

APPENDIX 2.1

SCOPING REQUEST AND OPINION

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Our Ref: 19819/A3/PF/NF
21 March 2012

Dear Mr Hill,

PROPOSED GAS PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING FACILITY, KNAPTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE - REQUEST FOR A SCOPING OPINION UNDER REGULATION 13 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT) (ENGLAND AND WALES) REGULATIONS 2011

This letter and the supporting plan represent a formal request, on behalf of Viking UK Gas Limited, for a Scoping Opinion, in accordance with Regulation 13 of the EIA Regulations 2011, from North York Moors National Park Authority.

In accordance with Regulation 10(2) of the EIA Regulations we have provided the following information:

- (a) a plan sufficient to identify the land (ref no 19819/P4); and
- (b) a brief description of the nature and purpose of the development and of its possible effects on the environment (provided below).

The Site and Proposed Development

The proposed development comprises gas production at several wellsites in the Eberston Moor and Lockton areas, construction of two pipelines in parallel carrying wet gas and condensate respectively from the wellsites, plus a fibre optic cable, to a gas processing facility to be constructed at the existing Knapton Electricity Generating Station, East Knapton a distance of approximately 13.5km. From the Knapton site, the treated gas will be fed into the existing National Transmission System (NTS) pipeline, currently planned at Allerston Lane **via a "hot tap" connection**. The possible locations of the wellsites, pipelines, processing facility within the existing Knapton site **and "hot tap" connection** are indicated on the enclosed plan.

Each wellsite covers an area of up to 0.9 ha. The wellsites and part of the route of the pipeline fall within the North York Moors National Park. For this part of the Application, the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP) is the determining authority. The remainder of the application, comprising the majority of the pipeline route and the gas processing facility, falls within Ryedale District. However, as the application is for the winning and processing of a mineral, North Yorkshire County Council is the determining Authority for this part of the Application.

The Proposed Development is likely to comprise six distinct elements:

1. Ebberston North wellsite. Temporary planning permission for 3 years was granted in 2006 to Viking UK Gas Limited for an exploration wellsite and the site was drilled in early 1970s. Planning permission was extended in November 2008 and again in January 2012 in order to retain the wellsite. The proposed application seeks permission for gas production, together with two stage separator and two storage tanks and associated plant;
2. Gas production from up to two additional wellsites in the North York Moors National Park, as yet to be confirmed. These are shown for indicative purposes on Plan ref no 19819/P4;
3. The construction of two underground gas pipelines from the wellsites comprising one 300mm and one 100mm pipeline and a fibre optic cable within a construction working width of up to 42m, joining at a Y-junction, with two underground gas pipelines to the existing Knapton power station;
4. A new gas processing facility to allow gas to be treated to NTS specifications;
5. A single gas pipeline carrying treated gas from Knapton to a suitable location on the NTS; and
6. An Above Ground Installation (AGI) which allows connection into the existing NTS pipeline to be agreed with National Grid.

The base-line technique for the construction of the pipeline route has been developed over many years. A working width of between 15m and 30m would be required to allow for the laying down of pipe work, the movement of construction vehicles and the use of machinery required for the construction of the pipelines. Topsoil is removed from within the working width and stored to one side. A trench is excavated to a depth which will allow the pipeline to be buried at a minimum cover over the top of the pipe of 1.1m. The pipe is lowered into the trench which is backfilled with the excavated soils. At crossings such as watercourses and roads, auger boring will be used to limit surface disturbance. This Screening Opinion Request is based upon this method of pipeline construction.

Alternatively, the pipeline could be laid by undertaking horizontal directional drilling from one of the wellsites and from the Knapton site. The wells would be drilled to a depth of several hundred metres under the Vale of Pickering, so that there would be no surface effects at all outside the two drilling sites. In the event that this method of pipeline construction is used, we consider that some of the topics can be scoped out of the Environmental Impact Assessment. This is made in clear in the text below.

The advantages of horizontal drilling are reduced planning and execution time, particularly in relation to river and rail crossings, though there may be little overall saving of cost. The distances involved are within current technological capabilities, but the project would still involve some technical risk.

EIA Scoping

The proposed development falls within Schedule 1 of the *Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011* as identified by NYCC in its Screening Opinion adopted on 23 December 2011 (ref: NY/2011/0384/SCR). This is because, once operational, gas extraction could potentially be up to 1.27 million cubic metres per day which would exceed the threshold of 500,000 cubic metres per day permitted under paragraph 14, Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations. In addition, NYCC has advised that the proposed development would exceed the threshold set out in paragraph 14 of Schedule 1 as this would be a change to or extension of a Schedule 1 development, referred to at paragraph 21 of Schedule 1. Therefore, Viking UK Gas

Limited is now seeking to confirm the scope of the ES with NYCC. A review of each of the topics identified within the EIA Regulations 2011 has been undertaken as part of this scoping request.

Guidance regarding the content of the EIA is contained in Paragraph 3, Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations. This, *inter alia*, requires the ES to include:

'A description of the aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the proposed project, including, in particular, population, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climate factors, material assets, including the architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and inter-relationship between the above factors'.

Based on the proposed development, national planning policy, the relevant policies of the Development Plan and our knowledge of the site and its environs, an assessment has been made regarding which of these topics or particular aspects of them can be 'scoped in' and 'scoped out' of the EIA. Issues that are scoped into the EIA are judged likely, without effective mitigation, to have the potential to cause significant effects. Issues that are scoped out of the EIA are those which are not anticipated to result in significant effects. The decision to scope out issues is based upon factors such as - receptor separation, the lack of effective pathways or the known low value or sensitivity of affected resources.

It should be noted that as the assessment proceeds any omitted topics will be reviewed and their significance may be re-evaluated in response to additional information or changes to the proposed development.

Baseline

The purpose of baseline studies is to identify and describe the environmental conditions against which the proposed development can be measured or predicted. The baseline situation for this ES will assume that the environmental conditions at the site are as they exist at the present time. Other than the Ryedale Gas Project for which a decision is due before 8th May 2012, we are currently not aware of any consented or pending developments that may be built out before the pipeline/processing plant construction starts which will affect the baseline. We would be grateful if you could advise us of any proposals you consider which may affect the baseline.

Assessment of Effects

The EIA Regulations stipulate that an ES should identify, describe and assess the likely significant effects of a development on the environment, including a consideration of:

- Beneficial and adverse effects;
- Short, medium and long term effects;
- Direct and indirect effects;
- Permanent and temporary effects; and
- Cumulative effects and effect interactions.

The ES will identify and assess the likely significant effects of the proposed development in relation to both the construction and operational phases of the proposed development. Environmental effects will be evaluated with reference to best practice guidance, standards and legislation where available.

Temporal Scope

The baseline conditions for the ES would be taken at the site as it stands in 2012. The EIA would address the construction phase, currently anticipated to take place between 2013 and 2014 (depending on the timing of the planning permission), and the completed development (operational)

phase. Where effects are dependent upon longer term considerations such as traffic growth or future development, the temporal scope would extend further to take account of the longer term nature of effects which may occur.

Spatial Scope

The spatial scope or study area will vary between the topics. The geographical coverage of the EIA will be determined by a number of factors including:

- the physical extent of work;
- the nature of the baseline environment, including the location of sensitive receptors;
- the distance over which effects will be significant; and
- the presence and type **of "pathways"** (such as rivers) along which effects may be spread.

Technical Scope

1. Ecology

Neither the route of the pipelines nor the site of the proposed gas processing facility at Knapton are located on or directly adjacent to any international (e.g. Special Protection Area) or national (e.g. Site of Special Scientific Interest) ecological designations. However, some SSSIs are located in proximity to the proposed pipelines, namely Troutsdale and Rosekirk Dale Fens SSSI and Nabgate SSSI. The potential for the proposed development to have an effect upon these features, as well as any local features of ecology and nature conservation importance, such as protected species, will be addressed within the ES.

The assessment will include a desk top study of existing information, identification of further necessary survey work, the findings of any required survey work and recommendations for mitigation and monitoring, if appropriate. The ES will be undertaken in accordance with relevant guidance including the Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment from the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management.

Key Issues

The predominant landscape is arable and pasture farmland with hedgerow and blocks of plantation woodland, some of which is commercial forestry.

The key areas of work that will need to be considered will be:

- Construction, operation and decommissioning impacts arising from the wellsites (including restoration);
- Likely impacts on the flora and fauna arising from construction of the preferred and **alternative pipeline routes, including interruption of watercourse and hedgerow 'corridors'**.

Given the nature of the dominant habitat types, the absence of nationally or regionally important sites (outside the National Park) and the largely temporary effects arising from pipeline construction, impacts on vegetation are unlikely to be a major issue. Ecological issues are more likely to involve construction impacts on protected and/or notable species of fauna including, but not restricted to, badger, bats, water vole, otter, nesting birds, reptiles and amphibians.

The scope of work outlined in the following sections aims to focus on these work areas and satisfies the outputs necessary to support the planning application and address local, regional and national policy requirements for biodiversity and nature conservation.

Scope of Work

The structure of the Ecology chapter within the Environmental Statement, would follow the approach **within 'Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment' (IEEM, 2006)**. This would include scope;

methods; limitations; results; evaluation; impact assessment; avoidance; reduction; compensation and enhancement measures; and assessment or residual impacts. Irrespective of the requirement for standalone ecological technical reporting or for ecological reporting as part of an EIA two key elements of the study will be **desk based study and consultation** and **field based surveys**.

Desk-based Study & Consultation

- Interrogation of geographically relevant online databases: Natural England, MAGIC, NBN gateway, to identify designated sites and notable species records. Search areas would be:
 - NBN & Natural England (relevant 10km square)
 - MAGIC (2km from preferred and alternative scheme boundaries)
- Consult with the local biological records centre and records holders to obtain details of non-statutory designated sites, and records of notable and protected habitats and species. Consultees to include:
 - North East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre (NEYEDC)
 - Badger Group (if records not held by NEYEDC)
 - Bat Group (if records not held by NEYEDC)
 - County Bird Recorder (if records not held by NEYEDC)
- Consult with statutory and non-statutory consultees regarding scope of work:
 - Natural England
 - Environment Agency
 - Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
 - North Yorkshire County Council Ecologist

Field based surveys

A number of field based surveys are proposed including an **Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey, Hedgerows Survey, Badger Survey, Otter and Water Vole Survey and Other Species Surveys**. These surveys are described in more detail as follows. The proposed variations in surveys between the proposed new facility and the preferred and alternative pipelines are also presented:

Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey

- Survey area would be the proposed facility + c.250m radius (depending on access) and up to 250m either side of the centreline of the preferred pipeline route. Beyond 100m of the centreline, the vegetation would be recorded at a lower level of detail.
- Field survey on the site on one occasion and record and map the habitats and vegetation in accordance with the published Phase 1 methodology (Joint Nature Conservation Committee, 2007) to record nature and extent of broad habitat types. Record dominant plant species for each habitat type. Record notable or invasive species (or assess risk of such species being present). Also to include review of online aerial photography.
- Appraise habitats for their suitability to support protected and/or notable species of flora and fauna including statutorily protected species, national and local Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species, and Habitats and Species of Principal Importance for the relevant geographical area (including **hedgerows**). **Based on guidance within 'Guidelines for Baseline Ecological Assessment (IEA, 1995)**. To include:
 - External inspection and evaluation of any trees and other features for suitability for roosting bats and classification as low, moderate or high potential in accordance with published guidance (Bat Conservation Trust, 2007).
 - Evaluation of habitat suitability for otter and water vole in accordance with published methodologies (Strachan and Moorhouse, 2006).
 - Evaluation of habitat suitability for notable species or assemblages of breeding and wintering birds.
 - Evaluation of habitat suitability for notable species or assemblages of amphibians and reptiles (Herpetofauna Workers Manual, 2004).

- o Evaluation of habitat suitability for notable species or assemblages of invertebrates.

Hedgerows Survey

Evaluation of hedgerow 'importance' in accordance with wildlife and landscape criteria of the Hedgerows Regulations, 1997. Survey restricted to hedgerows affected by proposed facility and preferred pipeline route.

Badger Survey

Record Sett locations, badger paths, latrines, foraging signs, and other evidence of badger in **accordance with published guidance in 'Surveying for Badgers' (Harris, Creswell & Jefferies, 1989)**. Along the pipeline the survey area will focus on land within 50m of the centre line.

Otter and Water Vole Survey

In areas of suitable habitat (watercourses and water bodies), record burrows, holts, feeding areas, feeding remains, runs, slides, etc in accordance with published methodology including **the 'Water Vole Conservation handbook (Strachan and Moorhouse, 2006)**. Along the pipeline the survey area to focus on land within 100m of the centre line for water vole and 250m for otter.

Other Species Surveys

Targeted surveys for other species are not proposed at this stage, as they are less likely to be required. However, the extended Phase 1 Habitat survey may identify requirements for groups such as amphibians and reptiles and also bats (if hedgerows or hedgerow trees are to be removed for construction). It should be noted that it may not be possible to confirm absence of breeding amphibians (including great crested newt) from suitable water bodies, as the recommended survey period is mid-March to mid-June.

2. Landscape and Views

The main landscape features within the context of the Application are the topographical transition from the elevated plateau of the Dalby Forest to the Vale of Pickering, passing through a prominent escarpment, and the network of woodland, tree belts and hedgerow bounded fields. Neither the route of the pipelines nor the existing Knapton power station lies within an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. However, the construction of the pipeline and the **"hot tap"** will generate potentially significant landscape and visual effects which would need to be assessed. On completion of the construction of the pipelines the land will be restored. However, **the "hot tap"** has the potential to generate a small but permanent effect on landscape and views that would need to be assessed.

