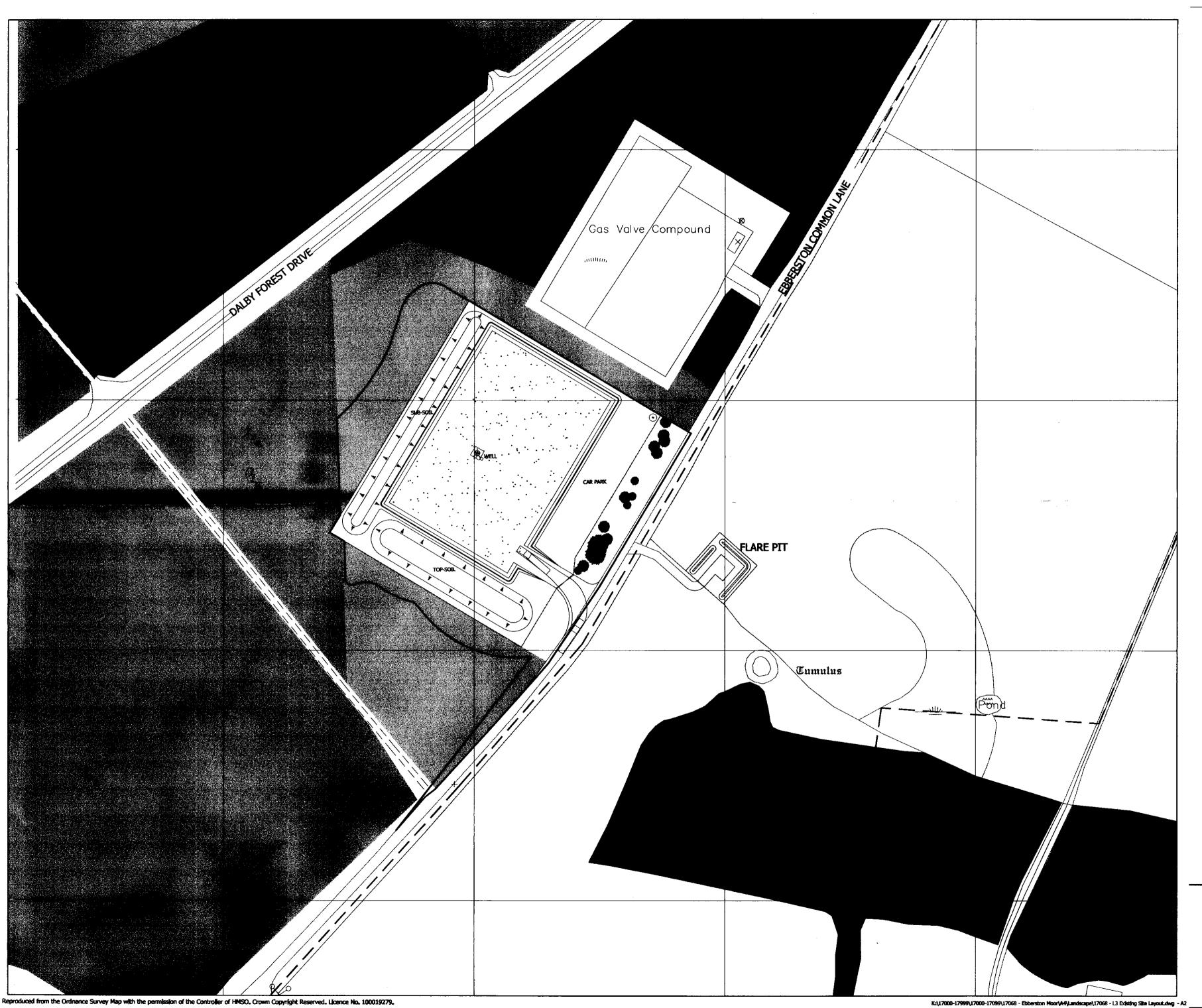


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Dai COTAVIII ITO E.CO. CIK

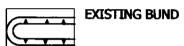


The scaling of this drawing cannot be assured Revision **LEGEND** SITE BOUNDARY EXISTING VEGETATION **EXISTING VEGETATION -**HYBRID LARCH, SITKA SPRUCE **EXISTING VEGETATION -**MIXED BROADLEAF / SCOTS PINE

**EXISTING VEGETATION -**REGENERATION PHASE

EXISTING VEGETATION -SCOTS PINE

**EXISTING INDIVIDUAL TREES** 





EXISTING GRAVEL



EXISTING FORESTRY TRACK



EXISTING PUBLIC FOOTPATH

NYMNPA

-2 SEP 2008

Project EBBERSTON MOOR **GAS SITE** 

**EXISTING SITE LAYOUT** 

Date 28.08.2208

Scale 1:1000@A2

Project No 17068

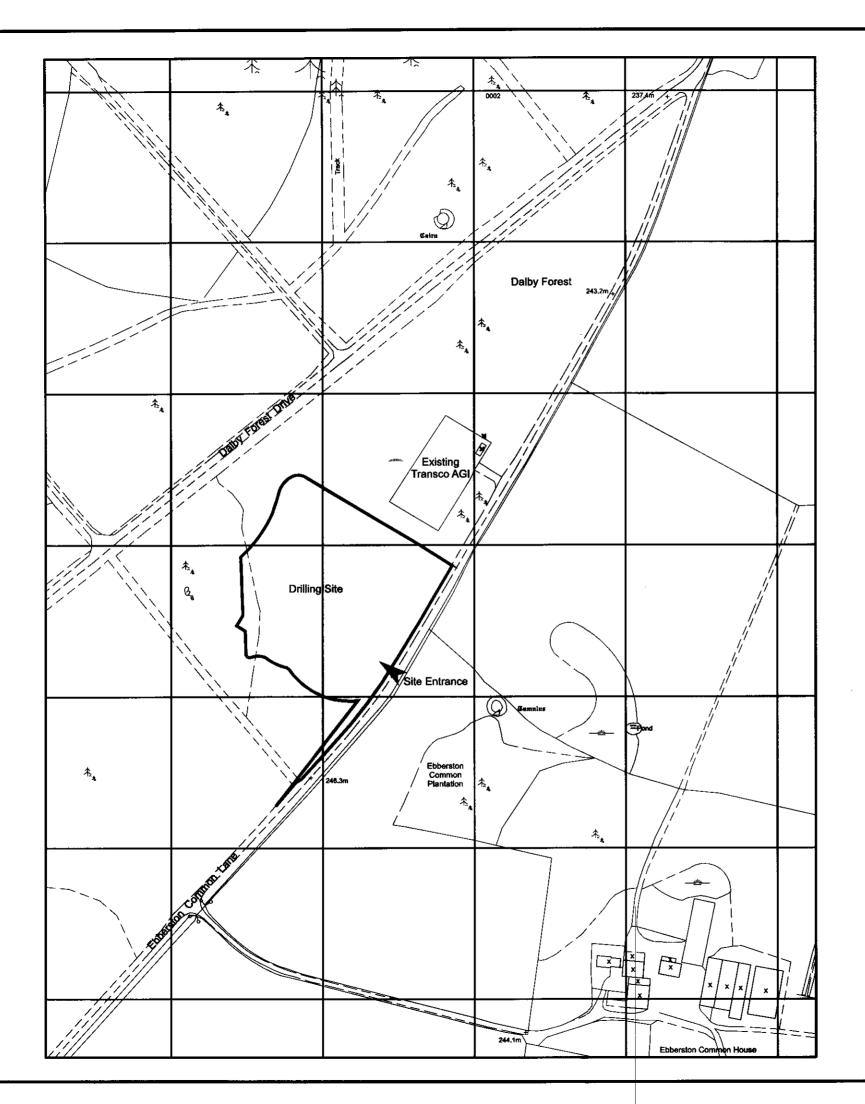
Drawling No L3

Planning • Master Planning & Urban Design Architecture • Landscape Planning & Design • Project Services Environmental & Sustainability Assessment • Graphic Design

bartonwillmore.co.uk







NYMNPA

-2 SEP 2008

Project
EBBERSTON MOOR 1
WELL SITE
Drowling Title
Application Boundary Line Plan

Date Scale .

20.08.08 1:2500
Project No Drawing No.

17068 P1

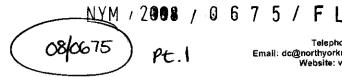
Tours Planners Architects Planter Planners Lendecape Architects Environmental Consultan Project Services BARTON WILLMORE

www.bartonwillmore.co.uk

**O** 

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Telephone: 01439 770657 Email: dc@northyorkmoors-npa.gov.uk Website: www.moors.uk.net

YQ62 5BP

### Application for Planning Permission. Town and Country Planning Act 1990

Publication of planning applications on council websites

Please note that with the exception of applicant contact details and Certificates of Ownership, the information provided on this application form and in supporting documents may be published on the council's website.

If you have provided any other information as part of your application which falls within the definition of personal data under the Data Protection Act which you do not wish to be published on the council's website, please contact the council's planning

2. Agent Name and Address

Please complete using block capitals and black ink.

1. Applicant Name and Address

It is important that you read the accompanying guidance notes as incorrect completion will delay the processing of your application.

