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# Ampney Park

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## Dormouse Survey

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June - November 2022

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# 1. Introduction

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- 1.1.1 In June 2022, Seasons Ecology was instructed by Simon Morray-Jones, on behalf of the client, to undertake a dormouse survey of Ampney Park, Ampney Crucis, Cirencester (central grid reference: SP 06456 01901).
- 1.1.2 The site is the subject of a proposal to create a wedding venue within the grounds of Ampney Park. This will require associated landscaping, and the removal of small areas of existing vegetation. The site provides suitable habitat to dormouse, mainly provided by woodlands supporting an understorey of shrubs, including hazel. The woodlands on site have connectivity to other woodlands within 1km, including Merrillhill Copse, Sidelands Copse and Underacre. The presence of suitable habitats on site, connected to suitable habitats in the local area, increases the potential for dormouse to be present.
- 1.1.3 The proposal will not impact on the woodlands; however, small sections of sub-optimal hedgerows will require removal; therefore, the presence of dormouse should be determined to inform the approach to vegetation removal and licensing requirements. The results of the survey will also inform future management of the grounds.

# 2. Legislation

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- 2.1.1 Dormice in England and Wales are protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended), now The Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019 ([legislation.gov.uk](https://legislation.gov.uk)) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Under this legislation 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; and,
  - Possess, sell, control or transport live or dead dormice, or parts of dormice.
- 2.1.2 With the exception of disturbance, this legislation applies throughout the year whether dormice are present or not at the time of works being carried out and generally irrespective of planning permission being obtained or being required.

# 3. Survey Method

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## 3.1 Nest Tube Survey

- 3.1.1 On 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 50 dormouse nest tubes were installed within suitable habitat on site, including hedgerows and woodland. The nest tubes were installed at approximately 15m to 20m intervals, positioned beneath horizontal branches of suitable trees and shrubs. The locations of the nest tubes are shown indicatively on the plan at Annex 6.1.



- 3.1.2 The nest tubes were subsequently checked at monthly intervals from June to November 2022. During each visit, the nest tubes were inspected for animals and/or nests or signs of nest-building. Notes were taken on the contents found in each nest tube.
- 3.1.3 The survey followed guidance in *The Dormouse Conservation Handbook* (Bright *et al.*, 2006)<sup>1</sup>. The guidance provides an index of probability of finding dormice present in nest tubes in any one month. Assumed absence of dormice should not be based on a search effort score of less than 20, see Table 1 below. A minimum survey effort index score of 20 is required to assume absence.

Table 1. Index of Probability of finding dormice present in nest tubes in any one month (Bright *et al.*, 2006)

Month	Index of Probability	Site Score
April	1	0
May	4	0
June	2	2
July	2	2
August	5	5
September	7	7
October	2	2
November	2	2
<b>Total</b>		<b>20</b>

- 3.1.4 Referring to Table 1, the survey effort index score for the site was 20.

## 3.2 Surveyors

- 3.2.1 The survey was undertaken by Callum Pearson Qualifying CIEEM, an experienced dormouse surveyor, acting as an Accredited Agent under Hannah Maben MCIEEM who holds a Natural England dormouse survey licence.

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<sup>1</sup> Bright, P., Morris, P. and Mitchell-Jones, T. (2006) *The Dormouse Conservation Handbook*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. English Nature: Peterborough.



## 4. Results

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- 4.1.1 The survey recorded no evidence of dormice, including nests, signs of nest-building and actual dormice, within any of the nest tubes. No signs of other animals were recorded in the nest tubes. The raw survey data is provided in Annex 6.2.

## 5. Evaluation

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- 5.1.1 All 50 nest tubes were surveyed once a month from June to November, achieving a survey effort index score of 20 (a minimum of 20 is recommended). The survey recorded a negative result for the presence of dormice on site.

## 6. Recommendations

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- 6.1.1 Based on the survey results, the works are unlikely to injure or kill dormice or destroy their resting places; however, a precautionary approach to vegetation removal is recommended. A sensitive approach should be taken, with searches prior to and during removal, by an appropriately experienced Ecologist/Ecological Clerk of Works.



## 7. Annexes

### 7.1 Dormouse Survey Nest Tube Locations (June – November 2022)



Key	
	Site Boundary
	Dormouse Nest Tube



## 7.2 Raw Survey Data, June to November 2022

Tube	Check 1 29/06/2022	Check 2 28/07/2022	Check 3 25/08/2019	Check 4 27/09/2022	Check 5 27/10/2022	Check 6 30/11/2022
1	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
2	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
3	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
4	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
5	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
6	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
7	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
8	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
9	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
10	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
11	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
12	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
13	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
14	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
15	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
16	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
17	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
18	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
19	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
20	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
21	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
22	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
23	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
24	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
25	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
26	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
27	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
28	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
29	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
30	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty



31	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
32	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
33	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
34	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
35	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
36	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
37	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
38	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
39	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
40	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
41	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
42	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
43	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
44	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
45	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
46	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
47	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
48	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
49	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty
50	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty	Empty

