

Preliminary Environmental Information Report

Appendix 8F: Dormouse Survey

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Future Energy Llanwern Limited

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1.0 Dormouse Survey

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This Appendix presents the results of dormouse surveys at Future Energy Llanwern in relation to an application for a Development Consent Order (DCO) for the installation of solar photovoltaic panels. The surveys were commissioned by Future Energy Llanwern Ltd.

1.1.2 The area within the PEIR assessment boundary is hereafter referred to as the 'Site'.

Aims

1.1.3 The aims of this report are to:

- Describe the methods used for collecting ecological baseline data;
- Identify the presence of dormice, based on desk study data, field data or assumptions based on the information available.

1.2 Legislation

1.2.1 Dormice, their nests, and their resting places are protected under UK and European legislation; The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and The Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended). It is an offence for anyone to intentionally capture, kill, injure, disturb, or take dormice. It is also an offence to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by a dormouse.

1.2.2 If a development activity is likely to result in disturbance or killing of a dormouse, damage to its habitat etc., then a licence will usually be required from the relevant Statutory Nature Conservation Organisation (SNCO) e.g. Natural Resources Wales (NRW).

1.2.3 Dormice are listed as Species of Principal Importance (under Section 7 of the Environment (Wales) Act 2016) and are a Newport Biodiversity Action Plan priority species.

1.3 Methods

Desk Study

- 1.3.1 The South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre (SEWBRc) were consulted in January 2024 which included a search for records of protected and notable species within 2km of the Site boundary.

Survey Methods

- 1.3.2 A dormouse tube survey was undertaken in accordance with The Dormouse Conservation Handbook (Bright et al., 2006).
- 1.3.3 Due to the extent of the Site, it was deemed appropriate that a total of 300 dormouse tubes were deployed in April 2020 by Hazel Cook. The tubes were deployed in groups of 50 at approximately 20m intervals in suitable habitat, at six locations across the Site. The tubes were checked on the 8th of July, 9th of September, and 30th of October 2023 by Hazel Cook.
- 1.3.4 A dormouse survey was also conducted between April and October 2023, with tubes were deployed in groups of 60 at approximately 20m intervals in suitable habitat, at five locations across the Site to ensure better distribution within the new Site boundary. Tubes were deployed on the 4th and 5th of April 2023 by Anna Galvin BSc MSc. The tubes were checked on the 8th of June, 10th of August, and 26th of October 2023 by Anna Galvin and Ella Bond BSc.
- 1.3.5 An update survey is to be completed, with a total of 250 dormouse tubes deployed on 7th July 2025 by Harry Dyer BSc (Hons) and Millie Williams, both accredited agents acting under Chris Merrick's Licence (NRW S094450/2).
- 1.3.6 A survey must score a minimum probability score of 20 to provide sufficient survey effort to determine presence/ likely absence of the species on a given site, based on 50 tubes. **Table 8F-1** details the months in which tubes are to be in-situ and the probability score.

Table 1F-1 Index of probability of finding dormice present (based on best practice guidelines) and months nest tubes are to be present

Month	Index of Probability (Bright <i>et al.</i> , 2006) for 50 tubes	Probability score for 2023 survey	Probability score for 2020 survey
April	1	1	1
May	4	4	4
June	2	2	2
July	2	2	2
August	5	5	5
September	7	7	7
October	2	2	2
November	2	0	0
Total	25	23	23

Limitations

- 1.3.7 Care has been taken to ensure that balanced advice is provided on the information available and collected during the study period(s), and within the resources available for the project. However, the possibility of important ecological features being missed due to survey timings, absence during surveys or the year of survey cannot be ruled out. In addition, the lack of evidence or records of protected species on Site does not preclude their presence from Site.
- 1.3.8 During the course of the 2020 survey a number of hedgerows were flailed and a large number of tubes were therefore lost during this process. These limitations are not considered to have significantly affected the overall results of the survey due to the high number of tubes deployed and evidence of dormice having been identified on Site.

1.4 Results

Desk Study

- 1.4.1 For full details of the desk study see **Appendix 8A**.
- 1.4.2 SEWBRc provided 9 records of hazel dormouse within 2km of the Site, one of which onsite, at grid reference ST 4344 8470 in the hedgerow between fields 180 and 182. This was not recorded as part of the current survey work.

Field Surveys

- 1.4.3 Evidence of dormice was found during the final visit of both the 2020 and 2023 surveys. During the 2020 a dormouse nest was discovered within a tube located near the southwestern extent of the Site (Area 4) in a line of trees. During the 2023 survey two dormouse nests were discovered within tubes in hedgerows, one in the eastern parcel (Area 1) of the Site, and the other in the northern parcel (Area 6). **Figure 8.6.2** illustrates these results.

1.5 Further Survey Work

- 1.5.1 Surveys are being conducted during Summer 2025 – Spring 2026.

1.6 Summary

- 1.6.1 During the course of both the 2020 and 2023 surveys evidence of dormice using the hedgerows was found on Site. Due to dormice using these linear features to travel between habitats it can be assumed that all hedgerows on Site might be utilised by dormice.

1.7 References

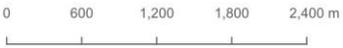
Bright P.W., Morris P.A. and Mitchell-Jones A. (2006) Dormouse Conservation Handbook, 2nd Edition. English Nature, Peterborough.

Annex A: Figures



Key:

- Site Boundary
- 2km Buffer
- Dormouse Locations



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Figure 8.6.1:
Dormouse Desk Study Results

Project:
Future Energy Llanern

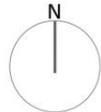
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Date:
12/11/2025

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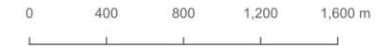
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Key:

- Site Boundary
- Dormouse Nest Locations 2020
- Dormouse Nest Locations 2023



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Figure 8.6.2:
Dormouse Survey Results

Project:
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Client:
Future Energy Llanwern Limited

Date:
12/11/2025

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Revision:
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