

**CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT PLAN – INSTALLATION
OF SECURITY FENCING
HEATON PARK, MANCHESTER
APRIL 2024**

Prepared for –

Manchester City Council

Prepared by –

Greater Manchester Ecology Unit

Installation of new Security Fencing at Heaton Park

Construction Environmental Management Plan (Biodiversity)

1 Introduction

New mesh security fencing is required around the 'Tree Top Trek' Woodland Activity Area at Heaton Park, Manchester (NGR 382860 404590).

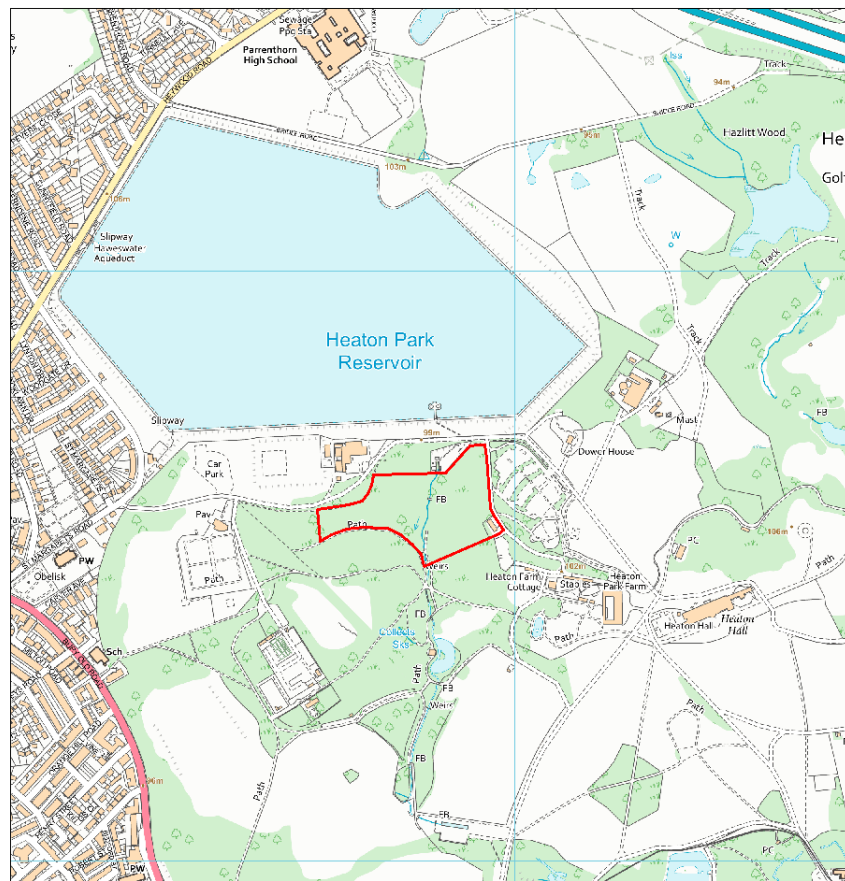


Fig 1 Location and extent of area concerned (boundary in red)



Fig 2 Extent of fencing proposed – aerial view



Fig 3 Example of fencing specification

The mature broadleaved woodland where the fencing needs to be installed is an ecologically sensitive Priority Habitat and care must be taken to avoid any possible harm to the ecological value of the woodland during the construction of the fencing. No direct tree losses are expected to be caused by the works.

A Condition was set on the planning permission granted to the scheme as follows -

- 3) *No development shall take place (including demolition, ground works, vegetation clearance) until a construction environmental management plan (CEMP: biodiversity) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The CEMP (Biodiversity) shall include the following.*
- a) *Risk assessment of potentially damaging construction activities.*
 - b) *Identification of "biodiversity protection zones".*
 - c) *Practical measures (both physical measures and sensitive working practices) to avoid or reduce impacts during construction (may be provided as a set of method statements).*
 - d) *The location and timing of sensitive works to avoid harm to biodiversity features.*
 - e) *The times during construction when specialist ecologists need to be present on site to oversee works.*
 - f) *Responsible persons and lines of communication.*
 - g) *The role and responsibilities on site of an ecological clerk of works (ECow) or similarly competent person.*
 - h) *Use of protective fences, exclusion barriers and warning signs.*

This Plan has been prepared in response to this Condition.

