



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

Dormice Survey

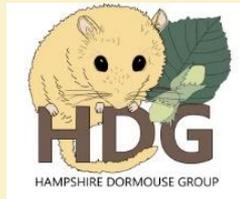


The traditional methods of surveying dormouse has been searching for dormouse chewed hazelnuts, using nest tubes or using nest boxes. While all these methods work they do not have associated probabilities of success. In other words it is not known, if you use 30 nest tubes and check them for 4 months how likely it is that you will find dormice if they are present.

A new method using footprint tunnels has recently been developed where associated probability scores to detect dormice using varying survey effort have been calculated. These probability scores are habitat dependent.

It is easier to detect dormice in hedgerows rather than canopy woodland and so the Hampshire Dormouse Group County Survey will be based on search for dormice in hedgerows rather than any other habitat

Dormice Survey



If 20 tunnels are put up in a hedgerow between May and October and left for six weeks (two weeks to account for neophobia and four weeks survey, and checked fortnightly) there will be a 95.6% chance of detecting dormice if present.

If the tunnels are left for 10 weeks there will be a 99.5% chance of detecting dormice if present.

The footprint tunnel method gives us an excellent opportunity of detecting dormice in hedgerows in Hampshire and, equally important, detecting areas where they are unlikely to be present.



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. Good quality hedgerows, where landowner permission is granted, are surveyed for dormice.
- Hedge surveys are completed.
- The dormouse survey finishes when dormice are recorded or after 6 to 10 weeks.
- Results are submitted to the HDG