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13<sup>th</sup> January 2025

Our ref: SWE24/0054/MSL2  
Application ref: DC/24/1538

**LAND TO THE SOUTH OF FURNERS LANE HENFIELD WEST  
SUSSEX BN5 9HS – PRECAUTIONARY METHOD STATEMENT FOR HAZEL DORMOUSE**

Dear Ms Smith,

Further to the consultation response submitted by Place Services (dated 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025) I have set out below a precautionary method statement for hazel dormouse.

**Precautionary Method Statement for Hazel Dormouse**

All areas of habitat suitable for hazel dormouse, which will be directly affected by the development, will be removed as follows –

- Prior to commencement, all contractors involved in the vegetation clearance will be given a tool-box talk on dormouse, the legislation that protects the species and what they should do if they see or suspect a dormouse is present on the site.
- Immediately prior to vegetation removal, a suitably experienced ecologist will carry out a thorough search of the habitat for dormouse and their nests.
- The vegetation will then cut down to 150cm above ground level. What happens after this will depend on when the work is carried out.
  - If the vegetation is cut down during the active season, which is generally April to October, it will be left undisturbed overnight to allow any dormouse (if present) to relocate.
  - If the work is undertaken outside of this period (i.e. between November to March inclusive) or when there is a risk that dormouse could be hibernating or torpid, such as during a period of cold weather, the area will be rechecked for any ground level nests after the first cut. It will then be carefully destructively searched, under the direct supervision of a suitably experienced ecologist.
- Only once the supervising ecologist is satisfied that there is no or negligible risk to dormouse will the works be allowed to continue unsupervised.
- In the unlikely event that a dormouse or evidence of a dormouse is found at any point during the above process or at another time during construction, **all works will stop immediately and the need or not for the development to proceed under a derogation license will be reassessed in consultation with the project ecologist.**

I trust the above is of assistance and please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss anything further if necessary.

Best regards

*Sam Watson*

Sam Watson MCIEEM  
Director