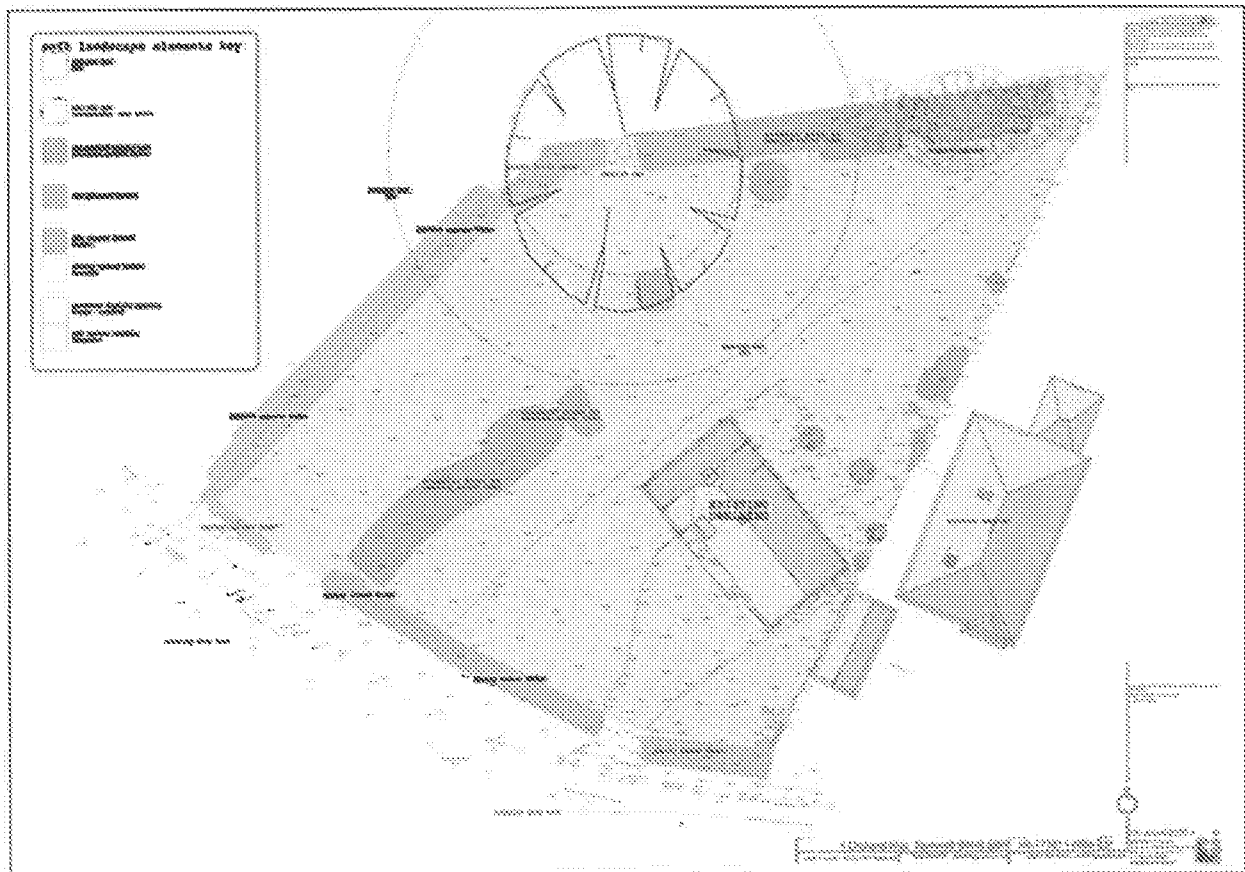




Unit 4 Langham Stables, Langham Lane, Lodsworth, West Sussex, GU28 9BU

I am writing to confirm that a fingertip search for evidence of dormice and a nesting bird check was successfully carried out at 1 Orchard way, Fontwell on the 19th and 20th of February 2020 with no dormouse nests or active bird nests identified. This was to allow for the removal of a Leyland cypress hedge *Cupressus x leylandii* west of the site and ornamental shrubs central to the site, as well as pruning of an English oak tree *Quercus robur* (see Figure 1).



Site Context & Background Information

The land at 1 Orchard Way is situated within a semi-rural setting with woodland blocks in the surrounding landscape. Habitats on site are sub-optimal for dormice due to their non-native composition. However, the dense structure and connectivity to other suitable habitats, its proximity to known dormouse populations at Slindon Woods National Trust and the presence of two dormouse records 440m south-east of the site has

meant that presence of this species could not be completely ruled out. The site is centred on national grid reference SU95360719.

Methods

A fingertip search was undertaken on the 19th and 20th of February 2020 by Sophie Bradfield BSc.

The fingertip search involved looking through branches of the Leyland cypress and the ornamental shrubs for woven dormouse nests or bird nests, checking the leaf litter at the base of trees and shrubs for ground nests and overseeing vegetation removal.

The English oak was visually checked for bird nests using binoculars. Any bird nests were assessed for activity such as presence of eggs and birds returning to the nest.

Results & Assessment

No dormouse nests were found and all bird nests were old and inactive. Resultingly, clearance was allowed to proceed.

I trust that this information is sufficient for your records. Should you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact The Ecology Co-op.

Yours sincerely,

Sophie Bradfield BSc

