



REASONABLE AVOIDANCE METHOD STATEMENT (RAMS)

**LAND AT MOUNT ROAD, GORTON
GREATER MANCHESTER**

SEPTEMBER 2024

Reasonable Avoidance Method Statement (RAMS)

Land at Mount Road, Gorton Greater Manchester

A report for



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Report by



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Pennine Ecological been asked to assist with discharging Planning Condition 29 which is relating to ecology. The condition requests:

“Prior to the commencement of each phase of the development (including ground works and vegetation clearance), a reasonable avoidance measures method statement for hedgehog and other wildlife covering the site clearance and construction phases of that phase of the development shall be submitted to and approved by the local planning authority. Each phase of the development shall be implemented in accordance with the approved measures.

Reason - to minimise the risk of accidental harm of a European Protected Species (Habitats Regulations 1994) , pursuant to policy EN15 of the Manchester Core Strategy (2012).”

This report includes all the information required to discharge the planning condition. This document must be adhered to throughout the construction phase of the development.

The findings of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal and subsequent recommendations are as follows (Tyler Grange, 2023):

- Amphibians - It is recommended that site clearance activities proceed under a Precautionary Method of Work to protect any individual common amphibians which may be present across the site, despite the likelihood of presence being exceptionally low. GCN are reasonably discounted from the site due to the barriers to dispersal which exist to all directions around the site.
- Hedgehog - Records of hedgehog were returned in the surrounding area. The site provides suitable foraging and sheltering habitat for this species but is restricted in its value given the multiple urban barriers to dispersal which exist around the site. Overall, the site is considered to be of negligible ecological importance to hedgehog. The Precautionary Methods of Work recommended for amphibians will also serve to protect individual hedgehogs during the construction phase of the development.

As such, a number of precautionary working measures (PWM) have been outlined in Section 2. These measures should be adhered to throughout the construction phase of the programme.

2. CONDITION 29 – RAMS FOR SMALL MAMMALS AND AMPHIBIANS

Although not recorded within the site, hedgehog and amphibians may forage and commute through the site. Due consideration during the construction phase of the works must be given. The following measures must be adopted during the construction phase:

- Vegetation clearance should be undertaken outside of the hibernation period for hedgehogs and amphibians (considered March to October inclusive), and within suitable temperatures and suitable weather conditions (temperatures above 5°C and with no prolonged periods of dry weather).
- Prior to removal of dense vegetation areas, vegetation will be hand searched for the presence of amphibians and hedgehogs.
- Following the inspection by the suitably qualified person, the vegetation within these habitats will be cut to approximately 20cm in height before being inspected again.
- Once confirmed clear by the suitably qualified person, the vegetation can be cut to ground level.
- Any excavations, digging of trenches or foundations etc. must ensure that an 'escape route' is provided for small mammals. This could include ramps that would allow egress from such features e.g., a wooden board placed at approximately 45° from the base of the trench to the ground level.
- Any holes where a ramp is not provided must be securely covered to prevent mammals falling in.
- Before infilling excavations, checks for small mammals must be made.
- Any hedgehogs or amphibians that are found on site must be carefully moved outside of the construction working area by a suitably qualified person.
- All building materials must be stored on pallets.
- All waste materials must be immediately removed and not stored on the site so not to allow amphibians to use the materials as part of their terrestrial habitat.

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