Small Mammal Method Statement

Spath Road, Didsbury

Reference: 81-002-R2-1

Date: September 2023

SMALL MAMMAL METHOD STATEMENT

Spath Road
Didsbury

Prepared for:
McCarthy and Stone

Report Ref: 81-002-R2-1
Date Issued: 27/09/2023

E3P

Taylor Road
Trafford Park
Urmston
Manchester
M41 7JQ

+ 44 (0) 161 707 9612
https://e3p.co.uk/

Registered in England
CRN: 08725262

QUALITY ASSURANCE

PROJECT NUMBER	81-002		
VERSION	Version 1		
REMARKS	Final		
DATE	September 2023		
PREPARED BY	C. Kenyon (née Barlow)		
QUALIFICATIONS	BSc (Hons), MSc, MIEnvSc, CEnv, MCIEEM, Associate Director		
CHECKED BY	H. Morgan		
QUALIFICATIONS	BSc (Hons), MCIEEM, MIEnvSc, CEnv, Senior Ecologist		
AUTHORISED BY	C. Kenyon (née Barlow)		
QUALIFICATIONS	BSc (Hons), MSc, MIEnvSc, CEnv, MCIEEM, Associate Director		

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS 2

1. INTRODUCTION 3
   1.1. Background 3
   1.2. Proposed Works 3
   1.3. Previous Surveys 3
   1.4. Site Description 3

2. REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES 5
   2.1. Small Mammals 5

3. REFERENCES 6

APPENDIX I TOOLBOX TALK 7

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND

E3P has been instructed by McCarthy and Stone to produce a Small Mammal Reasonable Avoidance Measures Method Statement for the proposed development at Spath Road, Didsbury, hereafter referred to as "the site".

1.2. PROPOSED WORKS

This Method Statement has been prepared to facilitate the removal of pre-existing vegetation and the proposed construction works on site.

1.3. PREVIOUS SURVEYS

A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) was carried out by Penny Anderson Associates in July 2020. The site comprised a residential property with an associated mature garden. The site was assessed as having the potential to support roosting bats, nesting birds and hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*). The PEA included Nocturnal Bat Surveys at the site. The building was assessed as holding low bat roosting potential and as such a single dusk emergence survey was undertaken. Minimal activity was observed during the survey, with common pipistrelles, soprano pipistrelle, and pipistrelle species recorded. No emergences from the building were recorded.

An updated bat survey and site walkover was undertaken by E3P in 2022. During the survey no bat roosts were identified. In addition, the site conditions were identified to be the same as that noted in 2020.

1.4. SITE DESCRIPTION

The site comprised a large two-storey residential property of red brick construction, amenity grassland and garden, and an area of woodland comprising a number of mature trees in the south. The site boundaries are well vegetated, with a predominantly native hedgerow along the eastern border of the site. The surrounding area is predominantly residential, with residential housing and gardens that are typically large and open, creating a mosaic of green space and mature trees. Large, open recreational green spaces are present in the wider landscape including Didsbury Park, approximately 740 m south-east of the site, and Fletcher Moss Park, approximately 950 m south of the site. Please refer to Figure 1.1. for the approximate site location.

FIGURE 1.1 APPROXIMATE SITE LOCATION



2. REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES

2.1. SMALL MAMMALS

The site comprised a residential garden which was found to provide suitable habitat for hedgehogs, and potentially other small mammals. Given that vegetation is to be removed prior to start of construction, the following Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMs) will be adhered to during the vegetation removal on a precautionary basis:

