

Hedgehog Site Inspection & RAMS

Upper Brook Street, Manchester



Site Inspection reference	SI-7036-01	Date of inspection	25/10/2024
Inspected by	Josh Birchall BSc (Hons) MCIEEM, Senior Ecologist		
Task description	Site survey and production of RAMS to minimise impacts on hedgehog as required to discharge planning Condition 15; which reads: <i>'Prior to any vegetation clearance a reasonable avoidance measures method statement for hedgehog shall be submitted for approval in writing by the City Council, as Local Planning Authority, The agreed method statement shall be implemented in full for the duration of the development.'</i>		
Survey	A full site survey was undertaken on the 25th October 2024 to inform this report. The survey involved a physical search for evidence of hedgehog and recording suitable refuges or hibernacula which may be present, to inform the RAMS approach. Survey limitations included the density of vegetation and netting of vegetation which prevented full access. The Site is open and accessible to hedgehog, with open access at the eastern boundary along the road and permeable fencing with multiple gaps at the bottom on the western boundary. The survey did not find any hedgehogs or evidence there of (evidence primarily in the form of droppings). This included destructive survey of a single more substantial log pile encountered on Site. Overall, the Site does support suitable habitat for this species primarily in the form of dense and well-established ornamental planting beds, mainly around the periphery of the Site. Such areas appear dense enough to provide shelter for hedgehogs during the day, with thick layers of light detritus of leaves and smaller branches apparent. This will also offer foraging opportunities at night. As side from that noted more substantial mounds of larger logs and branches were not observed so it is expected that the Site is at low risk of supporting hibernating hedgehog.		
RAMS	To minimise the risk of impacting upon hedgehog during site clearance and construction the following methodology should be followed. <u>Gradual Vegetation Clearance</u> Some of the larger trees have already been cut back, if anymore branches are removed these should be chipped or taken off site immediately, as appears to have been the case already. This will prevent hedgehogs using any newly created log piles. If timber cannot be removed immediately, it		

Unit A, 1 Station Road, Guiseley, LEEDS LS20 8BX

Phone **01943 884451**

Email: pjb@brooks-ecological.co.uk

www.brooks-ecological.co.uk

Registered in England Number 5351418

should be spread thinly not stacked to reduce suitability for shelter to hedgehog. More substantial shrubs and trees should be cut to above ground level gradual (c. 30cm above ground), by felling by hand or light machinery as suitable. Removal should avoid disturbance of the ground at this stage.

Check for Individual Hedgehogs

Once shrubs have been cut back to above ground level ahead of any further clearance a check for any obvious refuges such as larger branch piles or piles of leaf litter particularly in corners against fences or walls should be checked for hedgehog via semi- destructive hand/ hand tool search.

Once the check of obvious features has been carried out, any remaining areas of leaf litter, branch piles or other areas which could reasonably conceal hedgehogs should be raked by hand and spread thinly and openly. Again, contractors should be aware to the potential presence of hedgehog.

Removal of Hedgehog from the Site

Any hedgehogs found will be carefully picked up with gloves and placed temporarily in a cardboard box, or similar dark box with suitable breathing holes, to be transported off site. It is recommended that hedgehogs are taken to the largest nearby park Whitworth Gardens for release into an area of dense, low growing vegetation, as far as possible from busy roads. Adjacent Gartside gardens is not recommended for release as it generally lacks cover for hedgehog. Other suitable larger green spaces with dense shrub beds could be considered if Whitworth Park is in accessible or otherwise deemed unsuitable at the time.

Though the risk of hibernating hedgehogs is limited by the presence of less substantial refuges. If hedgehogs are found during works undertaken between the end of November and start of March and weather was suitably cold for them to be hibernating these should be taken to appropriate facility where they can be cared for. Likewise if any hedgehog are found which are suspected to be injured.

Final Site Clearance

Upon removal of potential refuges and individual hedgehogs being taken off site, tree stumps and ground clearance can be undertaken in earnest.

During Construction

To minimise residual risks to hedgehog once the site is cleared. Any excavations wherein hedgehog could become trapped should be left with a ramped exit to allow escape or otherwise checked to confirm hedgehog

Unit A, 1 Station Road, Guiseley, LEEDS LS20 8BX

Phone **01943 884451**

Email: pjb@brooks-ecological.co.uk

www.brooks-ecological.co.uk

Registered in England Number 5351418

Hedgehog Site Inspection & RAMS

Upper Brook Street, Manchester



	access ahead of infilling. Any materials which are stored on site where hedgehog access cannot be prevented but could conceal hedgehog should simply be checked ahead of use.
Further actions	Given the limited level of risk involved at the Site, a dedicated ECoW could be used to oversee works, or alternatively a suitably qualified individual with oversight of the project on the ground can oversee work and produce evidence of works being carried out such as Site Manager or other nominated individual. Evidence should be collated in the form of photos to show works have been carried out in line with the RAMS.
Photographs 1 & 2 Dense vegetation at the front and rear of the Site	

Unit A, 1 Station Road, Guiseley, LEEDS LS20 8BX

Phone **01943 884451**

Email: pjb@brooks-ecological.co.uk

www.brooks-ecological.co.uk

Registered in England Number 5351418

Hedgehog Site Inspection & RAMS

Upper Brook Street, Manchester

Brooks

Ecological

Grounded advice

Photograph 2

Log pile taken apart



Unit A, 1 Station Road, Guiseley, LEEDS LS20 8BX

Phone **01943 884451**

Email: pjb@brooks-ecological.co.uk

www.brooks-ecological.co.uk

Registered in England Number 5351418