

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Viking UK Gas Limited (hereafter referred to as the “Applicant”) is seeking full planning permission for the exploitation of conventional hydrocarbon resources only, for an operational period of up to five years, including: gas production from one wellhead at the existing Eberston Moor ‘A’ Well Site; piping the produced gas to the adjoining Lockton Compound where the gas would be conditioned; injecting the conditioned gas via an existing Above Ground Installation (AGI) connection to a Northern Gas Network (NGN) pipeline that runs between Pickering and Whitby; and creation of two new access points off Eberston Common Lane. These activities are collectively referred to hereafter as the “Proposed Development”. A full description of the Proposed Development is set out in Chapter 4 of the Environmental Statement (ES).
- 1.2 The area within which the Proposed Development will be located is referred to in this ES as the “Assessment Site”. The Assessment Site, as described in detail in Chapter 3, is situated on the edge of the Dalby Forest in the North York Moors within the administrative area of North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA) and is shown on **Figure 1.1** and **1.2**. The minerals planning authority (the decision maker) is also NYMNPA.

Background to the Proposed Development

- 1.3 The Eberston Moor gas field (originally called Lockton) was discovered in 1966 and produced gas between May 1971 and 1974. Since the 1970s, further discoveries of gas have been made in the area. The interpretation of seismic data acquired by the Applicant for the fields in 2007 showed that large areas of gas remain un-tapped, while further studies have improved the understanding of the reservoir’s behaviour. It is anticipated that new seismic data, acquired by the Applicant in 2012, will confirm the extension of the Eberston Moor gas field eastwards. Additional information about the history of the Eberston Moor gas field is contained within the Planning Statement.
- 1.4 Whilst, inevitably, there is still a degree of uncertainty about the scale of recoverable gas reserves, the Applicant wishes to pursue a phased approach to the development of the Eberston Moor gas field. This phased approach will help to:
- Ensure a clearer understanding of the production performance and recovery from the gas field;
 - Minimise economic risk and mitigate any adverse effects on the local environment;
 - Establish early production; and

- Increase the availability of gas to the local supply network.
- 1.5 The well site was first approved in 2006 and reprofiled in 2008. A further permission was granted to retain the existing well site in 2011. Planning permission was then granted by the NYMNPA on 18 June 2013 to drill a side track from the existing well within Ebberston Moor 'A' Well Site and the drilling of up two additional appraisal boreholes.
- 1.6 The side track from the existing well will be drilled prior to construction commencing for this Proposed Development. In addition separate planning permission will be sought to use the existing well cellar to drill a borehole for water disposal use, if required at a later date. The use of the borehole through the existing cellar will not be assessed further as part of this ES.
- 1.7 This Proposed Development seeks planning permission to use the existing Lockton gas export pipeline, now part of the Local Transmission Zone (LTZ) pipeline infrastructure, and extend the Lockton Compound adjacent to the Ebberston Moor 'A' Well Site, in order to accommodate the gas conditioning and metering equipment. The Proposed Development will enable medium term production performance of the Ebberston Moor gas reservoir to be assessed, with the aim of proving reservoir volumes sufficient to support investment in future field development.
- 1.8 If future field development is deemed viable, the second phase of the development of Ebberston Moor gas field would involve the construction of a pipeline between Ebberston Moor 'A' Well Site and Knapton Generating Station (KGS) to allow the sour gas produced on the well site to be transported to KGS. The second phase of field development will form a separate project and the basis of a separate planning application and will not be assessed further within this ES.

Environmental Impact Assessment

- 1.9 The Proposed Development falls within Schedule 2 (2e) Section of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 (SI 1824) (the "EIA Regulations") (Ref. 1.1) as it involves a surface industrial installation for the extraction of natural gas where the area of the development exceeds 0.5 hectare. Consequently, it has the potential to have significant environmental effects and is considered to be EIA development and therefore the Applicant has voluntarily submitted an ES alongside the planning application.