Therefore, a Landscape and Visual assessment will be included as part of the ES. The assessment will involve both desktop research and site visits to undertake an appraisal of the site and its surroundings and review the visibility of the site in the context of the adjacent area, particularly in relation to the adjacent residential properties in the vicinity of the site and from public rights of way and roads in the locality.

The assessment will use the methodology provided within the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment—Second Edition (2002) and Landscape Institute and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA) to assess the potential significant effects of the proposed development on landscape and visual receptors.

A number of guiding documents will also be referred to in the course of the assessment, including:

- National Landscape Character Assessment (Volume 1; Area 25: North Yorkshire Moors and Cleveland Hills & Area 26: Vale of Pickering);
- North York Moors Landscape Character Assessment (Adopted September 2004);
- North York Moors National Park Management Plan (September 2004 Review);

- North York Moors National Park Design Guide; and
- Ryedale SPG Landscaping on Development Sites (December 2004).

In support of the landscape and visual assessment an arboricultural survey will be carried out on the Application Site in accordance with BS5837:2005 (Guide for Trees in Relation to Construction).

3. Air Quality

No Air Quality Management Areas have been identified at either the Knapton Power Station or along the route of the pipelines. However, the potential for the proposed development to result in effects on air quality relates to:

- dust associated with construction activities;
- industrial emissions during the operation of the gas processing plant.

The air quality assessment, therefore, will comprise a qualitative assessment of dust and nuisance during the construction phase.

Key Issues

The key issues at the site with respect to air quality are likely to be emissions from the gas processing plant at the Knapton Power Station and construction dust issues along the pipeline route. The main sensitive receptors of concern are anticipated to be the residential receptors located in Yedingham and Ebberston.

Scope of Work

The following scope of works is considered to be appropriate to address any air quality impacts that may be associated with the gas processing plant project within the context of either a standalone technical report or as an air quality chapter of an EIA:

- Identify appropriate legislation and guidance;
- Identify relevant local, regional and national planning policy;
- Establish baseline air quality;
- Screen construction and operational air quality impacts;
- Assess remaining significant air quality emission sources;
- Identify appropriate construction dust mitigation measures; and
- Discuss operational mitigation measures (e.g. point source emission abatement technologies).

The air quality scope of works will be discussed with the Ryedale DC environmental health officer in advance of air quality modelling to confirm the below approach. Baseline air quality will be established from existing sources of air quality monitoring data, such as local authority sources (e.g. Local Air Quality Management Reports), national air quality archive data (e.g. background maps) and other DEFRA funded national air quality networks. It is not proposed to install air quality monitoring as part of the air quality commission. The different air quality construction and operational emission sources that will be considered as part of air quality assessment are described below.

Construction Emission Sources

Construction has the potential for air quality impacts from dust generating activities such as earthmoving (e.g. pipeline works) and also from plant exhaust emissions. Construction dust emissions for the pipeline routes and the gas processing facility at Knapton will be addressed through a qualitative risk assessment and by reference to a BRE construction dust case study. Construction plant emissions will be assessed using a basic ADMS dispersion model which reflects anticipated plant types and numbers to estimate pollutant concentrations. Construction emission mitigation measures will also be provided. These will be based on the predicted significance of

unmitigated air quality impacts on sensitive receptors and will be developed from construction industry best practice documents from organisations such as CIRIA, BRE and BSi. Mitigation measures will also be included to address potential impacts from decommissioning of the gas processing plant.

Gas Processing Facility Emissions

The first stage of assessing the gas processing facility is the establishment of an emissions inventory for the site. An initial review suggests the presence of several potential emission sources including a Flare, Compressor House, Heaters and Storage Tanks. The emissions from the plant will be assessed initially against the Environment Agency H1 screening model to identify significant pollutants requiring further detailed air quality assessment. The assessment will reflect the current baseline situation, including the presence and normal operation of the existing electricity generating station.

Following H1 screening any detailed modelling required (e.g. SO₂, particulates) will be undertaken using ADMS, an advanced dispersion model. ADMS enables the calculation of pollutant concentrations at specified locations or across wide areas via contour plots. ADMS can incorporate building effects, terrain and also meteorological data. Air quality predictions will be undertaken at worst case sensitive receptor locations around the site (e.g. residential properties or designated ecological sites such as SSSIs). Pollutant deposition calculations will also be provided for any designated ecosystem sites.

We will consider both normal operating conditions and abnormal operating conditions. We recognise that the processing of gas on-site and in particular the H₂S content of the gas has the potential to cause odour issues around the site. Odour issues would also be considered as part of the assessment, with the specific approach to be determined at the start of the commission following a detailed review of the odour abatement techniques proposed. The mitigation measures planned for incorporation into the design of the gas processing plant will also be emphasised in the assessment.

Road Traffic Emissions

It is currently envisaged that road traffic impacts (construction and operational phases) will be insignificant, with low numbers of additional vehicles likely to be associated with the project and that these additional vehicles will not require air quality modelling following screening. Screening will be undertaken using both the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges Air Quality screening criteria and also the UK Environmental Protection screening criteria. Both criteria consider changes in traffic flow characteristics with and without development and where changes are below criteria no further assessment is typically required. The full screening procedure will be presented as part of the air quality assessment.

In the event that traffic impacts are significant these will be assessed using ADMS-Roads, an advanced dispersion modelling package. ADMS-Roads is proposed rather than a screening model (e.g. DMRB screening spreadsheet) as this will enable pollutant concentrations from road traffic sources to be combined with pollutant concentrations from any gas processing plant emissions generated from ADMS.

4. Noise and Vibration

Effects on noise sensitive receptors have the potential to arise from the construction and operational phases of the proposed development. Therefore, an assessment of noise will be included in the ES and will consider the following:

- noise arising from plant and activities associated with the construction works (e.g. excavation of trenches);
- noise associated with the construction of the proposed development, including HGV traffic; and

- noise effects arising from the operational phase of the proposed development.

Assessment of noise from the construction phase of the development will be undertaken in accordance with the methodology outlined in BS5228 (Noise and Vibration Control on Construction and Open Sites). Noise from construction traffic will be assessed through measurement of existing noise levels in the area and prediction of the changes in noise levels due to traffic generation using the methodology from the Control of Road Traffic Noise (CRTN).

Assessment of noise from the operational phase of the development will also comprise measurement of existing noise levels in the area and prediction of the changes in noise levels due to the gas processing plant. As part of the assessment consultation will be undertaken with the environmental health officer at Ryedale District Council to identify any particular issues of concern.

5. Traffic and Transport

The construction of the proposed development will generate some additional traffic as a result of the movement of materials and personnel. An assessment of the effects of the proposed development on transport will be included in the ES which will establish the baseline traffic conditions with regard to public rights of way and roads and then determine the effects of the proposed development on these facilities identifying mitigation measures where appropriate.

There are two temporal impacts of the development related to traffic and transportation. The first is related to the construction phase, which will see an increase in the movement of materials and personnel from site compounds and laying down areas to the construction site at various points on the line of the works and therefore on the local highway network. Viking UK Gas Limited would employ a modular approach to the construction of the plant. Consequently, much of the equipment will be brought to the site pre-constructed. As a result, traffic movements will be kept to a minimum. It is anticipated that the construction traffic effects will be cyclical depending on the programme of operations and this will lead to peak movements in certain periods. This will all be included in the assessment and underpin the assessment of construction traffic in relation to both Air quality and Noise assessments.

The second effect is related to the operational phase of the development. This is considered to be insignificant and it is suggested that the impacts of the operational traffic will not require assessment in relation to Air Quality and Noise impacts. The existing access will be assessed to ensure it can safely accommodate the minimal traffic movements associated with the operation of the site.

On this basis an assessment of traffic effects will be limited to the peak construction phase of the **development where most HGV's will be** observed on the local network.

All assessment work will be carried out in accordance with current Transport Assessment and EIA Transport Assessment guidelines.

6. Flood Risk, Hydrology and Drainage

Neither the existing Knapton Power Station nor the route of the pipelines lie within floodplains defined by the Environment Agency. However, the pipelines will cross several ditches and drains and the potential for effects on these watercourses would need to be addressed within the ES. The ES will also identify and assess effects on any groundwater aquifers, existing water abstraction and discharge points and water supplies in close proximity. A Flood Risk Assessment will be undertaken based on the requirements of Planning Policy Statement 25, and in consultation with the Environment Agency, and included in the ES.

Key Issues

Based on a preliminary review of the flood risk at the Ebberston Moor Wellsite and the Lockton 2 wellsite, the proposed Processing Plant at Knapton, and the pipeline route, the risk of flood is considered to be low. The Environment Agency website flood risk maps suggest that the two wellsites and the Knapton Power Station are located in Zone 1, where the land is assessed as having a less than 0.1% annual probability of flooding from the surrounding rivers. However this will be confirmed with the Environment Agency. Assuming this is the case, then the key areas of work that will need to be considered are:

- The drainage from each facility, ensuring that the greenfield runoff rate is maintained during and post construction;
- The impacts on the local hydrology of all river crossings from the different pipeline routes; and
- The potential impacts on the general water resource situation (surface and groundwater) in the area.

The scope of works outlined in the following sections aims to focus on these work areas and satisfies the outputs necessary to support the planning application.

Scope of Work

There are three key technical assessments required:

Assessment 1: Pipeline Route Options Appraisal following the principles of Sequential Testing as outlined in Planning Policy Statement 25

This will comprise a number of tasks including:

- Baseline data collection (from public sources, including the Environment Agency)
- Review of relevant documents including local, regional and national planning policy.
- High level assessment of the flood risk posed to and by the proposed pipeline options.
- A Sequential Test to assess the options for the pipeline.

Assessment 2: Flood Risk Assessment for the preferred option

This will follow PPS25, focusing more on the drainage elements and the need to ensure any runoff from the three development areas (the two wellsites and the Knapton Power Station site) is acceptable. This will comprise:

- A site visit to familiarise ourselves with the location, layout and the hydrological features of the area. The site visit will focus on the inspection of the surface water drainage systems.
- Detailed assessment of baseline data collected in Part 1 and assessment of flood risks to and drainage needs for the proposed development areas and the pipeline.
- Identification of mitigation measures.
- Assessment of residual risks.
- Preparation of a flood risk technical report that can be used to accompany the Environmental Statement, incorporating the results of the sequential testing from Assessment 1.

Assessment 3: Water Resources Chapter

The Water Resources chapter will include the following: legislative and planning policy context; explanation of the assessment methodology and impact significance criteria; analysis of baseline conditions covering geology, hydrology, hydrogeology and groundwater, surface water resources, aquifers, abstractions, source protection zones, water quality and water services; assessment of potential impacts and mitigation measures.

7. Geology and Ground Contamination

The construction of the pipeline may affect geological conditions and directional drilling will be required under roads, drains and a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) – Scamridge Dikes. The construction of the pipeline may affect ground conditions and, although no evidence of contamination has been identified to date, the potential exists for any unknown landfills or quarry sites. Therefore, the ES chapter will comprise an examination of existing data related to the Application Site, including historical Ordnance Survey maps, reference to geological and hydrogeological maps and reference to publicly available environmental records, including databases maintained by the Environment Agency.

8. Archaeology

No World Heritage Sites or Scheduled Monuments have been identified on or adjacent to the two wellsites or the Knapton Power Station. However, the proposed pipeline route will pass under one Scheduled Ancient Monument – Scamridge Dikes. A meeting will be arranged with English Heritage and the archaeologists at NYCC to discuss necessary mitigation measures. The proposed development does have the potential to affect known and unknown buried archaeology and, therefore, the ES will include a desk based assessment, in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeology Guidelines, and a field reconnaissance survey to determine the potential effects of the proposed development on archaeology. The chapter will also include a review of the findings of any previous archaeological investigations in the vicinity and mitigation measures, where necessary. No significant effects on cultural heritage, e.g. listed buildings or conservation areas, are anticipated and therefore this has been scoped out of the ES.

Objectives

The assessment study would provide a comprehensive desk-based review of published and readily accessible documentary, cartographic and aerial photographic information relating to the study area. The information derived from this review would be updated with new information obtained through a site walkover inspection. An assessment of the impact of the proposed development on the historic environment (archaeological sites (including Scheduled Monuments), Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas or other designated sites or areas of conservation interest) would be undertaken and recommendations made for evaluation, preservation and mitigation as appropriate.

Specific objectives relevant to the development proposals would include:

- identification of all heritage assets (recorded sites, finds, buildings and areas of archaeological, historical and architectural interest) which lie within, or adjacent to, the study area
- assessment of the potential for previously unrecorded sites of cultural heritage interest
- assessment of the potential effects of the proposal in terms of its physical (direct) impact on cultural heritage sites and/or the visual (indirect) impact on the setting of sites in the vicinity
- where features are found to be affected, assessment of the significance and degree of effect (both beneficial and adverse) along with the likely short term and long term effects of development
- identification of those features which should be retained and/or enhanced because of their intrinsic importance
- identification of those features or areas which require further evaluation in order to fully establish either importance or likely development effect
- identification of potential mitigation measures to avoid or remedy any adverse effect
- assessment of the degree of conflict and/or compliance with strategic and local plan policies relevant to archaeology and the built environment and national planning policy guidance

Data Collection

An initial appraisal of the route alternatives for both the proposed pipelines and processing plant

would be undertaken. This would be based upon research of Historic Environment Records and 1st edition Ordnance survey maps and would relate to a 0.5km corridor along route of the proposed pipeline alternatives and within 0.5km of the proposed wellsite alternatives.

Once the preferred pipeline route has been established a more detailed assessment of the route and would be undertaken. This would involve a study area of up to 0.5km from the preferred pipeline route in order to place the development within its context and enable an evaluation of the potential for archaeological sites within the vicinity to extend into the development area. In some circumstances more general research may be necessary beyond the limits of the detailed study area in order to establish the context and significance of sites within the area.

