operation. Clays and shales are extracted from an area to the east of the works to produce bricks, and the plant is a significant local employer". Paragraph 22.21 and policy MINAS1 addresses areas of search for minerals identifying an area on the policies map for new minerals for Carlton Main; this includes the Southern Extension and adjoining land to the east. The policy states:

"The future reserves for the brickworks are in the form of the existing area of permission which contains as yet unworked reserves and an adjacent Area of Search. A planning permission granted in 1993 includes the restoration of the quarry and the retention of a geological exposure which forms a Site of Special Scientific Interest within the quarry".

5.28 Finally, **Policy MIN4** on mineral extraction provides an overarching policy aimed at protecting the environment and local communities. It indicates that proposals must not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment or on human health including those from:

- Noise;
- Dust;
- Visual intrusion;
- Traffic;
- Tip and quarry slope stability;
- Differential settlement of quarry backfill;
- Mining subsidence;
- Increased flood risk;
- Impacts on the flow and quantity of surface and groundwater; and
- Migration of contamination from the site.

5.29 Proposals must also take into account the cumulative effects of multiple impacts from individual sites and/or a number of sites in the locality.

Barnsley Doncaster and Rotherham Joint Waste Local Plan

5.30 The main aspect of the planning application is the extension of the existing quarry workings into the Southern Extension. Allied to this, planning permission exists for the infilling of the mineral void with non-hazardous wastes (which can include inert wastes). Accordingly, the main thrust of the application is for mineral development.

- 5.31 However the proposals seek to amend the restoration scheme by promoting a low level scheme through the importation of inert waste. As such, brief consideration is given to the policies in the Joint Waste Local Plan.
- 5.32 The Joint Waste Local Plan (WLP) was adopted in 2012 and covers the period up to 2026. It addresses all waste streams, with particular focus on municipal and commercial/industrial wastes and the facilities required to treat these waste streams. **Policy WCS1** sets out the strategy for achieving sustainable waste management. From this it is noted that:
- No capacity gaps are identified for construction, demolition and excavation waste, hazardous waste or agricultural waste and therefore specific sites are not safeguarded or allocated. Proposals for new facilities processing these waste streams will be assessed on a case by case basis
 - Existing landfill sites are safeguarded, and proposals to maximise their life and efficiency will be supported. Proposals for additional capacity must demonstrate why it is required.
 - Proposals will be supported which enable Barnsley, Doncaster and Rotherham's waste to be managed locally, whilst allowing waste to be imported or exported where this represents the most sustainable option
 - Waste proposals will be directed away from the most sensitive locations so as to avoid adverse harm to ground water aquifers (especially the Sherwood Sandstone and Magnesian Limestone aquifers), Thorne and Hatfield moors, historic assets and the functional floodplain
 - Waste proposals will not be allowed (including on safeguarded or allocated sites under policies WCS2, WCS3 and WCS5) which may undermine the integrity of nature conservation sites of international importance (such as Thorne and Hatfield Moors Special Protection Area and Special Areas of Conservation).
- 5.33 **Policy WCS5** addresses landfill and is the main consideration within the WLP. The policy identifies a number of landfill sites that are safeguarded as *"they have significant capacity remaining. Non-waste management proposals will only be permitted on these sites where they would not prejudice their ability to fulfil the function for which they have been identified."* At reference 5.5 is Carlton Brickworks (Barnsley) which is categorised as an inert facility. Paragraph 4.24 notes *"In some cases, landfill can provide opportunities to restore and recreate new landscapes and habitats at former quarries ... However, inert construction, demolition and excavation waste cannot be landfilled unless it is the only viable means of restoring mineral workings and/or is incidental to engineering operations which are necessary to allow the development to go ahead. In considering such proposals, particular regard will be given to the duration of the operation and the business case for the wider development. In these circumstances, waste facilities or landfill restoration schemes should be complementary to existing activities."*
- 5.34 Finally, **Policy WCS6** provides an overarching policy setting out the general considerations for all waste management proposals. The policy is divided into two parts with the first part setting out the matters that need to be addressed so gain support from the council. Within this part seventeen considerations are set out of which the following are of note:

- support the vision, aims and overall strategy of the Joint Waste Plan and, where relevant, the delivery of our municipal waste management strategies;
- mitigate any constraints that may reduce the potential to redevelop the site and adjoining areas in the future;
- provide adequate means of controlling noise, vibration, glare, dust, litter, odour and vermin and other emissions (e.g. greenhouse gases and leachate) so as to avoid adverse effects on the amenity of the immediate and surrounding environment and human health, both during and after operations;
- will not result in loss or damage to the diversity of wildlife and habitats at the site or adjoining land, including linear or other features that facilitate the dispersal of species;
- will not have an adverse impact upon the quality of ground and surface water or drainage, especially ground water aquifers and flood risk areas;
- will not have an adverse impact upon the significance of heritage assets and features;
- maintain, safeguard and enhance green infrastructure corridors and assets, particularly within areas of sensitivity such as the greenbelt, air quality management areas, country parks, river and wildlife corridors;
- will not increase the risk of flooding elsewhere in the catchment area and will, where possible, improve the existing flood risk situation.

PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

5.35 Both the NPPF and the Development Plan contain specific policies on safeguarding and protecting the environment, covering all aspects such as the countryside; the natural environment; built and cultural heritage; agriculture; and landscape. They also set out policies aimed at minimising the loss of amenity through pollution. In this context, the Local Plan considered above contains one overarching policy (**MIN4**) which indicates that proposals must not have unacceptable adverse impacts on the natural and historic environment or on human health. Allied to this, **Policy WCS6** in the WLP also addresses a number of environmental considerations.

5.36 The following paragraphs provide a brief overview of those policies aimed at protecting the environment. To recap, the various documents that constitute the Development Plan are abbreviated as follows:

NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
BLP	Barnsley Local Plan

Landscape

- 5.37 Section 15 of the NPPF, “*Conserving and enhancing the natural environment*”, sets out criteria that are relevant to landscape. These include the protection of valued landscapes in a manner that is commensurate with their statutory status or identified quality in the development plan, recognition of the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside and maintaining the character of undeveloped coast.
- 5.38 In paragraph 176 it is stated that “*Great weight should be given to conserving and enhancing landscape and scenic beauty in National Parks, the Broads and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty which have the highest status of protection in relation to these issues*”.
- 5.39 At a local level, **Policy LC1** in the LP deals with landscape character, indicating that development will be expected to retain and enhance the character and distinctiveness of the individual Landscape Character area in which it is located (as set out in the Landscape Character Assessment of Barnsley Borough 2002 and any subsequent amendments). In addition, **Policy D1** addresses high quality design and place making; the policy is primarily aimed at the built environment and urban development, but the sentiments can be applied. In this respect the policy indicates that development will be expected to respect, take advantage of and reinforce the distinctive, local character and features of Barnsley, including:
- Landscape character, topography, green infrastructure assets, important habitats, woodlands and other natural features;
 - Views and vistas to key buildings, landmarks, skylines and gateways; and
 - Heritage and townscape character including the scale, layout, building styles and materials of the built form in the locality.
- 5.40 **Policy GS1** addresses Green Space; the proposed extension lies within such a designation (New Park Spring (Restoration Site)). The policy provides that the council will work with partners to improve existing green space to meet the standards in the Green Space Strategy. Green Spaces are green open areas which are valuable for amenity, recreation, wildlife or biodiversity and include types such as village greens, local open spaces, country parks, formal gardens, cemeteries, allotments, woodlands, recreation grounds, sports pitches and parks.
- 5.41 Proposals that result in the loss of green space, or land that was last used as green space, will not normally be allowed unless:
- An assessment shows that there is too much of that particular type of green space in the area which it serves and its loss would not affect the existing and potential green space needs of the borough; or
 - The proposal is for small scale facilities needed to support or improve the proper function of the green space; or
 - An appropriate replacement green space of equivalent or improved quality, quantity and accessibility is provided which would outweigh the loss.
- 5.42 These policy issues have been taken into consideration within the Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment which is reported in Chapter 6 of this Volume.

Natural Environment

- 5.43 Section 15 in the NPPF considers the natural environment, with relevant paragraphs being 180 to 182 (in Chapter 15) and addresses biodiversity (both in terms of loss of, and supporting enhancements to), designations and irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland). Paragraph 174, which opens Chapter 15, states in relation to biodiversity *“Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by ... minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures”*.
- 5.44 Turning to the determination of planning applications parts (a) to (d) in paragraph 180 state:
- (a) if significant harm to biodiversity resulting from a development cannot be avoided (through locating on an alternative site with less harmful impacts), adequately mitigated, or, as a last resort, compensated for, then planning permission should be refused;*
- (b) development on land within or outside a Site of Special Scientific Interest, and which is likely to have an adverse effect on it (either individually or in combination with other developments), should not normally be permitted. The only exception is where the benefits of the development in the location proposed clearly outweigh both its likely impact on the features of the site that make it of special scientific interest, and any broader impacts on the national network of Sites of Special Scientific Interest;*
- (c) development resulting in the loss or deterioration of irreplaceable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons 63 and a suitable compensation strategy exists; and*
- (d) development whose primary objective is to conserve or enhance biodiversity should be supported; while opportunities to improve biodiversity in and around developments should be integrated as part of their design, especially where this can secure measurable net gains for biodiversity or enhance public access to nature where this is appropriate.*
- 5.45 In the BLP ecological aspects are addressed through **Policy BIO1**. This policy indicates that development will be expected to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and geological features of the borough by:
- Protecting and improving habitats, species, sites of ecological value and sites of geological value with particular regard to designated wildlife and geological sites of international, national and local significance, ancient woodland and species and habitats of principal importance identified via Section 41 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 (for list of the species and habitats of principal importance) and in the Barnsley Biodiversity Action Plan.
 - Maximising biodiversity and geodiversity opportunities in and around new developments.
 - Conserving and enhancing the form, local character and distinctiveness of the boroughs natural assets such as the river corridors of the Don, the Dearne and Dove as natural floodplains and important strategic wildlife corridors.

