



LINDSAY CARRINGTON
ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

HAZEL DORMOUSE NON-LICENCE METHOD
STATEMENT
BEREWOOD
WATERLOOVILLE
HAMPSHIRE
PO7 7PS

MAY 2018

ON BEHALF OF GRAINGER PLC

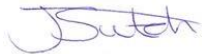


LINDSAY CARRINGTON ECOLOGICAL SERVICES

The Old Squash Court,
Rempstone Hall,
Rempstone,
Corfe Castle,
Wareham,
Dorset,
BH20 5JQ
www.ecological-services.co.uk

Telephone: 01929 477115
E-mail: louisa@ecological-services.co.uk

Authorisation

	Name	Date	Signature
Report prepared by:	Louisa Jones	02.05.18	
Report checked and authorised by:	Jenny Sutch	14.05.18	

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	4
1.0 INTRODUCTION	5
2.0 LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND.....	7
3.0 METHOD STATEMENT.....	8
4.0 REFERENCES	10
APPENDIX I: Plan showing proposed vegetation clearance	11

SUMMARY

1. Lindsay Carrington Ecological Services Limited were commissioned by Grainger Plc to produce a hazel dormice non-licence method statement in relation to infrastructure works for the proposed Waterloooville development project.
2. A low population of dormice is present in the woodland and hedgerows on the site. It is believed that the on-site population may be sustained by immigration from the larger off-site populations present in woodland west of the site. Previous works on the site were undertaken under licences with no dormice recorded. The infrastructure works on the site, including road construction, construction of a new school and landscaping work for the community park will involve clearance of dormice habitat.
3. Following meetings with John Stobart at Natural England it was determined that licencing for these works was not required and that a non-licence method statement was more appropriate due to the small scale of habitat loss. The dormice non-licence method statement presented in this report includes small scale vegetation clearance to be conducted under an ecological watching brief. In the unlikely event that dormice are encountered during the construction works Natural England will be consulted and a licence may be required.
4. This non-licence method statement will be submitted to the Local Planning Authority as part of the reserved matters applications due to be submitted in 2018.

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Lindsay Carrington Ecological Services Ltd have been commissioned by Grainger Plc to produce a non-licence method statement for infrastructure works at Berewood, Waterloooville, PO7 7PS (Grid Ref: SU 6691 0960).

SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESULTS

Previous works on the site have been carried out under EPSM licences (2018-33969-EPS-MIT, 2016-26970-EPS-MIT). Under these licences sections of hedgerows have been removed to enable green infrastructure works and whole hedgerows removed as part of phase 2 of the works to enhance the River Wallington. The phase 1 works along the River Wallington were carried out under a non-licence method statement. Low populations of dormice have been recorded on the site which is thought to link larger populations in woodlands adjacent to the site. A monitoring programme was established in 2018 with 75 nest boxes installed throughout the woodlands. This monitoring programme will be used to assess how the population on the site is reacting to the surrounding development.

During the works that have previously been carried out under licence no dormice were encountered or moved as part of the licence.

PROPOSED WORKS

The proposed works include the construction of a new school, new road networks across the site and the creation of a community park. These works are at the reserved matters application stage. Previous dormouse surveys across the site (Biodiversity by Design Ltd, 2010) have confirmed the presence of dormice. Previous works on the site have been conducted under a licence from Natural England, these works have included creating gaps in hedgerows and removal of large stretches of hedgerow. Other small scale clearance works have been conducted under non-licenced method statements.

The proposed works include expanding gaps in hedgerows which were previously created under a separate dormouse licence for the installation of the green infrastructure on the site (2016-26970-EPS-MIT). A section of newly planted and immature hedgerow will also be cleared to provide a new road access and this habitat is considered to provide low quality dormice habitat. An area of hawthorn scrub will be cleared in a central section of the site to facilitate the landscaping of the community park. This section of scrub is isolated from any other suitable dormice habitat and therefore dormice are considered unlikely to be present in this area.

A licence is not considered necessary due to the maintenance of connectivity across the site, the small area of habitat clearance required for these works and it is considered unlikely that dormice will be encountered during the works.