- 1.10 EIA is the process of collection, publication and consideration of environmental information in the determination of a planning application. Consequently information on the likely significant effects of the Proposed Development has been gathered and is presented in this document, the ES. The ES will inform the decision-maker (in this case NYMNPA) of the likely significant environmental effects of the Proposed Development during construction, operation, decommissioning and restoration. It also identifies mitigation measures to prevent, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.

Planning Policy

- 1.11 The EIA Regulations (Ref. 1.1) do not require assessment of planning policy or guidance; however, where appropriate, national and development plan document policies of relevance have been considered within the technical chapters of this ES.

ES Structure

- 1.12 The EIA Regulations (Reg. 2 (1)) identify a requirement for an applicant to include within an ES:

"...such of the information referred to in Part 1 of Schedule 4 as is reasonably required to assess the environmental effects of the development and which the applicant can, having regard in particular to current knowledge and methods of assessment, reasonably be required to compile."

- 1.13 An outline of this information in respect of the Proposed Development and where it can be found in the ES is presented in **Table 1.1**.

Table 1.1: Location of Information within the ES Required by Part 1 and Part 2 of the EIA Regulations

Specified Information		Location within ES
1	Description of the development, including in particular –	
(a)	a description of the physical characteristics of the whole development and the land-use requirements during the construction and operational phases.	Chapter 4 (The Proposed Development), Chapter 6 (Construction Programme)
(b)	a description of the main characteristics of the production processes, for instance, nature and quantity of materials used.	Chapter 4 (The Proposed Development), Chapter 6 (Construction Programme)
(c)	an estimate, by type and quantity, of expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation, etc.) resulting from the operation of the	All technical chapters (7-15)

Specified Information		Location within ES
	proposed development.	
2	An outline of the main alternatives studied by the applicant or appellant and an indication of the main reasons for its choice, taking into account the environmental effects.	Chapter 5 (Alternatives and Design Evolution)
3	A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the development, including, in particular, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and inter-relationship between the above factors.	All technical chapters (7-15)
4	A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment, which should cover the direct effects and any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects of the development, resulting from:	
(a)	the existence of the development;	All technical chapters (7-15) and summarised in chapter 17 (Statement of Significance)
(b)	the use of natural resources;	Chapter 12 (Flood Risk, Hydrology and Drainage)
(c)	the emission of pollutants, the creation of nuisances and the elimination of waste; and	Chapter 9 (Air Quality), Chapter 10 (Noise and Vibration), Chapter 12 (Flood Risk, Hydrology and Drainage).
(d)	the description by the Applicant of the forecasting methods used to assess the effects on the environment.	Chapter 2 (EIA Methodology) and all technical chapters (7 – 15) where appropriate
5	A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.	All technical chapters (7 - 15)
6	A non-technical summary of the information provided under paragraphs 1 to 5 of this Part.	Non Technical Summary (provided as a separate document)
7	An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information.	Chapter 2 (EIA Methodology) and in technical chapters where appropriate

1.14 The ES comprises three separate volumes, namely:

- The ES Main Text: The full text of the ES which comprises a total of 17 chapters, illustrated throughout by tables and figures;
- The ES Technical Appendices: A complete set of the technical documents undertaken as part of, or in support of, the ES. The technical appendices are provided in a separate

volume to limit the size of the ES main text; and

- The Non-Technical Summary (NTS): The NTS provides a concise and straightforward summary of the Proposed Development, its likely significant environmental effects and the measures proposed to mitigate or to avoid these effects.

EIA Team

- 1.15 The ES has been coordinated by Barton Willmore LLP and presents the results of technical studies carried out in conjunction with a number of specialist consultants appointed by the Applicant. The EIA team is listed in **Table 1.2** along with their respective disciplines and contributions to the ES.

