ECOLOGICAL REASONABLE AVOIDANCE MEASURES (RAMS) METHOD STATEMENT

Development Site: Land at Amberley Drive, Wythenshawe, Manchester M23 2RW

Development: Construction of 8 residential dwellings and associated works.

Purpose

This Reasonable Avoidance Measures (RAM) Method Statement has been prepared in accordance with the recommendations contained within the Ecological Impact Assessment undertaken by Rachel Hacking Ecology (2025). The purpose of the RAMS is to ensure that amphibians, reptiles, badgers, hedgehogs and other small mammals are protected during site clearance, groundworks and construction activities.

The measures contained within this document shall be implemented prior to commencement of site clearance works and remain in place throughout the construction period.

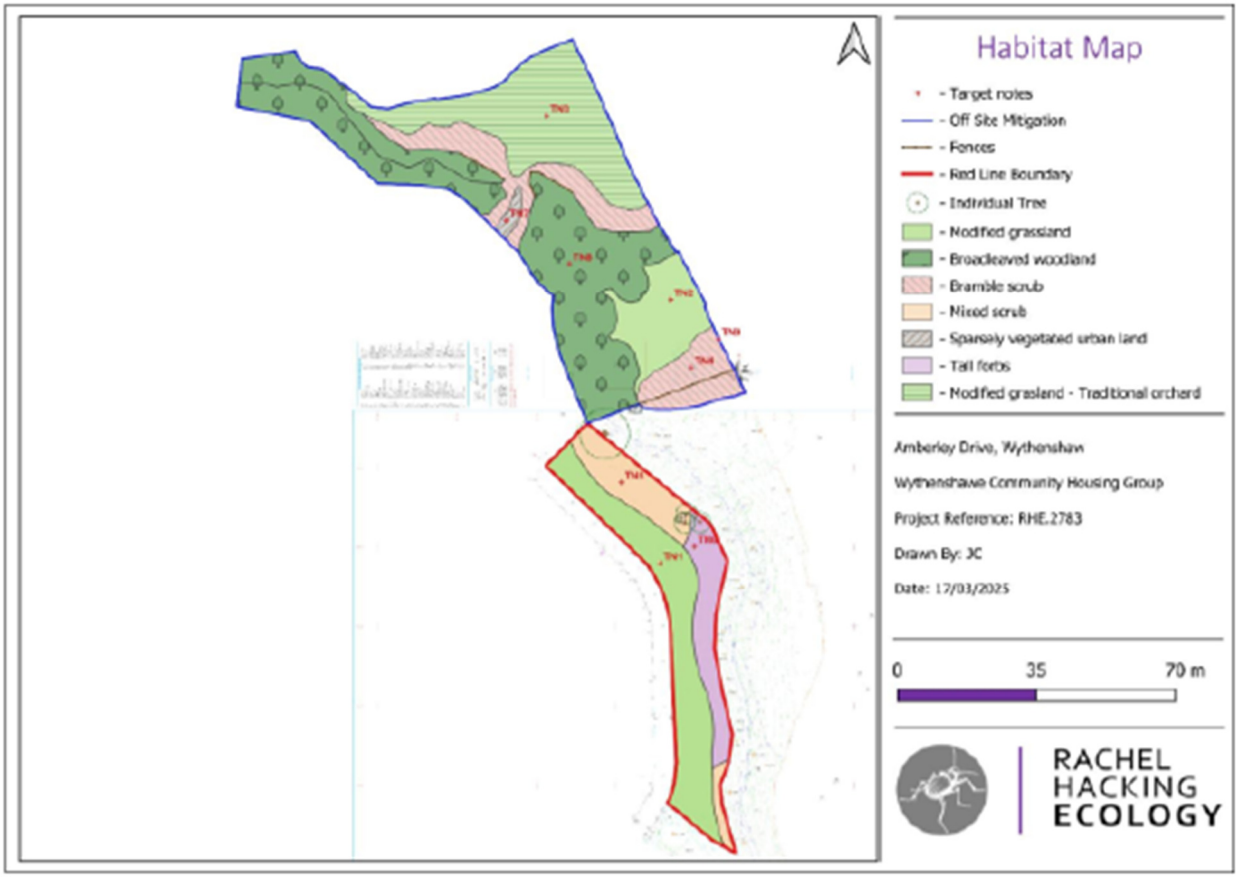
1. Ecological Background

The ecological assessment identified that:

- The site comprises modified grassland, scrub, woodland edge habitat and ruderal vegetation.
- No suitable breeding ponds exist within the site and the site is considered unlikely to support Great Crested Newts.
- Suitable
- habitat exists for amphibians.
- Suitable refuge habitat exists for common reptiles, albeit at low density.
- No evidence of badger activity was identified.
- Suitable foraging, commuting and shelter opportunities exist for hedgehogs and other small mammals.
- Woodland, scrub and deadwood habitats adjacent to the development area provide potential shelter opportunities for protected and notable species.



Figure 1. Map showing the location of the site



2. Responsibilities

Site Manager

The Principal Contractor Site Manager shall be responsible for:

- Ensuring compliance with this RAMS.
- Briefing all personnel during site induction.
- Maintaining records of ecological toolbox talks.
- Stopping works should protected species be encountered.

