

Dormouse and Bat surveys

Dormouse Survey

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8.0 Conclusions

8.1 Dormice were found to be present on the site during the survey and therefore an application to Natural England for a mitigation licence will be required to ensure compliance with the legislation, particularly if Dormouse habitat will be directly affected by removal or disturbance.

8.2 A licence application is needed which would need to include a detailed method statement for the proposed work, to include details of working practices and mitigation measures to ensure that the favourable conservation status of Dormice using the site is not adversely affected. The details of the mitigation should be discussed with an ecologist to ensure Dormice can be accommodated within the design for the development in line with best practice guidelines. Measures will need to be put in place to ensure sufficient suitable habitat is available both during and after the development process to support Dormice, best practice is for Dormice to be accommodated on site and therefore this should ideally be built into the design for the development.

8.3 Evidence of Dormice were found at four proposed Play Trail Stations and these were in woodland/woodland edge habitat. It is strongly recommended that existing open areas are used for the proposed Play Trail Stations that will not involve removal or disturbance of surrounding Dormouse habitat (i.e. woodland/scrub including areas of dense Bramble scrub).

8.4 It is strongly recommended that when the final proposed Play Trail Station locations are selected a Dormouse licenced ecologist and also the Surrey Dormouse Group are consulted on the locations and the proposed vegetation clearance methods to ensure that legal compliance takes place.

8.5 If any clearance of trees, shrubs/scrub, Bracken or Bramble is planned, this should be undertaken outside the bird nesting season (which is typically 1st March to 31st August).

8.6 If any clearance occurs within the breeding bird season the area should be checked by an ecologist, and if any nesting birds are found the vegetation should be retained and protected until after the young have fledged.

8.7 It is recommended that a Dormouse licensed ecologist is present during all vegetation clearance to undertake any pre-clearance checks for Dormouse and other protected species, including a check for mammal holes within 30m of the site prior to works commencing.

8.8 All other ecological recommendations given within our previous ecological reports (see report C2869 Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, Newlands Corner) remain valid.

8.9 It is recommended that Surrey Dormouse Group are consulted during all the proposed works and whether a potential new Dormouse Monitoring Site could be selected which would form part of the Surrey Dormouse Group monitoring programme, which plays an important part in the conservation of Dormice in Surrey. Volunteers within the Surrey Dormouse Group undertaking any proposed nest box monitoring would obviously not be subject to any proposed car parking charges at Newlands Corner.

Bat Survey

This survey was undertaken by Wychwood Environmental

Executive Summary

Purpose of survey

- To provide a baseline survey for future monitoring and to inform mitigation and enhancement recommendations for the site for the benefit of foraging and roosting bats.

Protected species on site

- Six species of bat have been recorded on the site: Common pipistrelle, Soprano pipistrelle, brown long-eared, Myotis (Brants/whiskered), serotine and noctule.

Proposed mitigation

- Any tree work must be conducted by an Arboriculturalist with a knowledge of roosting bats and appropriate working methods to limit any potential harm to bats.
- For each tree felled a replacement native tree should be planted to retain/improve foraging potential.
- Bat friendly lighting throughout the site should be encouraged to avoid potential disturbance to roosting bats.
- Erection of a variety of bat boxes in retained trees throughout the grounds.
- General habitat enhancements and woodland management are advised.