Title:	First name:	Title:	Mr First name: Paul
Last name:		Last name:	Foster
Company (optional):	Viking UK Gas Limited	Company (optional):	Barton Willmore
Unit:	House House suffix:	Unit:	House House suffix:
House name:		House name:	Elizabeth House
Address 1:	Knapton Generating Station	Address 1:	1 High Street
Address 2:	East Knapton	Address 2:	Chesterton
Address 3:		Address 3:	
Town:	Malton	Town:	Cambridge
County:	North Yorkshire	County:	
Country:		Country:	
Postcode:	YO17 8JF	Postcode:	CB4 1WB
3. Descri	ption of Proposed Works		
	cribe the proposed works:	F Cas Wall Site	ofor a period of three years
Remodellii	ng of Existing Exploratory Gas Well Site and Retention of	Gas Well Site	e for a period of timee years
			NYMNPA
			- 2 SEP 2008
			2 32. 2333
Has building	g or works already been carried out or use of land already	started?	Yes K No
	se state the date when building se were started (DD/MM/YYYY):		(date must be pre-application submission)
	orks been completed or change of use already occurred?		] Yes 🔯 No
			- · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	e state when the works were or use occurred (DD/MM/YYYY):		(date must be pre-application submission)

Unit: House number: House suffix: House name:  NYM / 2008 / G & 7 5 / F  Address 1: Ebberston Moor 1 Well Head  Address 2: Ebberston Common Lane  Address 3: Snainton  Town: Scarborough  County: North Yorkshire  Postcode (optional):  Cescription of location or a grid reference. (must be completed if postcode is not known):  Easting: SE 490085 Northing: 489426  Description:  Description:  North Orficer name:  Val DILCOCK & DAVE PARRISH  Details of pre-application advice received?  MEETING ON SITE WITH OFFICERS & LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS.	4. Site Address Details	5. Pre-application Advice
Unit:		Has assistance or prior advice been sought from the local
Address 1: Ebberston Moor 1 Well Head  Address 2: Ebberston Common Lane  Address 3: Snainton  Town: Scarborough  County: North Yorkshire  Postcode (optional): Description of location or a grid reference. (must be completed if postcode is not known):  Easting: SE 490085 Northing: 489426  Description:  Description:  Meeting On Site With Officers & Landscape PROPOSALS.  you were given. (This will help the authority to deal with this application more efficiently). Please tick if the full contact details are not known, and then complete as much as possible:  Officer name:  VAL DILCOCK & DAVE PARRISH  Reference:  Date (DD/MM/YYYY): (must be pre-application submission)  Details of pre-application advice received?  MEETING ON SITE WITH OFFICERS & LANDSCAPE PLANNER TO DISCUSS REMODELLING AND LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS.	Their,	X Tes 140
Address 1: Ebberston Moor 1 Well Head  Address 2: Ebberston Common Lane  Address 3: Snainton  Town: Scarborough  County: North Yorkshire  Postcode (optional):  Description of location or a grid reference. (must be completed if postcode is not known):  Easting: SE 490085 Northing: 489426  Description:  Description:  Date (DD/MM/YYYY): (must be pre-application submission)  Details of pre-application advice received?  MEETING ON SITE WITH OFFICERS & LANDSCAPE PLANNER TO DISCUSS REMODELLING AND LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS.	NYM / 2008 / 9 6 7 5 / F	If Yes, please complete the following information about the advice
Address 2: Ebberston Common Lane  Address 3: Snainton  Town: Scarborough  County: North Yorkshire  Postcode (optional): Description of location or a grid reference. (must be completed if postcode is not known):  Easting: SE 490085 Northing: 489426  Description:  Date (DD/MM/YYYY): (must be pre-application submission)  Details of pre-application advice received?  MEETING ON SITE WITH OFFICERS & LANDSCAPE PLANNER TO DISCUSS REMODELLING AND LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS.	Address 1: Ebberston Moor 1 Well Head	application more efficiently).
Town: Scarborough  County: North Yorkshire  Postcode (optional): Description of location or a grid reference. (must be completed if postcode is not known): Easting: SE 490085 Northing: 489426  Description:  Date (DD/MM/YYYY): (must be pre-application submission) Details of pre-application advice received?  MEETING ON SITE WITH OFFICERS & LANDSCAPE PLANNER TO DISCUSS REMODELLING AND LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS.	Address 2: Ebberston Common Lane	
Town: Scarborough  County: North Yorkshire  Postcode (optional):  Description of location or a grid reference. (must be completed if postcode is not known):  Easting: SE 490085 Northing: 489426  Description:  MEETING ON SITE WITH OFFICERS & LANDSCAPE PLANNER TO DISCUSS REMODELLING AND LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS.	Address 3: Snainton	
Postcode (optional): Description of location or a grid reference. (must be completed if postcode is not known): Easting: SE 490085 Northing: 489426 Description:  Date (DD/MM/YYYY): (must be pre-application submission)  Details of pre-application advice received?  MEETING ON SITE WITH OFFICERS & LANDSCAPE PLANNER TO DISCUSS REMODELLING AND LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS.	Town: Scarborough	VAL DILCOCK & DAVE PARRISH
Optional):  Description of location or a grid reference. (must be completed if postcode is not known):  Easting: SE 490085 Northing: 489426  Description:  Date (DD/MM/YYYY): (02/06/2008)  Details of pre-application advice received?  MEETING ON SITE WITH OFFICERS & LANDSCAPE PLANNER TO DISCUSS REMODELLING AND LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS.	County: North Yorkshire	Reference:
(must be completed if postcode is not known):  Easting: SE 490085 Northing: 489426  Description:  MEETING ON SITE WITH OFFICERS & LANDSCAPE PLANNER TO DISCUSS REMODELLING AND LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS.		
Description:  MEETING ON SITE WITH OFFICERS & LANDSCAPE PLANNER TO DISCUSS REMODELLING AND LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS.	Description of location or a grid reference. (must be completed if postcode is not known):	11 102/06/2009 11
PLANNER TO DISCUSS REMODELLING AND LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS.	Easting: SE 490085 Northing: 489426	Details of pre-application advice received?
PROPOSALS.	Description:	
6. Redestrian and Vehicle Access Roads and Rights of Way  7. Waste Storage and Collection		
6. Podestrian and Vehicle Access Roads and Rights of Way 7. Waste Storage and Collection		
6. Podestrian and Vehicle Access. Roads and Rights of Way. 7. Waste Storage and Collection		
6. Redestrian and Vehicle Access Roads and Rights of Way 7. Waste Storage and Collection		
o. Fedestrial and venicle Access, hours and highlis of way	6. Pedestrian and Vehicle Access, Roads and Rights of Way	7. Waste Storage and Collection
Is a new or altered vehicle access proposed to or from the public highway? Yes X No Unknow and aid the collection of waste? Yes No Unknow		II
Is a new or altered pedestrian  If Yes, please provide details:	Is a new or altered pedestrian	•
access proposed to or from the public highway? Yes X No Unknown		
Are there any new public roads to be		
provided within the site? Yes X No Unknown		
Are there any new public		
rights of way to be provided within or adjacent to the site? Yes X No Unknown		
Do the proposals require any diversions  Have arrangements been made	Do the proposals require any diversions	Have arrangements been made
/extinguishments and/or creation of rights of way?  Yes X No Unknow collection of recyclable waste?  Yes No Unknow collection of recyclable waste?  Yes No Unknow	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	
If you answered Yes to any of the above questions, please show	If you answered Yes to any of the above questions, please show	II, name in the state of the st
détails on your plans/drawings and state the reference of the plan (s)/drawings(s)	details on your plans/drawings and state the reference of the plan	
		<u>                                     </u>
·		
		<b>] </b>
8. Neighbour and Community Consultation 9. Council Employee / Member	8. Neighbour and Community Consultation	9. Council Employee / Member
Is the applicant or agent related to any member of staff or elected	Have you consulted your neighbours or	
the local community about the proposal?  Yes No member of the Council?  Yes No	the local community about the proposal? Yes X No	II ' — — I
If Yes please provide details:	If Yes please provide details:	If Yes, please provide details:
		CONNPA
		-2 SEP 2008
\$Date: 2007/05/11 09:53:50 \$ \$Revision: 1.19 \$		EDW-2007/05/11 POST-ED & SOUGHOUT

	Codetin a													뺣	Don't	Drawing references if
	Existing (where appli	cable)	N	YM .	Propos 2 <b>99</b>		0_	6	7_	5	/	F	L	Not applicable	17	references if applicable
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Vindows						_										
Doors																
oundary treatments e.g. fences, walls)						<del></del>				_	-					
/ehicle access and nard-standing				<del></del>			-	_		•						
ighting						<del>.,, .</del>										
Others please specify)						<u> </u>										
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1. Vehicle Parkii											-					
Please provide info	ormation on th			sed nu	mber of	on-sit	e pai	king	spac	es:					Diff	
Type of Vehi	cle	To Exis	otal sting		Tot	al pro spac	pose ces re	ed (in etain	iciud ed)	ing _					Differe in spa	
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Light goods vel public carrier ve	nicles/	-										1				
Motorcycle		,							$\top$			141	N	MP.	A	
Disability spa	nces		<del></del>	$\neg$					$\top$			- 2	SE	P 20	08	
Cuele en e	P\$								$\top$			+				<u> </u>
Cycle space				J.					•							
Other (e.g. B	-								L			+				