The proposed works are targeted and highly localised with the aim of maintaining current connectivity. The hedgerow habitat on site which is of greatest suitability for dormice will remain largely unaffected apart from the widening of some pre-existing gaps. The works will have no long term detrimental impacts on dormouse populations or habitat. The enhancement works which have been implemented for the previous dormice licences on the site will compensate for any loss of habitat and maintain the favourable conservation status of dormice across the site. Further enhancement works are planned across the site to increase the extent of dormouse habitat within the site. This method statement is designed to minimise the area of habitat affected at any one time and to minimise the risk of disturbing/injuring/killing dormice and thereby avoiding the potential committing of offences.

2.0 LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

Dormice are fully protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, as updated by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000. Dormice are also included on Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 as a European protected species. Taken together, these pieces of legislation make it an offence to:

- intentionally kill, injure or capture dormice;
- deliberately or recklessly disturb dormice (whether in a nest or not); and
- damage, destroy or obstruct dormouse breeding sites or resting places.

The dormouse is listed as being of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England, in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006.

An EPS licence can be granted in respect of development to permit activities that would otherwise be unlawful under European Legislation. However, Natural England's view is that:

*'If the consultant ecologist, on the basis of the survey information and specialist knowledge of the species concerned, considers that on balance the proposed activity is **reasonably unlikely** to result in an offence under regulation 39 or 49 then no licence is required'* (Natural England, 2012).

Where an EPS licence is considered not a necessity Natural England urges that 'reasonable precautions be taken to avoid affecting EPS during the works' (Natural England, 2012). Previous works on this development site have been successfully conducted under a non-licence method statement.

3.0 METHOD STATEMENT

A copy of this method statement will be kept on site and will be available at all times. All staff and sub-contractors involved in the proposed clearance works within the working area will be briefed on the aims and procedures outlined in this method statement.

Dormice are more active at night therefore all works should be undertaken within daylight hours. No vegetation clearance will be carried out between June and early September when adult dormice have dependent young. Clearance will be carried out in either of the following two ways depending on the time of year works take place (active season or inactive season)–

Active season (May or September/October)

- Clearance will be carried out in May or September/October when dormice are active and all young are independent. Clearance at this time of year can be carried out in a single stage clearance with all vegetation and stumps removed at the same time.
- Prior to clearance the area of vegetation will be inspected by a licenced ecologist to record any dormouse nests in the area.
- If no dormice are recorded then clearance will then take place with the use of hand strimmers in one direction towards the retained habitat.
- The noise of the machinery and contractors will cause any dormice in the area to move out of the working area.
- Any stumps in the area can then be removed.
- A completion statement will be produced following the works detailing the findings and actions taken during the clearance.

Inactive season (November to April)

- Clearance carried out between November and April will be carried out in a two stage clearance.
- Prior to clearance the area of vegetation will be inspected by a licenced ecologist to record any dormouse nests in the area.
- Clearance of above ground vegetation will be carried out with hand tools with vegetation cleared to no lower than 10cm from the ground. The stumps will remain in place over the winter to avoid the risk of encountering any hibernating dormice.
- No sections larger than 50 metre ² will be cleared in this manner to ensure that any dormice emerging from hibernation are not isolated from suitable habitat.

- The stumps can then be removed in May once dormice are active. The stump will be inspected by a licenced ecologist prior to removal.
- A completion statement will be produced following the works detailing the findings and actions taken during the clearance.

If dormice are encountered, then the works will cease immediately and Natural England will be contacted for further advice and this may result in a European Protected Species licence application being obtained.

This method statement is considered sufficient for the removal of small areas of dormice habitat or isolated areas and the widening of any pre-existing gaps. The mitigation which has been incorporated into the design of the development compensates for any loss of dormice habitat and ensures the favourable conservation status of dormice is maintained. A monitoring strategy for the dormice across the site has been implemented and will provide information on the success of the mitigation which has been carried out to date.

4.0 REFERENCES

Biodiversity by Design Ltd. (2010) *Newlands Environmental Statement: Appendix 9 Biodiversity*.

Bright, P., Morris, P. and Mitchell-Jones, T. (2006) *The Dormouse Conservation Handbook*, English Nature.

Natural England (2012) *European Protected Species: Mitigation Licensing - How to get a licence WML-G12*.

