King Street, Elsecar

Appendix 11 - Ecology Statement

5th September 2016

Address: Land at King Street, Hoyland, Barnsley, S74

Read with Ramm Sanderson, ECOP: Constraints and Opportunities Plan.

A site visit was carried out on 4th September 2015 and the ECOP produced to illustrate the areas of most interest.

Generally the site is of fairly low ecological value, however there were a few aspects which would need further survey or that will warrant precautionary methods once site activates begin.

The main aspect of this was the potential for reptiles to be within the site. There are a few features which could make the site suitable for use by reptiles, such as its south-facing aspect and its close proximity to the railway and other good habitats, and due to the submission of previous applications, a reptile survey is likely to be needed to be carried out. The surveys require one visit to site to set the survey materials and a subsequent seven visits spaced at least two days apart. If any reptiles are found during these surveys, they need to be translocated safely to another site, although the site would then be clear for all the works to continue unhindered.

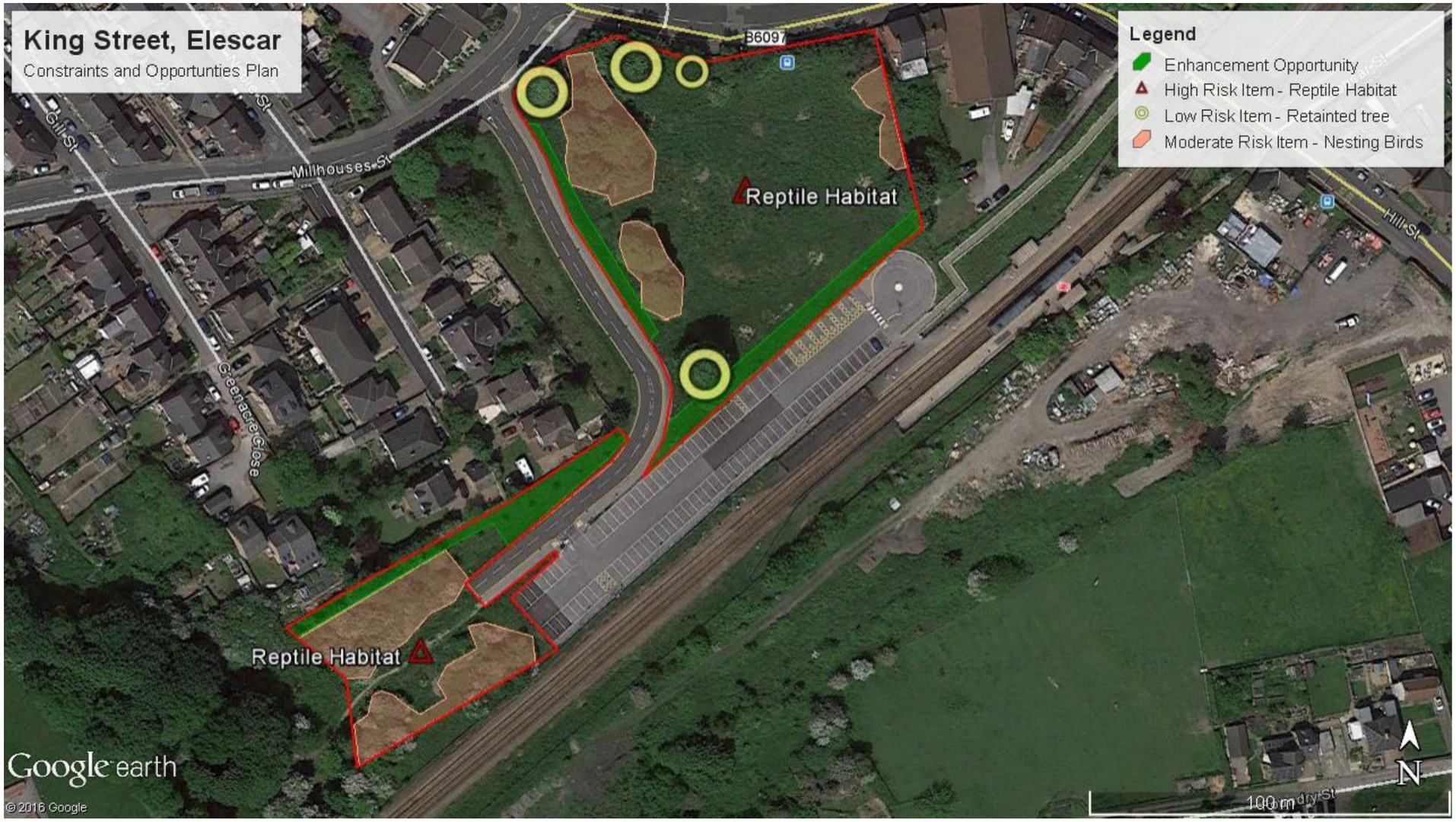
A survey is currently being undertaken, and the results will be included within this application once they are analysed.

The timing of vegetation removal also needs to be taken into consideration, as there's the potential for birds to nest in the trees and scrub around the site. It's recommended that vegetation clearance occurs outside of period of March to September, when birds are likely to be nesting, and this is when work is aimed to be carried out.

There is 'Low' potential for bats to forage at the site, although the effect that the works will have on this activity can be mitigated against by planning the lighting of the scheme carefully. It is assumed that lighting design will be subject to a condition by the LPA.

A number of trees are to be retained, and these will need to be protected during the construction works. There's also a good opportunity to include some native plant species in the new vegetation that will be included.

In addition there are no ponds close to the site that could be used by great crested newts, there were no badger setts, none of the trees were suitable as bat roosts and there were no invasive plant species on site. Also, none of the habitats or plant species were rare and in need of special protection.



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***High Risk Item**: Further survey requirements or effect on European Protected Species requiring either mitigation or further survey*
***Moderate Risk Item:** Mitigation required for protected or notable species*
***Low risk Item**: Mitigation / Works procedures adopted for potential species which may pass through site during construction phases*
***Enhancement Possibilities**: possible enhancements suitable for this site given its context.*

<u>High Risk Item</u>

The site has been assessed as potentially suitable habitat for various species of reptile. Before works commence, seven surveys should be carried out between April and September. If any reptiles are discovered, they should be translocated to another site.

<u>Moderate Risk Item</u>

Some semi-mature trees and scrub will be removed to facilitate proposals, this should be conducted outside of the bird breeding season of March to September, or should be preceded by a nesting bird survey.

<u>Low Risk</u>

Four large trees within the northern section of the site will be retained as part of the development. Fences should be erected 2m from these trees to protect them during the works.

<u>Enhancement Possibilities</u>

The planned planting scheme along the margins of the site should include native scrub, tree and meadow species. This will provide a corridor for flora and fauna to disperse locally and will provide a valuable ecological enhancement locally.

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