Ecologist

A suitably qualified ecologist shall:

- Provide a pre-commencement toolbox talk.
- Be available to advise on ecological matters.
- Supervise vegetation clearance where required.
- Attend site should protected species be discovered.

3. Site Induction and Toolbox Talks

Prior to commencement of vegetation clearance and earthworks:

- All site personnel shall receive an ecological induction.
- The induction shall include photographs and identification features of amphibians, reptiles, badgers and hedgehogs.
- Personnel shall be informed of their legal responsibilities under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 and Protection of Badgers Act 1992.
- A copy of this RAMS shall be available in the site office at all times

4. Vegetation Clearance Methodology

To reduce the risk of injury to amphibians, reptiles and small mammals:

Stage 1 - Vegetation shall initially be strimmed to a height of approximately 150mm.

Stage 2 Following a minimum 24-hour period, vegetation shall be reduced to approximately 50mm and then to ground level.

Direction of Clearance

Clearance shall proceed:

- From areas of lower ecological value towards adjacent retained habitats.
- At a slow and controlled pace.
- Under ecological supervision where deemed necessary.

This methodology allows any animals present to disperse naturally to surrounding habitats. The ecology report specifically recommends a two-stage vegetation clearance process.

5. Amphibian Protection Measures

Although Great Crested Newts are considered unlikely to be present, terrestrial habitat suitable for common amphibians exists adjacent to the development area

The following measures shall be implemented:

- Vegetation clearance shall follow the staged approach detailed above.
- Logs, rubble piles, timber stacks and other refugia shall be dismantled manually before removal.
- Any amphibian discovered shall be allowed to move away unharmed.
- If a significant number of amphibians are encountered, works shall cease and advice sought from the project ecologist. (Rachel Hacking Ecology)
- Materials shall not be stored directly on bare ground for prolonged periods.

6. Reptile Protection Measures

The ecological assessment identifies limited suitability for common reptiles.

Protection measures shall include:

- Two-stage vegetation clearance.
- Careful removal of debris piles by hand.
- No indiscriminate excavation through dense vegetation.
- Avoidance of unnecessary disturbance to retained habitat.
- Progressive clearance towards retained vegetation to allow reptiles to move safely away from working areas.
- Site operatives shall undertake a visual inspection of work areas prior to commencing works each day.

7. Badger Protection Measures

No evidence of badger activity was identified during the survey; however, badgers may occasionally forage within the local area

The following measures shall be implemented:

- Any new signs of badger activity shall be reported immediately.
- Should a sett be discovered, all works within 30m shall cease pending ecological advice.
- Open excavations shall be inspected each morning before work commences.
- Excavations deeper than 300mm left unattended overnight shall either:
  - Be securely covered; or
  - Incorporate a means of escape such as a timber plank with a gradient no steeper than 45 degrees.

These measures follow the recommendations contained within the Ecological Impact Assessment that formed part of the initial suite of planning documents.

8. Hedgehog and Other Mammal Protection Measures

Suitable habitat exists for hedgehogs and other small mammals.

The following actions shall be implemented:

- Vegetation clearance shall be undertaken progressively.
- Debris piles shall be searched carefully before removal.
- No bonfires shall be lit on site.
- Materials shall be stored on pallets where practicable.
- Open pipework exceeding 150mm diameter shall be capped overnight.
- Open excavations shall contain escape ramps.
- Excavations shall be checked daily before works recommence.

9. Storage of Materials

To avoid creating shelter opportunities:

- Construction materials shall not be stored directly on the ground where practicable.
- Timber, drainage pipes and pallets shall be stored in designated compounds.
- Waste materials shall be removed regularly.
- Vegetation arisings shall not be left in large, unmanaged piles.

The ecology report specifically identifies long-term debris and material storage as a risk to amphibians and reptiles.

10. Procedure if Protected Species Are Found

If any amphibian, reptile, badger, hedgehog or other protected species is discovered:

1. Stop work immediately in the affected area.
2. Establish a minimum 10m exclusion zone.
3. Notify the Site Manager.
4. Contact the project ecologist.
5. No works shall recommence until ecological advice has been received.

11. Lighting Controls

To minimise disturbance to wildlife:

- Temporary construction lighting shall be kept to the minimum necessary for health and safety.
- Lighting shall be directed away from woodland, scrub and retained vegetation.
- No unnecessary overnight lighting shall be used.
- Security lighting shall utilise directional fittings and motion sensors where practicable.

12. Monitoring and Compliance

The Site Manager shall:

- Ensure compliance through regular inspections.
- Record ecological briefings and inspections.
- Maintain records of any wildlife observations.
- Ensure corrective actions are implemented where necessary.

13. Conclusion

Subject to implementation of the measures detailed within this Reasonable Avoidance Measures Method Statement, the risk of injury or mortality to amphibians, reptiles, badgers, hedgehogs and other mammals during construction is considered to be low and ecological impacts will be appropriately avoided or minimised in accordance with the recommendations of the Ecological Impact Assessment