ETEC CONTRACT SERVICES LTD.

Wythenshawe Park Sports Hub

REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES & METHOD STATEMENT

Hedgehog (Erinaceus europaeus) & Other Ground-Dwelling Mammals

Project	Wythenshawe Park Sports Hub
Contract No.	J2976
Site Address	Wythenshawe Park, Wythenshawe Road, Manchester, M23 9RQ
Client	Alliance Leisure Services Ltd
Principal Contractor	Etec Contract Services Ltd
Environmental Manager	Arbtech (Claire Swinburn – 01244 661170)
Ecological Clerk of Works	Arbtech (TBC prior to commencement)
Document Type	Reasonable Avoidance Measures & Method Statement (RAM/MS)
Species Covered	Hedgehog (Erinaceus europaeus) & other ground-dwelling mammals
Planning Condition	Prior to site clearance or earthworks – mammal RAM/MS to be submitted and approved in writing by Manchester City Council as LPA
Document Ref.	RAM-WP-001
Revision	Rev 02
Status	For Approval by Manchester City Council (LPA)
Date	May 2026
Prepared by	Etec Contract Services Ltd
Reviewed by	Arbtech – Environmental Manager
Submitted to	Manchester City Council as Local Planning Authority for written approval

1. Introduction and Purpose

This Reasonable Avoidance Measures and Method Statement (RAM/MS) has been prepared by Etec Contract Services Ltd on behalf of Alliance Leisure Services Ltd, for the construction of the Wythenshawe Park Sports Hub. It is submitted in compliance with the planning condition requiring a mammal RAM/MS to be approved in writing by Manchester City Council as Local Planning Authority prior to any site clearance or earthworks commencing.

The document has been informed by the Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) prepared by Etec (Rev 001, 21 September 2025), the Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) prepared by Arbtech Consulting Ltd (Arbtech AMS 01 Rev A, 26/09/2025) and site survey information for Wythenshawe Park.

The primary target species is the West European Hedgehog (Erinaceus europaeus), a Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 and a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) priority species experiencing significant national population decline. All other ground-dwelling mammals present on or adjacent to the site are also covered by this document.

2. Key Objectives

- Ensure no hedgehogs or other protected/notable mammals are killed, injured or disturbed during site clearance or earthworks
- Ensure full compliance with the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 and NERC Act 2006
- Protect hedgehog movement corridors through and around Wythenshawe Park
- Provide clear, practical working instructions for site operatives and plant operators
- Satisfy the Manchester City Council planning condition prior to commencement
- Deliver biodiversity net gain enhancements for hedgehog following construction

3. Site Description and Habitat Assessment

3.1 Site Location

The development site is located within Wythenshawe Park, Wythenshawe Road, Manchester (M23 9RQ; What3Words: jumpy.salt.custom). The park is a large urban green space within a residential area to the south of Greater Manchester, surrounded by housing estates to the north, south and west. The nearest residential property is approximately 450 m from the construction footprint.

3.2 Habitats Present

The following habitats present within and adjacent to the site are considered suitable for hedgehog and other ground-dwelling mammals:

- Semi-improved grassland and amenity grass – foraging habitat for hedgehog
- Scrub and bramble patches – nesting and hibernation habitat
- Mature trees and woodland edges (Category A, B and C trees per Arbtech AMS) – root zone and leaf-litter habitat
- Hedgerows and shrub borders – movement corridors and nesting habitat
- Existing buildings (weightlifting / changing room subject to demolition) – potential hibernation site under structures

3.3 Species Likely to Be Present

Based on the site habitats and the urban park setting, the following mammals may be present within the site or its immediate surroundings:

Species	Likely Habitat on Site	Legal Protection
Hedgehog (Erinaceus europaeus)	Grassland, scrub edges, under structures	Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996; Section 41 NERC Act 2006
Grey squirrel (Sciurus carolinensis)	Woodland, mature trees	Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996

Rabbit (Oryctolagus cuniculus)	Grassland, scrub edges	Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996
Field vole (Microtus agrestis)	Long grassland areas	Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996
Wood mouse (Apodemus sylvaticus)	Scrub, grassland, woodland edge	Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996
Common shrew (Sorex araneus)	Grassland, scrub, woodland edge	Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996; Schedule 6 WCA 1981
Water vole (Arvicola amphibius)	Baguley Brook corridor	Schedule 5 WCA 1981 – fully protected
Otter (Lutra lutra)	Baguley Brook corridor	Schedule 5 WCA 1981 – fully protected; Habitats Regs 2017

Note: Water vole and otter are fully protected species. If either is identified during pre-clearance checks the ECoW must be contacted immediately and works stopped until a suitable strategy is agreed. A separate licensed survey and Natural England licence may be required.

