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Our ref: 553439km02Oct26FV01_PMoW

Dear Joe

WYTHENSHAWE PLOT 3.3 (BROTHERON) - PRECAUTIONARY METHOD OF WORKS

INTRODUCTION

Greengage Environmental Ltd (Greengage) was commissioned by Muse Places and Wythenshawe Community Housing Group (WCHG) to undertake a Precautionary Method of Works (PMoW) for hedgehogs *Erinaceus europaeus* and other mammals to discharge Planning Condition 16, located at Brotherton House in Wythenshawe, Greater Manchester hereafter referred to as 'the site'.

The site extends to approximately 1.77 hectares (ha) and is centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (OS NGR): SJ 82256 87190, OS Co-ordinates 382256, 387190.

This document has been produced prior to the commencement bulk excavation on the site and commencement of hedgerow removal along Cornfield Drive and partial hedgerow removal along Poundswick Lane in January 2027.

Condition

Planning Condition 16 states that:

"Prior to any site clearance or earthworks, a Precautionary Method of Works (PMoW) 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.

Reason - To ensure the protection of habitat of species that are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 or as subsequently amended and to comply with policy EN15 of the Manchester Core Strategy and policy JP-G8 of the Places for Everyone Joint Development Plan."

This condition was put in place following a recommendation within the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal undertaken by Greengage in 2025,[1] in which there was identified to be moderate potential for hedgehogs to be present on the site.

SITE CONTEXT

The site comprised seven buildings (B1- B7), two of which were large multi-storey structures. The remaining buildings consisted of smaller sheds and residential structures. The habitats within the site consisted of areas of grassland, scrub and scattered trees in addition to hedgerows.

The hedgerows, scrub and grassland habitats present on the site provided suitability to support hedgehog. These habitats provide nesting, foraging and hibernating habitat for these species. No specific features that would be used as refugia were identified at the site. The fence surrounding the site is permeable, granting access to hedgehogs commuting between the site and residential gardens or nearby green spaces. The site is therefore considered to provide moderate potential to support hedgehog.

The majority of the suitable habitats will be retained as part of the proposed development, however the hedgerow along Cornfield Drive and a section of the hedgerow along Poundswick Lane will be removed. Access to these hedgerows for removal will be undertaken from existing hardstanding roads on and off the site.

PRECAUTIONARY METHOD OF WORKS

Works Timings

Hedgerow removal is programmed during hedgehogs' hibernation season (typically recognised as October/November - March, weather dependent). In advance of the hedgerow removal, the SQE is to undertake a pre-commencement inspection in the base of the hedgerow to search for any hedgehogs.

Note that if clearance is delayed, the requirements below for hibernating hedgehog may not be appropriate but works can still proceed. It is however expected that works are programmed during the winter to minimise the risk of nesting birds.

Toolbox talk and Ecological Clerk of Works

Prior to the hedgerow removal on-site, a Suitably Qualified Ecologist (SQE) will attend site on the morning of the intended start date to conduct a toolbox talk with site operatives. The SQE will also perform the Ecological Clerk of Works duty and perform a pre-commencement inspection of the hedgerow to confirm the presence/likely absence of hedgehogs and other mammals.

[1] Greengage (2025) Preliminary Ecological Appraisal - Wythenshawe, Brotherton House. Ref. 553439es18Sept25FV05_PEA.docx

The toolbox talk will cover the items within this PMoW:

- Legislation and policy relating to the protected/priority species which may be encountered during site works (in this instance, hedgehogs and other mammal species). Legislation and policy can be found in Appendix A;
- What constitutes an offence in relation to hedgehog and other mammals;
- The responsibilities of site operatives, including the ECoW themselves, during the works; and
- Measures which will be taken should hedgehog and other mammals be encountered.

A toolbox talk attendance form will be taken by the SQE to record who on the site has been made aware of the risks and working methods. A copy of this PMoW will be left with the site operatives, so it is available on-site for referring back to throughout the duration of works if needed.

Directional hedgerow clearance

Removal of hedgerow on the site is to be undertaken in a directional process (after appropriate checks of hedgehogs and other mammals). Working areas must be kept to a minimum and vehicles should only be taken on to bare ground or other areas unsuitable for sheltering hedgehog.

If found to be likely absent (following the pre-commencement survey), the foliage of the hedgerow should be trimmed back and then the hedgerow taken down to 30 cm in height. If hedgehog is found during the pre-commencement survey (and relocation is not appropriate) then areas will be demarcated if required and left in situ with an appropriate buffer. Dependant on the local ground conditions, once the hedgerow is taken to 30 cm, the ECoW will use professional judgement in deciding whether the 30 cm should be left in situ for a 24 hour period to allow for dispersal of hedgehogs or other mammals or whether removal of the 30 cm can occur on the same day.

A secondary inspection will be then carried out by the ECoW, note that this is recommended to carried out the following day as this allow hedgehogs to naturally disperse from partially cleared habitats. Following confirmation from the ECoW the hedgerow can be cut to ground level if required.

