WYG Reference: A035590-1

7th July 2010

Ogden Properties Ltd
Boston Hall
Boston Spa
Yorkshire
LS23 6AD

For the attention of: Mr T J Garnett

Dear Mr Garnett,

Re: Updated Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey at the former Goldthorpe Colliery (west part) and adjacent land, Goldthorpe, Barnsley

This letter report provides details of an updated Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey undertaken at the former Goldthorpe Colliery (west part) and adjacent land on the 28th May 2010 by Rachel Kerr MIEEM, Senior Ecologist. The survey site comprised two parcels of land. The eastern 4.15 hectares as shown edged red (solid line) on the attached Phase 1 habitat Plan has the benefit of planning permission (outline) for residential development and is referred to as the 'stage 2 area' in this letter. The adjacent land to the west shown with a dashed red line on the attached Phase 1 Habitat Plan comprises a potential future development area (referred to as the 'stage 3 area') subject to planning permission in due course. It is understood that a planning application will be submitted to extend the time period for the implementation of the residential development that has the benefit of planning permission on the stage 2 area and this letter will accompany such a submission to Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.

The survey comprised two elements: habitat description and mapping, and protected species habitat assessment. The aim of the survey was to update the ecological information gathered during the 2006 Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey undertaken by RPS (copy attached).

Habitats present on the survey site were mapped and described as set out in JNCC (2003). During the site visit, particular attention was paid to features which might have potential to support the following protected species:

Breeding birds, all species

The survey site was searched for features which could support breeding birds, such as ledges on buildings, scrub and trees. Old nests and other evidence were also recorded.

Bats

The survey included external inspection of buildings/structures and trees from ground level, using binoculars where necessary. No such buildings / structures are located on the stage 2 area involving the eastern part of the survey site. The surveyor searched for features with potential to be bat roosts, such as crevices, and evidence of bat presence, such as droppings and staining.

Reptiles and Great Crested Newt

The survey site was inspected for suitable reptile and amphibian terrestrial foraging habitats, refuge opportunities, basking locations and features which would provide connectivity across the survey site and to the wider landscape.

Badgers

The survey site was assessed for its suitability to support badgers. Evidence of badger activity such as latrines, sett entrances and boundary breaches were searched for.

The potential for other protected and/or notable species to occur was also considered during the visit.

In addition to a site visit, a basic desk study was also undertaken to update existing information. Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Rotherham Biological Records Centre and Doncaster Biological Records Centre were contacted for any existing records of legally protected or notable species and habitats as well as details of any designated sites within 1km of the survey site. This information was supplemented with a search of publicly available information from websites such as the National Biodiversity Network, Nature on the Map and Magic.

No responses were received from consultees.

A search of Natural England's Nature on the Map website indicates that there are no statutorily designated sites such as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) within 1km of the survey site and no Local Nature Reserves (LNR) within 1km of the survey site. The Phoenix Park, a Country Park lies approximately 700m north of the survey site and an ancient, replanted woodland, Bella Wood lies approximately 800m to the east of the survey site.

The National Biodiversity Network's NBN Gateway website also lists records of the following protected/notable species at Goldthorpe or within 1km of the survey site.

- Great crested newt

- Common pipistrelle
- Grass snake
- Water vole
- Song thrush

The results of the site visit are summarised below:

Habitats

The dominant habitat type observed on the survey site was semi improved neutral grassland, areas of dense scrub and tall ruderal vegetation were also prevalent across the survey site. The broad habitat types had not changed significantly since the 2006 RPS survey. However, the extent of some of these habitats had changed, an updated hand drawn phase 1 map is attached. No protected or notable plant species were recorded during the survey.

Semi-Improved Neutral Grassland

As previously recorded, much of the survey site is dominated by semi-improved grassland, typical species present include; false-oat grass, Yorkshire fog, cocksfoot and couch. Other species present include; common vetch, red clover, white clover, ribwort plantain, birds foot trefoil, dandelion, creeping buttercup, creeping thistle, nettle, ragwort, rosebay willowherb, mugwort, common knapweed, curled dock, ox-eye daisy and white campion.

Ephemeral / Short Perennial

As previously recorded there is large area to the south of the stage 2 area which is dominated by ephemeral /short perennial vegetation. Typical species include; yarrow, broadleaved dock, weld, black medic, ox-eye daisy, white dead nettle, white clover and birds foot trefoil.

Tall Ruderal

As previously recorded there were areas which were dominated by tall ruderal vegetation. However the extent of cover was less than that observed in the 2006 survey. Typical species include; willowherbs, nettle and bramble.

Scrub

As previously recorded there were areas which were dominated by scrub. However the extent of cover had changed from that observed in the 2006 survey. Typical species include; hawthorn, bramble, dog rose, blackthorn and elder.

Trees

There were a number of scattered trees on the survey site and a few tree lines. None of the trees on the survey site were considered to be mature, in some cases trees were very young. Typical species include; oak, alder, ash, sycamore and birch.

