



Hulme Primary Substation

Manchester

# Hedgehog Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS)

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Nothing in this report constitutes legal opinion. If legal opinion is required, the advice of a qualified legal professional should be secured.

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# 1.0 Introduction

## Background

- 1.1 TEP was commissioned by Electricity North West Ltd. (hereafter referred to as 'the client') in November 2024 to complete a Hedgehog Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) for the proposed development at Hulme Primary Substation in Manchester hereafter referred to as 'the site').
- 1.2 TEP submitted a full planning application (140484/FO/2024) for the 'erection of a substation including switch house, transformers and compounds as well as new security fence and access' at the site. This was approved on 24th October 2024.
- 1.3 An Ecological Desk Study (TEP Report Ref: 10454.004), extended Phase 1 habitat survey and Ecological Assessment (TEP Report Ref: 10454.003) were undertaken for the site by TEP in 2024. This PWMS should be read in conjunction with the Ecological Desk Study and Ecological Assessment.
- 1.4 The Ecological Assessment (TEP Report Ref: 10454.003) previously produced for the site identified that specific measures are required to ensure the protection of hedgehogs during the development. Furthermore, Condition 13 of the planning consent issued by Manchester City Council states the following:

*"Above grounds works shall not commence until details of the Hedgehog Reasonable Avoidance Measures referred to in Section 5.9 of the Ecological Assessment (TEP), including a timetable for their installation and maintenance regime, have been submitted to and been approved by the City Council as local planning authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the agreed details.*

*Reason - To ensure the protection of habitat and species that are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 or as subsequently amended in order to comply with policy EN15 of the Manchester Core Strategy."*

## Scope

- 1.5 This PWMS document sets out the precautionary working measures to ensure that site works will minimise significant impacts on protected and notable species, including hedgehogs.
- 1.6 All clearance works are to be undertaken under the supervision of the appointed Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW), where necessary.

- 1.7 The method statement details all works required to minimise impacts on and avoid killing or injury of individual species which may be present on site. The methodologies detailed follow best ecological working practices in respect of the habitats identified within the working areas as well as the protected and/or notable species which may be present.
- 1.8 This PWMS must be adhered to at all times by the project manager, Electricity North West Ltd, and all contractors working on site.

## Site Description

- 1.9 The site (central grid reference SJ 83898 96718) is located on an area of unused land between Birchall Way and Upper Medlock Street, Manchester. The location of the site is depicted by the red line shown in Figure 1. The site lies within a residential area, surrounded by residential and commercial buildings and associated infrastructure on all sides.
- 1.10 The wider area comprises buildings and infrastructure comprising Manchester city centre. This includes new and renovated residential and commercial buildings.