4. Relevant Legislation and Guidance

Legislation / Guidance	Relevance
Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	Hedgehogs and all wild mammals are protected from intentional killing, injuring or taking under Schedule 6
Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996	It is an offence to mutilate, kick, beat, nail, impale, stab, burn, stone, crush, drown, drag or asphyxiate any wild mammal with intent to inflict unnecessary suffering
Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006	Section 40 duty to have regard to biodiversity. Hedgehog is a Species of Principal Importance under Section 41
Environment Act 2021 – Biodiversity Net Gain	Mandatory 10% BNG required; habitat enhancements for hedgehog contribute to metric
BS5837:2012 – Trees in Relation to Design, Demolition and Construction	Tree protection measures protect hedgehog habitat (woodland edges, root zones)
CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (2018)	Framework for assessing ecological impacts and mitigation measures
Hedgehog Street / BHPS Guidance	Best practice for hedgehog-friendly construction sites

5. Risk Assessment

The following risk assessment covers the key activities during site clearance and earthworks and the associated risks to hedgehog and other mammals. Risk ratings (High / Medium / Low) reflect likelihood × consequence prior to and following implementation of control measures.

Hazard / Activity	Persons / Species at Risk	Initial Risk	Control Measures	Residual Risk
Site clearance – vegetation removal disturbing hedgehogs or small mammals sheltering or nesting	Hedgehog, small mammals, operatives	**HIGH**	• Pre-clearance ecological check by ECoW on day of works • Vegetation to be cleared by hand (strimmer/scythe) from outside to centre • Clearance restricted to September–March where practicable • All arisings to be removed same day • If hedgehog or mammal found – stop work, contact ECoW immediately • Operatives to receive toolbox talk before starting	**LOW**

Topsoil stripping and bulk earthworks – burial or crushing of hedgehogs / mammals in burrows	Hedgehog, small mammals, rabbits, voles	**HIGH**	• Pre-earthworks check of full footprint by ECoW • Burrow openings to be hand-excavated before machine works • Exclusion fencing (minimum 200mm below ground) around working zone • Topsoil stripped in shallow passes to allow mammals to escape • Works to avoid dawn and dusk periods	**LOW**
Open excavations and service trenches left overnight – entrapment	Hedgehog, small mammals	**HIGH**	• All open excavations >300mm to be checked at start/end of each day • Temporary escape ramps (rough timber boards at 45°) placed in all open trenches • Open excavations to be fenced or covered overnight • Site Manager to include trench check on daily inspection log	**LOW**
Stockpiles of soil, debris or materials – hedgehogs burrowing in	Hedgehog, small mammals	**MEDIUM**	• Stockpile areas to be checked by ECoW before material is disturbed • Stockpiles not to be left undisturbed for more than 2 weeks • Materials moved mechanically only after hand-check of perimeter	**LOW**
Use of rodenticides – secondary poisoning	Hedgehog, raptors, other wildlife	**MEDIUM**	• No SGARs to be used without ECoW approval • Bait stations only (tamper-proof, secured) – no open bait • Pest control contractor to be briefed on wildlife risk	**LOW**
Lighting during construction – artificial light spill	Hedgehog, bats, small mammals	**MEDIUM**	• All temporary lighting to be directed downward and away from retained green areas • Warm-white LED (3000K or lower) to be used • No lighting within 5m of woodland edges without ECoW agreement	**LOW**

6. Method Statement – Step-by-Step Working Procedure

The following method statement must be followed in sequence for all site clearance and earthworks activities. Any deviation from this method must be agreed in advance with the ECoW and, where required, with Manchester City Council.

Step	Action	Detail
1	Pre-Commencement – Submission & Approval	This RAM/MS to be submitted to and approved in writing by Manchester City Council (LPA) before any site clearance or earthworks commence. Written LPA approval to be obtained and held on site. Approved document to be briefed to Site Manager and ECoW before mobilisation.
2	Appointment of Ecological Clerk of Works (ECoW)	An ECoW from Arbtech will be appointed prior to commencement of clearance. ECoW contact details to be confirmed and circulated to the site team. ECoW to be on-site for all pre-clearance checks, high-risk earthworks and any ecological findings.
3	Operative Induction and Toolbox Talk	All operatives, plant operators and subcontractors to receive an ecological induction before starting on site. Toolbox talk content to include: hedgehog identification, legal protections, what to do if a mammal is found, trench