Marshy Grassland

As previously recorded an area of marshy grassland was observed in the stage 3 area. Such marshy grassland was dominated by smooth rush and had occasional yellow iris. No open water was observed.

Buildings and Hardstanding

The stage 3 area included areas of hardstand. The six buildings as noted on the stage 3 area were the same as originally recorded in the 2006 survey.

Protected / Notable Species

No evidence of protected species activity was observed during the survey.

Habitats suitable to support roosting and foraging birds was present on survey site (stage 2 and stage 3 areas) in the form of grassland, scrub and scattered trees.

Habitats to support foraging bats was present within the application boundary in the form of grassland, scrub and scattered trees. No trees on the survey site (stage 2 and stage 3 areas) were identified as having any potential suitability to support roosting bats.

It is noted that there are a number of buildings on the stage 3 area, outside but near to the stage 2 area, which had negligible to low potential suitability to support roosting bats.

Habitats suitable to support foraging and commuting reptiles and amphibians was observed within the survey site (stage 2 and stage 3 areas) boundary. The survey site offered basking opportunities for reptiles and several refugia piles were noted which could provide refuge to both reptiles and amphibians.

The survey site had limited suitability to support foraging badgers.

Invasive Species

Japanese Knotweed

One area of Japanese knotweed was observed during the survey. It was situated along the western boundary of the stage 2 area as previously recorded in the 2006 survey.

Discussion and Recommendations

No notable or protected habitats were observed to be present within either the stage 2 or the stage 3 areas. No evidence of protected species activity was recorded during the survey.

Japanese knotweed was noted in the stage 2 area. Japanese knotweed is a controlled weed listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. A detailed plan for treatment and removal should be drawn up with reference to the Environment Agency 'The Knotweed Code of Practice' (http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/sectors/31364.aspx).

The table below summarises recommended further work based on the updated Extended Phase 1 Habitat survey.

Species	Further surveys required	Details
Great crested newt	No	• Lack of waterbodies on the survey site • Lack of adjacent waterbodies
Badger	No	• Lack of suitable sett building habitat on survey site • Lack of field signs on survey site
Reptiles	Yes	• Suitable habitats present on survey site to support reptiles. • Reptile surveys to be carried out prior to the commencement of construction. • Optimum survey months are April/May and September, however these can be carried between March – October, weather conditions permitting.
Roosting bats	No	• Lack of suitable roosting features.

Breeding birds	No	• All breeding birds and their nests are protected through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. • Birds may nest in trees, scrub, on buidling ledges and inside building structures. • Vegetation clearnace and building demolition must proceed outside of the bird breeidng season (March to August).

N.B. Note that the buildings on the adjacent stage 3 area (i.e. outside of the application boundary) have some potential to support roosting bats. Therefore it is recommended that these structures are inspected prior to any proposed disturbance or demolition works which may occur in relation to these in the future.

I trust that this letter report meets all of your requirements; however, if you have any further questions or concerns regarding any of the above please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

