HEDGEHOG METHOD STATEMENT FOR WEST BOLDON SCHOOL

DATE:	10th November 2023
CLIENT:	GEORGE F WHITE
PROJECT NUMBER:	5303
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This statement must be copied to the site owner, designer, clerk of works, and to those contractors whose work may affect hedgehogs including those involved in all elements of the work detailed above. A signed copy should be kept at the site offices.

This method statement contains information regarding:

- **Species identification ecology**
- **Working methods.**

	Print Name	Signature	Date
Supervisor:			
Operative:			
Operative:			
Operative:			
Operative:			

We have read and fully understood this method statement and this has been explained to the site operatives:

Hedgehog
Hedgehog are widespread and can be found in both urban and rural locations. They are easily recognised, with their backs and sides covered in spines. They will nest under sheds, hedges, brushwood etc and hibernate between November and early March.

Working Methods
Standard working methods, to minimise the risk of harming or killing hedgehogs should include the following:

- Any areas of rocks, brick rubble, building material/foundation, mats, rubbish or fallen timber that have been present within the area to be cleared for over 3 months (including stored building materials during construction) are to be searched by hand before the start of works in that area. Clearance of such features should ideally be avoided during the winter months, to prevent disturbance to hibernating hedgehog, otherwise a suitable alternative hibernacula should be provided in an undisturbed area of the site, prior to clearance commencing. .
- Vegetation should be cleared progressively using hand tools to provide animals with an opportunity to move out of the area. Areas of tall grassland should be strimmed, and scrub cut down to ground level and removed.
- Any excavations/ trenches that are left overnight will include a ramp of 45^{o} or less on one face to allow hedgehogs and other wildlife to climb out should they fall into the excavation.
- Any netting will be stored appropriately, off the ground to prevent entanglement of hedgehog and other wildlife.
- No insecticides/herbicides in areas where hedgehog may be present will be used.

Sensitive Timing of Works
- Works should avoid removal of suitable hedgehog hibernacula during the winter months (Nov to March inclusive) to prevent disturbance to hibernating hedgehog. If this cannot be avoided then any areas of rocks, brick rubble, building material/foundation, mats, rubbish or fallen timber that have been present within the working area for over 3 months are to be searched by hand before the start of works. Otherwise, a suitable alternative hibernacula should be provided in an undisturbed area of the site, prior to clearance commencing.

If during development in the winter period (Nov to March inclusive) you find a hedgehog or at other times of year and the hedgehog is injured or weak.

- Prepare a cardboard box with high sides by lining it with a towel or scrunched up newspaper (so that the hedgehog can hide).
- Find yourself a pair of gardening gloves before gently scooping up the hedgehog into the box.
- Keep the box in a quiet, warm place: a hot water bottle filled with hot tap water wrapped in a towel can provide a gentle heat source – make sure it doesn't go cold!
- You can provide some fresh water and meaty cat or dog food, but don't try to feed the hedgehog directly.
- Contact the project ecologist or a local wildlife rescue centre. https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/found-a-hedgehog/

Between April and October inclusive move the hedgehog to an area with good scrub cover either on site and away from construction activities, or to a suitable nearby area off-site.

In case of queries, please contact the project ecologists E3 Ecology Ltd 01434 230982.