Note that any locations potentially suitable for sheltering or hibernation (such as brash or log piles) will be dismantled by hand by the ECoW. Hand searching will be carried out by the ecologist, checking within and underneath any potentially suitable refuges for hedgehog during hibernation, such as leaf piles around logs, tree trunks, bush stems and within coppice stools. Any piles of wood, brash and rubble within the working area will be dismantled by hand and immediately removed from the working area, with the ecologist approval.

It is unlikely that that hedgehogs would be present during removal of hedgerow stumps and roots beneath ground level. This will however be reviewed by the ECoW and if deemed necessary the ECoW will continue to supervise this stage of works.

Hedgehog Specific Working Methods

If any individuals are observed within the hedgerow, the area should be clearly marked. An exclusion zone should be created around any hedgehogs, allowing them to move away from the footprint of works of their own volition either when hibernating ceases or temperatures temporarily rise.

If any evidence of hibernating hedgehog is encountered, dismantling of any relevant refugia will cease, the refugia re-instated as far as reasonably possible and the location demarcated and left in-situ. This location will be marked for inspection as part of a follow up visit to confirm whether hedgehog is still present or left of its own volition, ideally during a period of warmer weather.

In a last resort, dependant on safety of the hedgehog a SQE may need to disturb, pick up and remove the hedgehog to a safe area or into veterinary care. The SQE will deem if this is necessary.

General measures

It is possible that non-protected, but notable, wildlife species are also using the site and as such general best practice measures with regards to all wildlife should be used during the works. These include:

- Covering excavations of greater than 1 m over night or providing ramps e.g. scaffold board at suitably shallow gradient, to allow wildlife to escape;
- Any incomplete pipework should be temporarily capped or closed overnight to prevent wildlife from entering/getting stuck. If this is not possible, before working on any pipework, the pipework should be checked for the presence of any wildlife. If wildlife is identified, the ECoW should be called for advice; and,
- Regular removal of food waste from the site which may encourage other mammals to move on to the site.
- Cut vegetation must not be stockpiled within working areas as this could attract hedgehog or other species, therefore it will require chipping on site or removal on a frequent basis.

Post completion of works

Following completion of works the ECoW will produce a short completion note (letter, memo or e-mail) detailing the works completed along with any relevant plans, signed toolbox forms and photographs as part of the audit trail for works.

Best wishes

[redacted]

Kezia Myles
Seasonal Ecologist
020 3544 4000
[redacted]
For and on behalf of Greengage Environmental Ltd

APPENDIX A LEGISLATION AND POLICY

LEGISTLATION

Under Schedule 6 or the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) (as amended), it is illegal to kill or capture wild hedgehogs, with certain listed methods [2]. The illegal methods include:

- Self-locking snares
- Crossbows
- Explosives (other than ammunition for firearm)
- Live decoys

Additionally, methods such as straps, snares, nets, electricidal devices for killing or stunning and the use of poisonous substances are prohibited.

Furthermore, the cruel treatment of hedgehogs is prohibited under the Wild Mammals Protection Act (1996)[3]. This prohibits any actions which inflict unnecessary suffering on wild mammals, including hedgehogs. Specifically, it is illegal to mutilate, kick, beat or inflect any other treatment to cause suffering.

POLICY

Biodiversity Action Plans

Non-statutory BAPS have been prepared on a local and regional scale throughout the UK over the past 15 years. Such plans provide a mechanism for implementing the government's broad strategy for conserving and enhancing the most endangered 'priority' habitats and species in the UK for the next 20 years.

UK Biodiversity Action Plan

Hedgehog is listed on the UK BAP list of priority species.

Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)[4]

The Manchester BAP[4] states a focus on: "(An increase in) species records associated with parks, gardens, school grounds and allotments - targeted at 13 indicators including hedgehog.

[2] Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) Available from: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/69

[3] Wild Mammals (Protection) Act (1996) Available from: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/3/contents

[4] Manchester City Council (2022) Manchester Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, Available from: https://www.manchester.gov.uk/the-council-and-democracy/council-policies-and-strategies/manchester-biodiversity-strategy-and-action-plan

GREATER MANCHESTER LOCAL NATURE RECOVERY STRATEGY

As part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) the Greater Manchester Combined Authority has identified 16 target species and species groups which require bespoke action beyond wider habitat priorities[5], this includes the hedgehog. There are relevant practical actions which could be applied to site to support the recovery of hedgehogs.

Plate 1 UK native hedgehog



Plate 2 Hibernating hedgehog in leaf litter



[5] Greater Manchester Combined Authority (2021) Local Nature Recovery Strategy, Available from: https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/media/4qymwzoe/species-priorities-and-actions.pdf

APPENDIX B TOOLBOX TALK ATTENDANCE FORM

Please sign below to confirm that you have read and understood this toolbox talk document and confirm that you agree to follow the measures outlined above.

Toolbox Talk Briefing Record					
I, the undersigned, have briefed the site operatives on the toolbox talk and am satisfied with the competency of everyone on site to adhere to the working methodologies detailed within.					
Briefing delivered by:		Position:		Date:	
The undersigned have attended and understood the toolbox talk and will comply with the specified requirements.					
Name (PRINT):		Signature:		Date:	