12. Foul Sewage	13. Assessment of Flood Kisk
Please state how foul sewage is to be disposed of:  Mains sewer  NYM / 2008 / 0 6 7 her 5 / F L  Septic tank	Is the site within an area at risk of flooding? (Refer to the Environment Agency's Flood Map showing flood zones 2 and 3 and consult Environment Agency standing advice and your local planning authority requirements for information as necessary.)  Yes X No  If Yes, you will need to submit a Flood Risk Assessment to consider
Package treatment plant Unknown	the risk to the proposed site.
Are you proposing to connect to the existing drainage system? Yes X No	Is your proposal within 20 metres of a watercourse (e.g. river, stream or beck)?  Will the proposal increase
If Yes, please include the details of the existing system on the application drawings and state references for the	the flood risk elsewhere? Yes X No n
plan(s)/drawing(s):	How will surface water be disposed of? drainage
·	Sustainable drainage system X Existing
	Soakaway Pond/lake
	Main sewer Unknown
	A. Frieding Han
14. Biodiversity and Geological Conservation	15. Existing Use Please describe the current use of the site:
is there a reasonable likelihood of the following being affected adversely or conserved and enhanced within the application site, or on land adjacent to or near the application site?	Ebberston Moor 1 Gas Well Site
a) Protected and priority species:	
Yes, on the development site	Is the site currently vacant? Yes X No
Yes, on land adjacent to or near the proposed development	If Yes, please describe the last use of the site:
X No	
b) Designated sites, important habitats or other biodiversity features:	
Yes, on the development site	When did this use end (if known)?  DD/MM/YYYY  (date where known may be approximate)
Yes, on land adjacent to or near the proposed development	Does the proposal involve any of the following:
X No	Land which is known to be contaminated? Yes X No
c) Features of geological conservation importance:	Land where contamination is suspected for all or part of the site?
Yes, on the development site	A proposed use that would
Yes, on land adjacent to or near the proposed development	be particularly vulnerable to the presence of contamination?
X No	If you have answered Yes to any of the above, you will need to submit an appropriate contamination assessment.
16 Trees and Hodges	17. Trade Effluent
16. Trees and Hedges  Are there trees or hedges on the	Does the proposal involve the need to
proposed development site? X Yes No	dispose of trade effluents: or waste?  If Yes, please describe the nature, volume and means of disposal
And/or: Are there trees or hedges on land adjacent to the proposed development site that could influence the	of trade effluents or waste
development or might be important as part of the local landscape character?	NYMNPA
if Yes to either or both of the above, you will need to provide a full Tree Survey, with accompanying plan before your application can be determined. Your Local Planning Authority should make clear on its website what the survey should contain, in accordance with the current 'BS5837: Trees in relation to construction -	~2 SEP 2008
Recommendations'.	\$Date: 2007/05/11 09-53:50 \$ \$REVISion: 1.16 \$

8. Residential Un Does your proposal inc If Yes please complete	ماريا	tha	nain	Inss	orch	ande	of use of r	esiden w:		Σ . 2.5			0	6	7_5		
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Total existing resi	dent					-	<u> </u>	-	Total propose	ed re	sid	entia				·	<u> </u>
			-,-				<del>.</del>		otal net gain / loss of r				nits	.,			
								-	ULS I DEL USID I INCCUL.	E-211						1	

Use class/type of use internal to be lost by change of loorspace proposed internal use or demolition (including change of following change cha	tional gross floorspace levelopment e metres)
NYM / 2008 / 0 6 Use class/type of use    Total gross internal floorspace to be lost by change of use or demolition (square metres)    Shops	floorspace levelopment
Net tradable area:	
A2 Financial and	<del>.</del>
A3 Restaurants and cafes	
A4 Drinking establishments	
A5 Hot food takeaways	
B1 (a) Office (other than A2)	
B1 (b) Research and development	
B1 (c) Light industrial	
B2 General industrial	
B8 Storage or distribution	
C1 Hotels and halls of residence	
C2 Residential institutions	•
D1 Non-residential Institutions	
D2 Assembly and leisure	
OTHER Please specify	
Total	
In addition, for hotels, residential institutions and hostels, please additionally indicate the loss or gain of rooms	
Use class Type of use Policable Not applicable of use or demolition Total rooms proposed (including changes of use)  Net addition	nal rooms
C1 Hotels ]	
C2 Residential Institutions	
Other Hostels	
20. Employment	
Please complete the following information regarding employees:	
Full-time Part-time Total full-time Not	nown
Existing employees 0 0	
Proposed employees 0 0	
21. Hours of Opening	
Please state the hours of opening for each non-residential use proposed: N/A	
lise Monday to Friday Saturday Sunday ANYMNPA Not be	own
Bank Holidays	
-2 SEP 2008	
	-
22. Site Area	
Please state the site area in hectares (ha) 1.35	

23. Industrial or Commercial Proce	sses and N						
Please describe the activities and processes be carried out on the site and the end produ	cts including	NO ACTIVITIES OR PROC	ACTIVITIES OR PROCESSES WILL BE CARRIED OUT ON THE SITE.				
plant, ventilation or air conditioning. Please type of machinery which may be installed or	include the 1 site:		NYM / 2008 / 0 6 7 5 / F L				
Is the proposal a waste management develo	pment?	Yes X No	•				
if the answer is Yes, Please complete the foll							
	다 includ	total capacity of the void in cu ling engineering surcharge ar vance for cover or restoration nes if solid waste or litres if lic	annual operational throughput of				
	ž k		•				
Inert landfill	<del>   </del>						
Non-hazardous landfill	<u> </u>						
Hazardous landfill							
Energy from waste incineration							
Other incineration	<u> </u>						
Landfill gas generation plant							
Pyrolysis/gasification							
Metal recycling site							
Transfer stations							
Material recovery/recycling facilities (MRFs)							
Household civic amenity sites							
Open windrow composting							
In-vessel composting			·				
Anaerobic digestion							
Any combined mechanical, biological and/ or thermal treatment (MBT)							
Sewage treatment works			NYMNPA				
Other treatment							
Recycling facilities construction, demolition and excavation waste			- 2 SEP 2008				
Storage of waste	<u> </u>	<u></u>					
Other waste management							
Other developments							
Please provide the maximum annual operation	tional throug	hput of the following waste s	treams:				
Municipal							
Construction, demolition and							
Commercial and indust	rial						
Hazardous		ther information before your	rapplication can be determined. Your waste				
If this is a landfill application you will need planning authority should make clear what	information	it requires on its website.	r application can be determined. Your waste				
24. Hazardous Substances							
Does the proposal involve the use or storag the following materials in the quantities sta	ge of any of sted below?	Yes X No	Not applicable				
If Yes, please provide the amount of each si		<b>-</b> -	<del></del>				
Acrylonitrile (tonnes)		e oxide (tonnes)	Phosgene (tonnes)				
Ammonia (tonnes)	Hydrogen (	yanide (tonnes)	Sulphur dioxide (tonnes)				
Bromine (tonnes)	Liquid	oxygen (tonnes)	Flour (tonnes)				
Bioinine (tornies)							
	iquid petrole	um gas (tonnes)	Refined white sugar (tonnes)				
	iquid petrole	um gas (tonnes) Other:	Refined white sugar (tonnes)				
Chlorine (tonnes)	iquid petrole						

the Local Planning Authority has been submitted.	j deemed inva	nformation in support of you lid. It will not be considere	d valid until all informat	ion required
	<b>~</b>	The correct fee:		, <b>X</b>
3 copies of a completed and dated application form:	<b>K</b> I	3 copies of a design at	nd access statement: 🖒	NA 🗆
3 copies of the plan which identifies the land to which the application relates drawn to an identified scale and showing the direction of North:	赵	3 copies of the comple Certificate (Agricultura	eted, dated Article 7	X
3 copies of other plans and drawings or information necessary to describe the subject of the application:		3 copies of the comple Ownership Certificate	eted, dated (A, B, C, or D - as application	able): 🖊
27 Declaration				t that
i/we hereby apply for planning permission/consent as de	escribed in thi	s form and the accompany	ing plans/drawings and	additional
Information. Signed - Applicant: Or sign	ned - Agent:		Date (DD/MM/YYYY):	
Signed - Applicant	<del></del>		7	date canno

28. Applicant Contact Details	29. Agent Contact Details
Telephone numbers  NYM / 2008 / 0 6 7 5 / F L Extension number:  Country code: National number:  Country code: Mobile number (optional):  Country code: Fax number (optional):  Email address (optional):	Country code: National number:  Country code: Mobile number (optional):  Country code: Fax number (optional):  Email address (optional):
30. Site Visit  Can the site be seen from a public road, public footpath, bridleway of if the planning authority needs to make an appointment to carry out a site visit, whom should they contact? (Please select only one) If Other has been selected, please provide:  Contact name:  Email address:	rother public land? X Yes No  X Agent Applicant Other (if different from the agent/applicant's details)  Telephone number:

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## **VALIDATION CHECKLIST**

STANDARD REQUIREMENTS:

PLANNING PERMISSION
Other than Householder Applications



Please complete the attached checklist to indicate what you have included with your application. All plans should include paper size, key dimensions and scale.

(1 original and 3 copies to be supplied unless that application is submitted	electronically)	)
Completed application form	YES <b>X</b> Î	N/A 🗌
Completed Certificate of Ownership, A, B, C or D as required by Article 7 of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 and by Regulation 6 of the Planning (Listed Building and Conservation Areas) regulations 1990.	YESIX	N/A □
Agricultural Holdings Certificate as required by Article 7 of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995	YESX	N/A □
Location Plan at a scale of 1:2500 or 1:1250 with your application site edged red and any other land in your ownership edged in blue.	YES	N/A 🗌
Existing and proposed site layout plans at a scale of 1:100, 1:200 or 1:500	YES	N/A 🗌
Existing and proposed elevations to a scale of 1:50 or 1:100	YES[]	N/A 💢
Existing and proposed floor plans to a scale of 1:50 or 1:100	YES.	N/A 💢
Existing and proposed roof plans to a scale of 1:50 or 1:100 – if the proposal alters the existing roof	YES[]	N/AX
Existing and proposed sections and finished floor levels at a scale of not less than 1:100	YES[]	N/A <b>J</b> ŽÍ
Design and Access Statement unless material change of use engineering or mining works	YES	N/AX
Application fee Please consult our enclosed Schedule of Fees. Cheques are to be made payable to NYMNPA	YES	NO
Manufacturers specification/leaflet, for proposals incorporating plant/machinery (swimming pools/wind turbines) Please highlight the exact information within the leaflet that relates to the development proposal. Please also see the Authority's website for Planning Advice Note 3 – Renewable Energy <a href="http://www.moors.uk.net/uploads/publication/6245.pdf">http://www.moors.uk.net/uploads/publication/6245.pdf</a>	YES[]	иоӀ∕Д

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## NYM / 2008 / 0 6 7 5 / F L

