

**SUMMARY OF HAVANT THICKET WINTER STORAGE  
RESERVOIR DORMOUSE SURVEY AUTUMN 2007**

**Final Summary Report**

March 2008

---

Invertebrate, Bird, Mammal, Reptile, Amphibian and Botanical Surveys  
Management Plans • Habitat Appraisal • Marine • NVC • EclA

ECOSA Ltd, 1 Becks Mews, 108 Stockbridge Road, Winchester, Hampshire, SO22 6RN  
Tel: 01962 866113 Email: [info@ecosa.co.uk](mailto:info@ecosa.co.uk) Web: [www.ecosa.co.uk](http://www.ecosa.co.uk)

Registered Office: 3-4 Eastwood Court, SO51 8JJ Registered in England No: 6129868

## **SUMMARY OF HAVANT THICKET WINTER STORAGE RESERVOIR DORMOUSE SURVEY AUTUMN 2007**

### **1.0 Introduction**

Ecological Survey & Assessment Limited (ECOSA) have been contracted by Arup on behalf of Portsmouth Water PLC to carry out a dormouse survey at the site of the proposed Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir.

This short report provides an initial summary of the findings of the survey work carried out between August and October 2007, inclusive. A full report is to be prepared in due course.

### **2.0 Methods**

A total of 200 dormouse tubes and 100 dormouse boxes were erected within woodland surrounding the site and within the Avenue which bisects the site from north to south. Due to previous problems with vandalism these boxes and tubes were erected at a height of 2-3m so that they were less conspicuous and less easily disturbed. Each box and tube was erected in areas of trees and scrub considered suitable for the species. These areas were often those that had a good diversity of trees and shrubs with a dense structure allowing animals to move through the canopy.

All dormouse boxes and tubes were inspected on two occasions in September and October. Each inspection took two surveyors two days to complete.

### **3.0 Results**

In total three boxes and eleven tubes were found to be occupied by dormice. These records came from Havant Thicket to the north of the site where three boxes were occupied by three dormice and Bell's Copse to the west of the site where two tubes were occupied although in one tube only the distinctive nest of a dormouse was found. All other records came from the Avenue and Havant Thicket to the south of the Avenue. In this area nine tubes were found to be occupied although in two of these only a nest was found. Two boxes in the north of the Avenue had two and three dormice present. In the tube with two individuals both animals were adult, however, in the tube where three animals were present two animals were juvenile of the year indicating breeding on site.

### **3.0 Discussion**

The surveys carried out to date have shown dormouse to be present and to be generally distributed across the site although based on current evidence populations at the site are not high.

The presence of dormouse at the site, a species protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) and the EU Habitats Directive will require that a Natural England licence is obtained for any operation likely to result in the disturbance of animals, this would include any removal of woodland or scrub or general disturbance to habitat. The loss of dormouse habitat will require that a robust mitigation strategy is developed that is aimed at maintaining the population status of the species at the site. A mitigation strategy for the site would involve the creation of additional habitat suitable for the species, a programme of translocation of animals followed by careful removal of habitat. It should be noted that habitat that is to be created for the species generally requires 5-10 years to develop sufficient structure that is suitable for the species so that the identification of areas suitable for habitat replacement should be identified and planted well in advance of clearance of woodland or scrub on site.

The survey work at Havant Thicket is on-going and is due to be completed in June 2008.

**Maps 1      Distribution of Dormouse Boxes and Tubes and Location of Dormouse  
Records**