Table 1.2: EIA Team

Organisation	Expertise/EIA Input
Viking Gas UK Ltd	Description of the Proposed Development; and Description of the Alternatives.
Barton Willmore LLP	Town Planning; EIA Coordination; Landscape and Views; and Socio Economic Assessment.
URS Scott Wilson	Ecology and Nature Conservation; Air Quality; and Ground Conditions and Contamination
Archaeological Project Services	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
Acia Engineering Acoustics	Noise
R Elliott Associates	Transport; and Flood Risk, Hydrology and Drainage

Other Documents

- 1.16 A number of other documents have been submitted to NYMNPA as part of, or accompanying, the planning application, including:
- Planning and Sustainability Statement;
 - Statement of Community Involvement;
 - Design and Access Statement;
 - Outline Safety Report; and
 - Validation Checklist.

ES Availability and Comments

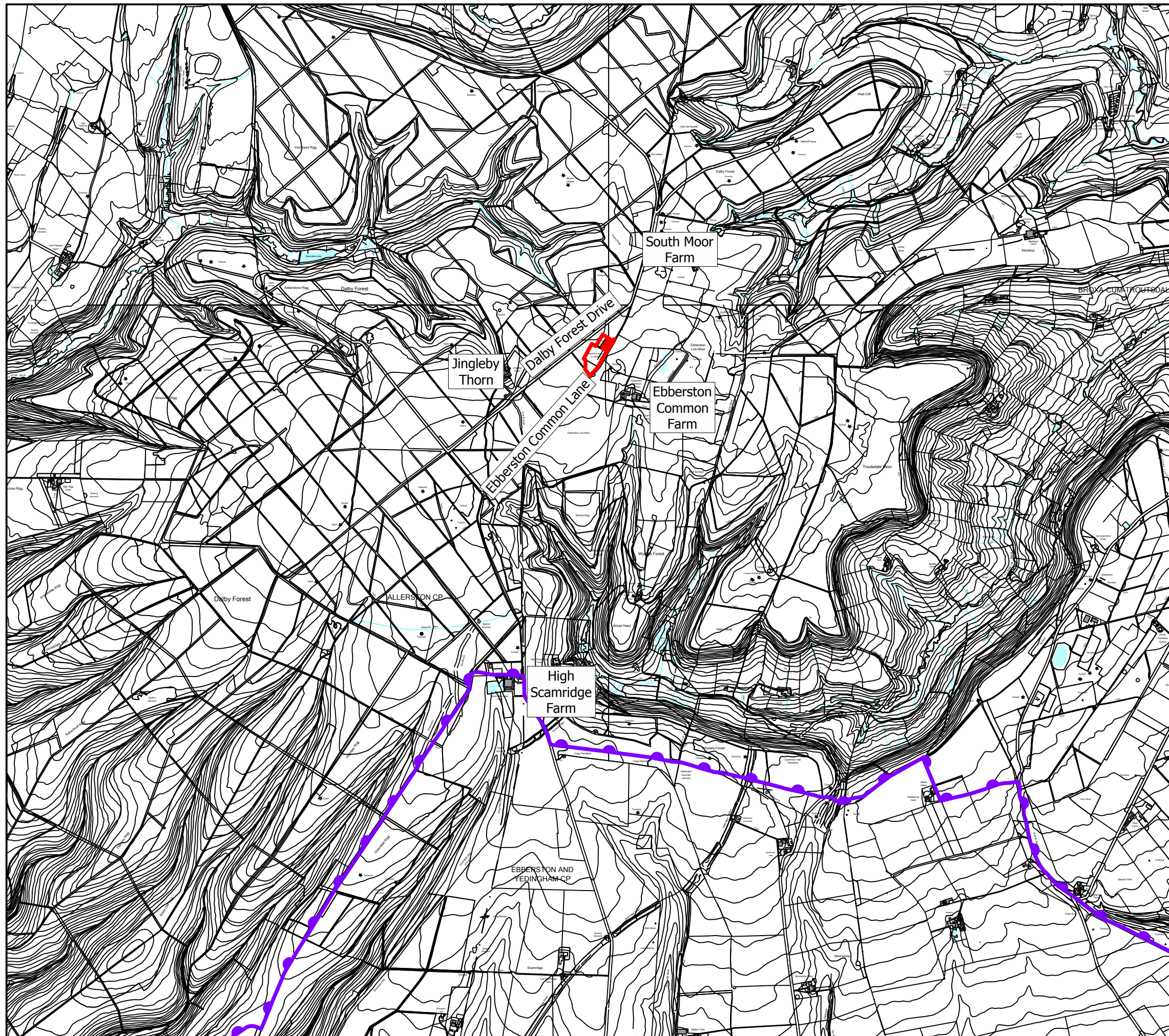
- 1.17 Paper copies of the ES and the Technical Appendices can be purchased at a cost of £80 and £270 respectively. The Non-Technical Summary can be obtained free of charge. Copies of the