		escape ramp procedure, rodenticide restrictions. Attendance record to be signed and retained on site.
4	Installation of Mammal Exclusion / Management Fencing	Prior to any vegetation clearance, mammal management measures to be agreed with ECoW. Where exclusion fencing is required it shall be a minimum 200mm buried skirt of wire mesh (13mm or smaller aperture). One deliberate hedgehog-crossing gap (100x130mm) to be provided in the main site hoarding boundary at an agreed location.
5	Pre-Clearance Ecological Check	On the morning of clearance commencing, the ECoW to walk the full clearance footprint. Any hedgehogs or mammals found to be carefully moved to suitable habitat outside the works zone. Check to be recorded in the Site Environmental Log. If a hedgehog nest with young (hoglets) is found, clearance in that area to be suspended until young are mobile.
6	Vegetation Clearance – Method	Vegetation to be cleared progressively from the outer boundary inward. First pass by hand tools (strimmers, scythes, loppers) – not by tracked machinery. Mechanical clearance only to proceed after first-pass hand clearance and ECoW confirmation. Long grass and scrub to be cut to approximately 50mm in the first pass.
7	Topsoil Stripping and Earthworks	ECoW to carry out a pre-start inspection of the full earthworks footprint. Topsoil to be stripped in shallow passes (maximum 150mm lifts) using a tracked excavator with a flat grading bucket. Plant operator to stop immediately if any mammal is encountered. No earthworks during the first hour after dawn or last hour before dusk.
8	Open Excavation Management	All open excavations or trenches deeper than 300mm to have escape ramps installed at end of each working day. Escape ramps: rough-sawn timber board at approximately 45° angle. Maximum spacing of escape ramps: 20m along any continuous open trench. Trench checks to be carried out at the start of each day before works resume.
9	Discovery Protocol – Mammal Found During Works	All works in the immediate area to cease. Site Manager to be notified immediately. ECoW to be contacted and to attend site to assess. Healthy hedgehog: ECoW to relocate to suitable habitat within Wythenshawe Park. Injured or sick hedgehog: place in ventilated box and contact British Hedgehog Preservation Society (01584 890 801). Works not to resume until authorised by ECoW.
10	Post-Clearance Monitoring	ECoW to carry out a post-clearance inspection of the cleared zone before bulk earthworks commence. Any mammal signs (droppings, burrows, tracks) to be reported to ECoW for assessment. Inspection reports to be logged and made available to Manchester City Council on request.
11	Restoration and Enhancement	Following completion of construction, suitable mammal habitat to be created within the park boundary as part of landscaping works. Habitat enhancements may include: hedgehog hibernation boxes, log/brash piles, native hedgerow planting and wildflower meadow (south of Baguley Brook). A minimum 5-year management period to be agreed with MCC and Arbtech.
12	Reporting and Compliance	A copy of this approved RAM/MS to be kept on site at all times. The Site Manager is responsible for day-to-day compliance. Any significant mammal findings (injured animals, nests with young, unexpected species) to be reported to Arbtech and Manchester City Council within 24 hours.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

Role / Organisation	Name	Contact
Principal Contractor – Etec Contract Services Ltd	Lee Jones	T: 07581 469044
Client – Alliance Leisure Services Ltd	To Be Agreed	T: TBC
MCRactive Facility Strategy & Capital Projects Lead – Manchester City Council	Louise Harding	C/O House of Sport, Etihad Campus, Gate 13, Rowsley Street, Manchester, M11 3FF
Environmental Manager – Arbtech	Claire Swinburn	T: 01244 661170

Ecological Clerk of Works – Arbtech	TBC prior to commencement	T: TBC
Site Manager (24hr)	TBC prior to commencement	T: TBC
Manchester City Council – LPA Planning	Steve McCombie	T: 0161 234 4607
British Hedgehog Preservation Society	—	T: 01584 890 801
RSPCA Wildlife Line	—	T: 0300 1234 999
Environment Agency (pollution 24hr)	—	T: 0800 807060

8. Emergency Contacts

- Injured hedgehog / mammal: British Hedgehog Preservation Society – 01584 890 801
- Wildlife emergency / injured animal: RSPCA – 0300 1234 999
- Pollution incident (Baguley Brook): Environment Agency 24hr – 0800 807060
- Site Manager: TBC prior to commencement
- ECoW – Arbtech: TBC prior to commencement
- Manchester City Council Planning: TBC

9. Monitoring, Recording and Reporting

- A Site Environmental Log will be maintained throughout site clearance and earthworks and made available to Manchester City Council on request
- Daily trench and excavation checks to be recorded on the log
- Any mammal findings (presence, injury, death, nest) to be recorded with date, time, location, species and photograph where possible
- ECoW to produce a brief post-clearance ecological report confirming compliance with this RAM/MS and any findings
- Any significant finding (protected species, injury, death) to be reported to Manchester City Council within 24 hours
- This document to be reviewed and updated if site conditions change or new information becomes available

Appendix A – Reference Documents

Document	Reference / Date
Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) – Etec Contract Services Ltd	Rev 001, 21 September 2025
Arboricultural Method Statement – Arbtech Consulting Ltd	AMS 01 Rev A, 26 September 2025
Bat Emergence and Re-entry Survey (BERS) – Arbtech	8 May 2025
Existing Site Plan – NPS Leeds Ltd	118165-NPS-ZZ-00-D-A-0801 Rev P09
Site Location Plan – NPS Leeds Ltd	118165-NPS-ZZ-00-D-A-0802 Rev P06
Demolition Management Plan – Etec / Manchester City Council	Rev 02, May 2026
Construction Management Plan – Etec / Manchester City Council	Rev 02, May 2026
Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended)	Legislation
Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996	Legislation
NERC Act 2006 – Section 40 / Section 41	Legislation
CIEEM Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment	2018
Hedgehog Street / BHPS – Hedgehog Friendly Construction Guidance	Best Practice