#### SOME OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION MAY ALSO BE REQUIRED:

Biodiversity Survey and Report (Nature Conservation and Ecological Assessment)	YES□	N/A <b>X</b>
Flood Risk Assessments/ Sequential Test (flood zones)	YES□	N/A <b>X</b>
Tree Survey/Arboriculture Assessment	YES.	N/A
Environmental Impact Assessment	YES 🗌	N/AX
Foul Sewerage/surface water Assessment	YES.	N/AIX
Structural Survey	YES□	N/AX
Statement of Agricultural Need	YES 🗌	N/AX

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# REMODELLING AND RETENTION OF EXISTING EXPLORATORY GAS WELL SITE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS

# EBBERSTON MOOR 1 WELL SITE EBBERSTON COMMON LANE SNAINTON, SCARBOROUGH NORTH YORKSHIRE

PLANNING STATEMENT

August 2008

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# REMODELLING AND RETENTION OF EXISTING EXPLORATORY GAS WELL SITE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS

#### EBBERSTON MOOR 1 WELL SITE EBBERSTON COMMON LANE, SNAINTON SCARBOROUGH, NORTH YORKSHIRE

PLANNING STATEMENT

The Barton Willmore Partnership Elizabeth House 1 High Street Chesterton Cambridge CB4 1WB

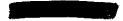
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Our Ref:

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File Ref:

Fax:



Date:

August 2008

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#### **CONTENTS**

1.0	Introduction

- 2.0 The Site and Surroundings
- 3.0 Planning History
- 4.0 Description of Proposed Development
- 5.0 Planning Policy Framework
- 6.0 Appraisal of Proposed Development
- 7.0 Conclusions

#### **FIGURES**

Figure 1 Viking UK Gas Limited North Yorkshire Gas Fields Semay A Licence

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#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This Planning Statement has been prepared by the Barton Willmore Partnership on behalf of Viking UK Gas Limited. The Statement is in support of a full planning application for the remodelling of the existing exploratory gas well site at Ebberston Moor 1 Well Site, Ebberston Common Lane, Snainton, and the retention of the well site for a period of 3 years.

#### Viking UK Gas Ltd

- 1.2 Viking UK Gas Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary of UK Energy Systems Ltd. Viking UK Gas Limited has been an operator of the Ryedale Gas Fields (encompassing the accumulations of Kirby-Misperton, Malton, Marishes and Pickering) in North Yorkshire since late 2003. The Ryedale Gas Fields were previously owned and operated by a joint venture of Tullow Oil plc (through Tullow UK Gas Limited) and Edinburgh Oil and Gas plc, holding 60% and 40% equity, respectively. These fields deliver natural gas to the Knapton gas plant where it is treated and utilized for power generation in a gas-fired turbine. The Knapton gas and power generation plant are owned by RGS Energy Ltd (following an acquisition from Scottish Power plc in 2006) and operational activities are carried out by Viking UK Gas Limited in the role as contract operator.
- 1.3 Under the provisions of the Petroleum Regulations, the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry has granted an area designated as Petroleum Exploration and Development Licence "Semay A" which allows Viking UK Gas Limited to "search, bore for and get petroleum" within the boundaries of Semay A (Figure 1). The proposals to which this planning application relates fall within this licence area.
- 1.4 Viking UK Gas Limited holds a 100% interest in the Semay A licence and is the designated Operator.

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#### **Licence History**

1.5 The Semay A licence is located in the North of the Cleveland Sedimentary Basin, within the county of North Yorkshire extending northwards into urban Teesside. The wells in the fields of the licences produce gas from the Permian Zechstein limestones (Kirkham-Abbey Formation - KAF) and the Carboniferous sandstones (Namurian formation). The Brotherton formation (Magnesian limestone) is present and gas bearing in most of the wells but has not proven to be commercially productive.

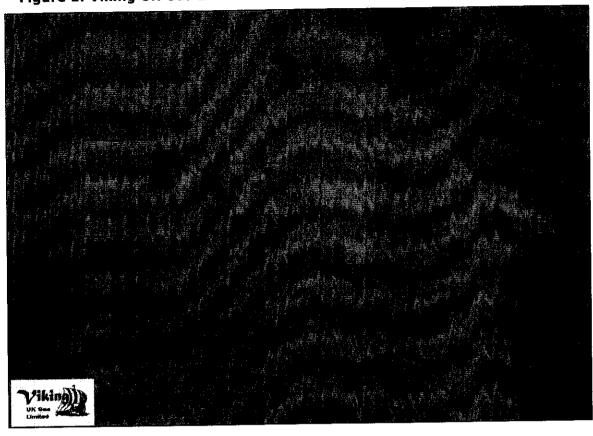


Figure 1: Viking UK Gas Limited North Yorkshire Gas Fields Semay A Licence

- 1.6 Semay A was assigned to Licence Blocks
  - AL006 (Pickering)
  - DL005 (Marishes)
  - PL077 (Lockton and Wykeham)
  - PL079 (no field)
  - PL080a (Malton and Kirby-Misperton)
  - PL080b (no field)
  - PL081 (Knapton Plant site)

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1.7 Home Oil of Canada discovered Lockton, Wykeham and Malton in the period between 1966 and 1971. Lockton was developed in 1971 via a sour gas processing plant sited at Pickering with sales to the British Gas main line. Reservoir performance deviated from the anticipated forecasts when the wells began producing water from an early stage. This factor, in addition to the poor contractual terms of a take or pay contract, lead Home Oil to abandon the assets after producing only 11.3 billion standard cubic feet (billion standard cubic fee) of gas. A study of the Lockton Field by Viking UK Gas has

shown that the reservoir is likely to contain additional commercial volumes of recoverable gas.

- 1.8 The Knapton gas and power generation plant was commissioned by Scottish Power in 1994 with its gas source supplied by the Vale of Pickering discoveries to be developed by Kelt (the successor to Taylor Woodrow Energy Limited - TWEL).
- 1.9 Malton was further appraised by the three wells drilled in 1976 (Candecca), 1980 and 1985 (TWEL). The field was brought into production in 1995 and to date has produced a cumulative 8.7 bscf from two wells, Malton 1 and Malton 4 (MN-1 & MN-4). The field remains in production today from one well, MN-1, with MN-4 currently suspended. Viking considers that there is further development drilling potential within the field.
- 1.10 Gas was discovered at Kirby Misperton in 1985 by TWEL. KM-1 found commercial gas in the Carboniferous Namurian sandstone. KM-2 subsequently found gas in the KAF. The third well, KM-3, tested wet (water-bearing) and this well is now used for water and condensate disposal. KM-1 and KM-2 were brought into production in 1995 (KM-2 was later sidetracked to form KM-4 by Viking UK Gas). To date approximately 6.7 bscf has been produced from the Namurian and 3.8 bscf from the KAF. Again, Viking considers there is further development drilling potential within the field.
- 1.11 Kelt, the successor to TWEL, discovered gas at Marishes in 1988 and Pickering in 1992.

  Kelt subsequently developed Malton, Kirby Misperton, Marishes and Pickering to supply gas to Knapton.
- 1.12 The Marishes field was brought into production in 1995 and to date three wells (MS-1, MS-2, MS-3) have developed ~3.2 bscf from the KAF. One well remains in production as an occasional supply well. Further development potential of the fiel white Aaluation by Viking.

  -2 SEP 2008
- 1.13 Tullow and Edinburgh were the successors to Kelt in 1999. During this period, very little exploration, development or workover activities were performed with a resulting impact on the available daily gas production rate. After succeeding Tullow in 2003, planning permission was granted to Viking UK Gas in March 2006 for the sinking of an exploratory borehole on land adjacent to the Gas Valve Compound at Ebberston Common Lane (ref NYM/2005/0254/FL). The borehole was drilled in 2006 and has been suspended following testing and evaluation. Viking UK Gas Limited wishes to retain the Ebberston Moor 1 Well Site for a further three years in order to demonstrate the commitment of Viking UK Gas to the continued production of gas in the area. Following

discussions with the Park Authority, Viking Gas Limited has prepared a detailed landscape and visual impact assessment, as part of this application, which seeks to reduce the impact of the existing well site upon the landscape. The proposals include re-grading the existing landscape bunds to enable them to be grassed and introducing a hedgerow and structural planting to better screen the Site from Ebberston Common Lane and the surrounding area.

#### **Summary**

- 1.14 This Planning Statement sets out the details of the proposed retained development and should be read in conjunction with the accompanying Landscape and Visual Appraisal Statement and application drawings. The Statement is split into the following sections:
  - Section 2: The Site and Surroundings
  - Section 3: Planning History
  - Section 4: Description of the Proposed Development
  - Section 5: Planning Policy Framework
  - Section 6: Appraisal of Proposed Development
  - Section 7 : Conclusions

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#### 2.0 THE SITE AND SURROUNDINGS

#### **Surroundings**

- 2.1 The Application Site is located within the Parish of Allerston at the edge of Dalby Forest on the forestry land approximately 6.5km to the north of Ebberston. Access is directly off the unmade public highway bordering the site.
- currently, the Application Site is contained within a wedge of established and regenerating forestry bound by Ebberston Common Lane to the east, Dalby Forest Drive to the west and an informal logging track to the south (see drawing no 2243/VK/EM1/C/02/A). Forestry planting in this area includes mature Scots Pine to the northwest, mixed Larch and Spruce to the southwest and pockets of regenerating broadleaf to the west and south. The Forestry Commission is responsible for the management of forestry in this area and will also monitor the establishment of regenerating woodland to ensure its success.
- 2.3 The nearest communities to the site are the small, loosely defined farming community of Langdale End (4.25km to the north-east) and the more compact forestry community of Low Dalby (4.75km to the south-west). The latter is an outdoor tourist related centre situated on the Dalby Forest Drive complete with a Forestry Commission information centre encouraging active and passive recreational pursuits within the forest area.
- 2.4 Existing built development in this area is limited and typically restricted to isolated farm buildings set within pockets of established woodland. An existing active Above Ground Installation (AGI), known as Lockton Compound also extends to the north of the Site. The nearest residential development is Ebberston Common Farm located approximately 270 metres to the southeast of the Site. This has no direct views into the Site given the screening provided by intervening forestry planting.
- 2.5 The wider landscape represents an elevated plateau established predominately in forestry vegetation. The elevation of the Site is 246 metres AOD and appears similar to much of the surrounding land.

