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9th December, 2021



Dormouse Nest Tube Survey Note, Land North of Crown Road, Marnhull

Background

This ecology note has been provided to address concerns raised by the Dorset Natural Environment Team (DNET) relating the absence of Dormouse surveys to support the application. This document has therefore been prepared following a nest tube survey undertaken by Ecosupport staff during the 2021 active season.

Site Description and Location

The site comprises parcels of grassland (used as pasture) with bounding hedgerows and small area of secondary broadleaf woodland located to the north of Crown Road, Marnhull, Dorset, DT10 1LN (centred on grid reference ST 78603 19026). The north of the site is bounded by Sodom Lane, the east by Tanzey Lane and the west by the residential dwellings associated with the village of Marnhull.

Figure 1. Redline location plan of the site.



Methods

As alluded to in the introduction, the absence of any Dormouse survey work (KP Ecology, Rev 2020) was raised as a concern by DNET and to address this, a nest tube survey was undertaken to determine their presence or likely absence. Methodological guidance for Dormouse surveys is provided in the *Dormouse Conservation Handbook* (Bright *et al* 2006) which recommends that a minimum of 50 tubes are used per site, at a spacing of 20m with the approximate location of each of the tubes set out on site provided in **Fig 2** below. The *Dormouse Conservation Handbook* uses an “Index of Probability” to assess the likelihood of a survey detecting dormice. This assigns a score for each month which nest tubes are on a site (see **Table 1**) and recommends that a total of 20 points is necessary. For this site, the tubes were set out in May 2021 and checked through until October 2021. The checks were carried out by Ashley James (with assistance from other Ecosupport ecologists) who holds a Dormouse survey licence (2018-35528-CLS-CLS).

Table 1 Index of probability of finding dormice present in nest tubes in any one month. From the Dormouse conservation handbook (Bright et al 2006).

Month	Points	Month	Points
April	1	August	5
May	4	September	7
June	2	October	2
July	2	November	2

Figure 2. Google earth image of the site with the areas covered by the Dormouse nest tube survey on site indicated by the yellow dashed lines.



Survey Results

The results of the nest tube checks to date are outlined within **Table 2** below with no Dormice noted throughout the survey period.

Table 2. Results of the Dormouse nest tube checks , (May, June, July, August, September and October).

Check No	Date of Check	Evidence Recorded (Inc. tube No)	Location
1	19 th May 2021	Nil	-
2	15 th June 2021	Nil	-
3	14 th July 2021	Nil	-
4	17 th August 2021	Nil	-
5	10 th September 2021	Nil	-
6	5 th October 2021	Woodmouse nest	Tube on sites northern boundary

Evaluation

Based on the absence of any Dormice within the nest tubes set out on site (with no limitations posed on the results of the survey), it is considered that Dormice are likely absent from the site and no further works in respect of this species are necessary.

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