For WYG ENVIRONMENT PLANNING TRANSPORT LTD

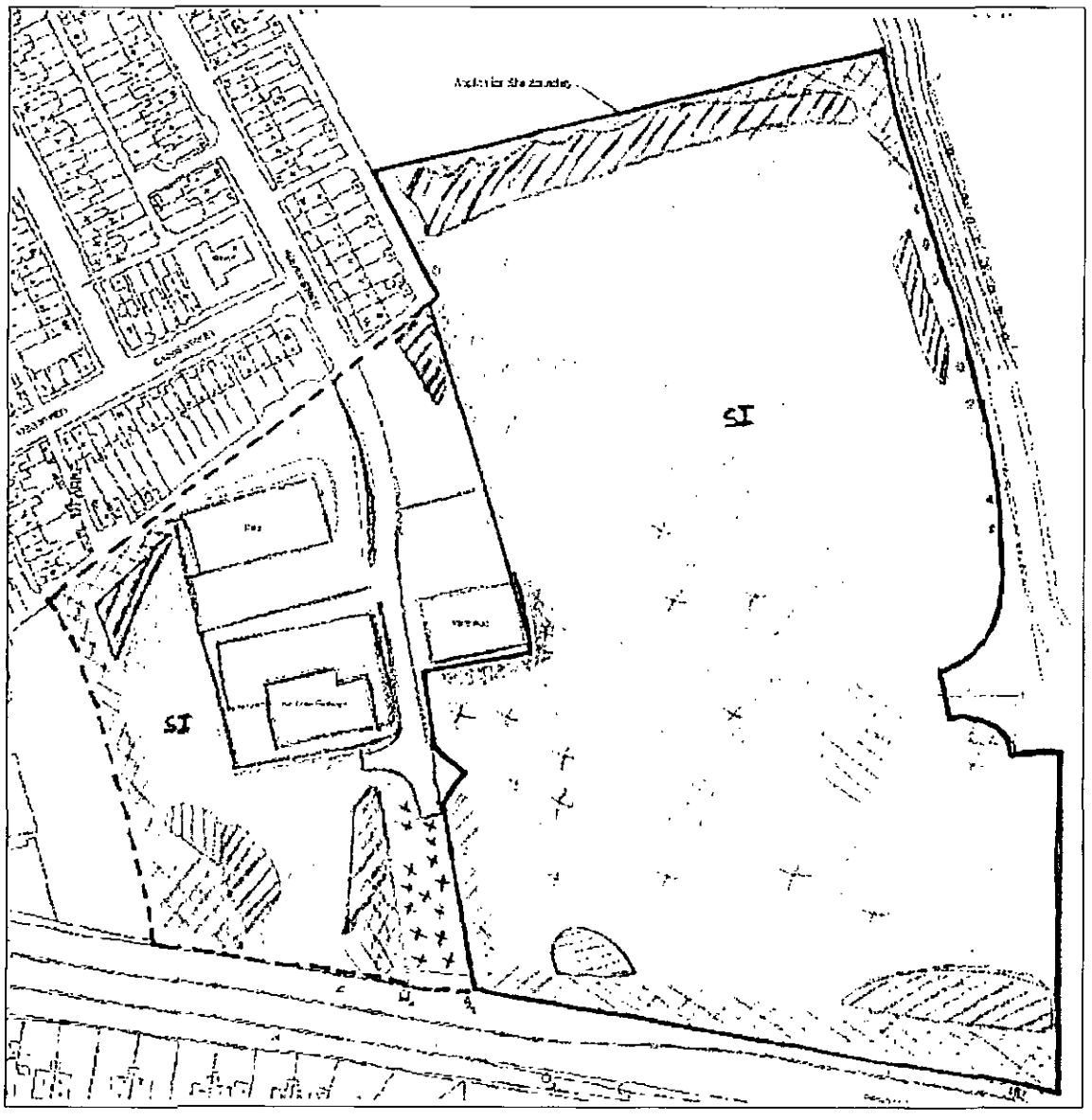
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Enc: x1 Phase 1 Habitat Plan
x1 WYG Report Conditions

Figure 1: Phase 1 Habitat Plan



Dense / continuous scrub

Scattered scrub

Tall ruderal

Ephemeral / short perennial

Marshy grassland

Scattered trees

Semi-improved grassland

Japanese knotweed

WYG ENVIRONMENT

REPORT CONDITIONS

Ecology Report for Ogden Properties Ltd

This report is produced solely for the benefit of **Ogden Properties Ltd** *and no liability is accepted for any reliance placed on it by any other party unless specifically agreed in writing otherwise.*

This report is prepared for the proposed uses stated in the report and should not be used in a different context without reference to WYG. In time improved practices, fresh information or amended legislation may necessitate a re-assessment. Opinions and information provided in this report are on the basis of WYG using due skill and care in the preparation of the report.

This report refers, within the limitations stated, to the environment of the site in the context of the surrounding area at the time of the inspections. Environmental conditions can vary and no warranty is given as to the possibility of changes in the environment of the site and surrounding area at differing times.

This report is limited to those aspects reported on, within the scope and limits agreed with the client under our appointment. It is necessarily restricted and no liability is accepted for any other aspect. It is based on the information sources indicated in the report. Some of the opinions are based on unconfirmed data and information and are presented as the best obtained within the scope for this report.

Reliance has been placed on the documents and information supplied to WYG by others but no independent verification of these has been made and no warranty is given on them. No liability is accepted or warranty given in relation to the performance, reliability, standing etc of any products, services, organisations or companies referred to in this report.

Whilst skill and care have been used, no investigative method can eliminate the possibility of obtaining partially imprecise, incomplete or not fully representative information. Any monitoring or survey work undertaken as part of the commission will have been subject to limitations, including for example timescale, seasonal and weather related conditions.

Although care is taken to select monitoring and survey periods that are typical of the environmental conditions being measured, within the overall reporting programme constraints, measured conditions may not be fully representative of the actual conditions. Any predictive or modelling work, undertaken as part of the commission will be subject to limitations including the representativeness of data used by the model and the assumptions inherent within the approach used. Actual environmental conditions are typically more complex and variable than the investigative, predictive and modelling approaches indicate in practice, and the output of such approaches cannot be relied upon as a comprehensive or accurate indicator of future conditions.

The potential influence of our assessment and report on other aspects of any development or future planning requires evaluation by other involved parties.

The performance of environmental protection measures and of buildings and other structures in relation to acoustics, vibration, noise mitigation and other environmental issues is influenced to a large extent by the degree to which the relevant environmental considerations are incorporated into the final design and specifications and the quality of workmanship and compliance with the specifications on site during construction. WYG accept no liability for issues with performance arising from such factors

August 2008
WYG Environment Planning Transport Ltd