#### **Site Description**

2.6 The Site presently consists of a modified area of landscape associated with existing gas exploration activity covering a total area of 0.94 hectares. The central area of the Site

includes a rectangular drilling platform covering a total area of approximately 0.44 hectares. This comprises a level drilling platform covered by 300mm of crushed stone compacted over a geo-textile membrane and contains a capped well structure and an additional cellar in its centre. Surrounding this is a 600mm deep drainage ditch which acts to sever drainage within the Site from the surrounding hydrology. Along the western and southern boundaries of the Site, two separate bunds have been formed comprising of sub-soil and top-soil respectively.

- 2.7 To the east of the larger drilling platform extends a smaller elevated platform of approximately 0.25 hectares, used to accommodate temporary parking and buildings associated with drilling operations undertaken within the drilling platform area. This is separated from Ebberston Common Road by a corridor of limited vegetation approximately 13 metres wide. At present this accommodates some existing semi-mature Oak, Hawthorn and Ash trees. On the opposite side of the road lies a contained area of pastoral land use enclosed by the broader periphery of Dalby Forest. This area also contains an existing flare pit associated with gas exploration undertaken on the Site. The existing flare pit is proposed to be restored in accordance with the restoration scheme submitted and approved by the Park Authority as a condition to the original planning permission (ref NYM/2005/0254/FL).
- 2.8 Access to the Site would continue to remain in the current location at the southeast corner of the Site. The access has a two metre high wire mesh gate set back approximately 10 metres form the road margin. Security fencing also encloses the periphery of the Site including the elevated car-parking area to the east.

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#### 3.0 PLANNING HISTORY

3.1 An online search of North Yorkshire County Council and Ryedale District Council's planning application database reveals the following planning history for the Site:

**TABLE 3.1: Planning History of Application Site** 

NYM/2005/0254/FL	Granted	22 March 2006

- 3.2 Application reference NYM/2005/0254/FL was submitted on 8 April 2005 on behalf of Viking UK Ltd for the drilling of an exploratory borehole at Ebberston Common Lane, Dalby Forest. The application went to Committee on the 21 March 2006 and was granted permission on 23 March 2006.
- 3.3 Consent is now sought to remodel and retain the existing well site for a period of three years. As part of extending the duration of this consent, a landscape strategy forms part of the application which seeks to ensure that any existing visual impacts of development are more effectively reduced.

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## 4.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- Planning permission is being sought for an extension to the previous consent NYM/2005/0254/FL for a period of 3 years to retain the site as a well site and retain the site and well head valve assembly gear for evaluation. Permission is also sought to enable remodelling of topsoil and sub-soil, additional areas of planting and amendment of the location of boundary fencing designed to reduce the existing visual impact of the site from surrounding public vantage points. Drawings 2243/VK/EM1/C/02/A, 17068/P1 and 17068/L2/C inclusive comprise the deposited plans and drawings illustrating the above proposals.
- 4.2 Presently Viking UK Gas Limited wishes to retain the site as further evaluation of Kirkham Abbey reservoir is required prior to a decision on re-development of the old Lockton field. Viking UK Gas acquired an extensive 3D seismic survey over the area in 2007. Interpretation of this data has lead to a revised picture of the sub-surface reservoir geometry markedly different from the previous maps of the field generated from the old 2D seismic. Unfortunately the Ebberston Moor 1 well (EB-1), nor any of the previous Lockton wells drilled by Home Oil & Taylor Woodrow, penetrate a new potential field high to the East of the EB-1 location. Therefore a further appraisal well will be required on the structure as a prerequisite to any final development decision.
- 4.3 Such a new appraisal well may be drilled from a surface location on or near the old Lockton East 1 site. During testing of the reservoir in a new appraisal well it would be the intention of Viking UK Gas to run downhole pressure gauges in the EB-1 well. Once results from this work program are in and evaluated Viking UK gas will be in a position to make a final decision on their preferred development plans for the area.
- Until that time Viking UK Gas wishes to retain the EB-1 site (as further potential rig based activities may be required on it as part of a future development activity). As part of the approved restoration scheme accompanying the original planning permission for the well site, the flare pit will be removed and the site restored. In preparing the landscape strategy, guidance has been sought from the Forestry Commission for the proposals for planting around the perimeter area.

It is anticipated that no activities will take place on the site during the temporary period of 3 years sought in this application. In the event that Viking UK Gas wishes to carry out any work on the well site, a separate planning application will be submitted to the Park Authority.

#### 5.0 PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK

#### Introduction

5.1 The 'saved policies' of the North Yorkshire Minerals Local Plan (1997) will continue to form part of the development plan for future mineral development in North Yorkshire, until the Minerals & Waste Development Plan Framework is approved. The Regional Spatial Strategy for Yorkshire and the Humber (2008) and the North York Moors Local Plan (2003) also form part of the development plan. Regard is also given to Minerals Planning Statement 1: Planning and Minerals and Mineral Policy Statement 2: Controlling and Mitigating the Environmental Effects of Minerals Extraction in England.

#### **National Planning Policy**

5.2 Mineral Policy Statement 1 (MPS1), published in November 2006, sets out the overall policy approach to minerals planning in England. It states in its introductory paragraph that minerals, including gas, are essential to the nation's prosperity and quality of life, not least in helping to create and develop sustainable communities. Furthermore, minerals development is different from other forms of development because minerals can only be worked where they naturally occur. MPS1 identifies the important considerations which should be addressed in Mineral Plans which amongst other matters include the safeguarding of reserves, supply, the protection of heritage and countryside and environmental protection. Annex 4 of MPS1 deals with the Governments Energy Policy and the role of onshore gas developments. The 2003 Energy White Paper seeks;

• to cut carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by 2050, with real progress by 2020;

to maintain the reliability of energy supplies;

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to promote competitive markets in the UK and beyond; and

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• to ensure that every home is adequately and affordably heated.

- 5.3 Paragraph 2.2 of Annex 4 states that UK conventional gas production off-shore will decline significantly over the coming years and that by 2020 the UK is likely to be importing around three quarters of its primary energy needs. Therefore in the short to medium term, the aim is to;
  - maximise the potential of the UK's conventional gas reserves in an environmentally acceptable manner;

- encourage the development of clean coal technologies; and
- encourage the capture of methane from coal mines where environmentally acceptable.
- Paragraph 3.2 notes that conventional gas development broadly consists of three phases exploration, appraisal and production. Each phase requires a separate planning permission and there should be no presumption in favour of consent for subsequent stages if an earlier stage is permitted. Nor should possible effects of a later stage not yet applied for constitute grounds for refusal of an earlier stage.
- Paragraph 3.8 states that local authority policies should indicate that, subject to the effects on the environment being properly addressed and mitigated, and a satisfactory restoration and aftercare plan prepared, applications for drilling may be favourably considered. Furthermore, paragraphs 3.11 and 3.12 highlight that drilling should not be permitted close to sensitive receptors, such as, houses, and early consultation with the Environment Agency is necessary to avoid the risk of pollution to ground water aquifers.
- Paragraph 3.9 states where environmental or other conditions might preclude vertical drilling, MPAs should discuss with the industry the option of employing directional drilling. LDD policies should make clear that this approach will be adopted and that careful consideration will be given to factors such as:
  - the need for night-time drilling for safety reasons;
  - locating sites to minimise visual intrusion;
  - controlling vehicular activity and vehicle routing;
  - controlling the disposal of mud and other drilling residue; and
  - controlling noise and light emissions from drilling rigs with particular reference to night-time operations.
- 5.7 Mineral Policy Statement 2 (MPS2), published in March 2005, sets out the principles to be followed in considering the environmental effects of mineral working in order to encourage sensitive working. Technical annexes to MPS2 on noise and dust reflect the fact that minerals extraction activity can have a noticeable environmental impact. Paragraph 17 of the MPS states that applications which are in accordance with the relevant development plan should be allowed unless material considerations indicate otherwise. It goes on to advise developers that any potential adverse effects on local

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communities, environmental damage or loss of amenity must be kept to an acceptable minimum through the design of the proposals.

#### **Regional Spatial Strategy**

5.8 The Yorkshire and the Humber Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy to 2026 was published in May 2008. Policies contained within the RSS do not relate specifically to gas exploration but Policy ENV4 'Minerals Extraction' encourages planning authorities to make provisions for adequate and steady supply of minerals.

#### "Policy ENV4: Minerals

- A) Plans, strategies, investment decisions and programmes should safeguard mineral deposits in the region, including aggregates (sand, gravel, limestone and sandstone), silica sand, coal, clay, brick earth, chalk and potash, from sterilisation by other types of development and provide for an adequate and steady supply of minerals.
- B) The region will maximise the use of secondary and recycled aggregates to reduce dependency on primary extraction.
- C) Mineral Planning Authorities should:-

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- 1. maximise the contribution by substitute and secondary materials wherever possible, and facilitate sites and operations (including those to blend secondary and primary aggregates, reprocessing and the transfer of materials), especially in West Yorkshire.
- make provision for the sub regional apportionments as set out in Table 10.1 and endeavour to maintain a landbank for all nationally and regionally significant minerals.
- 3. seek a progressive reduction in aggregate production from National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, noting that there is no strategic justification for the provision of any new crushed rock sites within theses areas within the Plan period.

D) The sub regional aggregate apportionments should be updated in a review of the Plan, in particular to taking account of the second phase of the Yorkshire and Humber Sand and Gravel Study."

