



BJ Collins
PROTECTED SPECIES SURVEYORS

DORMOUSE HABITAT SURVEY AND ASSESSMENT

**PROPOSED ARTIFICIAL PITCH
BURGESS HILL TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB
MAPLE DRIVE
BURGESS HILL
WEST SUSSEX**

A report to:

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Report to:	Surfacing Standards Limited
Report Title:	Dormouse Habitat Survey and Assessment

Survey Site/Job:	Burgess Hill Town FC, Maple Drive, Burgess Hill, RH15 8DL
OS Grid Reference:	TQ 3181 2030

Survey Date(s):	14 th of January 2025
Surveyed by:	David J Williams exMCIEEM (Rtd)

Architect/Agent:	Surfacing Standards Limited
Planning Reference:	N/A

Versioning and Quality Assurance

Report Status	Date	Author(s)	Reviewed by
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The evidence which we have prepared and provided is true and has been prepared and provided in accordance with the guidance of The Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's Code of Professional Conduct.

RELIANCE - The report describes the conditions and ecological features on the site (and possibly its environs) at the time of survey and that this may (is likely to) change over time. Reliance upon the findings of this report should be determined in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management guidance on the longevity of ecological surveys, see Advice Note (April 2019) *On the Lifespan of Ecological Reports and Surveys* CIEEM.

This specifies that after a period of 18 months from the date of the last relevant site survey, a professional ecologist will need to undertake a site visit and may also need to update desk study information (effectively updating the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal) to provide confidence that the ecological situation and status has not altered.

As a result, and given the transient nature of wildlife and habitats this report cannot be used in a formal "letter of reliance" beyond the period specified above.

CONTENTS

1.1	Introduction	4
1.2	Surveyor	4
1.3	Survey results	4
1.4	Determination	5
1.5	Conclusion	5
1.6	References.....	5

Report of Habitat survey at Burgess Hill F.C. on 14 January 2025, by D. J. Williams.

1.1 Introduction

The purpose of the survey was to assess the site for the suitability of any habitat that would support dormice, and assess if there would be any impact if dormice were present.

Particular attention was paid to adjacent areas of the proposed all weather sports pitch.

1.2 Surveyor

David J Williams exMCIEEM(Rtd), Chairman Surrey Dormouse Group. NE Dormouse Licence Holder class 2. Dormouse surveyor 20 years

1.3 Survey results

The area covered by the Football stadium has no suitable habitat for dormice, but there is adjacent woodland on the northern and southern edges. These areas were examined from within the stadium and outside of the stadium.

The eastern edge has a row of thick leylandii trees (photo 2), and beyond the boundary fence is a patchy woodland area with no understory and is very close to houses. It does not contain any of the food sources known to be suitable for dormice. (Photo 3).

The northern edge has a few Hazel trees (*Corylus avellana*), very dominant Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*) some moderate sized Birch (*Betula pendula*) and tall Oaks (*Quercus robur*). The Oaks will prevent an understory from flourishing. (Photo 1)

I entered the nature reserve outside of the northern edge to examine the habitat that was adjacent to the stadium. There was a very well used path just 20 metres from the fence indicating heavy use by the public. This may well be a disturbing factor for any wildlife in this area. There were some hazel trees that had grown tall but had thin stems. Indicative of lack of light penetration. I did look for hazel nuts to see if they had fruited last year. I did not see any nuts. Holly is rampant and is gradually smothering the whole area. The only food source for dormice is the possibility of a few hazel nuts. This alone would not support dormice. (photos 4 and 5)

Dormice require a succession of food throughout their active season, on this part of the wood the only sources would be insects and the possibility of hazel nuts.

I examined the edge behind the small training pitch in the northwest corner, the well-used path ran adjacent to the boundary with just very thin low vegetation, and on one end towards the council football pitches tall oaks and holly. (photo 6).

Dormice need a succession of food sources and is considered as a selective feeder relying on flowers, fruits, seeds, and buds. This would limit the suitability of the woodland areas for dormice to take up residents. In view of the fact that dormice have been recorded in other areas of the connected woodland, it cannot be ruled out that there may be some cases of young dormice passing through during their dispersal. With the lack of food sources and poor woodland structure with no understory, it is unlikely that they would stay.

The works on the new pitch will have no effect on any possible dormice in the woodland areas, and the floodlight update work will reduce the light pollution into the adjacent areas. See B J Collins report 2025, 5.3.22, page 20, and the bat report review of the light effects. The current floodlights have been there for around 25 years, and any wildlife residing in the edge areas will see a reduction in the light pollution.

1.4 Determination

The habitats surrounding the stadium do not contain optimal or sub-optimal habitat mainly due to lack of suitable feeding sources and the poor structure of the woodland areas. The heavy use by people of the northern section will cause some disturbance.

There are no damage or interference to the woodland caused by the works in the stadium, and the extent of light pollution will be reduced.

1.5 Conclusion

The proposed work and installation of new floodlights will have no impact on dormice.

1.6 References

- The Dormouse conservation Handbook, Bright, Morris, Mitchell-Jones. Natural England 2006
- Dormice P Morris 2004
- The Hazel Dormouse Justkaitis and Buchner 2013

Survey photographs are included overleaf:

Survey Photos



P1 Northern edge



P2 Eastern edge



P3 Area behind eastern edge



P4 Holly in Adjoining nature



P5 Tall hazel in Nature reserve



P6 Area west of the training pitch