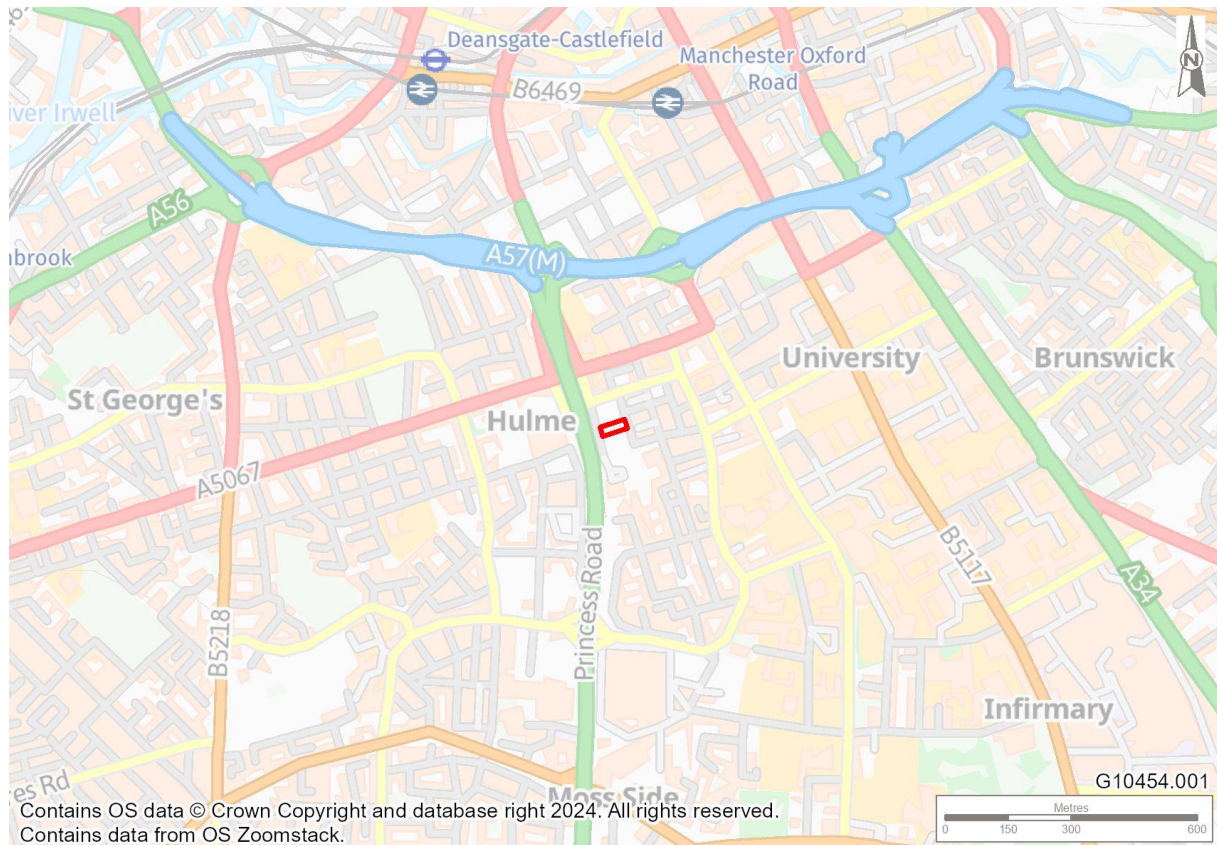


Figure 1: Site Location

## Key Contacts

- 1.11 Any contractors requiring advice with regard to this PWMS are welcome to contact the TEP Head Office for further information:
- TEP - Head Office (01925 844004)
- 1.12 If an injured animal is found on site, it should be taken to a nearby wildlife rescue centre or vet that accepts wild animals. Information regarding the nearest wildlife rescue centres to the site is provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Contact details for the nearest Wildlife Rescue Centres to the site

| Name                             | Address / Location                          | Telephone Number(s) | Distance and Direction from site |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| The Hulse Towers Hedgehog Refuge | 39 Lownorth Rd, Wythenshawe, Manchester M22 | 0161 437 8395       | 8.4 miles south                  |
| Lower Moss Wood Wildlife         | School Lane, Knutsford WA16 8SJ             | 01565 755082        | 20 miles south                   |

|                                          |                                                   |               |                    |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|
| RSPCA Stapeley<br>Grange Wildlife Centre | Stapeley Grange, London<br>Road, Nantwich CW5 7JW | 0300 123 0722 | 43 miles southwest |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------|

## 2.0 Precautionary Working Method Statement

### Baseline Ecology Information

- 2.1 29 records of hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* were returned from within 2km of the site, with the closest record located 380m northwest. (TEP Report Ref: 10454.004).
- 2.2 The Ecological Assessment (TEP Report Ref: 10454.003) identified habitats on-site that provide some opportunities for foraging, commuting or hibernating hedgehog.

### Relevant Legislation

- 2.3 Hedgehogs are considered species of principal importance under Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. Hedgehogs are also partially protected under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, in that they are protected from being killed, injured or taken by certain methods.