#### **Current Local Planning Policy**

- Mineral planning within the National Park comes under the jurisdiction of the North York Moors National Park. Authority On commencement of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, all existing adopted local plans and relevant structure plans were automatically saved for 3 years. As such the North York Moors Local Plan which was adopted in May 2003 remains the development plan for the area.
- 5.10 Policy M3 refers specifically to the impact of development relating to oil and gas with regard to reducing the impact on the environment and landscape. It states

#### M3 OIL AND GAS

Proposals for gas or oil exploration, appraisal and production will only be permitted where any impact on the landscape or environment of the National Park, or on the amenity of residents and visitors, can be moderated to a level acceptable in a National Park in the context of any overriding need for the development.

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#### **Emerging Planning Policy**

- 5.11 The North Yorkshire County Council Minerals Core Strategy was submitted to the Secretary of State for examination in January 2008. The hearing is expected in November 2008 with adoption expected in 2009. Some weight can therefore be given to policies contained within the Submission Draft due to the advanced stage of the document.
- The Vale of Pickering is identified in the Core Strategy as being the principal production area for gas within North Yorkshire and recognises that there may be opportunity to limit overall impacts and maximise the benefits of the resource through joint working and careful site selection. Policy CSM8 'On-Shore Oil and Gas' states that proposals for oil and gas will be permitted where;

- (i) The site is located within the potential oil or gas resource at the location where it would have least impact on environmental and amenity, subject to technical and geological considerations;
- (ii) Within the Howardian Hills AONB and the Cleveland and North Yorkshire Heritage Coasts and Flamborough Headland Heritage Coasts, a very high standard of design and, where appropriate, mitigation should be provided;
- (iii) It can be demonstrated that the site can be restored to an appropriate standard within a reasonable timescale;
- (iv) In the case of production, it can be demonstrated that the site selection has had regard to the long term development of the overall resource within the gas or oilfield, and;
- (v) Any new infrastructure required for the transport of energy minerals or energy from the site can be developed without unacceptable impact on environment or amenity.
- The proposals outlined within this planning application are in accordance with Policy CSM8 because the development would utilise the existing location and infrastructure of Ebberston Moor 1 Wellsite, therefore minimising the impact of an additional structure on the environmental and landscape. The location is not designated as an AONB or Heritage Coast and, following cessation of the site, it will be restored to an appropriate use and standard, within a reasonable time scale.

#### Conclusions

- 5.14 The proposed development is in accordance with national and local minerals planning policy in that it will assist in maximising the potential of the UK's conventional gas reserves in an environmentally acceptable manner.
- 5.15 There are minimal environmental management issues relating to the retention of Ebberston 1 Wellsite other than landscape and visual impact. Accordingly, the application is accompanied by a detailed Landscape and Visual Appraisal Statement. An appropriate restoration project will be implemented following the cessation of the gas field with aftercare measures applied as appropriate. The extraction will continue

through the existing pipe infrastructure and the proposals therefore comply with Policy R4.

5.16 The proposed development, therefore, is compliant with relevant current and emerging planning policy.

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## 6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL APPRAISAL OF THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

There will be no activities or processes taking place on the site apart from the remodelling of the existing gas well site. However, in order to mitigate the visual impact and the effect on the local landscape character some additional landscaping work will be required.

#### Visual Impact and Effect on Landscape

- The Landscape and Visual Appraisal Statement states that the Site contains an existing gas well where drilling activity is now completed and the well suspended. The site contains an existing suspended well enclosed by a periphery of drainage ditches, bunding, car parking and perimeter fencing. This occupies a cleared area of woodland within Dalby Forest and forms part of the larger North Yorkshire National Park. With the exception of the wider National Park Designation, the Site is not subject to any additional landscape designations.
- 6.3 The topography of the Site is influenced by earthworks approved under Planning Permission NYM/2005/0254/FL. This creates a rectangular platform and adjacent car parking area contained by bunding to the west and south and enclosed by peripheral fencing providing gated access off Ebberston Common Road.
- 6.4 A visual appraisal of the Site reveals that visibility into the Site is effectively restricted to its eastern and southern peripheries including an adjacent section of Ebberston Common Road. The main visual indicators of development include peripheral fencing, exposed soil bunds and levelled areas accommodating the existing drilling platform and car-parking viewed through gaps in peripheral vegetation along the eastern boundary.
- In order to reduce the visual impact of development from identified public areas, a landscape strategy is proposed to improve the quality of vegetation enclosure, temporarily revegetate visible areas of bunding and reduce visibility of fencing. Once established, the visual impact of temporary gas drilling activity, as proposed, will represent a minimal intrusion to the wider character of Dalby Forest to the extent that it will be appropriately absorbed on this Site.

The restoration of the site and the after-use proposed and scope for limiting the duration of working

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- As with the previous application, in the event that the existing well proves commercially unviable, gas exploration on the Site would be abandoned and the Site would be reinstated to its original state. This process is proposed to remain consistent with conditions imposed under Planning Permission NYM/2005/0254/FL.
- 6.7 Reinstatement work will include removing the existing access, hardcore and fencing into the Site and re-grading stored sub-soil and topsoil to replicate the pre-existing levels. This would then be scarified and returned to forestry in accordance with the Forestry Commission Plan within the next planting season. Much of this area is proposed to include regenerating broadleaf forest which will be assisted by the proposed planting of broadleaf species along the Site's southern boundary.
- 6.8 If, at the end of the three years, the well proves to be commercially unviable, it would be abandoned by plugging the borehole in accordance with detailed procedures agreed with BERR. The steel casing would be cut approximately 1.5 m below the surface and capped with a steel plate. The well cellar and sump-lining would be removed. Any remaining drilling mud and cutting waste would be removed along with the perimeter ditch-lining.
- The perimeter fence, access, and the hardcore over the well site would be removed, the land re-graded and deep-scarified in accordance with best forestry practice. Stored sub-soil and top-soil would be spread over the re-graded ground and the site rescarified. The site would be returned to forestry at the first available growing season in accordance with the Forestry Commission's pre-determined re-planting programme.

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#### 7.0 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 Government Policy promotes the principle of exploring for the discovery and recovery of the nation's hydrocarbon reserves wherever possible providing environmental issues are properly taken into account. The proposals, the subject of this planning application, begin and end at the discovery stage of hydrocarbon development. It is for the industry to demonstrate that adverse environmental effects have been either removed altogether or reduced to a level acceptable to the local community and relevant statutory bodies and agencies.
- 7.2 This Supporting Statement, in its appraisal of environmental issues, demonstrates that those regarding noise, pollution, waste disposal and safety have been removed altogether whilst those of visual impact, (in view of the short-term nature of the proposal) and access, traffic and noise (through mitigating measures as previously described in previous planning application NYM/2005/0254/FL), have been reduced to an acceptable level.
- 7.3 The applicant trusts that the local community and relevant statutory bodies and agencies concur with its beliefs to the extent that its proposal can be supported.
- 7.4 The applicant hereby respectfully requests that planning permission be granted.

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## **EBBERSTON MOOR 1 WELL SITE**

# LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL APPRAISAL STATEMENT

SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF VIKING UK GAS LIMITED

**AUGUST 2008** 

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## EBBERSTON MOOR 1 WELL SITE NORTH YORK MOORS NATIONAL PARK

#### LANDSCAPE AND VISUAL APPRAISAL STATEMENT

## SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF VIKING UK GAS LIMITED

**NYMNPA** 

-2 SEP 2008

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Date: August 2008

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### **ILLUSTRATIVE MATERIAL**

Figure 1:

Landscape and Visual Appraisal Plan at 1:1,000 scale @ A2

Figure 2:

Landscape Strategy Plan at 1:500 scale @ A2

#### **APPENDIX 1**

Site Appraisal Photographs (A-C) Site Context Photographs (1-2)

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#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- Barton Willmore Landscape Planning and Design (BWLPD) was commissioned by Viking UK Gas Limited to undertake a Landscape and Visual Appraisal of a Site containing an existing gas drilling well within an area of approximately 1.35 hectares of land (hereafter referred to as 'the Site'). This occupies part of Dalby Forest to the west of Ebberston Common Lane.
- 1.2 The existing gas drilling Site was given planning permission under Application Number NYM/2005/0254/FL on 22 March 2006. Consent is now sought to remodel and retain the existing well site for a period of three years. As part of extending the duration of this consent, landscape mitigation forms part of the application to ensure that any existing visual impacts of development are more effectively reduced.
- 1.3 The findings of this landscape assessment identify that the scale and nature of extending the duration of consent for existing minerals development will be effectively absorbed within this Site. This entails the enhancement of existing screen planting, temporary re-vegetation of stockpiled soil and a reduction in the visibility of security fencing. Once established this work will ensure the existing visual impact of development is minimised when viewed from limited public vantage points adjacent the Site.

#### 2.0 SITE CONTEXT

- 2.1 The Site is contained within a wedge of established and regenerating forestry bound by Ebberston Common Lane to the east, Dalby Forest Drive to the west and an informal logging track to the south. Forestry planting in this area includes mature Scots Pine to the northwest, mixed Larch and Spruce to the southwest and pockets of regenerating broadleaf to the west and south. The Forestry Commission is responsible for the management of forestry in this area and will also monitor the establishment of regenerating woodland to ensure its success.
- 2.2 Existing built development in this area is limited and typically restricted to isolated farm buildings set within pockets of established woodland. An adjacent gas depot extends to the north of the Site and contains some existing built form enclosed by a periphery of fencing. This is operated by Northern Gas and does not from part of the Site. The nearest residential development is Ebberston Common Farm located approximately 270 metres to the southeast of the Site. This has no direct views into the Site given the screening provided by intervening forestry planting.
- 2.3 The wider landscape represents an elevated plateau established predominately in forestry vegetation. The elevation of the Site is 246 metres AOD and appears similar to much of the surrounding land.

