

Charlotte Peacock Associates



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANCY

Hazel Dormouse Surveys

Type of Survey	Most Suitable Time of Year
Hazelnut Search	Mid-August to December
Box and Tube Survey	Erected in March/April with surveys May to October

Legislation

This species is listed on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) as well as Schedule 2 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010 making them a European Protected Species. This makes it illegal to amongst other things:

- Kill or injure a dormouse;
- Disturb a dormouse; and
- Damage, destroy or obstruct access to areas used for breeding and/or resting.

Preferred Habitats

The hazel dormouse lives in areas of woodland, hedgerows and scrub and is mainly found in southern England. They feed on nuts and fruits from a variety of species as well as invertebrates. Hazel dormouse hibernate from late October to May. Hazel dormouse numbers have declined due to habitat loss, fragmentation and inappropriate woodland management.

Surveys

The surveys that can be carried out to establish if hazel dormice are present depends upon the time of year. From March boxes and tubes can be erected in potentially suitable areas with checks being carried out from May to October. A nut search can be carried out from September to November to establish if feeding signs are present.

Licensing and Mitigation

If dormice are found to be present on the site then a development licence may be required from the relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Organisation (SNCO). These licences are detailed documents containing the survey results as well as information on the potential impacts and mitigation measures which will be taken to reduce these. Due to this, these documents can take a significant amount of time to produce. The SNCOs also need time to consider the application. All of this time must be taken into account in the works schedule as no works can commence on the site until the licence has been granted.

Mitigation measures may range from habitat manipulation and reinstating hedgerows to planting areas of woodland.