The following information sources would be consulted:

- Historic Environment Record data
- National Monuments Record data
- published sources (documentary and archaeological studies, local histories)
- cartographic sources (usually early Ordnance Survey, enclosure, tithe and estate maps)
- aerial photographic sources
- pictorial and other photographic sources
- English Heritage scheduling information and Registers of Battlefield Sites and Historic Parks and Gardens
- Listed Building schedules
- local authority Conservation Area schedules
- previous unpublished fieldwork undertaken in the area
- Historic Landscape Characterisation
- Portable Antiquities Scheme information
- museum records
- information from geotechnical ground investigations

In order to obtain this information some or all of the following bodies, institutions or individuals would usually be visited or consulted:

- North Yorkshire County Council Historic Environment Record
- North York Moors National Park Authority Historic Environment Record
- English Heritage
- North Yorkshire County Records Office
- Ryedale District Council
- imagesofengland website
- Northallerton and Pickering local reference libraries
- Yorkshire and Malton museums
- active fieldworkers and researchers with an interest in the study area
- landowner(s) and tenant(s)

Site Inspection

Subject to access, a site inspection would be undertaken of the route of the proposed pipeline. Site inspection would aim to determine the extent of survival of any buildings and other structures, to note the location, nature, extent and condition of any additional recorded and unrecorded archaeological sites, and to identify any concentrations of surface artefacts which might indicate the presence of subsurface archaeological features. Sketch plots of visible earthwork features would be made and photographs and notes would be taken relating to extant features, buildings or other structures. Sites, monuments or finds would be located using a hand-held GPS. Surface artefacts would be collected unless any concentrations identified the need for systematic field walking.

If more systematic or detailed site inspection or field walking were required then this would be a further phase of work undertaken as part of the preparation of the impact assessment.

Report

The information derived from the above stages of research would be collated, assessed and presented under the following principal sections, although the precise format of the report would be dependent upon that of the Environmental Statement

- introduction
- relevant planning policies and guidance
- methodology
- archaeological and historical background
- summary of cultural heritage sites within study area (baseline conditions)
 - archaeological sites
 - Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and other designated areas or features (such as hedgerows of archaeological or historic importance)
 - potential for unrecorded remains
- initial design mitigation
- assessment of predicted development impact and degree of significance
- scope for mitigating effects
- recommendations for mitigation
- residual effects
- conclusions
- reference sources

The report text would be supplemented by accompanying Ordnance Survey base maps at an appropriate scale indicating the location, extent and significance of sites of cultural heritage interest. Further illustrations might include copies of relevant historical mapping, historic photographs (subject to copyright limitations) and photographs showing the current state of the site.

The initial appraisal of the pipeline route and alternatives would form an appendix to the main report.

9. Socio Economics

The proposed development would have an impact on the socio-economics at both a local and national level. Initially, the construction works for the processing plant and pipelines will generate local employment which will have a beneficial effect on the local economy. Once operational, the processing plant will generate a small number of employment opportunities, although it is not possible to give exact numbers at this stage.

The security of energy supply is a national requirement and should permission be granted for the proposed development, it would increase the security of supply for both the local community and the country. Planning authorities are expected to look favourably on energy developments thus enforcing the 'need' argument.

Summary

In summary, it is proposed that the following topics are scoped into the ES:

1. Ecology
2. Landscape and Views
3. Air Quality
4. Noise and Vibration
5. Traffic and Transport
6. Flood Risk, Hydrology and Drainage

7. Geology and Ground Contamination
8. Archaeology
9. Socio Economics

Cumulative and Interactive Effects

In accordance with Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations, the ES will include an assessment of the cumulative and interactive effects of the proposed development and any known developments in the surrounding area. The schemes that will be covered as part of the cumulative effects assessment include those that can reasonably be presumed to go ahead and for which sufficient data is available. This includes major schemes registered on the NYCC, NYMNPA and RDC planning application database for which construction has not yet commenced. NYCC and NYMNPA will be consulted regarding the schemes that should be included in the assessment.

Issues to be Scoped Out

Waste

The proposed development will generate limited quantities of waste during construction and a Site Waste Management Plan will be implemented for the operational phase to ensure that there will be no significant waste generation. Therefore it is considered that no significant effects with regard to waste are anticipated and this topic is scoped out of the ES.

Lighting

It is not proposed to install external lighting at either of the two wellsites during the operational stage. Lighting is already installed at the Knapton Power Station. It is expected that lighting will only be required in localised areas where necessary to provide safe working conditions when construction activities have to be continue for 24 hour periods.

Agriculture and Soils

There will be no permanent loss of agricultural land as the Knapton site and the Ebberston wellsite have already been developed. Both sites have temporary planning permission. Overall restoration along the pipeline route will be to agricultural land and will occur immediately after completion of the laying of the pipeline. Whilst the proposed pipeline would affect a number of local farm businesses along its route, these businesses would only experience temporary loss of agricultural land during the duration of the construction works. The impact upon agriculture will therefore be minimal and the economic viability and sustainability of the affected farm businesses will not be threatened.

Other Issues to be Scoped Out if Directional Drilling Method is Used

Ecology (Pipeline Route)

The construction of the pipeline using directional drilling would negate the need for an extended Phase 1 habitat survey, hedgerows, badger survey, otter and water vole survey and other surveys.

Landscape and Views (Pipeline Route)

The construction of the pipeline would have no impact upon the landscape and would generate no landscape and visual effects.

Air Quality (Pipeline Route)

There would be no construction dust issues along the pipeline route. There would be negligible air quality impacts from any activities involving the construction of the pipeline.

Flood Risk, Hydrology and Drainage, Geology and Archaeology (Pipeline Route)

The pipeline route would not affect existing hydrology, geology and potentially buried archaeological remains because the pipeline would be several hundred metres below the surface.

ES Structure

The ES will address the requirements of Parts 1 and 2 of Schedule 4 of the EIA Regulations. The anticipated structure and contents of the ES will be as follows:

Chapter	Title
1	Introduction – explanation of the background to the scheme and the ES
2	EIA Methodology – a definition of the EIA process and explanation of the assessment methodology undertaken
3	Site and Surroundings – a detailed description of the Application Site and the surrounding area
4	Project Description – a detailed description of the proposed development
5	Need and Alternative Sites – a review of all viable alternatives and the need for the proposed development
6	Construction Programme – a review of expected construction method and format

Each of the subsequent technical chapters will include a description of baseline conditions, identification of the potential significant effects, assessment of the significant effects, identification of mitigation measures and a review of the residual effects.

Chapter	Title
7	Ecology
8	Landscape and Views
9	Air Quality
10	Noise and Vibration
11	Traffic and Transport
12	Flood Risk, Hydrology and Drainage
13	Geology and Ground Contamination
14	Archaeology and Cultural Heritage
15	Socio Economic

The two end chapters will summarise findings of the technical assessments including Mitigation and Monitoring and a Statement of Significance;

Chapter	Title
16	Mitigation and Monitoring – a summary of all mitigation and monitoring measures proposed
17	Statement of Significance – a summary of the significance of the residual effects of the proposed development

We trust the enclosed information is sufficient to enable you to consult the relevant consultees and for you to subsequently adopt a Scoping Opinion, but please do not hesitate to contact the writer if there are any matters arising in the interim. We would be grateful for an acknowledgement or formal receipt for this submission, together with notification of the expiry date of the statutory

period. In line with the EIA Regulations, you will be aware that the Scoping Opinion needs to be placed on the Public Register.

Yours sincerely,

PAUL FOSTER

Director

cc: David Robottom

Enc Site Location Plan



North

Yorkshire County Council

Business and Environmental Services

Scoping Opinion

**Request for a Scoping Opinion under
Regulation 13 of the Town and Country
Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment)
(England and Wales) Regulations 2011 for a
proposed gas production and processing
facility and associated underground pipelines
on land at Knapton Gas Station, Claypit
Plantation, East Knapton**

Date Issued: 2 July 2012

This opinion has been adopted by North Yorkshire County Council based on the information provided by the proposed developer and the comments and opinions resulting from consultations with the developer and other consultation bodies prior to adopting this opinion.

This opinion is made freely available to members of the public and North Yorkshire County Council accepts no responsibility whatsoever for comments made by third parties whom this opinion references. Neither does the Council accept responsibility whatsoever to third parties to whom this opinion, or any part thereof, is made known. Any such party relies upon the opinion at their own risk.

The fact that North Yorkshire County Council has given this opinion shall not preclude them from subsequently requiring the developer to submit further information in connection with any future submitted planning application to the Council.

Introduction

An overview of the process carried out by North Yorkshire County Council in order to arrive at its scoping opinion for the proposed Environmental Impact Assessment development comprising gas production and processing facility and associated underground pipelines on land at Knapton Gas Station, Claypit Plantation, East Knapton, is set out as follows:

- Background information on the EIA scoping opinion process
- Scoping Methodology – An outline of the approach to scoping used for this request
- Site Description & Planning History
- The Proposal
- Consultation
- Planning Guidance and Policy
- Environmental Baseline and Required Information
- The Results of the consultation process undertaken and the finalised scope of the EIA
- Appendix A – Consultation responses.

Background to Scoping

EIA is a procedure that attempts to ensure that prior to any development decision likely to have significant effects on the environment being made by a competent Authority; those effects are fully understood and taken into account. Scoping forms a component within the overall EIA process, and aims to identify all of the possible environmental impacts that a development project might cause and then subsequently determine which of those impacts are likely to be significant and which therefore require detailed investigation in the EIA.

Scoping Opinions are not legally required by the EIA Regulations but nonetheless seen as an important part of the EIA process. Regulation 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011 forms the basis of this procedure for any “person who is minded to make an EIA application” to ask the relevant planning authority to state in writing their opinion as to the information to be provided in the Environmental Statement (ES) and this forms the “scoping opinion”. However, it should be noted that the fact that an authority has adopted and issued this opinion in relation to the scope of an EIA, shall not preclude the authority from subsequently requiring the developer to submit further information as part of any further application.

Scoping Methodology

This EIA Scoping Opinion has been prepared, adopted and issued by North Yorkshire County Council in response to the “Request for Scoping Opinion” letter (dated 6 February 2012) document submitted to the County Council by Barton Willmore LLP.

Should the actual proposals put forward in a subsequent application differ, then the opinion of the Authority and other consultees may differ as to what issues should be addressed within the EIA. The EIA Scoping Opinion informs the proposed overall EIA methodology and is based on the information supplied to North Yorkshire County Council as referred to above and provides very basic information on the environmental attributes of the site and its surroundings. Any eventual ES shall provide amongst other things, a description of the environmental features covering the following:

- General overview
- Effects on human beings and settlements
- Nature conservation (flora and fauna) ecology
- Soils, loss of agricultural land, geology and contaminated land
- Flood risk, hydrology, water quality and resources,
- Air quality and climate
- Landscape, restoration, recreation and visual environment
- Material assets, archaeology and cultural heritage
- Traffic and transportation
- Dust, noise and vibration
- Any interactions between the factors mentioned above.

The ES should report on how consultation responses have been addressed by the EIA including any justifications for scoping any issues out. The EIA should identify all possible environmental impacts that the development project might cause, and its methodology should use both qualitative and quantitative information to identify significant environmental impacts including potential positive, negative, direct, indirect and cumulative impacts. Where significant environmental effects have been identified, the EIA should propose mitigation and monitoring measures. Therefore the applicant is advised to include the information referred to above within any ES submitted in support of an application.

Site Description & Planning History

The existing gas processing plant and power generation facility at Knapton occupies a compact site in a rural location to the north east of Malton, North Yorkshire. The site benefits from mature landscaping on all sides which obscure views into the site from an external ground level position. The small villages of East Knapton and West Knapton are approximately 1km to 1.5km south west of the site.

The surrounding land is primarily in agricultural use (both arable and pastoral). The nearest residential property to the Knapton Gas Station (KGS) site is at Ochre Farm, West Knapton 0.5km to the north-east and Guild House Farm, East Knapton 0.8km to the south-west of the site. The Maltings industrial site is approximately 2km to the west of the site and due to its scale, height and mass is the most visible feature within the rural landscape. A bridleway (Public Right of Way no. 25.81/8/1) is approximately 280 metres from the site and runs to the west and north of the site.

The existing Knapton Gas Station site does not fall within, or in close proximity (within 250 metres) to any 'sensitive areas' (SSSI, SPA/SAC, SINC, RAMSAR, AONB) or Article 1(5) land (Conservation Area), Listed Buildings or Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The proposed pipeline routes are likely to impact upon rivers, roads, the railway as well as flood plains and agricultural land of various grades. The pipeline construction work is likely to be conducted within the setting of a number of listed buildings and Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The proposed development area including the existing Gas Station site, routes of pipelines and the wellsites affects land within the administrative areas of Ryedale District, Scarborough District and the North York Moors National Park as well as North Yorkshire County Council's administrative boundary. The majority of the pipeline routes and the gas processing facility fall within Ryedale District and would fall to NYCC for determination whereas a short section of one of the pipelines (i.e. the connection between the gas station and the wellsites) and the wellsites fall within the National Park and would be for NYMNP to determine. It is for this

reason that the adoption of a Scoping Opinion has fallen to both NYCC and NYMNP as Planning Authorities.

UK Energy Systems Ltd (UKES) is the company which owns the wells, gas plant and power facilities in and around Knapton. UKES has two main operating subsidiaries- Viking UK Gas Ltd and RGS Energy Ltd. Viking owns the Vale of Pickering (VoP) gas fields whereas RGS owns the production infrastructure and the gas turbine power plant at KGS. Third Energy acquired UK Energy Systems Ltd (UKES) in July 2011.

Viking UK Gas Ltd operates an Open Cycle Gas Turbine (OCGT) power station and Gas Condition Plant within this installation at East Knapton. The site is capable of supplying electricity for up to 40,000 homes. There are 25 full time employees at the site and the site is operational 24 hours a day, 7 days a week with the exception of shut downs for maintenance work.