ES, Technical Appendices and NTS can be obtained on CD for £20. All documents are available from:

Paul Foster
Barton Willmore
Elizabeth House
1 High Street
Chesterton
Cambridge, CB4 1WB.



- 1.18 Additional copies of this ES are also available for viewing by the public during normal office hours in the planning departments of NYMNPA. Comments on the planning application should be forwarded to Mark Hill at NYMNPA at the address below:

North York Moors National Park Authority
The Old Vicarage
Bondgate
Helmsley
York, YO62 5BP



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 Revision _____ Date _____ Drn _____ Ckd _____

LEGEND

-  Assessment Site Boundary
-  Boundary of North York Moors National Park

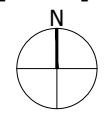
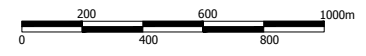


Figure 1.1

Project
**Eberston Moor EDS,
 North Yorkshire**
 Drawing Title
Site Location Plan

Date 03.07.2013	Scale 1:25,000 @A3	Drawn by ML	Check by MC
Project No 19819	Drawing No E002		Revision A



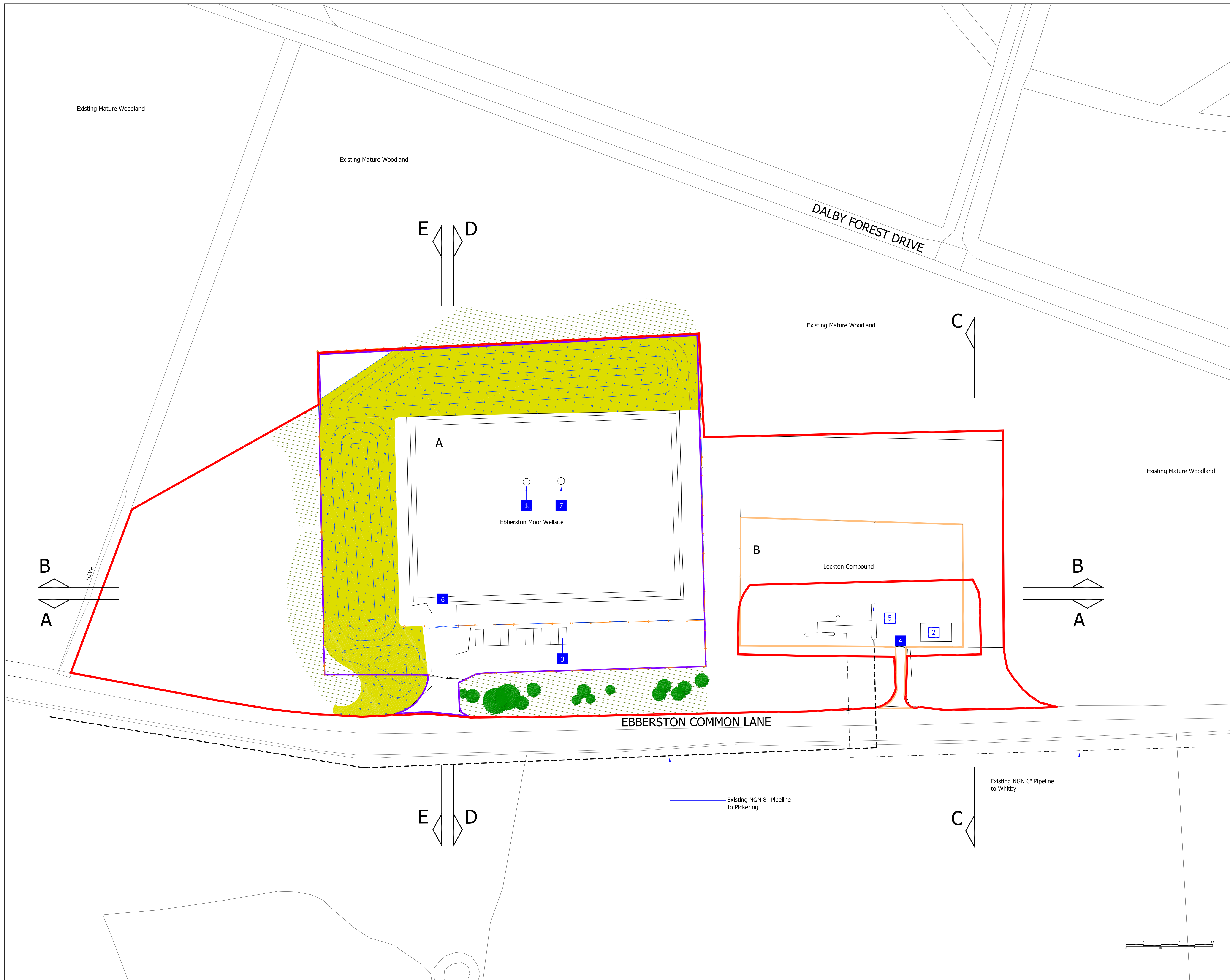
Planning • Master Planning & Urban Design
 Architecture • Landscape Planning & Design • Project Services
