



PORT OF
TILBURY
LONDON

PLANNING ACT 2008

INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING
(APPLICATIONS: PRESCRIBED FORMS AND PROCEDURE) REGULATIONS 2009

PROPOSED PORT TERMINAL AT
FORMER TILBURY POWER STATION

TILBURY2

Results of outstanding dormouse survey visit (Nov. 2017)

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SUBMISSION



TILBURY2

1.0 RESULTS OF OUTSTANDING DORMOUSE SURVEY VISIT (NOVEMBER 2017)

REPORT PURPOSE

- 1.1 This document serves as a post-submission addendum to the Tilbury2 DCO application. It documents the results of a final, post-submission survey visit in November 2017 representing the conclusion of two years' worth of surveys for dormouse at the site. The methodology and results of all previous surveys are set out within the Terrestrial Ecology chapter of the ES (Chapter 10). The information in this addendum is consistent with the pattern of negative results reported in that Chapter and does not alter the assessment conclusions drawn.

FIELD SURVEY METHODOLOGY

- 1.2 Pre-2016 records for the European protected species dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* in the vicinity of the Tilbury2 site were based on field sign evidence, with no confirmed sightings of the animal itself ever having been recorded. Bioscan's surveys in 2016 and 2017 sought to confirm the status of dormouse at the Site in the light of doubts over the veracity of the previous records. The methodologies used for the desk and field surveys are documented within Chapter 10 of the ES, at paragraphs 10.78 – 10.82 and Figure 10.7a.
- 1.3 At the point of ES submission (October 2017), a 'minimum index of probability' of 20 had already been reached, consistent with the guidance on sufficient survey effort contained within the Dormouse Conservation Handbook¹. However, in order to meet the recommendations of emerging local guidance (based on research undertaken by the Essex and Suffolk Dormouse Group in 2016 and 2017²), the decision was taken to extend the survey work beyond these minimum standards to encompass a further survey visit in November 2017 (past the submission of the ES), as recommended by Essex County Council in their statutory consultation response. Details of the additional survey visit are provided in the addendum to Table 10.9 below.

Addendum to Table 10.9 Additional dormouse survey dates and cumulative index scores

Visit number	Date	Index of probability for each month survey tubes are in place ¹	Weather conditions
6	08-09 November 2017 (Additional survey to comply with emerging local guidance)	October: 2	8-14°C, bright, occasional very light drizzle
	Cumulative total score: 22		

¹ Bright, Morris & Mitchell Jones (2006). *Dormouse Conservation Handbook, 2nd edition*. English Nature Publications.

² S Bullion, (2017). *Dormouse Seasonal Nesting Activity in the East of England: Information presented to the UK Dormouse Steering Group 20/01/2017*. Essex and Suffolk Dormouse Group.

SURVEY RESULTS

- 1.4 The results available up to the point of ES submission were presented within the ES (Chapter 10) at paragraphs 10.246 – 10.251. No evidence of dormouse was found up to that point.
- 1.5 The results of the supplementary survey visit undertaken in November 2017 are provided at Figure 10.7b, and in the addendum to Table 10.32 below. The additional survey also found no evidence of dormouse.

Addendum to Table 10.32 Summary of dormouse survey results from 2017

Visit number	Date	Index of probability for each month survey tubes are in place ¹	Survey results
6	08-09 November 2017 (Additional survey to comply with emerging local guidance)	October: 2	No evidence of dormouse.

- 1.6 The abundant activity from other small mammals noted in previous surveys was again recorded, with very high uptake by wood mouse and yellow-necked mouse. Of the 259 nest tubes and 17 nest boxes surveyed in total, 134 boxes/tubes showed evidence of occupation by small mammals: an occupation rate of >50% over the course of the survey (see Figure 10.7b). Where nests were noted to have a structure superficially similar to dormouse nest construction, incorporating fibrous material such as grasses, these were habitually either occupied by *Apodemus* mice, and/or accompanied by droppings, urine odour and feeding remains typical of *Apodemus* species.

SUMMARY & CONCLUSIONS

- 1.7 In summary, no evidence of dormouse has been confirmed during any of the monitoring surveys carried out during 2016 and 2017. It appears that the original record for this species on the Tilbury2 site was erroneous, with the error being compounded in later third party surveys – this likely arising as a consequence of confirmation bias prejudicing subsequent surveyors' interpretation of field signs.
- 1.8 In view of the considerable survey effort having been expended across both the Tilbury2 site and the infrastructure corridor during 2016 and 2017 in order to establish the status of dormouse at the Site, and the absence of any evidence confirming presence, this species can now be confidently deemed absent from both the Tilbury2 site and the infrastructure corridor.
- 1.9 The conclusions within the Tilbury2 DCO application ES Chapter 10 at paragraph 10.313 and Table 10.46 therefore remain valid, i.e. that dormouse is absent and can be scoped out of the ecological impact assessment for the Tilbury2 application.