

North York Moors National Park Authority



A member of the Association of National Park Authorities
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Andy Wilson
Chief Executive (National Park Officer)

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BARTON WILLMORE	
ANGLIA	
RECEIVED	
20 AUG 2009	
Order by:	PF
Ref:	17809 A3
Account:	PF 1JM
fwd	
Sig:	JM 20.8.09

Your ref: 17809/A3/JM/MS

Our ref: VAD

Date: 19 August 2009

Dear Sirs

Screening Opinion – Town Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 1999

Thank you for your letter of the 8 July in which you set out the details of your proposal relating to the Ryedale Gas Project and formally requested a screening opinion under the above regulations.

From the information given in your letter we consider the development within the National Park is Schedule 2 development.

It is our view that the National Park is a "sensitive area" and that the thresholds and criteria set out in relation to Schedule 2 developments do not apply. Our screening opinion is based on whether your proposal is likely to give rise to significant environmental effects.

It is our opinion that your project, as it relates to the National Park, is EIA development. The reasons for this are set out below:

The North York Moors National Park is a "sensitive area" and nationally designated landscape. The two statutory purposes of a National Park are to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of the area and to promote opportunities for the understanding and enjoyment of the special qualities of the Park by the public. We consider your project is likely to give rise to significant environmental effects which would impact on these two purposes.

Your project is also likely to have significant impacts on the enjoyment of the special qualities of this part of the National Park.

The longer term presence of equipment will have a significant impact on the landscape and character of this part of the National Park and this plant and activity at the well head site above Ebberston together with the likely impact of a pipeline on the cultural heritage and wildlife of

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Our Ref: VAD

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the National Park and the impact of the development in its construction phase has led us to conclude that such development in this sensitive area is EIA development..

We look forward to discussing your proposal with you in more detail as you undertake EIA and prepare you application. This Authority has information and records on the cultural heritage and wildlife of the National Park and if we can be of assistance to you in providing data etc please do not hesitate to contact me and I can pass you on to the relevant specialist within our organisation.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Val Dilcock
Chief Planning Officer

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