

## 25.1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

### *Environmental Statement: Volume II*

25.1.1 Able Humber Ports Ltd (Able) propose to develop a marine energy park on the south bank of the Humber Estuary; if consented, the development will be known as Able Marine Energy Park (AMEP). The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the AMEP is contained in *Volume 1* of this Environmental Statement (ES).

25.1.2 The AMEP will involve reclaiming some of the internationally designated subtidal and intertidal habitat within the Humber Estuary for industrial use. If the development is approved, habitat compensation will be required as a condition of the consent. Natural England has advised Able that habitat compensation should be provided in the middle estuary.

25.1.3 This Volume and its annexes comprise *Volume 2* of the ES for AMEP which presents the EIA for the proposed habitat compensation at Cherry Cobb Sands and Old Little Humber Farm. Collectively these habitat compensation areas are described as ‘the Compensation Site’.

25.1.4 *Volume 2* includes a description of the baseline environment, the potential impacts and mitigation measures specific to the Compensation Site. Where relevant information is already included in *Volume 1* for the main scheme (the AMEP), the information is not repeated here but referenced to the relevant section of *Volume 1*.

## 25.2 LOCATION & DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

25.2.1 Black & Veatch (B&V) has undertaken an assessment of alternative sites to identify the most suitable areas for the creation of the compensatory habitat within the middle estuary. Further details of the assessment of alternative sites are provided in *Chapter 30*.

25.2.2 The Compensation Site is located on the north bank of the Humber Estuary, opposite the AMEP in Paull Civil Parish within the East Riding of Yorkshire Council administrative area.

25.2.3 The intertidal part of the Compensation Site is located some 4 km to the south-west of Keyingham and north of Stone Creek between the existing flood defences and Cherry Cobb Sands Road. The location of

this site is for the purposes of this project known as 'Cherry Cobb Sands', and is roughly triangular in shape and currently comprises arable fields defined at their boundaries by drainage ditches and a flood defence embankment.

The managed wet grassland part of the Compensation Site will be developed on four existing arable fields between Newlands Lane and the South Ends and Thorney Crofts Drain approximately 2 km south of Thorngumbald. For the purposes of this project, this land is known as 'Old Little Humber Farm'.

25.2.4 The locations of Cherry Cobb Sands and Old Little Humber Farm are shown in *Figure 25.1*.

### 25.3 **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT**

25.3.1 At the Cherry Cobb Sands part of the Compensation Site the existing flood embankment will be breached following the construction of new embankments around the perimeter of the proposed intertidal site to provide protection to the surrounding area. The ground levels within the site will be re-contoured to provide the new embankment and new habitat of functional value to wildfowl and wading birds as well as other flora and fauna. This intertidal Compensation Site will be developed within a 115 ha plot.

25.3.2 At Old Little Humber Farm wet grassland will be created, An indicative design has been developed which includes for the stopping up of existing land drainage, re-contouring arable farmland and sowing to permanent pasture to provide new habitat of functional value to wildfowl and wading birds as well as other flora and fauna. The existing ditches and hedges crossing and bordering this land are not proposed to be disturbed.