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- 2.4 Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS7) acknowledges the role of landscape character assessments in informing Local Planning Authorities on policy and guidance. National landscape guidance has now moved from concentrating efforts on designating and protecting those areas of the countryside which are most important for landscape and wildlife, that is the quality approach, to a character approach as a way of enriching the quality of the whole countryside whilst accommodating appropriate development, in order to complement the protection which designations offer.
- 2.5 The Countryside Agency and English Nature (which have now been amalgamated to form Natural England) have produced a Countryside Character Map of England and the landscape of which encompasses the Site is described in Volume 1: The North East: Character Area 25 North Yorkshire Moors and Cleveland Hills. The detailed extracts of this assessment are included in **Appendix I** with the key features relevant to this assessment identified below:
  - Upland plateau landscape underlain mainly by sandstone and mudstone of Middle Jurassic age, and in the south, calcareous sandstone and limestone of Upper Jurassic age, with areas of undulating land arising from deposits of glacial till, sand and gravel.
  - Arable landscape to south and east, but part still on elevated, sweeping plateaus and hills.
  - Sparsely settled, with population concentrated in the dales and around the fringes.
  - Valley landscapes characterised by predominantly pastoral farming with clear demarcation between the enclosed fields, farms, settlements and the moorland ridges above. The transition is often marked by bracken fringes.
  - Extensive areas of coniferous plantations, especially on the Tabular Hills in the south-east and Hackness north of Pickering; with remnant areas of predominantly ancient semi-natural woodland occurring mainly on valley side slopes, on escarpments and fringing hills.
  - Traditional stone walls and hedgerows enclosing fields in the dales and lower fringing farmland - now often replaced by fences.
- 2.6 Within the 'Shaping the Future' section of this assessment, it is acknowledged that most of the area is designated as a National Park and so many of the issues relating to change in the landscape are already being considered. In this context, it is noted that development issues need to be addressed, explicitly identifying those relating to tourism and infrastructure.

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- 2.7 White Young Green Environmental in association with North York Moors National Park Authority has produced a Landscape Character Assessment of the area that includes the Site. This is dated December 2003 and was adopted in September 2004. Within this document, the Site is contained within the Forest Landscape Character Area and forms part of Dalby Forest (Area 3C). The detailed extracts of this assessment are included in **Appendix II** and includes the following landscape characteristics apparent in the vicinity of the Site:
  - A large and diverse area of coniferous and deciduous forest, situated on the Tabular Hills and overlying Middle and Lower Calcareous Grit from the Corallian Group.
  - Landform is typical of the Tabular Hills landscape; a gently graded plateau towards the north of the forest (at a maximum height of 240m) falls away towards the Vale of Pickering in the south. The plateau is deeply incised by river valleys with steep sides and occasional clifflines and by shallow dry valleys mainly orientated in a north east to south west direction. The forest extends down the edge of the north facing scarp with its irregular wavelike form, the top edge of which allows views across Langdale Forest to the north.
  - The extensive forestry includes large area of recently felled and newly planted areas. The forest contains a diverse range of habitats, including sizable blocks and linear belts of deciduous woodland are present particularly within valleys and on steeper slopes. Species present include larch, Scots pine, birch, cherry, ash, rowan and oak. A small area of upland heath Troutsdale Moor is included to the east of the character area. Small areas of rough pasture and fen occur. In some areas there is an abrupt geometric edge to the forest.
  - Some areas of remnant farmland occur within openings in the forest. Fields
     of pasture are divided by both stone walls and fences.
  - The public vehicular access to the forest is via Dalby Forest Drive, a toll road, with numerous car parking, picnic areas and other facilities for tourists located along its length, or via Ebberston. Tracks through the woodland, in a loose grid pattern, provide access for forestry vehicles.
  - The small hamlet of Low Dalby is the main settlement in the area situated in a narrow opening in the forest in the valley of Dalby Beck. Other settlements are limited to very occasional isolated farms within the open areas.

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## North York Moors Local Plan (2003)

- 2.8 Mineral planning within the National Park comes under the jurisdiction of the National Park Authority. The North York Moors Local Plan was adopted in May 2003 and sets out the policy framework for mineral planning in within the North York Moors National Park. This framework identifies that the landscape impact of mineral extraction has potential to be magnified within a National Park while acknowledging a national need for gas generated from this area has been established.
- 2.9 Policy M3 of the Minerals Local Plan relates specifically to the impacts of gas exploration on the landscape or environment. This states:

"Proposals for gas or oil exploration, appraisal and production will only be permitted where any impact on the landscape or environment of the National Park, or on the amenity of residents and visitors, can be moderated to a level acceptable in a National Park in the context of any overriding need for the development."

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#### 3.0 SITE APPRAISAL

- 3.1 The Site presently consists of a modified area of landscape associated with existing gas exploration activity covering a total area of approximately 0.9 hectares. The central area of the Site includes a rectangular drilling platform covering a total area of approximately 0.44 hectares. This forms a level drilling platform covered by 300mm of crushed stone compacted over a geo-textile membrane and contains a suspended well structure and an additional cellar in its centre. Surrounding this is a 600mm deep drainage ditch which acts to severe drainage within the Site from the surrounding hydrology. Along the western and southern boundaries of the Site, two separate bunds have been formed comprising of sub-soil and top-soil respectively.
- 3.2 To the east of the larger drilling platform extends a smaller elevated platform of approximately 0.25 hectares and used to accommodate temporary parking and buildings associated with drilling operations undertaken within the drilling platform area. This is separated from Ebberston Common Lane by a corridor of limited vegetation approximately 13 meters wide. At present this accommodates some existing semi-mature Oak, Hawthorn and Ash trees. On the opposite side of the road, extends a contained area of pastoral land use enclosed by the broader periphery of Dalby Forest. This area also contains an existing flare pit associated with gas exploration undertaken on the Site. The flare pit is proposed to be restored as part of this application and introduces an additional 1,000m³ of additional subsoil along the western boundary of the Site.
- 3.3 Access to the Site is provided into the southeast corner of the Site. This enters a 2 metre high wire mesh gate set back approximately 10 metres form the road margin. Security fencing also encloses the periphery of the Site including the elevated car-parking area to the east.
- 3.4 Three Site Appraisal Photographs have been taken from within the Site in June 2008 and serve to demonstrate the character of the Site as existing. These are included in **Appendix 1**. The location from which these photographs were taken is shown on **Figure 1**.
- 3.5 **Photograph A** illustrates the view of the Site taken from its northwest corner looking south. On the left hand side of this photograph, the Northern Gas site is visible introducing an area of adjacent built from, fencing and hard standing. To the right of this, fencing and a drainage ditch enclosing the northern boundary of the Site can be observed extending along the margins of the drilling platform. Through the centre of the photograph is an area of level gravel containing the existing gas drilling well. This area is partially contained by existing vegetation along Ebberston Common Lane, seen to the centre left, and existing sub-soil bund observed to the right. A periphery of established forestry is also evident along the horizon through the right hand side of the photograph.

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- 3.6 **Photograph B** illustrates a view of the Site from the existing elevated top-soil bund in the southeast corner of the Site looking north. From this area the existing gas drilling platform is visible on the left hand side of the photograph within an area enclosed by established woodland. In the centre of the photograph access to the Site is visible against a corridor of existing vegetation established along the Site's eastern boundary. On the right hand side of the photograph Ebberston Common Lane is visible separating the Site from an adjacent area of pasture enclosed by further Ebberston Common Plantations. The existing Gas Flare pit is evident in this area within an open grass area.
- 3.7 **Photograph C** illustrates the view of the Site from the southeast corner of the Site looking south over the adjacent area of regenerating woodland. On the left hand side of the photograph, Ebberston Common Lane is visible extending south passed the Site. Beyond this Ebberston Common Plantation can be observed blocking views between the Site and Ebberston Common Farm located approximately 270 metres from the Site. Through the centre of the photograph, regenerating woodland is apparent extending towards Hybrid Larch and Sitka Spruce plantation planted in 1996. Fencing along the southern boundary of the Site is evident extending to the right hand side of the photograph.

#### Summary

3.8 An appraisal of the Site reveals that its existing character is influenced by existing gas exploration activity. This occupies the area to the south of an adjacent gas depot and predominately appears enclosed by established and regenerating woodland to the west and south. Access to the Site is provided in the south-east corner of the Site which also accesses a terraced parking platform between the Site and Ebberston Common Lane. Limited vegetation has been retained along the eastern margin of the Site and enables activity within the Site to remain apparent from this adjacent public area.

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- 4.1 A Visual Appraisal of the Site was carried out and consideration was given to its potential visibility from areas readily accessible to the public. While the surrounding land consists of Forestry Commission Woodland enabling public access on foot, the impact of development has focussed on visibility from adjacent roads and tracks given the understanding that these areas are significantly more likely to attract future public use.
- 4.2 The visual appraisal concludes that the combination of existing topography and extensive forestry planting is effective in curtailing views from most surrounding publicly accessible areas. Where vegetation is less established along the eastern and southern boundaries of the Site, visibility into the Site is more apparent. Such visibility is available from a brief section of Ebberston Common Lane as it passes adjacent to the Site for a length of approximately 180 metres.
- 4.3 As identified above, much of the vegetation surrounding the Site comprises designated forestry blocks in various stages of maturity. Established forestry to the west of the Site includes mature and semi-mature conifers and is effective in curtailing views in the vicinity of Dalby Forest Drive. Vegetation enclosing this area of the Site is not anticipated to be felled until at least 2052 and will outlive any proposed temporary gas drilling activity in this area. Accordingly this enables the potential visual impact from public vantage points to the west of the Site to be disregarded.
- The area to the south of the Site has recently been felled and is anticipated to accommodate regenerating native broadleaf species. The establishment of vegetation in this area will be monitored by the Forestry Commission and may include enrichment planting should regeneration prove unsuccessful over the next 5-10 years. The existing open character of this area currently enables partial views towards the southern boundary of the Site including the southern approach along Ebberston Common Lane. Visibility of the southern boundary of the Site typically comprises the existing top soil bund with visibility over the drilling platform restricted to the area in closer proximity to the Site access.
- 4.5 When passing directly adjacent to the Site along Ebberston Common Lane, visual cues of development in this area typically comprise security fencing, an exposed sub-soil bund and a deared level drilling platform visible through limited planting retained along the Site's eastern boundary.
- 4.6 Two photographs were taken of the Site from Ebberston Common Lane and serve to represent the nature of visibility from this adjacent public area as presently exists. These photographs are included in **Appendix 1** and demonstrate the view from locations indicated on **Figure 1**.

