

Goon Valley, Worthy Down
Dormouse Survey
July-September 2021



Survey Report



This report describes the hazel dormouse (*Muscardinus avellanarius*) survey carried out by Worthys Conservation Volunteers (WCV) along a hedgerow bordering Goon Valley meadow, which is adjacent to Worthy Down army camp, and arable fields to the south (grid reference SU 47022 34748 to SU 47744 34595). This is the second survey of hazel dormouse by WCV, the first of which, in 2019 on the disused railway line to the east of the army camp, produced negative results.

This time results were much more favorable with positive dormouse findings. Indeed, evidence was striking and undeniable, with affirmation by the Hampshire Dormouse Group (HMG, www.hampshiredormousegroup.co.uk).

Interestingly, out of a total of 30 survey tubes, only two adjacent tubes (grid reference SU 47184 34715) provided positive results, although many had evidence of other mouse species. Much of the hedgerow has a good variety of fruiting and flowering shrubs, such as, hawthorn, blackthorn, rosehip, and bramble, with some hazel trees along the western end, 100 meters or so from where positive evidence was found, however none of the tubes here identified any dormouse and on inspection of fallen hazel nuts there was no tell-tale signs of dormouse either. This said, there is no reason for dormouse not to be present along the full length of hedgerow as they are known to travel quite some distance. A big gap in the hedgerow at the midpoint may justify why there were no findings along the eastern section.



Incidentally one of the team also discovered evidence of dormouse in scrubland at the end his garden (grid reference SU 48780 34870).

Note: dormouse is a fully protected species under UK law, information for which is available online. Dormouse surveys using footprint tubes or tunnels are permitted under PTES guidelines, although appropriate caution should be taken. One of the WCV members participating in the survey is training for a Dormouse License.

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Survey Summary

The hazel dormouse survey was carried out during the period from late-July to mid-October 2021, along a ¼-mile section of hedgerow bordering Goon Valley meadow to the south of the army camp. Goon Valley (photo above showing surveyed hedgerow on right) is itself an established grassy/wildflower meadow used by many walkers and runners in the area.

After installation of the survey tubes, which were supplied by HMG, each tube was inspected every 2-3 weeks, results noted, and if necessary replenished with paper and graphite mix. At the end of the survey, all the tubes were finally inspected and collected.

On initial inspection, the papers suggested no dormouse prints although there were plenty of mouse prints. It was only later after a more thorough examination that the faintest of dormouse prints was thought possible from a single tube (no. 22). With this albeit 'inconclusive' evidence, a tube was re-installed at the designated spot of the suspected prints. Within just two days, clear and profound prints of dormouse were seen – a success! With this positive result the tube was duly removed.

On final closer examination of the original papers a faint dormouse print was also found on an adjoining section (tube no. 23).

Survey Details



- Survey Period: late-July – mid-October 2021
- Transect Start/End-points: SU 47022 34748, SU 47744 34595
- Survey Tubes: 30
- Tube Positioning: tied to tree branches at head-height, 20 large paces apart
- Ink: mix of graphite powder and cooking oil.

Although some tubes were visible to the public, there was no apparent disturbance.

Results and Photographic Evidence

- Results: Dormouse prints found in tube 22 (see below) and 23, grid reference SU 47184 34715.



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Worthys
Conservation
Volunteers

Survey participants: Bruce Graham, John Leeks, Sue Fox, Jonathan Smith, Charlotte Smith, Kay Graham

Report & Photographs: Bruce Graham, November 2021