The Gas Turbine Engine, which was commissioned 1994, drives a generator producing an electrical output of 41.5MW for the National Grid. However the existing Gas Turbine is less efficient than modern generating capacity, such as Combined Cycle Gas Turbines (CCGTs). The efficiency is dependent upon ambient weather conditions and the level of gas available to burn in the turbine. Therefore, in reality, the turbine can produce a maximum of 38MW.

The Gas Turbine Engine operates on 'sour' gas (natural gas containing hydrogen sulphide) which is deemed unsuitable for injection into the National Gas Transmission System (NGTS or NTS). The 'sour' gas was discovered in the 1970's and is abstracted from accumulations beneath the Vale of Pickering. The gas originates from the deposits laid down in the primeval swamps, which have become trapped within Permian limestone reservoir rock. The conditioning of the sour gas takes place within the Gas Conditioning Plant, where hydrocarbon liquids are removed from the gas stream. The process ensures the gas is suitable to be used as fuel within the Gas Turbine.

The existing site layout comprises the Power Generation Plant (Gas Turbine/Generator) on the northern half of the site and the Gas Conditioning Plant on the southern half of the site. The existing administration building and control room/workshop is in the north-west corner of the site. The unclassified access road runs east from the B1258 to the site and runs parallel to the York-Scarborough railway line. The site entrance is within the northern boundary and there are internal access roads within the site. The existing turbine exhaust stack is located in the north-east corner of the site, this would remain unchanged.

Viking Gas UK owns four gas fields in the Vale of Pickering (VoP), as follows:-

- 1) Malton
- 2) Marishes
- 3) Kirby Misperton
- 4) Pickering

Viking UK Gas Ltd also owns two fields located to the north of the VoP- Ebberston Moor and Wykeham. There are 6 active production wellhead sites within the VoP at the following locations:-

- Kirby Misperton 1 & 3- East of Alma Farm, Habton Road, Kirby Misperton
- Kirby Misperton 2 & 5- West of Alma Farm, Habton Road, Kirby Misperton
- Pickering 1 - Malton Road, Pickering

- Marishes 1 - Wath Hall, Low Marishes
- Malton 1 - Habton Lane, Great Habton, Malton
- Malton 4 – Wellfield Farm, Kirby Misperton Lane, Great Habton

Viking UK Gas Ltd has 30km of pipeline which link these 6 wells to the Knapton Gas Station site.

It should be noted that the Ebberston Moor and Wykeham gas fields (Northern Fields) fall within the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNPA). These gas fields were in production between 1972 and 1974 although they have been dormant ever since. The NYMNPA would be the Planning Authority for any development of well sites and gas pipelines within these gas fields.

The County Planning Authority issued a Screening Opinion on 23rd December 2011 which confirmed that the proposed development would fall within the specified development under Schedule 1 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 and the proposal thereby constitutes EIA development and any future planning application should be accompanied by an Environmental Statement. The proposal is considered to fall within in Schedule 1 due to the estimated maximum capacity levels of daily gas extraction, which exceeds the criteria set down in paragraph 14 of Schedule 1 of the EIA Regulations (2011).

A copy of the Scoping Request was also submitted to the NYMNPA on 21st March 2012 on account of the 'straddling a National Park Boundary' nature of the project. The NYMNPA responded to the applicant by email on 13 April 2012 and stated that *"the Scoping set out in the accompanying letter broadly covers all the main environmental and cumulative impacts of the proposed development"*.

The Proposal

The request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 for a proposed gas production and processing facility and associated underground pipelines on land at Knapton Gas Station, Claypit Plantation, East Knapton has been submitted on behalf of the Viking UK Gas Limited.

The forthcoming application would comprise the following parts: -

- 1) Construction of a gas processing facility within the existing Knapton Electricity Generating Station to allow gas treatment to National Transmission System (NTS) specifications (within boundaries of existing facilities-not extension to site)
- 2) Construction of two pipelines (one 300mm and one 100mm) in parallel carrying wet gas and condensate respectively from the well sites, plus a fibre optic cable, to the gas processing facility at the existing Knapton Electricity Generating Station (approx. 13.5km distance). Within a working width of 42 metres.
- 3) Construction of a single gas pipeline to carry treated gas from the existing Knapton Electricity Generating Station to a suitable location on the National Transmission System (NTS).

4) Construction of a 'hot-tap' above ground installation/connection at Allerston Lane south of Allerston to feed the treated gas into the National Transmission System (NTS) (subject to agreement with the National Grid).

5) Gas production at 3no. existing and proposed wellsites within the National Park (each well sites covers an area of up to 0.9 hectares):-

5a) 1 no. existing wellsite - retain Ebberston North wellsite for gas production, together with two stage separator and two storage tanks and associated plant.

5b) 2 no. proposed wellsites within the National Park in the Ebberston Moor and Lockton areas (exact locations subject to 3D seismic survey which is due to be completed later in 2012 and they expect the results to yield a much clearer picture)

The applicant states that the abovementioned proposals are to be phased over the period between 2012 to 2015. The applicant states that they hope to start production in 2015 and would anticipate that the operation would have an economic life of between 15 and 20 years, again depending on the amount of gas which they are able to develop economically. It should be noted that this would require an extension of the existing planning permission for existing Knapton Electricity Generating Station beyond May 2018.

Construction of a gas processing facility within the boundary of Knapton Electricity Generating Station

The proposed expansion to the gas plant, at present, comprises the installation of additional facilities within the boundary of the site and not an extension to the site. The administration building and control room/workshop which is in the north-west corner of the site would be relocated to adjacent to the northern boundary (currently used as the car park) and a gas sweetening plant (to achieve NTS specifications) and associated equipment would be installed in the north-west corner of the site. The applicant states the entire footprint of the new facilities would occupy an area slightly greater than the existing administration building and control room/workshop (approx. 900m²). All new equipment to be installed within the KGS site would be designed to be lower than the existing facilities within the KGS site and will therefore be a maximum of 15 metres tall. The expansion will involve the upgrade the control and safety systems on site which are proposed to consist of:-

1. A Process Control System (PCS)
2. A Process Shutdown System (PSD)
3. An Emergency Shutdown System (ESD)
4. A Fire and Gas Detection and Protection System
5. A telecommunications systems facilitating Data Transfer to and from the well sites
6. A supervisory control and Data Acquisition System (SCADA) monitoring the above and providing an Operator Interface complete with a Web based application to facilitate remote management reporting.

The applicant states that at this stage given the subsurface uncertainties (how much additional gas is recoverable from the reservoirs and the number of development wells it will require to extract it), they have taken the decision to develop the gas expansion in a series of equally-sized modules. Each gas plant module would have a capacity of 15MMscfd (Million Standard Cubic Feet per Day), equivalent to 425,000 m³ per day. Each module is expected to have a footprint of approximately 2200m².

The applicant states that the best case scenario from their perspective would be the

installation of three gas plant modules within the existing East Knapton site (if the drilling campaign is very successful). This would give a total capacity of 45 MMscf/day or 1.27 million m³ per day. If the results of the drilling are not as favourable the applicant states that there may only be one or two modules.

Proposed Pipeline Construction

The standard baseline technique for the pipeline construction would require a working width of up to 42 metres for the laying down of pipework, the movement of construction vehicles and the use of machinery required for the construction of pipelines. The work would require the removal of topsoil and excavation to allow the laying of the pipeline with a minimum covers of 1.1m of soils. The pipeline would be lowered into the trench and backfilled with excavated soils.

The two pipelines carrying wet gas and condensate respectively from the well sites, plus a fibre optic cable, to the gas processing facility at the existing Knapton Electricity Generating Station would take a north-south route from the National Park which would fork to the north-west and north east near the National Park boundary. The pipeline would be approx. 13.5km in length. The pipeline route would be to the east of Ebberston and to the west of Snainton. The pipeline route would affect the A170, B1258, other minor roads and tracks, the railway and the River Derwent. At these crossings auger boring would be used to limit surface disturbance.

The Scoping Opinion request is based on this method pipeline construction.

Alternative Pipeline Construction

The alternative pipeline construction method put forward by the applicant involves horizontal directional drilling from one of the wellsites to Knapton. This would require drilling to a depth of several hundred metres below the Vale of Pickering so there would be no surface affects outside of the two drilling sites. The applicant states that the advantages of horizontal drilling are reduced by planning and execution time, particularly in relation to river, road and rail crossings. However the applicant acknowledges that there would be some technical risk associated with this method and there would be very little overall saving of cost.

The Scoping Opinion is not based in the alternative method and should the alternative method be pursued other material considerations would need to be taken into account.

The treated gas line between KGS and the NTS

The proposed pipeline required from the Knapton Gas Station direct to the closest point of the National Transmission System would be 4.0 km in length (2.5 miles). This would also require the construction of a 'hot-tap' above ground installation/connection at Allerston Lane to feed the treated gas into the National Transmission System (NTS) (subject to agreement with National Grid).

Gas production from existing and new well sites in the National Park

The applicant states that a 3D seismic survey is due to be completed later in 2012 and they expect the results to yield a much clearer "picture" of the gas reservoirs, which in turn will inform the number of additional wells required. The applicant states that they do not intend to

develop the northern fields until they have interpreted the 3D seismic and drilled additional wells to appraise the accumulation(s) sufficiently.

Consultations

On 7 March 2012, the following consultations were undertaken:

North York Moors National Park	<i>No response received by NYCC</i>
Natural England	Response received on 27 March 2012.
Transport & Development Unit	Response received on 19 March 2012.
Heritage - Landscape Team	Response received on 25 April 2012.
Heritage - Ecology	Response received on 28 March 2012.
Heritage – Archaeology	Response received on 20 March 2012.
Regional & Strategic Policy Team	Response received on 20 March 2012.
Ryedale District Council (Planning)	<i>No response received by NYCC</i>
Scarborough Borough Council	Response received on 20 March 2012.
Yorkshire Water Services Limited	Response received on 5 April 2012.
Environment Agency York	Response received on 2 April 2012.
English Heritage	Response received on 27 March 2012.
Environmental Health Officer (Ryedale)	Response received on 10 April 2012.
Ebberston & Yedingham Parish Council	Response received on 11 April 2012.
Allerston & Wilton Parish Council	<i>No response received</i>
Scampston Parish Council	Response received on 1 April 2012.
Broxa cum Troutdale Parish Council	<i>No response received</i>
Heslerton Parish Council	<i>No response received</i>
Brompton by Sawdon & Snainton P.C.	Response received on 20 March 2012.
County Public Rights of Way Team	Response received on 16 March 2012.
Cllr Janet Sanderson	Response received on 27 March 2012.
Cllr David Jeffels	<i>No response received</i>
Muston & Yedingham & Thornton IDB	Response received on 28 March 2012.
Network Rail	Response received on 2 April 2012.
Health and Safety Executive	<i>No response received by NYCC</i>

Planning Guidance and Policy

In considering and determining a forthcoming planning application at this site there will be a range of policy considerations material to the case. These include the Development Plan which includes the 'saved' policies of the North Yorkshire Minerals Local Plan (1997), the 'saved' policies contained within the Ryedale District Local Plan (adopted 2002), the 'saved' policies contained within the Scarborough Borough Local Plan (adopted April 1999) and also National Planning guidance contained within the 'National Planning Policy Framework' (NPPF) and the associated 'Technical Guidance to the National Planning Policy Framework' dated March 2012. In addition consideration should be given to emerging Core Strategies, the North York Moors Local Development Framework Development Plan Document (2008) and National Policy Statements on Energy Infrastructure.

Environmental Baseline and Required Information

The aim of scoping is to help through consultation with the relevant statutory bodies establish an environmental baseline and to set environmental benchmarks for consideration

within the ES. However it is expected that an Applicant will want to consult the relevant statutory bodies directly, who will be expected to provide information useful to the applicant.

Information within the ES relating to impacts and their prediction shall include:

- Impact prediction
- Methodology
- Assumptions and underlying rationale
- Fact, interpretation of facts, opinions and judgments based on facts
- Confidence limits associated with the prediction
- The characteristics and dimensions of the impacts – i.e. nature, magnitude, extent, timing, duration, reversibility, likelihood and significance
- Impact uncertainty
- Worst case
- Impact range
- Risk Assessment

Establishing the significant of impacts can inevitably be contentious as it often involves value judgments and expert interpretation. It is therefore prudent that any significance criteria is established on a transparent methodology, based on official standards, legislation, policy and expert opinion, which would lead to the conclusions.

Mitigation measures proposed within the ES should be detailed within a schedule of environmental commitments that could assist in the consideration of the proposed draft conditions and or Section 106 agreements. It is advised therefore that the Applicant adopts a hierarchical approach to the development of mitigation measures, by:

- Avoiding adverse impacts
- Minimising or reducing impacts to as low as possible
- Remedying or providing compensative measures where adverse impacts that are unavoidable.

It is important that potential positive and negative residual effects remaining after mitigation measures have been identified and accounted for within the ES in order to assess their significance and acceptability. Consequently, each environmental issue should relate to a Table of Residual Effects.

Scope of the EIA

The Applicant has proposed in the request for Scoping Opinion letter (dated 6 February 2012) a range of assessment requirements to be included in the Supporting Statement to the Application and the Environmental Statement. It is considered that the Scoping set out in that letter broadly covers all the main environmental and cumulative impacts of the proposed development.

An ES needs to demonstrate that it is objective, transparent while being well written, scientifically rigorous, well assembled and easy to read. There are particular aspects which the County Council consider should be addressed in more detail. These are highlighted in the below section and take account of the responses of consultee organisations.

