

Site:	Dappers Lane, Angmering
Client:	Persimmon Homes Thames Valley
Job Number:	A085519-7
Report Type(s):	Dormouse Mitigation Strategy
Date:	29/06/20

1.0 Introduction

WYG was commissioned by Persimmon Homes Thames Valley on 28th May 2020 to compile a Dormouse Mitigation Strategy for proposed residential development at Dappers Lane, Angmering (the 'site').

This strategy has been prepared by WYG Project Ecologist Marc Anderton MSc, BSc and WYG Associate Ecologist Vivienne Greenough CEcol MCIEEM. Vivienne holds a Class 1 Natural England dormouse licence (2018-35883-CLS-CLS).

2.0 Site Location and Background Information

The site is located west of Dapper's Lane, north of Angmering in West Sussex, Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference TQ 07189 05174 (see Figure 1).

WYG have undertaken a number of surveys on site since 2016, those of relevance to dormouse include:

- Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) (WYG, 2016);
- Update Ecological Walkover Survey (WYG, 2018) and;
- Dormouse Survey Report (WYG, 2019).

These surveys identified suitable habitat contained within the site to support dormouse populations. Furthermore, two records of dormouse were returned during the 2km data search (carried out as part of the 2016 PEA). The dormouse presence / absence surveys confirmed dormouse as present within the site, with dormouse nests and individuals recorded within the hedgerow and dense scrub habitats along the northern and western site boundaries (see Figure 2).

3.0 Development Proposals

The development proposals include residential redevelopment of 84 new dwellings with associated landscaping, access and public amenity space. The main access route will come from Dapper's Lane along the eastern site boundary, this will sever the existing hedgerow with some habitat clearance required for the associated visibility splay (approx. 46sqm of vegetation removal). In addition, two pedestrian access points to the existing footpath along the western boundary of the site will be created from the site and this will require removal of the existing hedgerow (approx. 25sqm of vegetation removal).



The planning application has been submitted (Arun District Council: ref A/76/20/PL), but is yet to be determined, as such planning conditions have yet to be finalised. However a consultation response from the Chichester District Council Environment Officer detailed the below¹:

As detailed within the Dormouse Survey report (Feb 2019) dormouse have been found to be nesting and foraging within the hedgerows onsite. Due to this mitigation is required along with a Protected Species License from Natural England. Unfortunately very little information has been provided relating to this mitigation. We require that prior to determination a mitigation strategy is submitted detailing the timings of the works, retention of areas, methodology of the works, enhancements and post development monitoring and safeguarding.

This report details the dormouse mitigation strategy for the site and will address the Environment Officers (Liz Annalls) comments. **NOTE: the contents of this mitigation strategy are subject to approval by Natural England (the statutory licensing body who will issue the dormouse licence for the site). As such, the mitigation detailed within this report may change in the future (however, it is anticipated that any changes would be minor).**

4.0 Dormouse Mitigation and Enhancement

The site mostly comprises grassland (grazed by horses) which is unsuitable dormouse habitats. However, dormouse have been recorded utilising the western and northern site boundaries which contain hedgerow and woodland habitat. No dormouse have been found along the southern and eastern site boundaries and this is not unexpected as this habitat is less suitable (being fragmented and not as dense in nature). Nonetheless, it can be assumed that dormouse could commute across these habitats in the east and south (but are unlikely to nest within them). See Figure 2 for dormouse survey results.

4.1 Dormouse Mitigation Buffer

As detailed within the Landscape Plan compiled by WYG (drawing reference: A109012 LA100-106[A]), a buffer will be retained within the proposals along the western hedgerow boundary and northern woodland boundary (See Figure 3 for location). Planting enhancements within this buffer will include fruit and nut bearing species, considered suitable for dormice including common dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*, hazel *Corylus avellana*, hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*, holly *Ilex aquifolium*, blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, dog rose *Rosa canina*, elder *Sambucus nigra* and guelder rose *Viburnum opulus*. These species will also be used to fill in existing hedgerow gaps (which aren't being used for footpaths and access roads) in the western and eastern hedgerows. The buffer varies in width, the northern buffer ranges from 1.2m to 8.5m in width and the western buffer has an average width of 4.8m. At the north west corner, the buffer width is 15m. In places where the buffer is narrowest, dense, spikey vegetation will be planted such as holly, rose and the other species listed above (see Landscape Plan A109012 LA100-106[A]). The buffer will provide suitable dormouse habitat whilst also helping to minimise disturbance to dormouse from the new residential development. In addition, the planting within the buffer will also act as enhancements for dormouse increasing the species mix diversity and habitat extent from what is currently present. Furthermore, the gardens within the final

¹ Annalls, L., annalls@chichester.gov.uk, 2020. RE: Planning Consultation on: A/76/20/PL [Email] Message to planning responses; Planning responses @arun.gov.uk Sent 27 May 2020 11:09.



proposals do not back on to the buffer which will help avoid use of the buffer for garden waste associated with residents.

4.2 Dormouse Boxes

As dormouse are known to be breeding in the area (juvenile dormouse recorded during the survey), a total of 25 dormouse boxes will be installed within the woodland to the north of the site (see Figure 3 for location). The boxes will be installed prior to any works commencing and will provide additional nesting habitat to help maintain 'favourable conservation status' of the local dormouse population and also provide juveniles with a safe place of shelter. The installation of boxes within this woodland (approx. 1.4ha) has been agreed with the current landowner.