- All contractors working on the site will be briefed with a Toolbox Talk by a qualified ecologist, on the legal protection afforded to hedgehogs, and on how to proceed if a hedgehog is discovered during the course of the work.
- No vegetation to be cleared unless under the supervision of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW). Areas of vegetation must be strimmed to 50 cm then checked for hedgehog and small mammals by the ECoW. Once deemed clear of hedgehogs and small mammals, the vegetation should be immediately cleared to ground level.
- The vegetation should be hand checked by an ECoW prior to works. If a hedgehog/ small mammal is found, they should be carefully translocated to a suitable off-site area which will be unaffected by works (habitat located to the west of the site). If a hedgehog nest is found, works must cease in the immediate area surrounding the nest until the hedgehogs have moved. Avoid touching any young as this may cause the hedgehog to kill or abandon the hoglets.
- During site clearance, the vegetation should be removed using hand tools to ensure no sheltering hedgehogs are impacted by the works. Vegetation and debris piles must also be removed off-site to ensure no hedgehogs can refuge on site post site clearance.
- During the construction phase of works, any excavations will be battered to 45 degrees to allow animals to escape should they become entrapped. Alternatively, the excavations will be covered overnight, or a ramp will be installed.

With the aforementioned RAMs in place, it is unlikely that hedgehogs and other small mammals will be negatively impacted by the development.

3. REFERENCES

- E3P (2022). Nocturnal Bat Survey Report and Updated Site Walkover. 80-002-R1.
- Penny Anderson Associates (2020). Extended Phase 1 Habitat Survey, Inspection of Building for Bats and Dusk Emergence Bat Survey.

END OF REPORT

APPENDIX I
TOOLBOX TALK

TOOLBOX TALK – HEDGEHOGS

WHAT?

- Hedgehog numbers have been declining across the UK as a result of habitat loss from development, habitat fragmentation, road casualties and injuries (e.g. from strimmers, netting and dogs).
- They are protected under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

HOW YOU COULD BREAK THE LAW

- Hedgehogs are protected by British law under the Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and countryside Act 1981, making it illegal to kill or capture them. They are also protected in Britain under the Wild Mammals Protection Act (1996), prohibiting cruelty and mistreatment.
- It is illegal to intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy a hedgehog nest or obstruct access to it and it is illegal to disturb a hedgehog when it is occupying a nest.

IDENTIFICATION





WHAT TO DO

- If at any time a hedgehog is found, works must be paused immediately and a E3P ecologist should move it to a safe area, away from the works.
- Do not move or disturb a hedgehog on its nest unless there is an immediate risk to its safety. Carefully replace any material that the hedgehog was nesting under and avoid touching any hoglets.

PRECAUTIONARY WORKING METHODS

To avoid committing a criminal offence and to reduce the risk of killing or injuring hedgehogs the following measures should be enforced:

- All contractors working on the site will be briefed with a Toolbox Talk by a qualified ecologist, on the legal protection afforded to hedgehogs, and on how to proceed if a hedgehog is discovered during the course of the work.
- No vegetation to be cleared unless under the supervision of an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW). Areas of scrub and tall grassland must be strimmed to 30 cm then checked for hedgehog and small mammals by the ECoW. Once deemed clear of hedgehogs and small mammals, the vegetation should be immediately cleared to ground level.
- The dense scrub, log piles and natural refugia should be hand checked by an ECoW prior to works. If a hedgehog/ small mammal is found, they should be carefully translocated to a suitable off-site area which will be unaffected by works (habitat located to the west of the site). If a hedgehog nest is found, works must cease in the immediate area surrounding the nest until the hedgehogs have moved. Avoid touching any young as this may cause the hedgehog to kill or abandon the hoglets.
- During site clearance, the scrub should be removed using hand tools to ensure no sheltering hedgehogs are impacted by the works. Vegetation and debris piles must also be removed off-site to ensure no hedgehogs can refuge on site post site clearance.

PLEASE SIGN BELOW TO INDICATE THAT YOU HAVE UNDERTAKEN AND UNDERSTAND THE TOOLBOX TALK PRESENT ABOVE.

NAME	DATE	SIGNED

E3P ECOLOGY CONTACT DETAILS

Celia Barlow – Associate Director - Ecology
07967786354
cbarlow@e3p.co.uk

Lowri Thomas – Consultant Ecologist
07495711680
lthomas@e3p.co.uk

Huw Morgan – Senior Consultant Ecologist
07506 137131
huwmorgan@e3p.co.uk

Carlin Jones –Graduate Consultant Ecologist
07984458798
cjones@e3p.co.uk

E3P Office
0161 707 9612
Info@e3p.co.uk