

Appendix 7.5

Dormouse Survey

Method

Dormouse nest tubes were installed at the site on 13 July 2016 by Michelle Bullock MCIEEM. The intention of these surveys is to determine the presence or likely absence of dormice within suitable habitat within all areas that will be impacted. A total of 100 dormouse nest tubes were distributed within woodland and along hedgerow within the Site. The locations of these nest tubes are shown on **Figure 7.6**.

Nest tubes are made from stiff, double-walled black plastic sheets or similar material, 25cm long with a 5cm x 5cm cross-section. A thin plywood tray is inserted into the tube with a short projection at one end and an end block at the other which seals the tube. The tubes are then tied in a suitable location along a horizontal branch in vegetation. Dormice are known to readily use these tubes to build their nests (English Nature, 2006)¹.

The tubes were checked monthly from July to November 2016 inclusive for the presence of dormice and/or their nests. The checks were led by Michelle Bullock MCIEEM (Natural England Class Survey Licence WML-CL10a – Registration number: 2016-20330-CLS-CLS) and were undertaken on 26 July, 22 August, 20 September 2016, 18 October and 18 November 2016. Bird droppings and other material such as wood mouse nests were cleaned out if found, to maintain the potential of each tube to be used by dormice.

In accordance with current guidance (English Nature, 2006), assumed absence of dormice from a site should not be based on a search effort score of less than 20 (see Table 7.6.1 below). Monthly visits were undertaken from July to November (2+5+7+2+2=18) with 100 tubes (double the standard number of tubes) which equates to a survey effort of 36 (18X2), well above the minimum survey effort required to determine assumed absence.

Table 7.6.1 Index of probability of finding dormice present in nest tubes in any one month (reproduced from English Nature)

Month	Index of probability
April	1
May	4
June	2
July	2
August	5
September	7
October	2
November	2

Limitations

There were no limitations to the dormouse survey at the Site.

Results

No evidence of dormouse was recorded at the Site.

¹ Natural England (2006). *The Dormouse Conservation Handbook*. 2nd edition. Natural England, Peterborough. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hazel-or-common-dormice-surveys-and-mitigation-for-development-projects>

Assessment

Dormice are considered likely absent from the Site. It is therefore concluded that the Site falls short of the threshold for local importance for this species.