- Proposals will be expected to have followed the national mitigation hierarchy (avoid, mitigate, compensate) which is used to evaluate the impacts of a development on biodiversity interest.
- Protecting ancient and veteran trees where identified.
- Encouraging provision of biodiversity enhancements.

5.46 Development which may harm a biodiversity or geological feature or habitat, including ancient woodland and aged or veteran trees found outside ancient woodland, will not be permitted unless effective mitigation and/or compensatory measures can be ensured.

5.47 As noted above, **Policy GS1** relates to Green Space which has implications for wildlife and biodiversity. The proposed Southern Extension, coupled with the existing quarry area lies within the Dearne Valley Green Heart Nature Improvement Area. Referring to paragraph 17.43 *“Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) are large, discrete areas that will deliver a step change in nature conservation, where a local partnership has a shared vision for their natural environment. The NIA grant scheme was established to help address ecological restoration as part of series of actions at a landscape scale to improve biodiversity, ecosystems and our connections with the natural environment identified by the Natural Environment White Paper (2011) and taking forward recommendations identified in the Lawton Review Making Space for Nature (2010). As set out in the Relationship with Plans and Strategies section, the Dearne Valley Green Heart has been designated as an NIA and its extent within Barnsley's boundary can be seen in the Green Infrastructure Diagram.*

17.44 The Council expects to adopt an NIA Planning Advice Note which will encourage major developments to incorporate biodiversity enhancements in their proposals.”

5.48 The nature conservation value of the application site, together with consideration of any ecological designations in the vicinity of the application site is addressed at Chapter 7 of this Volume.

Water Environment

5.49 Guidance formerly contained in PPS25 (Flood Risk) is now found within paragraphs 152 to 173 in Chapter 14 of the NPPF, together a complete section on flood risk contained in the web-based PPG (paragraphs 7-001 to 7-078). In terms of water quality,

5.50 Paragraph 152 of the NPPF notes that *“The planning system should support the transition to a low carbon future in a changing climate, taking full account of flood risk and coastal change. It should help to: shape places in ways that contribute to radical reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, minimise vulnerability and improve resilience; encourage the reuse of existing resources, including the conversion of existing buildings; and support renewable and low carbon energy and associated infrastructure”*. Flood Risk is then addressed at paragraphs 159 to 169. In this context Paragraph 167 states *“When determining any planning applications, local planning authorities should ensure that flood risk is not increased elsewhere. Where appropriate, applications should be supported by a site-specific flood-risk assessment.”* Finally, Paragraph 169 adds *“Major developments should incorporate sustainable drainage systems unless there is clear evidence that this would be inappropriate”*.

- 5.51 In the BLP relevant policies relating to the water environment include **Policy CC3** on flood risk. The policy indicates that the extent of flooding will be reduced by imposing strict controls on development in flood zones 2 and 3 and by:
- Not permitting new development where it would be at an unacceptable risk of flooding from any sources of flooding, or would give rise to flooding elsewhere
 - Requiring site-specific Flood Risk Assessments (FRAs) for proposals over 1 hectare
- 5.52 **Policy CC4** then requires all major development to use SuDS to manage surface water drainage unless it can be demonstrated that SuDS are inappropriate.
- 5.53 Finally, **Policy CC5** addresses water resource management indicating that to conserve and enhance the Boroughs water resources proposals will be supported which
- Do not result in the deterioration of water courses
 - Make positive progress towards achieving “good” status or potential under the Water Framework Directive in the boroughs surface and ground water bodies;
 - Manage water demand and improve water efficiency through appropriate water conservation techniques including rainwater harvesting and grey-water recycling; and
 - Dispose of surface water appropriately and improve water quality through the incorporation of SuDS, in accordance with Policy CC4.
- 5.54 These policies have been considered as part of the hydrological and hydrogeological assessments that are reported in Chapter 8 of this Volume.

Pollution and Amenity of Local Communities

- 5.55 Pollution issues are set out in paragraphs 174 and 183 to 188 of the NPPF. Paragraph 174 refers to preventing both new and existing development from contributing to or being put at unacceptable risk from, or being adversely affected by unacceptable levels of soil, air, water or noise pollution or land instability. Paragraph 185 provides that “*decisions should also ensure that new development is appropriate for its location taking into account the likely effects (including cumulative effects) of pollution on health, living conditions and the natural environment, as well as the potential sensitivity of the site or the wider area to impacts that could arise from the development.*”
- 5.56 Guidance can also be found in the web based PPG. Firstly, the guidance addresses the ability to comply with the noise criteria is set out in the PPG (paragraphs 019 to 022³). Secondly, the ability to adequately control and mitigate dust emissions is set out in the PPG at paragraphs 023 – 032⁴.
- 5.57 The need to minimise impacts upon the environment and local amenity have been a key consideration of the design process. These issues have been addressed within Chapter 10 of this ES.

³ Reference ID: 27-019-20140306 to 27-022-20140306

⁴ Reference ID: 27-023-20140306 to 27-032-20140306

