



The Hampshire County Dormouse survey

Summary

A County Survey

Why are we running a County Dormouse Survey?

Nationally dormouse numbers appear to be declining by about 50% a year. In addition their range also seems to be contracting.

Hampshire however should be a stronghold for the species. But there are indications that populations are declining. To date, no systematic survey of a County for dormice has been undertaken and so we would like to be the first to try and achieve this.

We feel that we are able to undertake this due to a new survey methodology, using footprint tunnels, that does not require a dormouse licence to check for dormouse presence.

We also have a team of enthusiastic volunteers who are keen to get out surveying

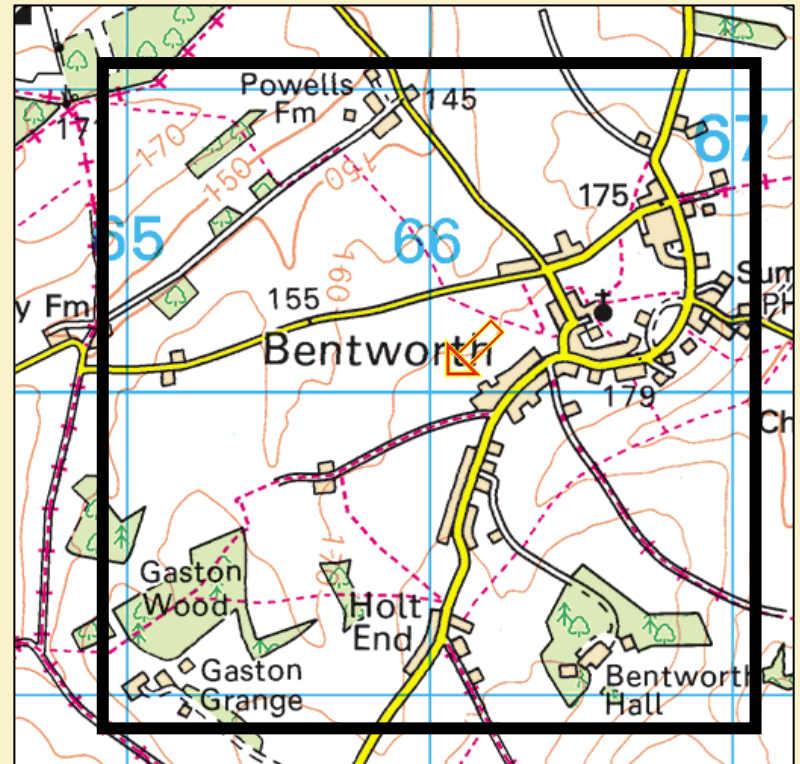
We will be testing the process and methodology in Sep/Oct 2020 with the aim of rolling out the full survey in May 2021

Finding a site

This 4 km² square includes Bentworth and an area to the west of the village.

Are there any dormice here? We don't know and that is the job to try and find out..

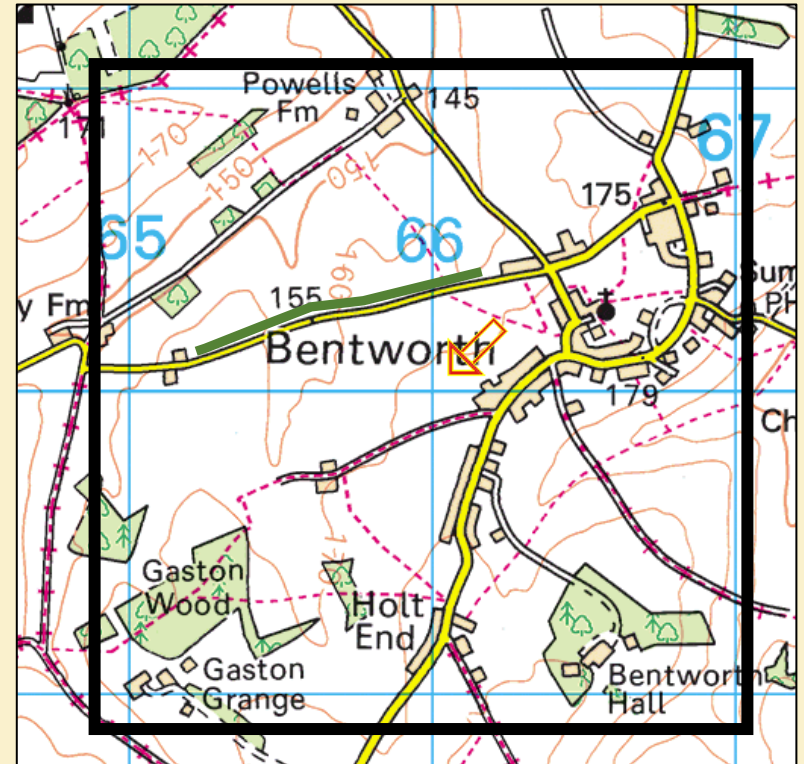
Drive around the roads; walk the footpaths within the 4 km² to identify the areas where you think dormice area most likely to be.



Finding a site

The dormouse areas might be where they are not obvious on the map or on aerial photographs.

For example the road heading almost due west out of Bentworth is Ashley road which has some nice hedgerows alongside it



Finding a site

Once you have selected some suitable sites within your 4km² you need to obtain permission to survey at least one of them.

Some may be obvious. It is likely that Gaston wood is owned by the owners of Gaston Grange and so a knock on the door and asking might get permission granted. A landowner pack is available to give to landowners to inform them of the project.

If there is not an obvious owner the local parish council can be a good source of information.



Setting up a dormouse survey

As soon as you have a site and permission has been granted for you to survey it you will need 30 footprint tunnels plus the consumables to set them up.

Make sure you have familiarised yourself with the survey methodology.

Arrange for collection or delivery of 30 footprint tunnels.

Setting up a dormouse survey

Once the footprint tunnels have been set up, it will take a maximum of 10 weeks to give a 97% chance of detecting dormice if they are present.

There are four likely survey scenarios:

All tunnels in a hedge

- Complete dormouse survey form
- Complete hedgerow survey form
- Once evidence of dormice is found the survey can be stopped
- If no evidence of dormice found survey can be stopped after 10 weeks

All tunnels in a hedge and wood

- Complete dormouse survey form
- Complete hedgerow survey form
- Complete woodland survey form
- Once evidence of dormice is found in both hedge and wood the survey can be stopped
- If no evidence of dormice found survey can be stopped after 10 weeks

All tunnels in a wood

- Complete dormouse survey form
- Complete woodland survey form
- Once evidence of dormice is found the survey can be stopped
- If no evidence of dormice found survey can be stopped after 10 weeks

All tunnels in a wood of different habitat types

- Complete dormouse survey form
- Complete woodland survey form for each habitat type
- Once evidence of dormice is found in all habitat types, the survey can be stopped
- If no evidence of dormice found survey can be stopped after 10 weeks

Submitting data

There are a maximum of three types of survey to do:

Dormouse survey: this will need to be submitted at the end of the survey period (either when dormice have been recorded or after 10 weeks). If you have positive dormouse records a photograph of the tracking sheets will also need to be sent.

Hedgerow survey this can be submitted at any time during the survey. The data can be input at PTES and by using the Project name Hants Dormouse survey.

Woodland data can be submitted either electronically (google form) at any time during the survey.to

It is very important that all documents relating to you survey are coded; Each site code is:

Your initials/8 fig site centroid grid ref/Yr_mth survey starts)

IW/SU660400/2020_09