



Leigh **Ecology** Ltd
Protected Species and Habitat Surveys

Dundonald Road, Didsbury, Manchester Biodiversity Enhancement Strategy

December 2022

Introduction

Leigh Ecology Ltd were commissioned by DEP landscape Ltd to provide a biodiversity enhancement proposal in order to support a development at Dundonald Road, Didsbury, Manchester.

The document is designed to be read in conjunction with the land scape plan. The scope of the document will be to provide a strategy for ecological enhancement on site. The strategy is designed to offer safeguards to the works on the site and provide post development ecological provision and enhancements.

Stage One Pre-Development and Construction Safeguards

Pre-works checks and vegetation clearance

A check of the site will be undertaken within at least four weeks of works commencing by a suitably experienced ecologist who is a member of CIEEM and adheres to their code of professional conduct. This check will identify any significant badger or fox activity, such as the excavation of any sett(s) or den(s) within the working area, or within such a distance that works could disturb a badger sett. The suitably experienced ecologist will then provide a watching brief when clearing bramble from the site. Bramble clearance must be completed using hand-held strimmers.

Should an active badger sett(s) be identified within the site or within 30m of the development works, the ecologist will advise on the appropriate course of action, including the requirement for a Natural England license to disturb (destroy) a badger sett, if necessary. Badger licences are only issued for disturbance between July and November and therefore it would be prudent for any planned vegetation clearance to take this into account as well as other potential timing constraints, i.e., nesting birds.

Foxes do not have the same level of legal protection afforded to badger and their setts, however; foxes are protected under general animal welfare legislation, i.e., the Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 and the Animal Welfare Act 1996. It is an offence to destroy, block or fill up a fox den that contains

live foxes. Therefore, as a precaution a check for any fox dens should be made at the same time as the badger check. Should active dens be identified the ecologist will advise on the appropriate course of action, which will depend on the status of the den and development timescales.

RAMs with respect nesting birds and hibernating hedgehogs should be applied during the site clearance.

Hedgehogs

The proposed Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) to avoid impacts to hedgehogs and the triggering of the legislation protecting them is as follows and will be implemented prior to the start of any site clearance affecting suitable habitat for hedgehogs in each development phase:

- Prior to any site clearance being undertaken, the enhancements to the proposed receptor area will be implemented.
- Works which could potentially affect hedgehogs, should they be present, such as the removal of tall ruderal, scrub (both dense and scattered) and broadleaved woodland, as well as any brash piles that may be present, will be undertaken under supervision of a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE) outside of their hibernation season (October to March/April, inclusive), dependant on weather conditions (dry and warm - night-time temperatures above 5°C).
- Immediately prior to work commencing, a walkover of the site will be undertaken by a SQE to identify the most important areas of habitat. This would be combined with a preliminary check for hedgehogs.
- Prior to work commencing, a toolbox talk will be provided by a SQE to all contractors working on the site. This will inform them of all ecological constraints and considerations relevant to the construction and will include identification of the species, their legal protection and necessary mitigation measures, including what to do if the species is encountered on the site, during site works.
- Particularly sensitive areas, such as brash piles and within the woodland, will be carefully cleared by hand, prior to commencement of works on site;
- Once cleared of vegetation, the area will be maintained as bare earth to avoid hedgehogs recolonising the area prior to commencement of development.
- Hedgehogs are anticipated to continue to be able to use the site following completion of the development, further enhancements will be provided.

Birds

All wild birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (as amended) 1981 when actively nesting, the season for which is generally considered to be March to August, inclusive.

Any site clearance being undertaken between March and August, inclusive will require an SQE present to conduct a nesting bird check.

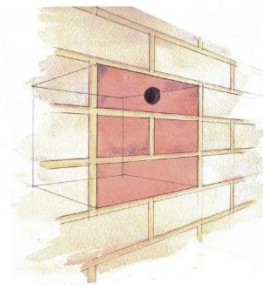
- If an active nest is found, the clearance of vegetation will need to be delayed until the chicks have fledged (to be confirmed by the SQE). Selective site clearance of scrub habitats can be undertaken over winter (September – February, inclusive), which would reduce the risk of bird nesting.
- However, this would need to be undertaken sensitively in selected areas of scrub to avoid impacts to amphibians and hedgehog including clearing vegetation to 30cm under supervision of an SQE.

Stage Two Post Development Enhancements

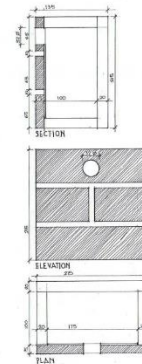
Insect Provision Various insect boxes will be provided within the garden areas, some adjacent to flowering plants some in shade.	Insect Boxes in various specs.  	The insect bricks and boxes should be installed during the landscape works. Annual condition checks should be undertaken by the site maintenance personnel.
Bird x 2 House Sparrow Bricks	Nest Boxes	The house sparrow bricks should be erected on the exterior of the buildings, indicative location

The bird box selection is driven by the local habitat and wider area. Two house sparrow bricks will be supplied

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SPARROW NEST BOX
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shown on the attached plan. The boxes need to be as high as possible on the wall. This work should be undertaken during the construction phase. The boxes are maintenance free.

Bats

2 Bat boxes/bricks will be provided within the building structure, these will be positioned to allow the bats to exit into trees to allow good commuting and foraging habitat.

Bat Bricks



Bat Boxes

The bat bricks should be erected on the exterior of the buildings, indicative location shown on the attached plan. The boxes need to be as high as possible on the wall. This work should be undertaken during the construction phase. The boxes are maintenance free.

			
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