



Megan Smith
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13th 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 6th 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

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "SWatson". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

Sam Watson MCIEEM
Director