

Report by: KJF Consultancy Ltd

Title: Findings and Conclusion of Hazel dormouse Survey -
Land adj Shripney Road (A29),
Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO22 9NP

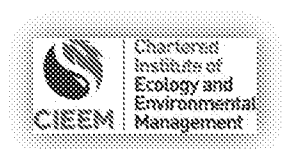
Client: Hanbury Properties Ltd



Membership No. 1494354



Registration No. 4482



Membership No. 6484

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Date produced: 13.11.19 Version: 1
Valid until: Not applicable
Ecologist: Karl Forkasiewicz MCIOB CEnv ACIEM

Authors signature:

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Report checked by: Jan Forkasiewicz BA (Hons)

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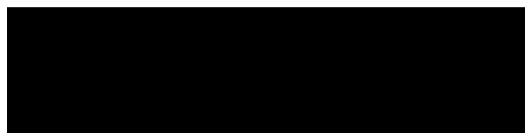


Table of contents:

1.	Summary	Page 1
2.	Methodology and findings	Page 1
3.	Limitations	Page 1
4.	Information received	Page 1
5.	Conclusion	Page 2
6.	Recommendations	Page 2

References

Appendix 1. Author's credentials.

1. Summary

Page 1 of 2

- 1.1 This report follows the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the site (Land adj Shripney Road (A29), Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO22 9NP) that was carried out 28.09.18, and report produced 08.10.18 (report ref: PEA.LASR.BR.WS).
- 1.2 Relevant information contained within the PEA report may be reiterated within this report; however, the PEA report may need to be referred to while reading this report.
- 1.3 Within the PEA report, it was recommended to inspect mature Hazel that is present within the hedges that are growing along the site boundaries - for evidence of Hazel dormouse activity. KJF Consultancy Ltd was instructed by the client to:-
- (a) Inspect the hedges for evidence of Hazel dormouse activity; and
 - (b) Provide a report to advise the client of the findings and conclusion.
- 1.4 The hedges were inspected by Christine Mills (Field Assistant) on 09.11.19, and in accordance with Natural England's Standing Advice regarding carrying out Hazel dormouse surveys. Christine has carried out a number of Hazel dormouse surveys and is working towards obtaining a Hazel dormouse survey licence (Level 1 CL10a).
- 1.5 Christine's findings are below.

2. Methodology and findings

- 2.1 I carried out the inspection of the hedges when Dormice would be hibernating. I inspected all the hedges by hand by making small holes every few steps, which enabled me to carefully search for dormice nests/hibernating dormice, and for any 'gnawed Hazel nuts' left by Dormice. Hazel was searched for nests between branches, around the coppiced stools, and around roots.
- 2.1.1 No Dormice nests/hibernating Dormice were found.
- 2.1.2 More than 100 'gnawed Hazel nuts' were collected and inspected; none displayed the typical smooth round hole left by Dormice - all the 'gnawed Hazel nuts' inspected were those typically left by Wood mice/Yellow-necked mice.

3. Limitations

- 3.1 Some small sections of the hedges consist of very dense Bramble, which were very difficult for Christine to inspect.

4. Information received

- 4.1 I was provided with a preliminary illustrative layout plan^[1] by email.
- 4.2 My conclusion is given at 5; my recommendations are given at 6. Details of my credentials are attached at appendix 1.

[1] Preliminary illustrative layout plan 13.08.19, Job No. 1948, Drawing No. DLA.1948.L06. Rev. S06.

5. Conclusion

Page 2 of 2

5.1 A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the site (Land adj Shripney Road (A29), Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO22 9NP) was carried out 28.09.18. A report was produced 08.10.18 (report ref: PEA.LASR.BR.WS). Within the report, it was recommended to inspect mature Hazel that is present within the hedges growing along the site boundaries - for evidence of Hazel dormouse activity.

5.1.1 Dormice are European Protected Species; it is an offence to:-

- Deliberately capture, injure or kill Dormice;
- Damage or destroy a Dormouse resting place or breeding site;
- Deliberately or recklessly disturb a Dormouse while it's in a structure or place of shelter or protection;
- Block access to structures or places of shelter or protection;
- Possess, sell, control or transport live or dead Dormice, or parts of a Dormouse.

5.2 The hedges were inspected 09.11.19 for evidence of Dormouse activity; no Dormice nests/hibernating Dormice were found. More than 100 'gnawed Hazel nuts' were inspected; none were left by Dormice.

5.3 In my opinion, no further surveys are required as reasonable survey effort has been made to establish the presence/absence of a Hazel dormouse habitat within the site - within the hedges growing along the site boundaries.

5.4 In addition to there being no evidence of a Dormouse habitat or Dormouse activity, a preliminary illustrative layout plan has been produced that shows none of the hedges are proposed to be removed. However, given the mobile nature of Dormice, the hedges could be used by Dormice in the future. Therefore, if planning permission is granted, mitigation measures will need to be implemented to ensure the hedges are retained and protected.

6. Recommendations

1. This report should be submitted to the LPA as supporting information for the proposed development.
2. If planning permission is granted, a condition should be attached to the decision notice requiring the submission of a Mitigation Method Statement to ensure the hedges will be retained and protected prior to any works on site and until completion.

References

CIEEM (2013) Technical Guidance Series. Competencies for Species Survey: Hazel Dormouse.

Natural England's standing advice to review applications that might affect protected species (www.gov.uk/guidance/protected-species-how-to-review-planning-applications).

Professional affiliations

Professional Member of The Chartered Institute of Building (MCIOB); Chartered Environmentalist (CEnv); Professional Member of The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (ACIEEM); Registered with Natural England and Licenced (Level 2 Bat Survey Class Licence) to disturb and handle Bats.

Relevant experience

9 years' experience as a Local Authority Woodland Conservation Officer; an independent Ecological Consultant since 2011.

Insurance details

Details of Insurance, and Continual Professional Development for the last 2 years,' can be provided on request. If requested, some of the details within the information may be redacted to comply with the Data Protection Act.