



The Hampshire Dormouse Group County Survey

Reasons for survey/Who can get involved/Overview

Dormice in the UK



There has been no systematic survey of hazel dormice in Britain.

The collection of dormouse data in the UK is relatively ad hoc. Data held by PTES includes:

- **Great Nut Hunts (GNH)** – Three GNHs were carried out in 1993, 2001 and 2010. Members of the public searched their local woods for dormouse-opened hazelnuts. The first nut demonstrated that the dormouse population had significantly declined in range over a hundred years.
- **National Dormouse Monitoring programme (NDMP)** – established in 1990. Currently data is submitted annually from circa 400 predominantly woodland sites. Sites are selected and monitored by trained volunteers with landowner permission to put up dormouse boxes. Sites are selected because dormice are known to be present
- **National Dormouse Database (NDD)** – data fall into two categories:
 - **anecdotal records** submitted opportunistically by members of the public, e.g. cat kill, birdfeeder records etc.
 - **licence return data** –submitted by ecological consultants generally consisting of records gathered as a result of a proposed development.



Dormice in Hampshire

In Hampshire there are approximately 14 NDMP sites that regularly contribute data and some one-off surveys that have shown the presence of dormice in some localities in the county.

These are listed below:

- Ewald, N. (2004) Distribution and status of the dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* in Hampshire
1975-2002: dormouse records in 63 tetrads
2003: dormouse records in 105 tetrads
- Grogan, R. (2004) The effects of coppicing on populations of the common dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) in woodlands on the Isle of Wight
2004: dormouse records in 7 woodlands on island
- HloWWT (2010) Isle of Wight red squirrel and common dormouse survey
2010: dormouse records in 186 woodland sites

For comparison between 2015 – 2019, dormice have been recorded in the following number of tetrads:

Year	Hants	IoW
2015	34	3
2016	34	3
2017	37	3
2018	50	3
2019	45	4



Who can get involved?

Anyone can get involved in the survey but:

- You will need to join the Hampshire Dormouse Group to ensure you are covered by our insurance
- Each survey can take up to 10 weeks and can require up to 5 visits to your survey site.
- We may be limited by resources, to the number of surveys that we can undertake at any one time.

Overview

- The Hampshire Dormouse Group survey (HDG) survey is based on using footprint tunnels to detect the presence of dormice or give a likely probability of their absence.
- A survey area of 4km² (tetrad) is selected. Optimal dormouse habitat, where landowner permission is granted, is surveyed for dormice.
- Habitat surveys (hedge or woodland) are completed.
- The dormouse survey finishes when dormice are recorded or after approximately two months.
- Results are submitted to the HDG