

Hedgehog Site Inspection & RAMS

Upper Brook Street North, Manchester



Site Inspection reference	SI-6550-01	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: <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. The Site is open and accessible to hedgehog, with open access at the eastern and western boundaries along the roadsides. The survey did not find any hedgehogs or evidence there of (evidence primarily in the form of droppings). Overall, the Site is poorly suited to supporting hedgehog with minimal suitable habitat comprised of some unmanaged ornamental or self set shrubs, though some of this appears to have been recently cleared. Given the limited habitat suitability it is expected that the Site is at low risk of supporting hedgehog activity though the occasional passing presence cannot be ruled out. Hedgehog are considered unlikely to have any specific reliance upon the Site such as for hibernating.		
RAMS	To minimise any residual risk of impacting upon hedgehog during site clearance and construction the following methodology should be followed. Given the current low suitability of habitat this mainly involves avoiding impacts on individuals and preventing impacts during construction. <u>Removal of Hedgehog from the Site</u> Prior to clearance, the base of shrubs, 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. Any hedgehogs found during vegetation clearance will be carefully picked up with gloves and placed temporarily in a cardboard box, or similar dark		

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	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. <u>During Construction</u> 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, carefully sealed to preclude access or otherwise checked to confirm hedgehog 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 very 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.

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Grounded advice

Photographs 1 & 2

Partially cleared vegetation and showing limited extent of vegetation



Photograph 2

Overview of eastern site area



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