SECTION	COMMENTS
Ecology	<i>See comments made by Natural England & the County Ecologist.</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assessment of designated sites & inclusion of potential enhancement measures.
Landscape & Visual Impact	<p><i>See comments made by County Landscape Architect.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Route options & alternatives ○ Potential for combined route for pipeline? ○ Justification for working widths ○ The Landscape Officer has also recommended the EIA should also take into account the 1999 publication 'The Landscapes of Northern Ryedale' undertaken for the District Council.
Air Quality	<p><i>See comments made by District EHO, Scampston Parish Council & Environment Agency.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Scope to be extended to cover all potential air pollution sources associated with the construction and operation of the development. ○ Proximity to private water supplies ○ Wellsite C within Source Protection Zone 1 risk of harm to drinking water.
Traffic and Transport	<p><i>See comments made by the Highways Engineer.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The proposed submission of a Full T.A. is supported subject to inclusion of traffic management plans for the parts of the highway network which the pipeline route crosses.
Flood Risk, Hydrology and Drainage	<p><i>See comments made by Yorkshire Water, Environment Agency & Internal Drainage Board.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yorkshire Water request inclusion of proposals to ensure protection of water & sewerage infrastructure within pipeline route. ○ Environment Agency has provided advice in respect of Flood Risk, surface water drainage, groundwater protection and requirements to vary the environmental permit for the existing site. ○ The IDB drawn attention to ditch crossings & new outlets.

Archaeology & Cultural Heritage	<p><i>See comments made by County Archaeologist & English Heritage.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Search radius to be increased to 1km. ○ Submission to include results of walkover survey, geophysical survey & trial trenching ○ Request for joint involvement with applicant & English Heritage from the outset. ○ English Heritage wish to be involved in the selection of viewpoint locations for photomontages. ○ Consideration of potential for subsidence of buildings & monuments ○ Significant archaeological resource of national importance- Assessments to include section drawings. ○ E.H. would welcome involvement in pre-application discussions from the outset
Public Access & Outdoor Recreation	<p><i>See comments made by PRow Officer, Natural England & Ebberston & Yedingham Parish Council</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Impact upon existing outdoor sport & recreation facilities (e.g. Snainton Golf course) ○ Avoid or mitigate the potential adverse impacts of the pipeline route upon PRowWs.
Land Use & Soils	<p><i>See comments made by Natural England and Scampston Parish Council.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Inclusion of section covering 'Sustainable use of Land' and protection of soil resources.
Public Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reference to pre-application local consultation & community involvement events
Section 106 legal agreements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Restrictions imposed by existing agreement dated 22 April 1992

Conclusion

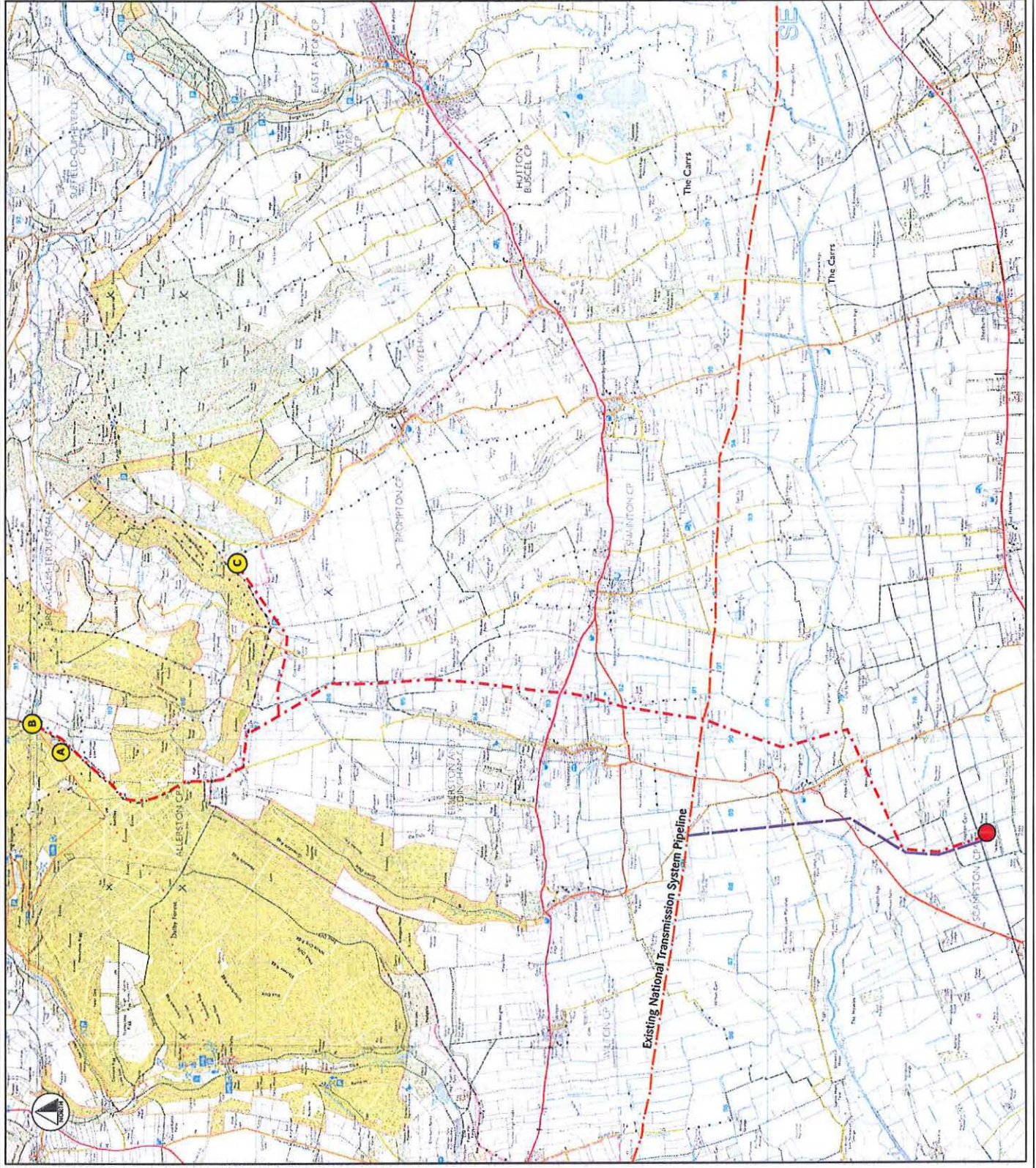
This EIA Scoping Opinion informs the proposed overall EIA methodology and is based on the information supplied to the County Council at the time of the formal request for the Opinion. It attempts to ensure that any significant effects on the environment are fully understood and taken into account prior to any development decision being taken.

A review of all consultation responses received has been included in the previous section of this report. Within this report, issues that have been identified as being of particular relevance to the proposal or are lacking in scope are noted in tabular form. This concludes that whilst the principal structure of the ES is considered to be appropriate, the applicant is

advised to pay further attention to certain matters, such as flood risk, land uses in the surrounding area, socio-economic impacts, landscape impacts and to make a thorough and robust assessment of the consideration of alternatives to the development.

The final ES should include all necessary information as outlined in Schedule 4 of the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011. Furthermore it is recommended that the applicant liaises with specialist consultees during the production of the ES for advice and input into the various environmental reports and surveys.

END OF DOCUMENT



KEY:

- A** Eberston North Wellsite
- B** Proposed Wellsites
- C** Proposed Wellsites
- Knappton Power Station
- Proposed route of pipeline from Wellsites to Knappton Power Station
- Proposed route of pipeline from Knappton to existing NTS pipeline

Project
GAS PRODUCTION, PIPELINES AND GAS PROCESSING, KNAPTON
Proposed Layout

Drawn by
12.04.12 **CS**
19.01.13 **PM** **A**

BARTON WILLMORE
 planning - design - delivery

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APPENDIX A – CONSULTATION RESPONSES

Alan Goforth

From: Mark Hill <m.hill@northyorkmoors.org.uk>
Sent: 13 April 2012 09:46
To: Paul Foster; Alan Goforth
Cc: Chris France
Subject: EIA Scoping Opinion for proposed construction of gas processing plant, and pipelines to access Ebberston Gas wellhead sites within NYMNP
Attachments: RE: EIA scoping request for gas production wells in Ebberston/Lockton parts of NYM together with gas processing plant at Knapton generating station and associated pipelines between wellsites and Knapton and between Knapton and National gas transmission li; RE: EIA scoping request for gas production wells in Ebberston/Lockton parts of NYM together with gas processing plant at Knapton generating station and associated pipelines between wellsites and Knapton and between Knapton and National gas transmission li; EIA scoping request for gas production wells in Ebberston/Lockton (NYNP) ; RE: EIA scoping request for gas production wells in Ebberston/Lockton parts of NYM together with gas processing plant at Knapton generating station and associated pipelines between wellsites and Knapton and between Knapton and National gas transmission li; EIA scoping request for gas production wells in Ebberston/Lockton parts of NYM; FW: EIA scoping request for gas production wells in Ebberston/Lockton parts of NYM together with gas processing plant at Knapton generating station and associated pipelines between wellsites and Knapton and between Knapton and National gas transmission li; RE: EIA scoping request for gas production wells in Ebberston/Lockton parts of NYM together with gas processing plant at Knapton generating station and associated pipelines between wellsites and Knapton and between Knapton and National gas transmission li; RE: NYCC consultation on EIA scoping opinion for proposed construction of gas processing plant and pipelines to access Ebberston gas wellhead sites in NYMNP; RE: NYCC consultation on EIA scoping opinion for proposed construction of gas processing plant and pipelines to access Ebberston gas wellhead sites in NYMNP; EIA screening, natural gas processing and associated pipelines, Knapton

Paul thank you for your letter 21st March 2012 seeking a similar scoping opinion to the one sought from North Yorkshire County Council on account of the 'straddling a National Park Boundary' nature of the project. Alan thank you for consulting this Authority on the similar scoping request you have received

This Authority considers the Scoping set out in the accompanying letter broadly covers all the main environmental and cumulative impacts of the proposed development.

For your convenience I have attached the replies I have received from statutory consultees, in brief you will note :

- The NYM ecologist should be consulted on the ecological work to be undertaken,
- Natural England would wish to see the 'cumulative' impacts be assessed particularly if the Hurrell Road, Thornton le Dale gas processing plant is given permission on appeal,
- The District Council Environmental Health officer wishes the air quality work to include odours at the wellsite and draws attention to a number of private water supplies in the locality to be taken into account when the water resources work is undertaken.

This communication will be placed on the Authority's EIA register.

Regards,

Mark Hill
Head of Development Management ext 2598, email m.hill@northyorkmoors-mpa.gov.uk

Date: 27 March 2012
Our ref: 47747
Your ref: NY/2012/0064/SCO



Alan Goforth
Planning Services
County Hall
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL7 8AD
United Kingdom
Email: Planning.Control@northyorks.gov.uk

Natural England
Consultation Service
Hornbeam House
Electra Way
Greve Business Park
CREWE
CW1 6GJ

T:

BY EMAIL ONLY

Dear Alan

Case name Request for EIA scoping opinion for Knapton Gas Station

Location Claypit Plantation, East Knapton

Thank you for seeking our advice on the scope of the Environmental Statement (ES) in your consultation dated 07 March 2012 which we received on the same day.

Natural England has already commented on a screening opinion for this application (our letter dated 16 November 2011). This letter represents our response to the scoping request in your letter dated 07 March 2012.

Natural England is a non-departmental public body. Our statutory purpose is to ensure that the natural environment is conserved, enhanced, and managed for the benefit of present and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.

We would expect the final ES to include all necessary information as outlined in Schedule 4 of the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011. Appendix A to this letter provides further detail on what Natural England as a statutory consultee expects.

It will be important for any assessment to consider the potential cumulative effects of this proposal, including all supporting infrastructure, with other similar proposals and a thorough assessment of the 'in combination' effects of the proposed development with any existing developments and new applications. A full consideration of the implications of the whole scheme should be included in the ES.

The Habitats Regulations, in particular Regulations 61 and 62, require the Local Planning Authority (LPA) to determine whether or not the proposals are likely to have a significant effect, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, on any internationally protected sites (Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area and Ramsar sites). Natural England advises that the ES should include sufficient information to allow the LPA to make the judgements required of them under the Habitats Regulations.

Natural England
Foundry House
3 Millsands
Riverside Exchange
Sheffield S3 8NH

www.naturalengland.org.uk

We would encourage the applicant to talk with Natural England during the production of the ES to seek our advice and input into the specifics of this proposal to ensure that opportunities for compensation and enhancement to the natural environment are maximised.

Appendix A to this letter provides detailed advice to help in the production of the ES.

For any correspondence or queries relating to this consultation only, please contact Merlin Ash at Land Use Operations, Natural England, 25 Queen Street, Leeds LS1 2TW. For all other correspondence, please contact the address above.

Yours sincerely

Merlin Ash
Adviser
Land Use Operations
Email:
Tel:

Appendix A

Detailed advice from Natural England on the scope of the Environmental Statement

1 General Principles

We would expect the final ES to include all necessary information as outlined in Schedule 4 of the Town & Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2011, specifically:

- A description of the development – including physical characteristics and the full land use requirements of the site during construction and operational phases.
- Expected residues and emissions (water, air and soil pollution, noise, vibration, light, heat, radiation, etc.) resulting from the operation of the proposed development.
- An assessment of alternatives and clear reasoning as to why the preferred option has been chosen.
- 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 the interrelationship between the above factors.
- A description of the likely significant effects of the development on the environment – this should cover direct effects but also any indirect, secondary, cumulative, short, medium and long term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects. Effects should relate to the existence of the development, the use of natural resources and the emissions from pollutants. This should also include a description of the forecasting methods to predict the likely effects on the environment.
- A description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and where possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.
- A non-technical summary of the information.
- An indication of any difficulties (technical deficiencies or lack of know-how) encountered by the applicant in compiling the required information.

