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Site 24, The Stirling Centre

Avoidance of Harm to Hedgehogs and Other Small
Mammals During Construction

Premier Modular

P.2063.24
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Document author	Technical review	Quality & approval
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Appendix no.	Name
1	Precautionary Method of Works (PMoW)
2	Ecological Compliance Register

Executive Summary

The purpose of this report is to identify the impact to hedgehogs and other small mammals in regard to any works within the site and to provide avoidance, mitigation or compensation measures to ensure completion of these works without the risk of disturbing these protected species.

Based on the findings following the site visit (Ascerta reference P.2063.24 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) Site 24, The Stirling Centre), Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAMS) have been prepared to ensure no harm to the above species. These include the following:

1. Vegetation clearance applies to all habitats cleared in daytime air temperatures above 5°C. Works must be avoided in cold temperatures or if prior overnight temperatures have been less than 1°C.
2. Staged cutting of suitable vegetation for hedgehogs and small mammals will be implemented, to avoid harm to these species
3. The cut vegetation should remain at the mown length
4. The cut material is to be chipped and placed in discrete piles outside the working areas or removed from the site
5. If any terrestrial mammals are found within the working area they will be removed to a predetermined receptor defined by the ECoW. If GCN or evidence of badger are found, all works must stop immediately and Ascerta (0845 463 4404) contacted for a NE GCN licence holder to attend the site.
6. Any potential refuge areas for hedgehogs and other small mammals must be thoroughly checked prior to moving, to avoid harm to any sheltering hedgehog within
7. Existing tracks should be utilised for vehicle movements where possible
8. Construction material will be stored on pallets to avoid creating habitats for terrestrial mammals

Provided that the above measures are secured, it is considered that hedgehogs and other small mammals will not be harmed by the proposed works.

1. Introduction

Ascerta has been instructed by **Premier Modular** to produce a RAMS statement for hedgehogs and other small mammals at Site 24, The Stirling Centre, Newton Heath, M40 2RF (hereafter referred to as **the site**). The Site Ordnance Survey Grid Reference (OSGR) grid reference is SJ 88133 99644, and the What3Words location is *dated.ranked.down*. The extent of the site is displayed in Figure 1.1 below.



Figure 1.1: Extent of the site

The information contained within this Method Statement is based on the results of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA), undertaken on 11 October 2024 by Kira Lovatt MSc (suitably qualified ecologist) (P.2063.24 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal [PEA] Site 24, The Stirling Centre).

The site lies within Newton Heath and is covered by the Manchester Core Strategy 2012 to 2027 (adopted 11 July 2012) and extant policies within the Unitary Development Plan. The policy of relevance is EN 15 within the Core Strategy document. The site is also covered by the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan 2022 to 2039 (adopted March 2024). The policy of relevance is JP-G8 regarding Net Enhancement of Biodiversity and Geodiversity.

2. Precautionary Working Methods

Prior to the start of works, all site operatives working within the site will receive a Toolbox Talk (TBT) by the Ecological Clerk of Works (ECOW). The TBT will include information on the ecology, identification and legislation, where relevant, related to **hedgehogs and other small mammals**. All operatives must sign a register to confirm they have received the TBT and understand the legal protection of these species once the TBT has been given.

The following will be undertaken to ensure no harm to hedgehogs and other small mammals during the works:

1. Vegetation clearance will be undertaken at a slow walking pace, allowing any commuting mammals adequate time to move away from a working area
2. All works must be undertaken during daylight hours to avoid disturbance to any individuals that may occasionally move through the wider landscape at night
3. Stored materials (timber, pipes, spoil, etc.) must be raised off the ground where possible to prevent use as temporary shelters
4. Existing tracks should be utilised for vehicle movements where possible
5. Potential refuge areas such as log piles, brash piles and leaf piles should be checked by an ecologist prior to removal or disturbance, for any signs of sheltering hedgehog and small mammals. Should any individuals be found, works will cease until they have safely dispersed
6. All materials, site equipment and fuels should be stored on bunded areas, with spill kits located in proximity, to avoid release of any pollutants into the wider environment that may have a detrimental effect on any protected species using the site

Provided that the above measures are implemented, it is considered that the works pose a low risk of disturbance or harm to hedgehogs and other small mammals within and within proximity to the proposed works.