2 Identified Ecological Risks

Possible harm to nature conservation interests which could be caused by the proposals include –

2.1 Direct disturbance to tree roots

Direct harm to tree roots could occur during the installation of fence posts (excavation of post holes and use of concrete for securing fence posts). Concrete can cause damage to plant roots.

2.2 Clearance of woodland vegetation

Could occur to facilitate fence installation

2.3 Disturbance to nesting birds

Disturbance to nesting birds could occur if clearance works are undertaken during the optimum time of year for bird nesting (March to August inclusive).

2.4 Trapping of wildlife within fenced area and/or restricting movement of wildlife

The fencing could restrict the movement of some mobile species, particularly larger mammals such as foxes and deer.

2.5 Noise

Construction noise could cause disturbance to birds and mammals

3 Mitigating the Risks – the Management Plan

The following measures will be taken to avoid and mitigate the potential risks of ecological harm which could arise from the proposals.

General Mitigation

Advice will be provided to contractors by suitably qualified ecologists before the commencement of work. The advice will cover the ecological features present or potentially present within the site and the legal and ecological imperatives for their protection. It will also provide an overview of the Method Statements to be implemented.

3.1 Risk – direct harm to tree roots

Mitigation - the fence posts should be carefully placed so as to avoid any risk of significant damage to tree roots. Post holes should be excavated by hand and under supervision. If roots unavoidably need to be pruned to facilitate the installation of fence posts, pruning should be kept to the minimum required. Roots greater than 7.5 cm in diameter should not be pruned. Root pruning should not be undertaken during a period of drought.

3.2 Risk – soil contamination - use of concrete for fixing fence posts.

Mitigation

- Avoid the use of concrete if possible or if absolutely necessary use concrete sparingly.
- Mix cement and concrete away from tree roots or other vegetation
- Where wet concrete is used close to trees / tree roots an impermeable membrane should be placed in the post holes to prevent concrete leaching.
- Cement washing must be contained, kept away from vegetation and tree roots.
- Appropriate pollution spill kits should be kept on site and operatives trained in their use

3.3 Risk – direct harm to woodland flora

Mitigation

- Avoid vegetation clearance wherever possible
- Keep vegetation clearance to the minimum necessary
- Consult an ecologist about the value of any woodland flora along the fence route and mark any notable areas for avoidance with temporary fencing and notices. The maintenance and condition of any fencing will be inspected by an Ecological Clerk of Works on installation to ensure it complies with the correct specification and is installed in the correct locations. Thereafter the fencing will be subject to regular checks by the ECoW. However it will be the

responsibility of the site manager to ensure the fence is appropriately maintained throughout the construction phase

- If disturbance to valuable vegetation is unavoidable, consider translocating plants which need to be moved

3.4 Risk – disturbance to nesting birds

Mitigation

- Carry out the installation works outside of the optimum time of year for nesting birds (March to August inclusive)
- If this is not possible, check vegetation for nesting birds no more than 48 hours before undertaking work. If nesting birds are present works must be paused until young birds have fledged

3.5 Risk - Restricting movement of wildlife

Mitigation

- Before the fence line is completed, check that no large mammals (deer) will be trapped within the fenced area
- Leave appropriate gaps at the bottom of the fence line in places to facilitate wildlife movement. Gaps of 12 cm square at distances of approximately 50m should be sufficient. Badgers and foxes will be able to burrow under the fence line.

3.6 Risk - Noise Disturbance

Mitigation

- Use of heavy machinery should be avoided
- Works should be avoided in the hours of darkness

4 Roles and Responsibilities and Lines of Communication

The implementation of this Method Statement will be the responsibility of the main contractor appointed to undertake the works. A site manager has yet to be appointed.

The GM Ecology Unit will act as Ecological Clerk of Works, providing oversight and guidance where required. Contact – 0161 342 3123

5 Monitoring

Periodic monitoring of the works by the Ecology Clerk of Works will be undertaken periodically to ensure that this Method Statement is being implemented appropriately.

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