 Environmental & Sustainability Assessment • Graphic Design

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The scaling of this drawing cannot be assured

Revision	Date	Drm	Ckd
A	04.06.13	SJ/RP	NC
B	18.06.13	SJ/RP	NC
C	20.06.13	SJ/RP	NC
D	26.06.13	SJ/RP	NC
F	09.07.13	SJ/RP	NC
G	10.07.13	SJ/RP	NC



- EXISTING PLANTATION WITH ENRICHMENT PLANTING - REGENERATION PHASE MONITORED OVER 5-10YRS
- EXISTING FENCE
- SUBSOIL BUND (approx. 2300m³) FORMED AT MAXIMUM GRADIENT OF 1:3 TO 3m IN HEIGHT
- TOPSOIL BUND (approx. 1300m³) FORMED AT MAXIMUM GRADIENT OF 1:3 TO 2m IN HEIGHT
- EXISTING TREES
- EXISTING GROUND COVER
- EXISTING HEDGE
- EXISTING STRUCTURAL PLANTING

- Existing Gas Well
- Existing NGN Building
- Existing Car Parking 11 spaces
- Existing NGN Entrance
- Existing LTZ Pipe manifold
- Existing Well site Entrance
- Existing Drilling Cellars

- Site Boundary 21,604 sqm
- Well Site Area A - 11,000 sqm
- Lockton Site Area B - 2,387 sqm

Flare site area = 4,323 sqm

Figure 1.2

Project
EBBERSTON EDS

Drawing Title
EXISTING SITE LAYOUT

Date	Scale	Drawn by	Check by
June 2013	1:500@A1	SJ/RP	NC
Project No	Drawing No	Revision	
19819	P_03	G	

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