The woodland is 1.8ha in area and includes optimal dormouse habitat comprising oak *Quercus* sp. woodland with a birch *Betula pendula*, hazel, bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. and holly *Ilex aquifolium* understorey, some honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* is also present. Liaison with other land owners of adjacent woodland is on-going, as such, more woodland is highly likely to be available (particularly to the west) to deploy boxes.

4.3 Vegetation Clearance

Within the site proposals, the majority of suitable dormouse habitat will be retained. However, approx. 25sqm of optimal dormouse habitat will be removed within the western hedgerow boundary. This removal will be undertaken to facilitate two pedestrian path links (both approx. 2-m wide), providing access from the site to the adjacent public footpath. In addition, there will be approximately 75sqm of sub-optimal dormouse habitat removed within the eastern hedgerow boundary for the main access road. See Figure 3 for locations of vegetation removal. All vegetation removal (for both optimal and sub-optimal dormouse habitat) will be undertaken **under a site specific NE EPS Licence including sensitive working methods as detailed below:**

Clearance undertaken in accordance with a two-stage approach:

- ✧ 1st Stage – vegetation clearance to 300mm above ground will be undertaken in the autumn/winter period, from September to February (during the period when dormouse are hibernating). This period will also avoid the nesting bird season.
- ✧ 2nd Stage – vegetation clearance below 300mm will be undertaken during the dormouse active season (April – November).
- ✧ All clearance will be under the supervision of a Natural England dormouse licenced ecologist.

It is likely that bramble *Rubus fruticosus* agg. will have encroached onto the site by the time the habitat clearance is carried out (although it is of note that the site is currently horse grazed and will continue to be grazed until construction works commence). As bramble is also suitable to support dormouse, clearance of this habitat will also be carried out according to the timings above.

4.4 Post Development Monitoring

The requirement for post- development monitoring will be agreed as part of the Natural England Licence, however it is likely monitoring will comprise a total of two years monitoring of installed boxes (with a check in April and September). Monitoring years will comprise Year 2 and Year 4 after construction. Monitoring will be undertaken by a licensed dormouse ecologist.

5.0 Summary

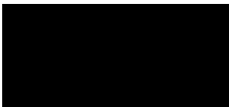
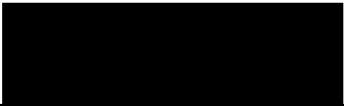
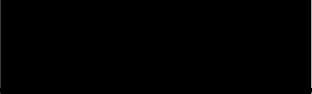
The Mitigation and Enhancement measures to be undertaken on site will include the following:

- Implementation of buffer;
- Installation of dormouse boxes and;
- Precautionary vegetation clearance.

The contents of this mitigation strategy are subject to approval by Natural England (the statutory licensing body who will issue the dormouse licence for the site). As such, the mitigation detailed within this report may change in the future.

5.1 References

- WYG, (2016), *Dapper's Lane, Angmering, West Sussex*: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.
- WYG, (2018), *Dapper's Lane, Angmering, West Sussex*: Update Ecology Walkover Survey.
- WYG, (2019), *Dapper's Lane, Angmering, West Sussex*: Dormouse Survey.

Quality Control		
Version:	29/06/2020	FINAL
Prepared by:		Marc Anderton MSc, BSc Project Ecologist
Reviewed By:		Vivienne Greenough CEcol MCIEEM Associate Ecologist
Verified by:		Chris Meddins MCIEEM Associate Director

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6.0 References

- WYG, (2016), *Dapper's Lane, Angmering, West Sussex*: Preliminary Ecological Appraisal.
- WYG, (2018), *Dapper's Lane, Angmering, West Sussex*: Update Ecology Walkover Survey.
- WYG, (2019), *Dapper's Lane, Angmering, West Sussex*: Dormouse Survey Report.



Rev	Date	Notes
A	23/06/20	Initial map production

Legend

 Site boundary

0 50 100 200 Metres



Site Location Plan

Dappers Lane, Angmering Persimmon Homes

Scale at A3: 1:5,000	Project No: A085519-7	Drawing No: Figure 1	Revision: A
Drawn by: Maddie Errington	Drawn date: 23/06/2020	Approved by: Marc Anderton	

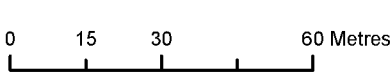
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Rev	Date	Notes
A	26/06/20	Initial map production

Legend

- Site boundary
- Dormouse
- Dormouse nest



Dormouse Distribution

Dappers Lane, Angmering
Persimmon Homes

Scale at A3: 1:1,500	Project No: A085519-7	Drawing No: Figure 2	Revision: A
Drawn by: Maddie Errington	Drawn date: 26/06/2020	Approved by: Marc Anderton	

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Rev	Date	Notes
A	29/06/20	Initial map production

Legend

- Site boundary
- Dormouse mitigation buffer
- Monitoring dormouse box location
- Vegetation clearance for foot path links
- Vegetation clearance for main road access

0 15 30 60 Metres



Mitigation and Enhancement Plan

Dappers Lane, Angmering
Persimmon Homes

Scale at A3: 1:1,500	Project No: A085519-7	Drawing No: Figure 3	Revision: A
Drawn by: Maddie Errington	Drawn date: 29/06/2020	Approved by: Marc Anderton	

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