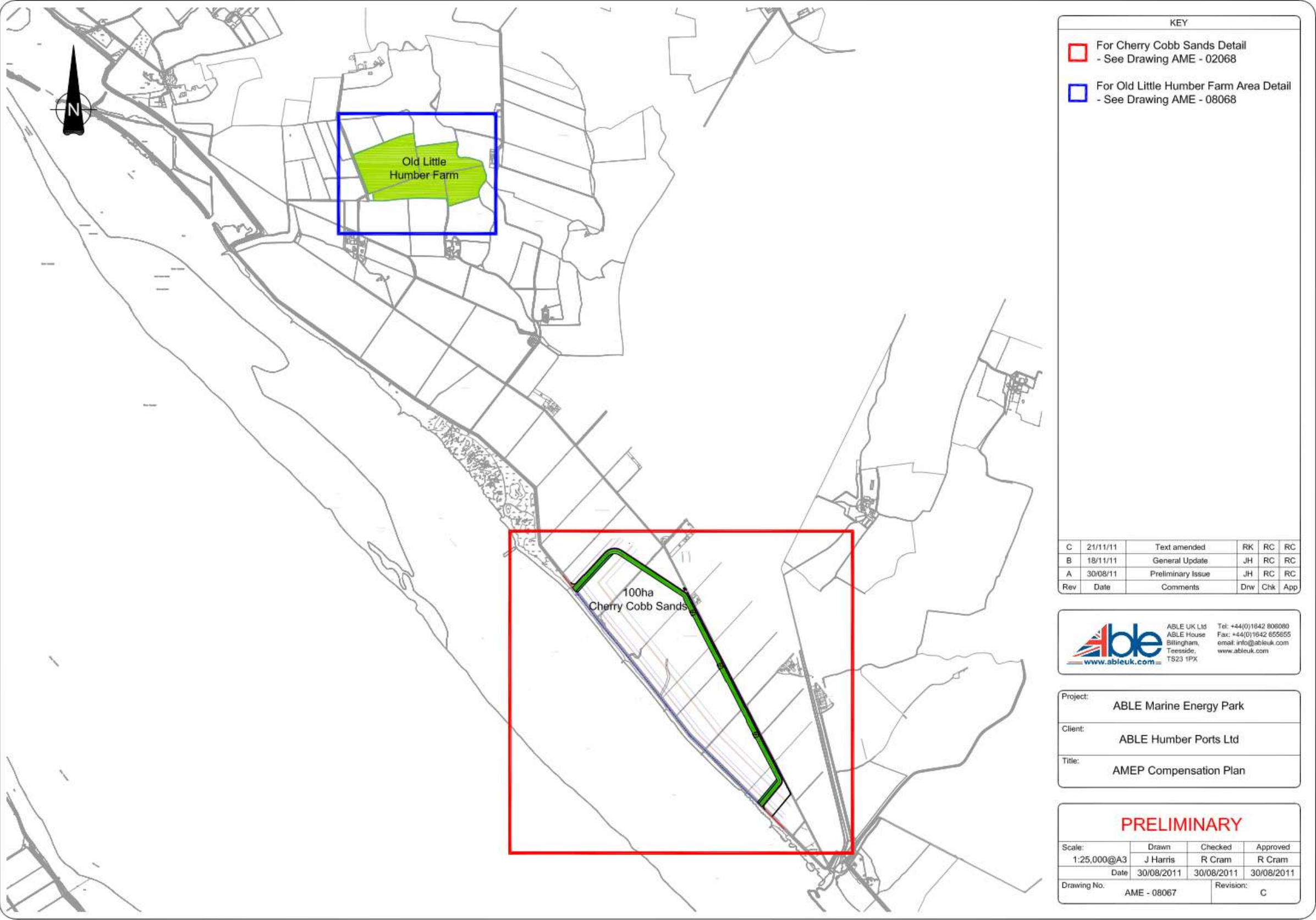


Figure 25-1 Cherry Cobb Sands and Old Little Humber Farm Location Plan

25.3.3 A more detailed description of the proposed Compensation Site is included in *Chapter 28*.

## 25.4 *SCOPING OPINION*

25.4.1 A Scoping Report was prepared and submitted to the IPC in September 2010 with a request for formal Scoping Opinion (*Annex 2.1*). The IPC subsequently issued its scoping opinion for both the AMEP and the Compensation Site.

## 25.5 *PRELIMINARY ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION REPORT*

25.5.1 As noted in *Chapter 1*, a Preliminary Environmental Information Report (PEIR) was prepared for the AMEP and the Cherry Cobb Sands site and made available to statutory consultees and other stakeholders between 31 January and 19 March 2011. The PEIR included information gathered and assessments made up to December 2010. The PEIR and the subsequent consultation have informed the EIA process.

## 25.6 *THE EIA STUDY TEAM*

25.6.1 The EIA for AMEP was led by Environmental Resources Management Ltd (ERM), working closely with Able and various other specialist consultants. Black and Veatch (B&V) led the EIA for the Compensation Site. In addition, specific environmental topics have been addressed, or contributed to, by specialists identified in *Table 1.1*.

## 25.7 *STRUCTURE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT*

25.7.1 *Volume 1* contains the results of the EIA for the AMEP. *Volume 2* reports the EIA for the Compensation Site and avoids repeating information included in *Volume 1*. Where information is relevant to both schemes, it is presented in full in *Volume 1*. *Volume 2* is, therefore, structured as follows:

- *Chapter 25* details the location, provides a description of the site and gives a brief description of the works proposed at the Compensation Site.
- *Chapter 26* describes the environmental assessment process applied in the EIA for the Compensation Site.

- *Chapter 27* outlines planning policy and context for the Compensation Site, and provides a brief review of previous planning applications relating to the Compensation Site.
- *Chapter 28* provides details on the development of the Compensation Site, including both the construction and operational phases.
- *Chapter 29* addresses the need for the Compensation Site.
- *Chapter 30* outlines how alternative sites for the Compensation Site were considered.
- *Chapter 31* addresses the topic of geology and ground conditions in relation to the Compensation Site.
- *Chapter 32* addresses the topic of the hydrodynamic and sediment regime of the Humber Estuary of relevance to the Compensation Site.
- *Chapter 33* addresses the topic of water and sedimentary quality in relation to the Compensation Site.
- *Chapter 34* addresses the topic of aquatic ecology in relation to the Compensation Site.
- *Chapter 35* addresses the topic of terrestrial ecology and birds in relation to the Compensation Site.
- *Chapter 36* addresses the topics of drainage and flood risk in relation to the Compensation Site.
- *Chapter 37* addresses the topic of traffic and transport in relation to the Compensation Site.
- *Chapter 38* addresses the topic of noise in relation to the Compensation Site.
- *Chapter 39* addresses the topic of air quality in relation to the Compensation Site.
- *Chapter 40* addresses the topics of marine and terrestrial archaeology in relation to the Compensation Site.
- *Chapter 41* addresses the topic of landscape and visual impacts in relation to the Compensation Site.

- *Chapter 42* addresses the topic of socio-economics in relation to the Compensation Site.

Chapter 43 addresses the topic of waste in relation to the Compensation Site.