### Method Statement

- 2.4 It is recommended that the early hibernation period (November to December inclusive) is avoided where possible in relation to the clearance of scrub vegetation. The risk of hedgehog death is increased if they are disturbed during this period.

#### Works during hibernation period (November to March)

- 2.5 If site investigation and vegetation clearance works are undertaken during the winter months, the following precautionary working methods should be followed to increase the risk of hedgehog survival, if discovered during the site clearance works:
- 2.6 Prior to vegetation clearance works commencing, a refuge area will be created within an area of the site where the trees and vegetation are undisturbed. The refuge area will be created with arisings from scrub and grass clearance within the site. A hedgehog box will also be placed at this location, filled with bedding, and supplied with a bowl of food. The box must not be disturbed until the end of the hibernation period.
- 2.7 Clearance of the areas of grassland habitats on site, including those within woodland areas, should be undertaken in stages. These habitats should be strimmed by hand, under supervision of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW), to a height of 300 mm to prevent any harm to hibernating or sheltering hedgehogs. A thorough hand search should be carried out by the ECoW in advance of site clearance and any hedgehogs found will be relocated to the hedgehog box by the ECoW.

## Works during active season (April - October)

- 2.8 Clearance of the areas of grassland habitat suitable for hedgehogs should be undertaken in stages. These habitats should be strimmed by hand, under supervision of an ECoW, to a height of 300mm to prevent any harm to sheltering hedgehogs. A thorough hand search should be carried out by the ECoW in advance of site clearance and any hedgehogs found will be relocated to a suitable receptor area within the wider site by the ECoW.
- 2.9 Regular strimming works within the development area should take place to keep any retained habitats short, which will make the area unattractive to foraging or resting hedgehogs. This will deter hedgehogs from the site thereby reducing the risk of harm occurring to this species.

## Standard Precautionary Working Measures (at any time)

- 2.10 As part of the site induction process, all staff working on site should be made aware of the potential for presence of hedgehog within the site and their status as a protected species during a toolbox talk delivered by the ECoW.
- 2.11 The following standard precautionary working methods will also be implemented during the works:
- *Arisings from the work i.e., brash, trunks, grass cuttings, must be removed from site on the same day as the work takes place. This is to avoid providing refuge opportunities for hedgehog, which would then have to be hand searched by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to their removal at a later date.*
  - *No site compounds, stored materials and soil piles sited within the core terrestrial habitat will be left uncovered. Soil storage mounds must be compacted before the end of each day's work to ensure they do not become attractive refuges. All stored materials and soil piles must be suitably covered with an inaccessible covering such as tarpaulin to prevent hedgehogs using this material as refugia.*
  - *Open excavations should be covered overnight using plyboard and sandbags to fully seal any gaps. If this is not possible, a plank of wood placed at an angle no steeper than 40° should be left within the excavations, or sloping exits to trenches provided, so any hedgehogs or small mammals which fall into the trenches are able to escape.*
  - *Existing access tracks into the site will be maintained. Vehicular or plant access should adhere to these access routes where feasible to prevent tracking over areas where hedgehogs could be present. If it is not possible to do so, an ecologist should be contacted for advice.*

- *Agreed access tracks into the site will be maintained. Vehicular access should adhere to these access routes where feasible to prevent tracking over areas where hedgehogs could be present.*
- *Pipes stored on site would be capped or if caps are not available, stored vertically to prevent entrapment of hedgehogs.*

- 2.12 If an injured hedgehog is found on site, this should be taken to a nearby wildlife rescue centre or vet that accepts wild animals. Additionally, if any young hedgehogs are found during the autumn, immediately prior to the hibernation period, these should also be taken to a wildlife rescue centre as it would be unlikely that these would survive the winter. Details of the nearest wildlife rescue centres to the site are provided in Table 1.
- 2.13 If a situation arises regarding hedgehogs and the contractor is unsure what action to take, advice should be sought from a suitably qualified ecologist.

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