Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) for Hedgehogs and Other Mammals

Planning Condition:
"Prior to any site clearance or earthworks, a reasonable avoidance measures method statement for hedgehog and other mammals shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the City Council as Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the agreed details."

Site Address: Manchester Communications Academy
Date: 07.05.2025

1. Introduction

This Method Statement outlines the reasonable avoidance measures (RAMs) that will be implemented to avoid harm to hedgehogs (*Erinaceus europaeus*) and other small terrestrial mammals during the site clearance and earthworks phase of the proposed 3G pitch development. Hedgehogs are a UK Biodiversity Action Plan species and protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended).

2. Survey and Assessment

A **pre-commencement check** of the site will be undertaken by a suitably qualified ecologist no more than **24–48 hours** prior to site clearance.

The ecologist will search for evidence of hedgehog nests (day nests), runs, droppings, or other mammal burrows and signs.

Any hedgehogs found during this survey will be safely relocated by the ecologist to a suitable habitat in the local area, in line with best practice.

3. Avoidance Measures During Site Clearance

The following RAMs will be implemented throughout site clearance and earthworks:

3.1. Timing of Works

Works will take place during **daylight hours only** to avoid disturbing nocturnal species.

3.2. Tool and Machinery Use

All machinery will be checked underneath before use each day to ensure animals are not sheltering beneath.

3.3. Protective Measures

Any excavations or trenches left overnight will have a **gentle sloped end or escape ramp** to allow any animals that fall in to escape.

Piles of debris or materials will be **inspected each morning** before moving or burning to ensure they are not being used as refuges.

4. Contingency Measures

If a hedgehog or other protected mammal is found during works, all work will stop in the immediate area and the ecologist will be contacted to assess and advise on next steps.

If a nest is located, an exclusion zone will be established, and works will not proceed until the animals have moved on naturally or been relocated by a licensed ecologist.

6. Monitoring and Compliance

Our site manager will be responsible for ensuring all RAMs are implemented effectively.

7. Conclusion

This Method Statement provides a clear plan to ensure compliance with wildlife legislation and the planning condition. All contractors and site staff will be briefed on this method statement before works commence.