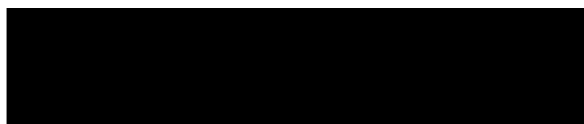


REPORTS 4 PLANNING

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SUPPLEMENTARY HAZEL DORMOUSE SURVEY

LANES END
WEST WALBURTON LANE
FONTWELL

INTERIM REPORT

Consultant;
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Ecological Surveyor

Survey Dates: 9th July to 12th August 2020
Report Date: 24th August 2020



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1.0 BACKGROUND AND SITE DESCRIPTION

This survey relates to the proposed demolition of the existing dwelling (and associated outbuildings) at Lanes End, West Walburton Lane and its replacement with 6 new dwellings (and associated detached garages).

The proposals have the benefit of the following outline planning consent: WA/26/18/OUT.

The following application has been submitted for the discharge of planning conditions relating to the above: WA/7/19/RES.

Application WA/7/19/RES was supported by the following ecological survey report:

ESL (2020) Preliminary Ecological Appraisal. Lanes End, West Walburton Lane, Walburton BN18 0GS. GR: SU 95734 06875. January 2020

ESL (2020) noted the presence on site of habitat (scrub/shrubbery) potentially suitable for use by Hazel dormice and hence recommended the carrying out of further survey to more adequately establish any such use or lack thereof.

2.0 SURVEY METHOD

Reference was made to the following current advice by Natural England:

Natural England (2015) Hazel or common dormice: surveys and mitigation for development projects (see: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hazel-or-common-dormice-surveys-and-mitigation-for-development-projects>).

On the 9th July 2020 a total of 65 dormouse nest tubes were installed in appropriate locations in scrub, shrubbery and trees, dispersed around the site.

The nest tubes were checked for any sign of use by dormice (namely the presence of dormouse nests) on the 28th July 2020 and again on the 12th August 2020.

3.0 RESULTS

No evidence was found for any use of any of the nest tubes by dormice (or any other rodent).

4.0 INTERPRETATION AND RECOMENDATION

Natural England (2015) provide guidance on the level of nest tube survey normally considered adequate to determine use of a site by Hazel dormouse. The acceptable level ('cumulative index of probability') of survey depends on the number of nest tubes deployed, the duration of deployment and the months over which the tubes are in place (some months carrying greater weight than others). Notwithstanding the above Natural England advise against simply flooding a site with nest tubes for a short period of time to boost the cumulative index ie there should be a reasonable balance between number of tubes deployed and length of deployment.

The following table summarises the level of survey to date and predicted into the future should survey continue. Natural England (2015) suggest that a cumulative index of probability of 21 needs to be achieved.

Month	Index of probability (per 50 nest tubes)	No. nest tubes	Index of probability	
			Monthly	Cumulative
April	1	0	0	0
May	4	0	0	0
June	2	0	0	0
July	2	65 x 21/30	1.8	1.8
August	5	65 x 11/31	2.3	4.1
August	5	65 x 20/31	4.2	8.3
September	7	65	9.1	17.4
October	2	65	2.6	20.0
November	2	65	2.6	22.6

Reference to the table above shows that the cumulative index of probability achieved to date is 4.1, well below the 21 suggested by Natural England (2015) as the minimum necessary to adequately determine use, or lack thereof, of a site by dormice.

However, a cumulative index of probability of 21 (and therefore confidence in a negative result) will be achieved by leaving the nest tubes deployed until circa mid-November.

Disclaimer. All reasonable effort was taken to ensure an accurate assessment of the situation at the time of the survey. However, the absence of recorded sign should not be taken as an absolute guarantee that the site was not being used by a particular species. There is also no guarantee that any particular species will not use the site at any time in the future. Survey results may be weather or seasonally dependent.