







Jurby Avenue

Manchester

Hedgehog Precautionary Working Method Statement

(PWMS)

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 TEP was commissioned by Irwell Valley Homes to complete a Hedgehog Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) as part of the planning discharge for the site. (Planning Ref: 115905/VO/2017) in relation to protection of habitat and species during proposed remediation of a site, at Jurby Avenue, Manchester (hereafter referred to as the "site").

Site Context

1.2 The site covers an area of approximately 0.3ha and comprises modified neutral grassland with dense scrub and scattered trees. Residential housing bounds the site to the north and Plant Hill Park to the east. The land adjacent to the west and south of the site is undeveloped with woodland and grassland habitats present. Beyond these are allotments and further residential housing. The site lies within the district of Higher Blackley which is situated in the north of the City of Manchester. The central grid reference of the site is SD 85542 03534, and the location of the site is shown in Figure 1.



Figure 1: Site location and local context

Scope

1.3 This Precautionary Working Method Statement (PWMS) has been produced in line with the recommendations of the Ecological Assessment (TEP Ref: 6283.003). It is to be conditioned to form the basis of ecological input into the contractors' Construction and Environmental Management Plan (CEMP).

1.4 The Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) identified that specific measures are required to prevent damage or loss to hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus* during development.

1.5 The ecological assessment of the site highlighted the modified grassland as a potential foraging spot for hedgehogs, and the dense scrub provides good sheltering opportunities for them. The modified grassland takes up the majority of the site and the dense scrub lies along the western border. All work done on the site should follow this hedgehog PWMS as to avoid injury to any hedgehog on site.

1.6 The PWMS deals primarily with the "Ecological Management" phase of works, but ecology attendance may be needed during other stages of work, especially vegetation clearance, if being undertaken during nesting bird season (March to August).

1.7 This PWMS must be adhered to at all times by the project manager, the client, and all contractors working on site.

1.8 This is to be considered a 'live' document and is subject to additions and changes as works progresses.

2.0 Precautionary Working Methods

Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)

2.1 An Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW) will be appointed to provide ecological support and supervision as required throughout the duration of the works. The appointed ECoW will be an experienced ecologist and member of CIEEM.

2.2 The ECoW will be responsible to the appointed contractors 'environmental champion' who will update the ECoW with regards to the programme of works as and when required where impacts on ecologically sensitive areas may be affected. The ECoW will then advise on potential ecological impacts that will require supervision or pre-commencement oversight.

2.3 The ECoW will be responsible for providing ecological 'toolbox talks' as part of the Site induction process, to all relevant sub-contractors with regards to potential impacts to protected species and habitats on Site and their status, if required.

Fauna

Hedgehog

Relevant Legislation

2.4 **Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981**: Hedgehogs are listed under Schedule 6 of this Act, which provides some legal protection against killing or capturing them unless they are suffering or in need of rehabilitation. However, this does not prevent habitat destruction or other threats to their population.

2.5 **Animal Welfare Act 2006**: This Act protects hedgehogs from cruel treatment. It mandates that any handling or care provided to hedgehogs must not compromise their welfare.

2.6 **Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006**: Hedgehogs are recognized as a species of principal importance (SPI), which means public bodies have a duty to conserve their habitats and promote their welfare

Precautionary Working Measures

2.7 It is recommended that the early hibernation period (November to December inclusive) is avoided where possible in relation to the clearance of scrub vegetation. The risk of hedgehog death is increased if they are disturbed during this period.

2.8 Prior to the commencement of site clearance works, hand searches for hedgehog will be undertaken by an experienced Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW), particularly in sensitive habitats such as scrub. Any hedgehogs found will be allowed to disperse or will be translocated and released into retained suitable habitats.

2.9 Any temporary potential sheltering and hibernation features for hedgehog within the works area will be removed by hand by the ECoW. This will include features such as piles of tree branches and brash piles, if created or present within the area.

2.10 Once hand searches have been completed the area should be strimmed in stages, to allow for natural dispersal of hedgehog or any other mammals, and to avoid harm or injury.

Good Practice Avoidance Measures

2.11 The following standard precautionary working methods will also be implemented during the works:

- Arisings from the work i.e., brash, trunks, grass cuttings, must be removed from site on the same day as the work takes place. This is to avoid providing refuge opportunities for hedgehog, which would then have to be hand searched by a suitably qualified ecologist prior to their removal at a later date.
- Open excavations should be covered overnight using plyboard and sandbags to fully seal any gaps. If this is not possible, a plank of wood placed at an angle no steeper than 40° should be left within the excavations, or sloping exits to trenches provided, so any hedgehogs or small mammals which fall into the trenches are able to escape.
- Agreed access tracks into the site will be maintained. Vehicular access should adhere to these access routes where feasible to prevent tracking over areas where hedgehogs could be present.
- Pipes stored on site would be capped or if caps are not available, stored vertically to prevent entrapment of hedgehogs.
- Regular strimming works within the development area should take place to keep any retained habitats short, which will make the area unattractive to foraging or resting hedgehogs. This will deter hedgehogs from the site thereby reducing the risk of harm occurring to this species.

2.12 If an injured hedgehog is found on site, this should be taken to a nearby wildlife rescue centre or vet that accepts wild animals. Additionally, if any young hedgehogs are found during the autumn, immediately prior to the hibernation period, these should also be taken to a wildlife rescue centre as it would be unlikely that these would survive the winter. The nearest wildlife rescue centres to the site are provided in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Contact details for the nearest Wildlife Rescue Centre

Name	Address	Tel:
Tameside's people 4 wildlife	Denton, Manchester	07821 274889
Kirklees Valley Wildlife Rescue	Kirklees St, Tottington, Bury BL8 4LP	01204 884086

3.0 Key Contacts

3.1 Any contractors requiring advice regarding this PWMS are welcome to contact any of the following for further information:

- TEP, Head Office - 01925 844004
- Jemma Chesworth, Assistant Ecologist - 07760 782722

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