It will be important for any assessment to consider the potential cumulative effects of this proposal, including all supporting infrastructure, with other similar proposals and a thorough assessment of the 'in combination' effects of the proposed development with any existing developments and new applications. A full consideration of the implications of the whole scheme should be included in the ES. All supporting infrastructure should be included within the assessment.

2 Biodiversity and Geology

2.1 Ecological Aspects of an Environmental Statement

Natural England advises that the potential impact of the proposal upon features of nature conservation interest and opportunities for habitat creation/enhancement should be included within this assessment in accordance with appropriate guidance on such matters. Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA) have been developed by the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM) and are available on their website.

EclA is the process of identifying, quantifying and evaluating the potential impacts of defined actions on ecosystems or their components. EclA may be carried out as part of the EIA process or to support other forms of environmental assessment or appraisal.

Key Principle (vi) of PPS9 *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation*, begins 'The aim of planning decisions should be to prevent harm to biodiversity and geological conservation interests' and the Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) 'Five Point Approach to Planning Decisions for Biodiversity' (which are summarised within the joint Communities & Local Government, Defra and English Nature companion guide to PPS9, entitled Planning for Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: A Guide to Good Practice), are both relevant. The ES should aim to address these principles to help the LPA identify whether they have been met by the proposals within the planning application.

2.2 Internationally and Nationally Designated Sites

The ES should thoroughly assess the impact of the proposals on designated sites, including Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), Ramsar sites and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Should a Likely Significant Effect on a European/Internationally designated site be identified, the competent authority (in this case the Local Planning Authority) may need to prepare an Appropriate Assessment under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 (the full process being termed Habitats Regulations Assessment), in addition to consideration of impacts through the EIA process.

Statutory site locations can be found at www.magic.gov.uk. Further information concerning particular statutory sites can be found on the [Natural England website](#).

2.3 Protected Species

The ES should assess the impact of all phases of the proposal on protected species. Records of protected species should be sought from appropriate local biological record centres, nature conservation organisations, groups and individuals, and consideration should be given to the wider context of the site for example in terms of habitat linkages and protected species populations in the wider area, to assist in the impact assessment.

The conservation of species protected by law is explained in Part IV and Annex A of Government Circular 06/2005 *Biodiversity and Geological Conservation: Statutory Obligations and their Impact within the Planning System*. The area likely to be affected by the proposal should be thoroughly surveyed by competent ecologists at appropriate times of year for relevant species and the survey results, impact assessments and appropriate accompanying mitigation strategies included as part of the ES.

Natural England has adopted standing advice for protected species. It provides a consistent level of basic advice which can be applied to any planning application that could affect protected species. It also includes links to guidance on survey and mitigation.

The ES will need to consider the impact of the proposals on bird populations including the potential impact of the proposals on bird flight lines, breeding and wintering populations and high tide roosts. Where these are included as an interest feature of a European or Internationally designated site, an Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Regulations may be required.

Natural England does not hold comprehensive information regarding the locations of species protected by law, but advises on the procedures and legislation relevant to such species.

2.4 Regionally and Locally Important Sites

The ES should thoroughly assess the impact of the proposals on non-statutory sites, for example Local Wildlife Sites (LoWS), Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and Regionally Important Geological and Geomorphological Sites (RIGS). Natural England does not hold comprehensive information on these sites. We therefore advise that the appropriate local biological record centres, nature conservation organisations, Local Planning Authority and local RIGS group should be contacted with respect to this matter.

2.5 Biodiversity Action Plan Habitats and Species

The ES should thoroughly assess the impact of the proposals on habitats and/or species listed in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP). These Priority Habitats and Species are listed as 'Habitats and Species of Principal Importance' within the England Biodiversity List, recently published under the requirements of S14 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006. Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 places a general duty on all public authorities, including local planning authorities, to conserve and enhance biodiversity. Further information on this duty is available in the Defra publication 'Guidance for Local Authorities on Implementing the Biodiversity Duty'.

PPS9 Paragraph 16 states 'Planning authorities should ensure that these species (Habitats and Species of Principal Importance identified in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 section 74 list) are protected from the adverse effects of development...'. Government Circular 06/2005 adds that BAP species and habitats, 'are capable of being a material consideration... in the making of planning decisions'. Natural England therefore advises that survey, impact assessment and mitigation proposals for Habitats and Species of Principal Importance should be included in the ES. Consideration should also be given to those species and habitats included in the relevant Local BAP.

2.6 Contacts for Local Records

For Local Record Centre (LRC) please contact:

North & East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre
5 College Street, York, Yorkshire. YO1 7JF
Tel: 01904 641631 | Fax: 01904 557236 | E-mail: info@neyedc.co.uk

For Geological sites please contact:

North Yorkshire Geodiversity Partnership Ltd
10, St. Olaves Close, Whitcliffe Lane, Ripon, North Yorkshire. HG4 2JF
Tel: 01765 600749 | No Fax
E-mail: adriankidd@worldonline.co.uk

3 Landscape, Access and Recreation

The ES should address in an appropriately broad and detailed way any impacts on the landscape as well as access and recreation assets. This assessment should include thorough consideration of any impacts on National Parks, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Heritage Coasts and National Trails.

3.1 Landscape and Visual Impacts

Natural England expects the methodology of consideration of landscape impacts to reflect the approach set out in the *Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment* (The Landscape Institute, 2002), the *Landscape Character Assessment Guidance for England and Scotland* (Scottish Natural Heritage and The Countryside Agency, 2002) and good practice. The assessment should also include the cumulative effect of the development with other relevant existing or

proposed developments in the area. In this context Natural England would expect the cumulative impact assessment to include those proposals currently at Scoping stage. Due to the overlapping timescale of their progress through the planning system, cumulative impact of the proposed development with those proposals currently at Scoping stage would be likely to be a material consideration at the time of determination of the planning application.

The assessment should refer to the relevant [National Character Areas](#) which can be found on our website. [Links for Landscape Character Assessment at a local level](#) are also available on the same page.

3.2 Access and Recreation

The ES should include a thorough assessment of the development's effects upon public rights of way and access to the countryside and its enjoyment through recreation. With this in mind and in addition to consideration of public rights of way, the landscape and visual effects on Open Access land, whether direct or indirect, should be included in the ES.

Natural England would also expect to see consideration of opportunities for improved or new public access provision on the site, to include linking existing public rights of way and/or providing new circular routes and interpretation. We also recommend reference to relevant Right of Way Improvement Plans (ROWIP) to identify public rights of way within or adjacent to the proposed site that should be maintained or enhanced.

4 Land use and soils

Impacts from the development should be considered in light of the Government's policy for the protection of the best and most versatile (BMV) agricultural land. Whilst we appreciate that the majority of Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 7 has been superseded by PPS4, paragraphs 28 and 29 have been saved and therefore are relevant when considering the protection of BMV agricultural land.

We also recommend that soils should be considered under a more general heading of sustainable use of land.

The emphasis is now placed on the importance of soils as a natural resource, as enshrined in a number of important documents including the Soil Strategy for England, a successor to the First Soil Action Plan for England 2004-2006. This outlines the Government's approach to safeguarding our soils for the future. It provides a clear vision to guide long term policy development across a range of areas and sets out the practical steps that we will need to take to protect the full range of functions (ecosystem services) that soils provide. Soil performs many vital functions, so their wise use and management is essential to sustainable development.

Development of buildings and infrastructure prevents alternative uses for those soils that are permanently covered, and also often results in degradation of soils around the development as result of construction activities. This affects their functionality as wildlife habitat, and reduces their ability to support landscape works and green infrastructure. Sealing and compaction can also contribute to increased surface run-off, ponding of water and localised erosion, flooding and pollution. Defra published a Code of Practice for the sustainable use of soils on construction sites (2009). The purpose of the Code of Practice is to provide a practical guide to assist anyone involved in the construction industry to protect the soil resources with which they work.

NYCE
HIGHWAYS

Alan Goforth

From: Paul N Roberts
Sent: 19 March 2012 11:20
To: Alan Goforth
Subject: Scoping Report Knapton Gas Station ny/2012/0064/sco

Dear Alan

Received a request for EIA Scoping opinion for the above. The Pipeline appears to cross the highway network in a number of places. At these locations I would expect to see traffic management plans and agree the detail. The report has also said that a full Transport Assessment will be prepared for the scheme which should prove very useful and will need to consider the construction element of the works again in some detail.

Regards

Paul



North

Yorkshire County Council

Memorandum

To: Alan Goforth
Minerals and Waste Planning

From: John Wainwright
Landscape Architect

Cc:

Date: 25 April 2012

Contact Details:

Your Ref: NY/2012/0064/SCO

Our Ref:

RE: NY/2012/0064/SCO- Knapton Gas Station, Claypit Plantation, East Knapton

Thank you for your consultation on the above project.

I confirm that at this stage I am satisfied with the proposed scope outlined for assessment of landscape and views as set out in Barton Wilmore's scoping letter dated 06 February 2012, and proposed methodology.

Additional points which I feel should be considered and explained within the assessment are:

- 1) Route options and alternatives considered.
- 2) Reasoning and justification for the divergence of the main pipeline from Wellsites to Knapton Power Station and the pipeline from Knapton to the existing NTS pipeline. Can these share the same route and can impacts be reduced by this?
- 3) Reasoning and justification for the pipeline construction working widths, and whether impacts due to hedgerow and woodland severance can be reduced at key locations.

We should also draw the applicants attention to 'The Fringe of the Moors Area of High Landscape Value' within Ryedale Local Plan area, and to existing landscape character assessment and guidelines 'The Landscapes of Northern Ryedale', Gillespies, August 1999, available through Ryedale District Council Planning. This assessment was done some years ago using former assessment methodology, but may provide useful background and context to the study area.

Yours sincerely

John Wainwright



North

Yorkshire County Council

Memorandum

To: Alan Goforth
Planning Services

From: Julia Casterton
Principal Ecologist, Countryside Service

Date: 28th March 2012

Contact Details:

Your Ref: NY/2012/0064/SCO

Our Ref: H4.613.1

REQUEST FOR EIA SCOPING OPINION FOR KNAPTON GAS STATION, CLAYPIT PLANTATION, EAST KNAPTON

Thank you for your consultation on the above scoping document. Please find below comments regarding ecological issues, whilst some of these issues may already have been addressed they are included for completeness.

The following ecological work is required in order to assess the potential impact of development upon important habitats and species.

Desk-based assessment:

- This assessment should include an appraisal of the data held at the North and East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre to identify:
 - i. Statutory designated sites such as SSSI, SACs and SPAs
 - ii. Non-statutory designated sites in North Yorkshire such as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) sites.
 - iii. Records of protected species including bats, badgers, otter, water vole, great crested newt, birds etc.
 - iv. Records of species included as priorities within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.
- Consultation with other organisations such as the North Yorkshire Bat Group for records of bats.
- The Ryedale Biodiversity Action Plan should be used in order to inform enhancement/compensation measures.

North York Moors SAC SPA

Given the proximity of the proposal to the above European designation, North Yorkshire County Council as the competent authority will be required to assess the proposals in accordance with The Habitat Regulations (Regs 61 & 62). This will commence with a Stage 1 screening assessment using information contained within the Environmental Statement and will need to take account of all potential impacts upon all the qualifying features of the site designations. The Environmental Statement needs to contain sufficient information for the Council to be able to undertake this assessment.

I would be happy to provide further advice on this aspect as necessary.

Site survey:

Following the initial desk based assessment, site surveys should be carried out comprising extended Phase 1 habitat survey and protected species surveys to make an assessment of the potential impact of the

development upon nature conservation. Surveys should be undertaken at the appropriate time of year to ensure accurate results.

The ecological assessment should be carried out in line with the Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management (IEEM) Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the United Kingdom (2006), which is available at www.ieem.org.uk/ECIA.htm

Off site and cumulative impacts

Given the nature of the proposed development, in addition to identifying and mitigating for any on site impacts it is important to consider potential off site impacts as a result of hydrology impacts.

The cumulative impact of this development in conjunction with other major developments in the surrounding area should be assessed.

Enhancement

The development should seek enhancements for biodiversity that are over and above measures identified as mitigation and/or compensation. Enhancement measures could be undertaken on and/or off site taking into consideration surrounding habitats.

I hope that the above information is of use to you. I would be happy to give more detailed comments at the next stage of the development. In the mean time should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

End.



North

Yorkshire County Council

Business and Environmental Services

Your ref: NY/2012/0064/SCO
Our ref: 3114 LH CNY11200
Contact: Lucie Hawkins
Direct dial:
email:

Historic Environment Team

Waste and Countryside Services
Business and Environmental Services
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton DL7 8AH
Tel:
Fax:
www.northyorks.gov.uk

FAO Mr Alan Goforth

Minerals, NYCC
County Hall
Northallerton

20 March 2012

Dear Sir or Madam,

Application No: NY/2012/0064/SCO
Proposed Development: Knapton Gas Station, Claypit Plantation, East Knapton
Request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 for a proposed gas production and processing facility and associated underground pipelines.

Thank you for consulting the Historic Environment Team upon this application.

I have read the proposals for scoping historic environment evidence. I support the proposals to undertake a Desk Based Assessment, however I would suggest that the search radius is increased to 1km. This should be followed by a walkover survey and additional archaeological evaluation including geophysical survey and trial trenching as required.

I would be happy to advise on the requirements of further work and/or mitigation proposals. I also recommend that a meeting is held between the applicant, English Heritage and myself to discuss the scope of works.

Yours faithfully,

/Continued..



Lucie Hawkins
Development Management Archaeologist



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Alan Goforth

From: Paul Cooper
Sent: 20 March 2012 14:48
To: Planning Control
Subject: Application Reference NY/2012/0064/SCO - EIA Scoping Opinion for Knapton Gas Station, Claypit Plantation, East Knapton

FAO Alan Goforth

Having viewed the submitted information on the above, I can confirm that Scarborough Borough Council have no objections to the application.