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- 4.7 **Site Context Photograph No. 1** illustrates the view into the Site from a point approximately 20 metres south of the Site entrance. On the left hand side of this photograph, regenerating broadleaf to the south of the Site is visible extending east of Ebberston Common Lane. Through the centre of the photograph, fencing enclosing the southern area of the Site is visible along the southern edge of an area of topsoil extending along the southern boundary of the Site. To the right of the photograph, Ebberston Common Lane can be seen separating a more significant area of woodland to the west from a contained area of pasture to the east.
- 4.8 **Site Context Photograph No.2** illustrates a view looking west into the Site from a point adjacent the Site along Ebberston Common Lane. Ebberston Common Lane is visible to the left and right hand side of the photograph as it passes adjacent the eastern boundary of the Site. Through the centre of the Site the existing vegetation enclosing the Site's eastern boundary can be observed with breaks in this vegetation enabling direct views into the Site. From this area visibility of the Site includes the levelled drill Site enclosed by both perimeter fencing and sub-soil bunding and viewed against a backdrop of plantation forestry.

#### Summary

A visual appraisal of the Site concludes that views from the wider landscape are effectively curtailed by an enclosure of forestry planting in various states of maturity. In this context visibility is limited to areas adjacent the Site's eastern boundary including an adjacent section of Ebberston Common Lane. When approaching the Site along Ebberston Common Lane from the south, the Site is viewed over an area of regenerating woodland with views over the drilling platform made possible through sporadic planting retained along the Site's eastern boundary. A disused gas depot, to the north of the Site is also visible through pockets of woodland retained in this area. Visibility of existing fencing and exposed soil bunds provide the most visible indicators of existing development in this area.

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#### 5.0 LANDSCAPE STRATEGY

- In order to mitigate identified visual effects, a landscape strategy has been devised and included as **Figure 2: Landscape Strategy**. This serves to demonstrate areas of remodelled topsoil and sub-soil, additional areas of planting and an amended location of fencing designed to reduce the existing visual impact of the Site from surrounding public vantage points.
- 5.2 In summary the landscape strategy has been designed to achieve the following objectives:
  - Enhance existing vegetation enclosing the eastern periphery of the Site;
  - Enhance the establishment of broadleaf forestry along the southern boundary of the Site;
  - Remodel naturalistic bunding that curtails views from the southern entrance to the Site along Ebberston Common Lane;
  - Reinstate bunds with temporary vegetation that reduces their visual impact observed from surrounding public areas; and
  - Reduce the impact of fencing observed from Ebberston Common Lane.
- 5.3 The area extending to the west of the Site includes coniferous plantation forestry that provides an effective screen from public vantage points in this area. The area immediately to the south of the Site has recently been felled and left to regenerate in broadleaf species. Given the screening benefit of re-establishing broadleaf species within open land in these areas, natural regeneration is proposed to be assisted with the addition of broadleaf species of local provenance along the southern and western peripheries of the Site.
- The eastern boundary of the Site provides a narrow corridor of limited vegetation that enables views from public vantage points in this area including, in particular, the adjacent section of Ebberston Common Lane. Views from Ebberston Common Lane typically comprise of views of peripheral fencing enclosing an open drilling platform. Such visibility is proposed to be reduced through relocating the fence beyond a vegetated screen and enhancing the level of vegetation established along the road margin and along the eastern margin of the platform. Once established the Site would appear more effectively assimilated within its vegetated context and significantly less prominent when viewed from the road.
- 5.5 Bunding enclosing the southern and western boundaries of the Site currently contains exposed soil and represents a visual detractor that contrasts with the texture and colour of vegetation enclosing the Site. In order to reduce the visual presence of these areas bunding is proposed to be remodelled to a gentler gradient of 1:3 and established in temporary native grass species. Once revegetated, bunding will contribute to a reduction in the visual presence of development and enhance the effective integration between the Site and the wider natural character of the National Park.

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#### 6.0 REINSTATEMENT

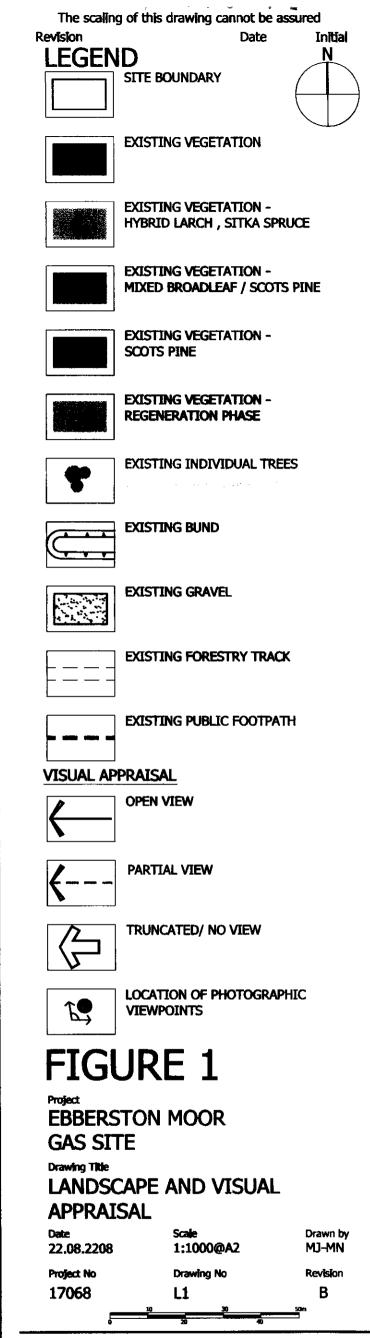
- As with the previous application, in the event that the existing well proves commercially unviable, gas exploration on the Site would be abandoned and the Site would be reinstated. This process is proposed to remain consistent with conditions imposed under Planning Permission NYM/2005/0254/FL.
- 6.2 Reinstatement work will include removing the existing access, hardcore and fencing into the Site and re-grading stored sub-soil and topsoil to replicate the pre-existing levels. This would then be scarified and returned to forestry in accordance with the Forestry Commission Plan within the next planting season. Much of this area is proposed to include regenerating broadleaf forest which will be assisted by the proposed planting of broadleaf species along the Site's southern boundary.

#### 7.0 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The Site contains an existing gas drilling activity comprising a suspended well enclosed by a periphery of drainage ditches, bunding, car parking and perimeter fencing. This occupies a cleared area of woodland within Dalby Forest and forms part of the larger North Yorkshire National Park. With the exception of the wider National Park Designation, the Site is not subject to any additional landscape designations.
- 7.2 The topography of the Site is influenced by earthworks approved under Planning Permission NYM/2005/0254/FL. This creates a rectangular platform and adjacent car parking area contained by bunding to the west and south and enclosed by peripheral fencing providing gated access off Ebberston Common Lane.
- 7.3 A visual appraisal of the Site reveals that visibility into the Site is effectively restricted to its eastern and southern peripheries including an adjacent section of Ebberston Common Lane. The main visual indicators of development include peripheral fencing, exposed soil bunds and levelled areas accommodating the existing drilling platform and car-parking viewed through gaps in peripheral vegetation along the eastern boundary.
- 7.4 In order to reduce the visual impact of development from identified public areas, a landscape strategy is proposed to improve the quality of vegetation enclosure, temporarily revegetate visible areas of bunding and reduce visibility of fencing. Once established, the visual impact of temporary gas drilling activity, as proposed, will represent a minimal intrusion to the wider character of Dalby Forest to the extent that it will be appropriately absorbed on this Site.

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The scaling of this drawing cannot be assured

**LEGEND** 



SITE BOUNDARY



EXISTING MIXED PLANTATION



EXISTING PLANTATION WITH ENRICHMENT PLANTING - REGENERATION PHASE MONITORED OVER 5-10YRS



EXISTING FENCE TO BE RELOCATED



PROPOSED FENCE

TO 3m IN HEIGHT



PROPOSED SUBSOIL BUND (approx. 2300m<sup>3</sup>) TO BE FORMED AT MAXIMUM GRADIENT OF 1:3



PROPOSED TOPSOIL BUND (approx. 1300m<sup>3</sup>) TO BE FORMED AT MAXIMUM GRADIENT OF 1:3 TO 2m IN HEIGHT



INDICATIVE LOCATION OF EXISTING TREES TO BE RETAINED



PROPOSED GROUND COVER TO BE ESTABLISHED WITH BSH MIX TYPE RES OR SIMILAR AT 3-5 g/m<sup>2</sup>



PROPOSED HEDGE TO BE PLANTED WITH DOUBLE STAGGERED ROW AT 0.3m CENTRES SELECTED FROM THE FOLLOWING SPECIES:

Crataegus monogyna Dex aquifolium



**PROPOSED STRUCTURAL PLANTING** PLANTING OF OPEN AREAS TO ACHIEVE DENSITY OF 1 PLANT PER m2 SELECTED FROM THE

FOLLOWING SPECIES: Betula pendula Fraxinus excelsior

Quercus robur Larix kaempferi Pinus sylvestris Crataegus monognya

# FIGURE 2

**EBBERSTON MOOR GAS SITE** 

Drawing Title

LANDSCAPE STRATEGY PLAN

1:500@A2 28.08.2008 Project No Drawing No 17068 L2

BARTON

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Drawn by

MJ-MN

Revision

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