

Technical Note

Project:	Phase 4 road/Southern Access junction	Date:	20 th January 2026
Subject:	Dormouse mitigation	Reference:	BWD200126JP

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1. This note has been prepared to provide Winchester City Council and Havant Borough Council with details of the location of the dormouse mitigation planting that will be provided as part of the Phase 4 and Southern Access Junction (SAJ) road schemes at Berewood.
- 1.2. The planting is linked to dormouse licence applications that are required to allow vegetation clearance and for which a live licence already exists for the SAJ scheme. The submitted scheme details changes to the approved scheme; a modification to the existing licence will be needed to enable additional vegetation clearance to be undertaken.
- 1.3. An application for a dormouse licence covering the Phase 4 road scheme will be submitted once the relevant ecological conditions have been discharged. The licence will allow the vegetation clearance detailed in the Phase 4 application to be undertaken. It is currently expected that the vegetation clearance will be undertaken in May 2026.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Tristan Norton, Principal Ecologist for Havant Borough Council provided comments on the Southern Access Junction application (APP/25/00679) in November 2025. The response included a request for a plan showing the location of the mitigation planting linked to the SAJ scheme and details of the species mix and number of trees to be provided.
- 2.2 Nick Cutler, Ecologist and Biodiversity Officer for Winchester City Council provided comments on the SAJ and Phase 4 applications (25/01765/DIC) in December 2025. The response included a request to clarify the location of the Phase 4 mitigation planting and full details of the location of the mitigation planting set out in the Southern Access Junction dormouse licence.
- 2.3 Following receipt of the comments from Nick Cutler a site visit was arranged to review both the SAJ and Phase 4 road schemes and the locations of the dormouse mitigation planting to be included in the dormouse licences. This meeting also highlighted that additional tree and shrub planting is planned for the area around the Southern Access Junction but the extent and location of the planting cannot be determined at this stage until the road safety audit has been completed. It was agreed that this additional information will be submitted as part of the discharge of conditions for landscaping.

3.0 Southern Access Junction mitigation planting

- 3.1. The Figure 1 shows the location of the mitigation planting required under the current Southern Access Junction dormouse licence. This planting is located on the western side of Plant Row and comprises a 5 metre-wide strip of native shrub and tree planting.
- 3.2. The planting for the dormouse mitigation planting along the edge of Plant Row comprises a mix of hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, holly, dogwood, honeysuckle, crab apple and yew. The planting will also include new trees comprising pedunculate oak, beech, hornbeam, field maple, sweet chestnut and cherry.
- 3.3. The updated SAJ scheme requires additional vegetation removal. Mitigation planting for this loss has already been established. As shown on Figure 1 the planting is located on the northern edge of Alsfordmoor Coppice. Once fully established the planting will increase the extent of dormouse habitat adjacent to the existing woodland and also links back to Phase 4/SAJ via established woodland and extant dormouse mitigation planting.
- 3.4. The planting comprises hazel, hawthorn, honeysuckle, crab apple, damson, blackthorn and wayfaring tree. Tree planting comprises alder, downy birch, cherry, pedunculate oak and wild service tree.
- 3.5. The completed planting will be included in the request to modify the existing SAJ dormouse licence. A photo of the completed planting is provided below.



Photo 1: Newly planted native shrubs and trees on north side of Alsfordmoor Coppice.

- 3.6. Further planting will be undertaken along the western side of Plant Row to fulfil the obligations of the Safe Route to School dormouse licence. The same

planting mix will be used as described above and this planting will be contiguous with the SAJ mitigation planting. The area to be planted is shown on Photo 2.



Photo 2: Location of planting for SAJ licence modification.

4.0 Phase 4 mitigation planting

- 4.1. The Phase 4 mitigation planting will primarily be located in a 15 metre wide strip of grassland south of the ancient woodland known as Marrelsmoor Row. The planting will be contiguous with previously established mitigation planting to the west that provides arboreal connectivity for dormice to Alsfordmoor Coppice (see section 3). The location of the planting south of Marrelsmoor Row is shown in Photo 3 and Figure 1.



Photo 3: Location of planting for the Phase 4 licence.

- 4.2. The area south of Marrelsmoor Coppice will be planted with a mix of hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn, holly, dogwood, honeysuckle, crab apple and yew. The planting will also include new trees comprising pedunculate oak, beech, hornbeam, field maple, sweet chestnut and cherry.
- 4.3. A small area of established hazel is also included in the Phase 4 dormouse licence. The planting was undertaken several years ago to bolster dormouse habitat around the Alsfordmoor Coppice and Marrelsmoor Row. A photo of the established planting is provided below.



Photo 4: Established hazel planting to be included in Phase 4 licence.

5.0 Conclusion

- 5.1. The technical note provides the additional information requested by both Havant and Winchester ecologists to clarify the location of the dormouse mitigation planting and the composition of the planting.
- 5.2. Some of the mitigation planting associated with the SAJ and Phase 4 projects is already planted, the remaining areas will be planted over the winter of 2025/26. Proposals for further tree and shrub planting and on-going woodland management for land around the SAJ will be submitted in due course to enable the landscape condition to be discharged. This planting will provide additional habitat for dormice, in addition to the planting delivered through the dormouse licences.
- 5.3. Figure 1 shows the location of the mitigation planting and its relationship to existing woodland and other areas of mitigation planting.

Figure 1: Location of SAJ and Phase 4 mitigation planting