Kind Regards

Paul Cooper
Development Management Officer

Regeneration and Planning Services
Development Management | Scarborough Borough Council
email :
tel :

Europe's Most Enterprising Place - Winner 2009
International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) - Project of the Year Award 2009
Academy of Urbanism - 'The Great Town' - Winner 2010

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YorkshireWater

North Yorkshire County Council
Minerals & Waste Planning Unit
Planning & Countryside Unit
County Hall
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL7 8AH

Your Ref: NY/2012/0064/SC0
Our Ref: N002894

Land and Planning
Yorkshire Water Services Ltd
P.O Box 600
Western House
Western way
Bradford
BD6 2LZ

Tel:
Fax:

E-mail

For telephone enquiries ring:
Stephanie Walden on

5th April 2012

Dear Sir/Madam,

Knapton Gas Station Claypit Plantation East Knapton - Request for EIA Scoping Opinion

Thank you for consulting Yorkshire Water on the above request. I note that Chapter 6 of the proposed EIA will deal with water issues and this should include ensuring that any water or sewerage infrastructure laid within the pipeline route is properly protected. The developer should contact Yorkshire Water direct in this regard.

Yours faithfully

Stephanie Walden
Land Use Planning Manager



Mr Alan Goforth
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
North Yorkshire
DL7 8AH

Our ref: RA/2012/121442/01-L01
Your ref: NY/2012/0064/SCO
Date: 02 April 2012

Dear Mr Goforth

EIA SCOPING OPINION FOR KNAPTON GAS STATION – CLAYPIT PLANTATION, EAST KNAPTON

Thank you for consulting us on the above proposal that we received on 12 March 2012. We have the following comments to make.

Flood Risk

The applicant should look at the site in a sequential manner and look to site all development wholly within flood zone 1 and outside of flood zones 2 and 3 where possible.

Any development in Flood zone 1 greater than a hectare in size will require a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) which should pay particular attention to drainage.

Any development within Flood zones 2 and 3 (regardless of the site area) will require a full and detailed FRA. For further information / guidance regarding FRAs please refer to the Environment Agency website.

There must be no raising of ground levels within the flood plain.

All excess spoil must be removed from the flood plain.

There must be no increase in surface water runoff from the site. As a minimum we would want to see any surface water discharge restricted to the existing greenfield runoff rate. If not calculated, then the greenfield runoff from a 1 in 1 year storm (1.4l/s/ha) should be used. For any brownfield areas within the development, we would want to see as a minimum a 30% reduction in surface water discharge, this is as a consequence of climate change and recommendations in the Pitt Review. The applicant must also provide sufficient attenuation and long term storage at least to accommodate a 1 in 30 year storm. The design should also ensure that storm water resulting from a 1 in 100 year event, plus 30% to account for climate change, and surcharging the drainage system can be stored on the site without risk to people or property and without overflowing into the watercourse.

We are keen to promote the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage systems (SuDS). SuDS tackle surface water run-off problems at source using features such as soakaways, permeable pavements, grassed swales, infiltration trenches, ponds and wetlands, and, green roofs to attenuate flood peak flows, produce water quality improvements and environmental enhancements. We seek to promote the use of

Environment Agency
Coverdale House Aviator Court, York, North Yorkshire, YO30 4GZ.
Customer services line:
www.environment-agency.gov.uk

Cont/d..

SuDS techniques to this site and expect the developer of the site to submit detailed investigations such that the use of SuDS has been fully explored.

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that their operations do not cause or exacerbate flooding problems and / or erosion problems for others as a result of their works.

Any works in, under, over or within 8m of a main river and / or a flood defence will require the formal consent of the Environment Agency.

Any works affecting non main rivers (ordinary watercourses) within an IDB area may also require formal consent from the IDB. The applicant should note that as of the 6th April 2012 any works affecting non main rivers outside an IDB area will fall under the remit of the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA).

Groundwater and Contaminated Land

The applicant should be aware that Source Protection Zones associated with public drinking supplies are situated in the vicinity, along with a number of abstractions used for various uses. The underlying geology is Corallian Limestone, which is designated as a Principal Aquifer. The Corallian Limestone is regionally important for public drinking supplies, and is extremely vulnerable to any potentially polluting activity.

The site currently falls outside the Source Protection Zone designed to protect the Scarborough drinking water supply boreholes. However, the Source Protection Zones have been revised and when the new zones are adopted in April 2012, the location of the proposed wellsite C, and some of the proposed pipeline route site will now lie within Zone 1. Consideration should be given to locate wellsite C further to the south or west, to avoid SPZ 1. The proposed wellsite B and a large portion of the proposed pipeline route towards wellsite A and B will lie within Zone3.

Source Protection Zones are used to identify those areas close to drinking water sources where the risk of harm from contamination of groundwater is greatest. In order to protect groundwater, we may object in principle to, or refuse to permit, some activities.

The EIA should fully assess the risks to the potable abstractions, Corallian Limestone and surface waters, particularly the headwaters of the River Derwent, and any other potential receptors from the proposed gas wells, the proposed pipelines and the gas processing facility. This should include an assessment of risk for each phase of development. The EIA should also detail any mitigation measures which may be necessary.

The additional development wells proposed will also need to satisfy Section 199(2) of the Water Resources Act. The risks associated with each phase of development will need to be considered and included in the EIA.

Water Resources

We are pleased to see that a chapter of the report will be devoted to Water Resources. If all the Water Resources issues identified in the Scoping Opinion letter are addressed in the EIA report, this should form the basis for a comprehensive assessment of the potential impacts of the development on the water environment.

In particular, the applicant should consider the requirements of the Water Framework Directive within the scope of the EIA report, to ensure they address their obligations under this important piece of European legislation.

Environmental Permit

The gas processing plant is a new activity on the permitted site and will require a permit variation of environmental permit HP3038LA. Air emissions from this plant along with odour and noise and any other emissions will be major considerations during the permit variation process. The operator will also be required to demonstrate that the method of gas processing is BAT for the scale of operation.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Beverley Lambert
Planning Liaison Officer

Direct dial

Direct fax

Direct e-mail



ENGLISH HERITAGE
YORKSHIRE & THE HUMBER OFFICE

Mr Alan Goforth
North Yorkshire County Council
Planning Services
County Hall
NORTHALLERTON
North Yorkshire
DL7 8AH

Direct Dial:
Direct Fax: -----

Our ref: PA00044765
Your ref: NY/2012/0064/SCO



27 March 2012

Dear Mr Goforth

Request for Pre-application Advice

KNAPTON GAS STATION, CLAYPIT PLANTATION, EAST KNAPTON, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Thank you for your letter of 7th March 2012 consulting English Heritage about the above EIA Scoping Report.

This development could, potentially, have an impact upon a number of designated heritage assets and their settings in the area around the site. In line with the advice in the NPPF, we would expect the Environmental Report to contain a thorough assessment of the likely effects which the proposed development might have upon those elements which contribute to the significance of these assets.

Our initial assessment shows the attached heritage assets within 10 km of the proposed development. We would draw your attention, in particular, to the following: -

UDS	Scheduling	1020895	Scamridge Dikes: prehistoric linear boundaries and associated features	Scheduled Monument
UDS	Scheduling	1021271	Medieval settlement immediately south east of Ebbwston Hall	Scheduled Monument
UDS	Scheduling	1021084	Allerton lime kilns	Scheduled Monument
UDS	Listing	1149556	THE OLD ABBEY AND ATTACHED FARMBUILDING	II*
UDS	Listing	1315717	SCAMPSTON HALL AND GATEWAYS, WALLS AND TERMINAL PIERS ATTACHED TO SOUTH FRONT II*	
UDS	Listing	1174500	CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS	II
UDS	Scheduling	1020832	Long barrow 630m north west of Scamridge Farm	Scheduled Monument
UDS	Scheduling	1003684	Yedingham Priory	Scheduled Monument
UDS	Park and Garden	1001062	EBBERSTON HALL II*	
UDS	Park and Garden	1000374	SCAMPSTON HALL II*	
UDS	Scheduling	1008381	A cross dyke on Knapton Wold, 500m west of West Farm	Scheduled Monument
UDS	Listing	1149555	EBBERSTON HALL	II*
UDS	Listing	1173210	WYKEHAM ABBEY	II*



37 TANNER ROW YORK YO1 6WP

Telephone Facsimile
www.english-heritage.org.uk

English Heritage is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR). All information held by the organisation will be accessible in response to an information request, unless one of the exemptions in the FOIA or EIR applies.

English Heritage will use the information provided by you to evaluate any applications you make for statutory or quasi-statutory consent, or for grant or other funding. Information provided by you and any information obtained from other sources will be retained in all cases in hard copy form and/or on computer for administration purposes and future consideration where applicable.

YORKSHIRE & THE HUMBER OFFICE

We would also expect the Environmental Report to consider the potential impacts which the proposals might have upon those heritage assets which are not designated. These ought to be included as heritage assets designated or otherwise as they are valued components of the historic environment. This information is available via www.heritagegateway.org.uk.

We would strongly recommend that you involve the Conservation Officer of Ryedale District Council and the North York Moors National Park Authority (NYMNP) and the archaeological staff at the NYMNP and North Yorkshire County Council in the development of this assessment. They are best placed to advise on local historic environment issues and priorities, how the policy or proposal can be tailored to minimise potential adverse impacts on the historic environment, the nature and design of any required mitigation measures, together with opportunities for securing wider benefits for the future conservation and management of heritage assets.

It is important that the Assessment is designed to ensure that all impacts are fully understood. Section drawings and techniques such as photomontages are a useful part of this. English Heritage would welcome the opportunity to be involved in agreeing suitable view points for these.

Consideration should also be given to undertaking a practical exercise with either a crane or balloons erected at the height of the proposed structures so that all parties are better able to understand the landscape impact of the proposals. We have been engaged in other major developments where this technique has been used and it greatly assisted the identification of the key issues and impacts from which the resulting EIA was able to focus its assessment.

The assessment should also take account of the potential impact which associated activities (such as construction activity, servicing and maintenance, and associated traffic) might have upon perceptions, understanding and appreciation of the heritage assets in the area. Assessment should also consider, where appropriate, the likelihood of alterations to drainage patterns that might lead to *in situ* decomposition or destruction of below ground archaeological remains and deposits, and can also lead to subsidence of buildings and monuments.

We have the following comments to make regarding the content of the Scoping Report. The Vale of Pickering is a rich archaeological resource of national importance, exhibiting considerable, well preserved evidence from the Early Mesolithic to the modern period with particular 'hot spots' in the Mesolithic, Bronze Age and early Anglo-Saxon periods. Environmentally rich archaeological deposits are also known in



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YORKSHIRE & THE HUMBER OFFICE

the Vale. Therefore the Assessment needs to pay particular regard to the wealth and complexity of the archaeological resource in this area.

Given the number of designated and undesignated heritage assets within the area, we would welcome early discussions with you in order to agree the key sites and setting issues which will need to be addressed with this EIA.

If you have any queries about any of the above, or would like to discuss anything further, please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Keith Emerick
Ancient Monuments Inspector
E-mail:

cc: Lucie Hawkins, Development Management Archaeologist, NYCC.
Graham Lee, senior Archaeological Conservation Officer, NYMNP.



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YORKSHIRE & THE HUMBER OFFICE

KNAPTON GAS STATION, CLAYPIT PLANTATION, EAST KNAPTON, NORTH
YORKSHIRE

Request for Pre-application Advice

Information Provided

Information Provided: N/A

Published Guidance

Published Guidance: N/A



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Telephone

Facsimile

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Alan Goforth

From: Steve Richmond <
Sent: 10 April 2012 09:33
To: Alan Goforth
Subject: RE: NY/2012/0064/SCO- Knapton Gas Station, Claypit Plantation, East Knapton

Alan,

In relation to the EIA scoping request for the above proposal I have the following comments:

- * Air Quality - It is proposed to cover the construction phase, gas processing facility emissions and road traffic emissions, however I consider that the scope should be extended to cover all potential air pollution sources from the wellsite through to the gas processing facility. This is particularly in association with potential from odour at wells sites during times of venting or workovers on the sites. Although the proposed gas processing facility will require a Part A(1) Environmental Permit, from the Environment Agency if it is likely to involve the refining of 1000 gas in any 12 months, the permit will relate to that facility only and not condition any activities at the wellsite.
- * The scoping covers water resources, which will include the proximity of private water supplies. I would like to bring to the agents attention that the proposed pipeline is likely to cross the private supply pipe from High Scammeridge spring (GR 48980(E) 487700(N) to Givendale Head Farm and the new borehole (GR 488950(E) 489054(N) which supplies Jingelby Thorn, Addison Field and the field at GR 489300(E) 488800(N).
- * While proposed well sites A and B are within Ryedale, wellsite c is within Scarborough Borough Councils area and you may wish to consult them if you have not done so already.

All the other areas I have an interest are covered in the proposed scoping opinion.

Steven Richmond
Health and Environment Manager
Ryedale District Council
PO Box 67, Ryedale House, Old Malton Road, MALTON, YO17 7ZG TEL -
Email -

-----Original Message-----

From: Alan Goforth [mailto:
Sent: 10 April 2012 09:18
To: Steve Richmond; Sue Smith
Subject: NY/2012/0064/SCO- Knapton Gas Station, Claypit Plantation, East Knapton

Request for a Scoping Opinion under Regulation 13 of the Town and Country Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) (England and Wales) Regulations 2011 for a proposed gas production and processing facility and associated underground pipelines on land at Knapton Gas Station, Claypit Plantation, East Knapton

With reference to the above and further to the consultation email sent by Amy Lyle to aillsh.lilley@ryedale.gov.uk on 7 March 2012 I would be grateful if you could confirm whether you wish to make any comments on the Scoping Request. The details can be viewed via our Online Planning Register at the following web address:-
<https://onlineplanningregister.northyorks.gov.uk/register/> (Search: NY/2012/0064/SCO).