3. Post-development

To enable hedgehogs and other small mammals to continue the use of the site, gaps of at least 13cm by 13cm will be installed within any fence panels / boundary treatments to create a highway to interlink gardens and provide connectivity to the surrounding habitats. If concrete bases are required to secure any fences or boundary treatments, a base panel / gravel board with hedgehog holes will be installed.

Allowing areas of grassland or shrubbery that link to the periphery of the site to grow longer in sward length would further increase connectivity to areas of suitable habitat off site for small mammals.

4. Precautionary Methods of Works (PMoW)

4.1 Actions to be taken prior to the commencement of works

Prior to works commencing on the site, the following RAMS for hedgehogs and other small mammals, as detailed in Table 4.1 below, will be implemented. If works have not commenced on-site by October 2026, an updated survey is advised to confirm the details of the PMoW are still appropriate.

Table 4.1: Actions to be taken prior to the commencement of works

No.	Works	Methods	Timing	Person responsible	Person required to carry out work	Completed (name, company and signature)
1	Ecological Toolbox Talk	Talk to site operatives and contractors explaining hedgehog and small mammals ecology, responsibilities and work methods. The initial talk to be given by the ECoW/Ecologist and subsequent talks to be given by the Environmental Champion.	Prior to works	Main site contractor	ECoW/ Ecologist	
2	The vegetation clearance will be undertaken	The vegetation clearance of any longer sward grassland, scrub or other suitable habitats will be undertaken at a slow walking pace from the centre of the site towards retained boundary habitats. It will be removed in a two-stage process (top-down and directional cutting) to allow individuals to disperse safely into retained habitat. This directional cutting applies to all habitats cleared in daytime air temperatures above 5°C. Works must be avoided in cold temperatures or if prior overnight temperatures have been less than 1°C.	Prior to works	Developer / main site contractor	Developer / main site contractor	
3	The cut material is to be chipped and placed in discrete piles	The cut material is to be chipped and placed in discrete piles outside the working areas or removed from the site. Where this is not possible, cut vegetation is to be chipped and spread thinly across the site.	Prior to works	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
4	Utilise existing tracks to access the site	Existing tracks should be utilised for vehicle movements where possible.	Prior to works	Main site contractor	Main contractor	

4.2 Actions to be taken during the construction phase

The following measures outlined in Table 4.2 will be implemented during the construction phase:

Table 4.2 Actions to be taken during the construction phase

Works	Methods	Timing and frequency	Person responsible	Person required to carry out work	Completed (name, company and signature)
Monitoring / site inspections	All protective fencing and exclusion barriers will be checked weekly and repaired where necessary. The protective buffers will be walked weekly, and any signs of protected species will be reported to the appointed ecologist.	Throughout construction / weekly	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Pipe and ducts	All exposed open pipe systems will be capped to prevent any hedgehogs and small mammals gaining access. These will be checked to make sure they are in place at the end of each day.	Throughout construction / daily as appropriate	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Storage of materials	Stored materials (timber, pipes, spoil) must be raised off the ground where possible to prevent use as temporary shelters for hedgehogs and small mammals. Any piles of brash, leaves or similar should be checked prior to moving, for any signs of sheltering hedgehogs and small mammals.	Throughout construction / daily as appropriate	Main site contractor Appointed ecologist	Main contractor Appointed ecologist	

Artificial lighting	Artificial lighting will be directional and designed to avoid light spill into boundary habitats used by commuting hedgehogs and other small nocturnal mammals respectively.	Throughout construction / daily as appropriate	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Water Sources	Water sources will always be safeguarded to avoid accidental trapping of hedgehogs. Any open excavations, water-filled pits or containers must be covered or fitted with escape ramps.	Throughout construction	Main site contractor	Main contractor	
Consideration to wildlife	Site staff will remain vigilant for any signs of protected species activity during the works. If any further evidence of hedgehog activity (nests or day-time resting individuals) or of small mammal activity (burrows, runs, or nesting material) are found during works, all activity in that area must cease and advice will be sought immediately from the appointed ecologist as to an appropriate way forward.	Throughout construction	All site staff	All staff	

Contact for the appointed ecologist - Ascerta (0845 463 4404).

To be signed by all contractors to say they have read and understand the PMoW and TBT.

[illegible]

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