

Introduction and Background to the Site

Under current proposals, the site is to be cleared to facilitate the redevelopment of the site for 37 Apartments bed secure children's home and associated infrastructure.

Planning condition 18 of application number: 138348/FO/2023 (Manchester City Council) states:

18

Prior to any site clearance or earthworks a reasonable avoidance measures method statement for hedgehog and other mammals shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the City Council as Local Planning Authority. The development shall be carried out in accordance with the agreed details.

Precautionary Method Statement

The following methodology should be followed in order to reduce the impact on the residual possibility of European hedgehog and other Mammals presence at the site:

Hedgehog & Other Mammals

Due to Potential habitats within the site and the connectivity to other suitable habitats within the wider environment, the following approved vegetation clearance is implemented within the site prior to development.

Pre- Construction Impacts

No pre-construction impacts are predicted. Works in areas with the residual possibility of use by hedgehog and other mammals will not commence until a search of the construction footprint has been made by a suitably experienced person and appropriate mitigation measures put into place, where required.

Pre- construction, the following methodology should be followed in order to reduce the potential impact on hedgehog at the site:

- The site currently holds few potential refuges which hedgehog could utilise; however, no potential refuge features should be removed unless checked by a suitably experienced person. Any refuges present on site must be dismantled by hand under ecological supervision. All works should be undertaken within the active season for hedgehog, typically mid-April to October inclusive.
- Areas of dense or tall vegetation, currently isolated to boundary features should be subject to a stage cut using handheld tools such as brush cutters and strimmer's etc, in which the sward height is reduced to 200mm from the ground to allow a thorough fingertip ecological search to be undertaken.
- Once the search has been completed and no protected or notable species have been recorded, vegetation can be then level using handheld tools only as a further precaution.
- Any brash or arisings should be removed and disposed of offsite. No piles of cut vegetation which could provide potential refuge for hedgehog should be left on site.
- No hardcore should be retained on site. All materials should

be either stored within skips or removed from site to prevent creating potential refuge areas which hedgehogs could occupy.

- Once all the vegetation has been cut to ground level, all cut vegetation should be immediately removed from site to prevent any piles of vegetation potentially becoming suitable refugia for small mammals including hedgehog to utilise.

2.3 Mid- term construction impacts in the absence of mitigation.

During the construction phase including site clearance, any unmitigated works could lead to small mammals becoming trapped, crushed or buried during the proposed works.

Unprotected storage of equipment and materials on site could create temporary refugia to shelter under with a subsequent risk of crushing / injury when such refugia are moved.

Storage of soil and aggregates on the development footprint could create habitat in which small mammals could shelter with subsequent risk of death or injury when the spoil was removed.

3 Construction Works / Phase

The construction footprint has been identified and works will be restricted to this area.

Any hydrocarbon materials should be stored suitably to avoid contamination of surrounding habitats outside the site boundary. Where possible the use of non-toxic and other hazardous materials should be avoided. If such materials are to be used on the site, they should be stored appropriately following manufacturer's guidelines and a relevant COSHH risk assessment produced and stored on site. Use and disposal of such substances should adhere to the product's hazard label and a copy of the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDA) should be available at the site office and all operatives informed of such substances during site induction.

Any trenches dug on site should contain means for any trapped fauna to escape. A small wooden ramp should be placed within the trench each evening and left overnight as a means of escape. A designated person should be instructed to check any trenches each morning for the duration of the works

Open pipework larger than 150 mm outside diameter shall be blanked off at the end of each working day to ensure no entrapment of small mammals including hedgehog.

4 Environmental Working Practices and Staff Awareness

Staff should be made aware of their duties in respect of legally protected species. Site staff should be informed of the residual possibility of hedgehog and, whilst a low risk, the risk remains that they could be encountered on site.

Site staff should be made aware that, if encountered, the favoured option is to leave the animal in situ and consult a suitably qualified ecologist.

Sympathetic working practices should include:

- Avoid creating habitat piles / refugia which amphibians/ reptile could utilise.
- Should areas of vegetation / debris be required to remain on site, suitable measures should be employed to prevent access by small mammals. Sheets of tarpaulin can be erected over the piles with the bottom sealed to prevent entry.

4.4 Staff awareness training:

All site staff and contractors should be made aware of the residual possibility of hedgehog presence via a site induction and a toolbox talk.

Staff should be made aware of the use of refugia by small mammals. Should any species be discovered, all works must cease, and the species should be safely removed from site by a suitably qualified ecologist and relocated to a predetermined receptor zone.

.

The site clearance will be supervised by a suitably qualified ecologist at all times. If hedgehog is encountered and the ecologist has to leave site during the relocation, works are not to recommence until the ecologist has returned and given permission to restart.

Once the vegetation has been removed in its entirety and there is no longer the need to have ecological supervision on site, the ecologist will leave and works can continue without supervision, however, the ecologist will remain an on-call contact for emergency purposes. The ecologist's contact details should be at hand for advice.