I would be grateful for any comments you wish to make on the proposals within 7 days of the date of this email.

Kind Regards

Alan Goforth

Alan Goforth

From: Amy Lyle
Sent: 11 April 2012 10:58
To: Alan Goforth
Subject: FW: FW: Planning Application ConsultationNY/2012/0064/SCO

Hi Alan

Please see below for Ebberton PC's consultation response re. the above application.

Many thanks
Amy

From: Andrew Wyatt [
Sent: 11 April 2012 10:55
To: Amy Lyle
Subject: Re: FW: Planning Application ConsultationNY/2012/0064/SCO

Hello Amy

Thank you for the prompt. Yes there are comments as follows.

1 It would seem from the map, albeit difficult to read, that the pipeline in crossing Search Lane (Green Lane) Ebberton and going straight through the Snainton Golf course and driving range. Can you please confirm this is the case and if so the Parish Council would object to this and would be looking for an alternative route to avoid this development.

2 Within this same location, as above, it would seem likely there will be significant disruption to public footpaths, how will this be dealt with when excavations begin and how will consultations be handled on these local matters?

Please keep informed of progress.

Thank you
Andrew Wyatt
Clerk to the Council

--- On Tue, 10/4/12, Amy Lyle <Amy.Lyle@northyorks.gov.uk> wrote:

From: Amy Lyle
Subject: FW: Planning Application ConsultationNY/2012/0064/SCO
To: _____
Date: Tuesday, 10 April, 2012, 13:50

Hello

With regards to the above planning application I have been asked if you wish to submit any comments now that the date for your Parish Council meeting has passed.

Many thanks

Amy

From: Andrew Wyatt
Sent: 09 March 2012 07:55
To: Amy Lyle
Subject: Re: Planning Application ConsultationNY/2012/0064/SCO

Dear Amy

Thank you for the email concerning the scoping document for the Knapton Gas Plant. This will be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council on 12th March 2012.

Yours sincerely
Andrew Wyatt
Clerk to the Council

— On Wed, 7/3/12, Amy Lyle <

wrote:

From: Amy Lyle <
Subject: Planning Application ConsultationNY/2012/0064/SCO
To: "
Date: Wednesday, 7 March, 2012, 10:14

Please find attached a letter detailing a planning application consultation
Access your county council services online 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at www.northyorks.gov.uk.

WARNING

Any opinions or statements expressed in this e-mail are those of the individual and not necessarily those of North Yorkshire County Council.

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North Yorkshire County Council

Alan Goforth

From: A STUTTARD
Sent: 01 April 2012 15:07
To: Planning Control
Cc:
Subject: EIA Scoping opinion for Knapton Gas Station East Knapton Ref NY/2012/0064/SCO

Dear Mr Goforth,

I thank you for your letter of 7 March 2012 to the Clerk of Scampston Parish Council which was sent to the previous clerk and hence the delay in responding.

Please send future correspondence to Mrs C Lyon, Clerk to Scampston Parish Council, Cundill Cottage, Scampston, Malton, YO17 8NG

The Parish Council would like to make the following observations to the Request for EIA Scoping Opinion for Knapton Gas Station, East Knapton as it relates to the gas station and that part of the proposed pipelines within the Scampston Parish area.

We understand that electricity generation at the Knapton Plant is at present intermittent and firstly question why the new gas supply is not to be utilised for electricity generation.

New Pipelines.

We would obviously prefer the pipeline to be laid by undertaking horizontal directional drilling which would avoid any surface disturbance and associated nuisance from noise and dust emissions.

We are particularly concerned that topsoil should be suitably reinstated so as not to adversely affect future agricultural use.

Gas Processing Plant.

We note a "Key Issue" is stated to be "emissions from the gas processing plant".

We are aware of previous problems and complaints from foul and noxious emissions from the Knapton plant adversely affecting local residents and would request suitable and robust precautions be put in place to prevent any such emissions from the new plant.

We are not aware of any noise issues from the existing plant but would be concerned at any increase in noise from new plant

with the surrounding area being subject to existing low ambient noise levels.

Visually the existing plant is reasonably well screened and we would be concerned about any adverse visual impact from any taller structures on the site.

Waste.

It is stated that there will be no significant effects with regard to waste. We are not conversant with the proposed processes but noxious waste is likely to be a by-product of the gas cleaning process at the Knapton site and its storage and disposal would be of concern.

The above comments relate to the information as provided and we will submit the formal response from the Parish Council upon receipt of the full Planning Application.

Yours faithfully,

Tony Stuttard, Scampston Parish Council.

Alan Goforth

From: Ronald Carey
Sent: 20 March 2012 13:47
To: Planning Control
Subject: Planning application and scoping opinion

Attn Alan Goforth

Ref NY/2012/0073/JBC Brompton Hall School

Brompton by Sawdon Parish Council considered the application for a timber framed teaching building and they have objections or comments to make on the proposals.

Ref NY/2012/0064/SCO Knapton Gas Station

The Parish Councils of Brompton by Sawdon and Snainton have considered this matter and have no comments to make.

Regards

Ron Carey

Clerk to Brompton by Sawdon Parish Council and Snainton Parish Council

Alan Goforth

From: Russ Varley
Sent: 16 March 2012 15:35
To: Alan Goforth
Subject: RE: Planning Application ConsultationNY/2012/0064/SCO

Thanks Alan, please see below for the revised opinion.

With reference to the above scoping opinion, public rights of way would object to these proposals if the installation of the feeder pipelines were to prevent the use of the numerous rights of way they cross. Public rights of way would need to explore ways of avoiding or mitigating these proposals with the developer. It may be necessary to close some of the rights of way for a short time in order facilitate development which can be arranged via this office. However the submitted plans are not sufficiently detailed to established exactly where the rights of way will be affected by the pipeline at this stage.

Regards

Russ

Russ Varley
Definitive Map Officer
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
DL7 8AH

You can now view a map of the rights of way in your area by visiting www.northyorks.gov.uk/paths

From: Alan Goforth
Sent: 16 March 2012 15:15
To: Russ Varley
Subject: RE: Planning Application ConsultationNY/2012/0064/SCO

Russ,

The additional infrastructure (gas processing facility) would be within the existing Knapton site but the proposed pipelines would be constructed north of the site and would continue through Ryedale into the National Park.

Kind Regards

Alan Goforth
Development Control Officer (East Area)

Planning Services
County Hall
Northallerton
DL7 8AH

Tel: 01609 533085

Alan Goforth

From: Alan Goforth
Sent: 16 March 2012 15:15
To: Russ Varley
Subject: RE: Planning Application ConsultationNY/2012/0064/SCO

Russ,

The additional infrastructure (gas processing facility) would be within the existing Knapton site but the proposed pipelines would be constructed north of the site and would continue through Ryedale into the National Park.

Kind Regards

Alan Goforth
Development Control Officer (East Area)

Planning Services
County Hall
Northallerton
DL7 8AH

-----Original Message-----

From: Russ Varley
Sent: 16 March 2012 14:57
To: Planning Control
Subject: RE: Planning Application ConsultationNY/2012/0064/SCO

Dear Alan

With reference to the above planning scoping opinion request, public rights of way have no objection to the proposal provided the development is occurring within the existing plant boundary.

Regards
Russ

Russ Varley
Definitive Map Officer
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
DL7 8AH

You can now view a map of the rights of way in your area by visiting www.northyorks.gov.uk/paths

From: Amy Lyle on behalf of paths

Alan Goforth

From: Russ Varley
Sent: 16 March 2012 14:57
To: Planning Control
Subject: RE: Planning Application ConsultationNY/2012/0064/SCO

Dear Alan

With reference to the above planning scoping opinion request, public rights of way have no objection to the proposal provided the development is occurring within the existing plant boundary.

Regards
Russ

Russ Varley
Definitive Map Officer
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
Northallerton
DL7 8AH

You can now view a map of the rights of way in your area by visiting www.northyorks.gov.uk/paths

From: Amy Lyle on behalf of paths
Sent: 07 March 2012 16:53
To: Russ Varley
Subject: FW: Planning Application ConsultationNY/2012/0064/SCO

-----Original Message-----

From: Amy Lyle
Sent: 07 March 2012 10:16
To: paths
Subject: Planning Application ConsultationNY/2012/0064/SCO

Please find attached a letter detailing a planning application consultation

Alan Goforth

From: Amy Lyle
Sent: 27 March 2012 13:08
To: Alan Goforth
Subject: FW: Planning Application ConsultationNY/2012/0064/SCO

From: Cllr Janet Sanderson
Sent: 27 March 2012 12:46
To: Amy Lyle
Subject: RE: Planning Application ConsultationNY/2012/0064/SCO

Dear Amy,

Thanks you for sending me details of this application. I became aware of this companies intentions during the public inquiry for the gas plant at Thornton Dale late last year. This request has my full support for the following reasons -

- I believe we should support our existing companies to exploit our natural reserves of gas.
- The landscaping of the site is already well established.
- It is policy to use existing infrastructure before taking more green field land. I believe this company have already offered to take gas from other wells that are not owned by their company.

I would be very happy to speak at your planning meeting should I be required to do so, or to send in a fuller report after making contact with the company.

Janet Sanderson

From: Amy Lyle
Sent: Wednesday, March 07, 2012 10:15 AM
To: Cllr Janet Sanderson
Subject: Planning Application ConsultationNY/2012/0064/SCO

Please find attached a letter detailing a planning application consultation

Alan Goforth

From:
Sent: 28 March 2012 12:22
To: Planning Control
Subject: Scoping opinion re Proposed Development @ Knapton Gas Station and overland pipelines Reference - NY/2012/0064/SCO

MUSTON & YEDINGHAM DRAINAGE BOARD

S P W EDWARDS F.R.I.C.S.
CLERK TO THE BOARD

15 MARKET PLACE
MALTON
NORTH YORKSHIRE YO17 7LP

TELEPHONE:
FACSIMILE:

Fao: Alan Goforth - N.Y.C.C Business & Environmental Services - Planning Department

Alan,

Many thanks for the correspondence re the above, the contents of which have been discussed with Phil Fisher, Surveyor/Engineer to both Boards. The relevant documentation has been downloaded and it is apparent that the pipelines would involve a number of ditch crossings in both Board areas (80% M&Y IDB, 20% Thornton). Furthermore, such work normally involves pre and post construction remedial drainage work where outfalls will need to discharge into the IDB ditch network.

The Board will have no objection to the possible project but would require consent fees for any of the ditch crossings and new outlets. Details of the proposed works would obviously have to be considered at the appropriate time when the full planning application is submitted.

Yours sincerely,

SPW Edwards
Clerk to both Muston & Yedingham IDB & Thornton IDB

Network Rail



Planning Services
North Yorkshire County Council
County Hall
NORTH ALLERTON
North Yorkshire
DL7 8AH
FAO Mr A. Goforth

Wyvern House, Room 56
Railway Terrace
DERBY
DE1 2RU
DX 707074 DERBY 7

Tel:
Fax:
Ask For: Simon Smith
Our Ref: E/S15/388

Date: 2 April 2012

Your Ref: NY/2012/0064/SCO

Dear Mr. Goforth,

**TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT, 1990.
KNAPTON GAS STATION, CLAYPIT PLANTATION, EAST KNAPTON.
VIKING UK GAS LIMITED.
YORK, MALTON AND SCARBOROUGH LINE.**

With reference to your letter of 7 March, 2012, regarding the abovementioned proposed request for EIA Scoping Option. It is noted that although the well sites are remote from Network Rail infrastructure, the applicant intends to construct pipelines from the well sites to the Knapton Gas Station and from the Gas Station to the National Transmission System, which will need to pass beneath Network Rail infrastructure in the vicinity of the Knapton Gas Station.

In the circumstances, the only comment I have to make is, in addition to the normal consultation with the Mining Team, will the applicant please liaise with the Asset Protection Team, Network Rail, York at the following email address: AssetProtectionLNE@networkrail.co.uk, who will be able to advise on all matters relating to the construction of the undertrack crossings.

I shall be pleased if you will keep me informed on the progress of this proposal and provide a copy of the Application should this development proceed.

Yours sincerely,

for Dr. B Clifford
Principal Mining Engineer

G:\MINING\ROOM55\WORD\YES15\388001.doc

Mr M Hill
Head of Development Management
North Yorkshire Moors National Park

Hazardous Installations
Directorate

Miss Francine Cheney
Acting Principal Inspector

Gas and Pipelines Unit
c/o Mr Russell Shepherd
Specialised Industries
Foundry House
3 Millsands
Riverside Exchange
Sheffield
S3 8NH

Reference RS/FC

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/>

Tony Hetherington
Head of Unit

Date 28 March 2012

Dear Sir


EIA SCOPING REQUEST FOR GAS PRODUCTION WELLS IN EBBERSTON/LOCKTON PARTS OF NYM TOGETHER WITH GAS PROCESSING PLANT AT KNAPTON GENERATING STATION AND ASSOCIATED PIPELINES BETWEEN WELLSITES AND KNAPTON AND BETWEEN KNAPTON AND NATIONAL GAS TRANSMISSION LINE

Thank you for your email of 26th March 2012 asking for HSE input into the scoping opinion for the proposed gas production and processing development at Knapton.

Environmental Impact Assessments are concerned with projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. HSE's principal concerns are for the health and safety of people at work and those affected by work activities. Therefore HSE cannot usefully comment on what information should be included in the environmental statement of the proposed development.

However, the environmental statements should not include measures which would conflict with the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974 and its relevant statutory provisions.

Yours faithfully

 Miss Francine Cheney
Acting Principal Inspector