

From: [REDACTED]
To: [SizewellC](#)
Subject: Follow up to to yesterdays agreement at ISH7 of the Applicant to undertake Dormouse surveys of the 2VBR
Date: 16 July 2021 16:31:15
Attachments: [SizewellC 2VB - dormouse note 15.07.2021.docx](#)

Dear Planning Inspectorate,
I have been asked to forward the attached by Bioscan Ecology Consultants re. the above EPS.
There is identification of dormouse activity at Farnham Barn and I would presume this location should be included in any surveying.
Thank you,

Sarah Morgan

[REDACTED]



Sizewell C Project: Proposed Two Village Bypass

Note on survey for dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*

Bioscan UK Ltd, on behalf of (Farnham Environment Residents & Neighbours) – 15 July 2021

Dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* is listed on Schedule 2 of The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended) and as such is subject to the highest levels of legislative protection. Despite this, the Applicant has not to date provided any survey information in relation to this species.

Despite the absence of dormouse survey information being highlighted by FERN in early June [REP2-265] as a major concern, and the ExA's specific request for information on protected species at Deadline 4 [REP4-006], the Applicant failed to give any response on dormouse until asked a direct question by Mr Dominic Woodfield during the hearing on 15 July 2021. In response to this, the Applicant offered on the spot to now undertake survey, claiming that August is a good time of year to survey for dormouse. This is simply untrue if one is undertaking a survey by conventional means.

Standing advice from Natural England on methods for undertaking surveys for dormouse¹ provides an index by which the minimum required survey effort should be calculated. For surveys not established (by setting out nest tubes) until the end of July 2021, the Applicant would fall short of the requisite index value if completing the surveys that year. Indeed, if establishing a survey in July it would only be possible to score 16 of the requisite 20 points by the end of the year (i.e. 5+7+2+2); and in fact only 12 points would be reached by the end of the Examination (i.e. 5+7 for the months of August and September).

This limitation of inadequate remaining programme time is one of the Applicant's own making: if SZC had fulfilled its obligations at the outset, then adequate time would have been available for survey. If the Applicant had responded to FERN's concerns back in early June, there would still have been time available to undertake a survey achieving the requisite 20 points by the end of the season.

Therefore, in order to deal with this significant survey limitation, we propose that the Applicant adopts the following supplementary measures:

- Nest tubes to be installed at least double the required density, i.e. every 10m within hedgerows, woodland and scrub;
- Nest tubes to be supplemented by nest boxes at a ratio of 1 box :10 nest tubes (noting that NE's advice is that they increase the probability of finding dormice);
- Nest tubes and boxes to be installed in all suitable habitat. This includes not simply the woodlands as suggested during the hearing, but also the scrub and hedgerows (noting that it is often much easier to detect this species in dense hedgerows than in overstood woodlands).
- Given that the woodland is in many places overstood, alternative supplementary methods should be deployed in all woodlands and tall hedgerows within the Order Limits (e.g. including Nuttery Belt and the hedgerows along Farnham Hall lane: H22, H23, H24), including deployment of footprint tunnels² and camera traps.

¹ Natural England (2015) Standing advice for local planning authorities to assess the impacts of development on hazel dormice. Available from: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/hazel-or-common-dormice-surveys-and-mitigation-for-development-projects#survey-methods>

² Simone Bullion & Alison Looser. (June 2019). Guidance for using Hazel Dormouse Footprint Tunnels. Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Available from: <https://ptes.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Footprint-Tunnel-Guidance-4.pdf>