

Ref: 20343/E3

Date: 14 June 2022

FAO Dan Booth
ISG
5th Floor
Tomorrow
MediaCityUK
Salford
M50 2AB

RE: 132513/VO/2021 – Condition 3 – Protected Species Method Statement
SITE: Hough End Leisure Centre, Princess Road, Manchester, M20 1NA

Dear Dan,

Further to the granting of planning permission for the erection of a two-storey extension to form changing rooms, café facilities, flexible club/social/training rooms and an extension to the existing gym space following the demolition of the existing changing block building; together with the creation of two 3G artificial football turf pitches, associated floodlighting and fencing; a 67no. space car park and an additional 60 space overflow car park; and associated landscaping, please find the following Method Statement to ensure the protection of Badgers, Hedgehogs and other wildlife during the approved development, and to allow condition 3 of the planning permission to be fully discharged.

Although there is no evidence of Badger *Meles meles* activity near the existing leisure centre, it is known that Badgers occupy a sett on the other side of the railway to the playing fields, and outlier holes were subsequently found between the railway and CHS South. No sett entrances were found across the wider site, but it is evident that an animal ventures north from time-to-time, although it is doubtful it would commute as far as the leisure centre given the use of the site by the public and the frequent disturbance.

Despite this Badgers could access the land at any time, so the following measures will be adopted to ensure that no animals are harmed by the development.

- Prior to the commencement of ground clearance works, a tool box talk will be given to contractors to raise their awareness of Badgers and to brief them on the presence of Badgers in the wider area.
- A check will then be made by an experienced ecologist to ensure that no Badgers have taken up residence since the last survey was made.

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- In the unlikely event that this has occurred, and the sett is in such a position that it will be disturbed by the development, a licence from Natural England will be required to re-locate the sett into an area where it will not be impacted on by construction activities.
- All ground works will take place during daylight hours when no Badgers will be active.
- Deep holes and open trenches could potentially trap Badgers (and other wildlife), especially if these fill up with water. Escape routes will therefore be provided if holes and/or trenches cannot be infilled immediately.
- Measures will include cover-plating, chain link fencing or the creation of sloping escape ramps for Badgers by edge profiling of trenches/excavations, or placing a plank in the bottom of open trenches at the end of each working day, to allow any trapped Badgers to escape.
- Open pipework larger than 150 mm outside diameter will be blanked off at the end of each working day.
- At all times care will be taken when removing vegetation and stripping topsoil, as other mammals such as Hedgehogs *Erinaceus europaeus* could be present. As such, vegetation removal will be supervised by an Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW), with a pre-removal check made prior to works commencing. Shrubs and other tall vegetation will then be cut down to a height of approximately 150 mm, so that a further check can be made by the ECoW.
- Any mammals, or other wildlife such as common amphibians, disturbed or uncovered will either be caught by the ECoW by hand and relocated to a safe area in the adjacent woodland, or will be left to vacate the work site in their own time.
- Once the site has been declared free of wildlife by the ECoW, ground clearance can commence.
- Since all in-use bird's nests and their contents are protected from damage or destruction, any tree or shrub removal which may affect a nest should be undertaken outside the period 1st March to 31st August inclusive. If this time frame cannot be avoided, a close inspection of the trees and shrubs to be removed will be undertaken by the ECoW prior to clearance. Work will not be carried out within a minimum of 5.0 metres of any in-use nest, although this distance could be more depending on the sensitivity of the species. Any in-use nest will be allowed to fledge before it is disturbed.

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A copy of this Method Statement will be kept in the site office, as it contains the contact details of the Indigo Ecologist.

Yours sincerely,



Andy Warren BSc (Hons), MA (LM), Tech Cert (Arbor A), MCIEEM, TechArborA
Principal Ecologist

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