

LAND AND PARTNERS

DORMOUSE SURVEYS

LAND NORTH OF LONG COPSE LANE

EMSWORTH, HAMPSHIRE

0019.0010

REV 0

South and South East



0330 2233 806



southeast@primeenvironment.co.uk

Midlands and North



0330 2233 825



central@primeenvironment.co.uk

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1 Introduction

In 2016, Prime Environment Limited (Prime Environment) was instructed by Land and Partners (the Client) to undertake dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* surveys of an area of land north of Long Copse Lane, Emsworth (Ordnance Survey (OS) grid Reference SU 747 079) (The Study Area).

This comprises horse paddocks, ménage, spoil heaps, small woodland copses and a residential property with a garden.

1.1 Aims and Objectives

The aims of the study were to:

- Establish the presence or likely absence of dormice within the Study Area

Ecological information for the assessment was provided by a dormouse survey.

Information regarding the habitats present within the Study Area, an assessment of the impacts of development and mitigation measures are provided in a separate Ecological Impact Assessment (EclA).

3 Method

The survey followed current best practice guidelines¹ and were led by Chris Morrell BSc (hons). Chris has over nine years' professional ecology experience and is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). Chris was assisted by two dormouse licence holders, Gemma Mantle (licence number 2016-22423-CLS-CLS) and Jim Mulholland (licence number 2016-20827-CLS-CLS).

This report was finalised and approved by Hayley Farnell MSc BSc hons. Hayley is a full member of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management and has over 12 year's professional experience in environmental consultancy.

3.1 Dormouse Surveys

One hundred nest tubes (a tube made from stiff double walled plastic 5x5 cm in cross section and 25 cm long with a plywood tray at the bottom) were attached to horizontal branches of trees within the woodland and hedgerows around the Study Area. Tubes were spaced approximately 15 to 20 meters apart. The transect lines of tube locations are shown in Plate 1. Numbers on the figure represent the tube reference numbers at either end of the transects.

Plate 1 – Dormouse Tube Locations



¹ English Nature (2006) *The Dormouse Conservation Handbook second edition*

An index of probability of likely presence of dormice in each month is presented in The Dormouse Conservation Handbook (recreated in Table 3 below). Using the table, a score is generated based on the number of tubes used and which months they are set out. The scores should be doubled for 100 tubes and halved for 25. The score generated needs to be over 20 for the survey to be considered robust enough to judge presence or likely absence of dormice from the study area. Using more tubes in a higher scoring month will be counted as invalid as the survey should be spread across the survey period as much as practicably possible.

Table 1 - Index of Probability

Month	Score	Score where 100 tubes or more are used
April	1	2
May	4	8
June	2	4
July	2	4
August	5	10
September	7	14
October	2	4
November	2	4

Tubes were checked for presence of dormice or evidence of dormice nests once a month between June and September 2016. In accordance with Table 3 this is an Index of Probability of 32.

3.2 Constraints

Any ecology assessment must be considered as a 'snapshot' of the Site conditions at the time of the survey; ecological constraints will change over time and therefore the findings of this report are considered to be valid for a period of one year from the survey, after which the survey should be repeated to ensure the baseline conditions have not changed.

4 Results

An unoccupied, complete, dormouse nest was found in Tube 51 and an unoccupied, partially completed dormouse nest was found in Tube 53 on the 21st September 2016. Both of these tubes were located in the trees bordering the field in the south west corner of the Study Area.

Dormouse nest surveys can not provide an indication of population density. The survey has confirmed that there is a population of dormouse within the Study Area and it should be assumed that they could be encountered within any suitable habitat.

Prime Environment

Registered Office:

6 Bridge Street

Belper

Derbyshire

DE56 1AX

Company Number: 08407111

For the South and South East

southeast@primeenvironment.co.uk

Tel: 0330 2233806

For the Midlands and North

central@primeenvironment.co.uk

Tel: 0330 2233825

