

APPENDIX 11.6 DORMOUSE

1 METHODOLOGY

- 1.1 The dormouse survey results presented in this appendix reflect the survey information available at the time of writing. The dormouse survey programme remains ongoing, with the final survey visit and tube collection outstanding. The findings should therefore be treated as interim and will be reviewed and updated, if necessary, following completion of the final survey visit.
- 1.2 The survey included an assessment of the potential of the site for hazel dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*), focusing on the connectivity and suitability of the habitat on site.
- 1.3 53 dormouse tubes were deployed in suitable habitat across the site on 21st August 2025 at roughly 20-40 metre intervals (Figure 1). Checks were carried out on 16th September and 5th November 2025, and 9th April, 11th May and 4th June 2026; the final survey and collection is scheduled for early July 2026 (table 1). The tubes were located in habitat that were connected to suitable habitat though the site.

Table 1 Dormouse survey dates and results

Date	Survey number	Evidence of dormice	Evidence of wood mice
21/08/2025	Deployment of dormouse nest tubes across the site (shown in Figure 1)	N/A	N/A
16/09/2025	1	No	No
05/11/2025	2	No	Yes, wood mouse nest recorded.
09/04/2026	3	No	Yes, wood mouse nest recorded.
11/05/2026	4	No	No
04/06/2026	5	No	No
TBC – July 2026	6	TBC	TBC



Figure 1 Dormouse tube locations and results, pending final survey

2 BASELINE SURVEY DATA

Data Search

- 2.1 There were 2 records of Hazel Dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) returned in the data search. The 2020 record was located 1.69km west southwest from the site boundary, and the 2022 record was located 1.69km southeast of the site boundary.

Habitat Assessment

- 2.2 The surrounding landscape includes extensive areas of hedgerows and woodland around the site in all directions which provide ecological connectivity for the species to disperse throughout the wider environment, notably along the wooded railway corridor that is present along the eastern boundary of the southern field of the Site.
- 2.3 The eastern site boundary runs along the B3097/Hawkridge Road, which runs to the West Wiltshire Industrial Estate, Westbury to the south and Hawkridge to the north, and there is a hedgerow network present along this road.
- 2.4 On site there are hedgerows and small areas of scrub throughout the site creating suitable habitat for dormouse on site.

Survey Results

- 2.5 Surveys were undertaken between August 2025 and July 2026 (as seen in table 1). No presence of dormouse nests were recorded across the survey effort, with only several wood mouse nests being recorded occupying the nests. Based on current guidelines, identification of evidence of dormouse is sufficient to prove absence of dormouse on site and in all suitable habitat on site, and therefore hazel dormice are not considered further in this assessment (subject to the final survey and addendum).