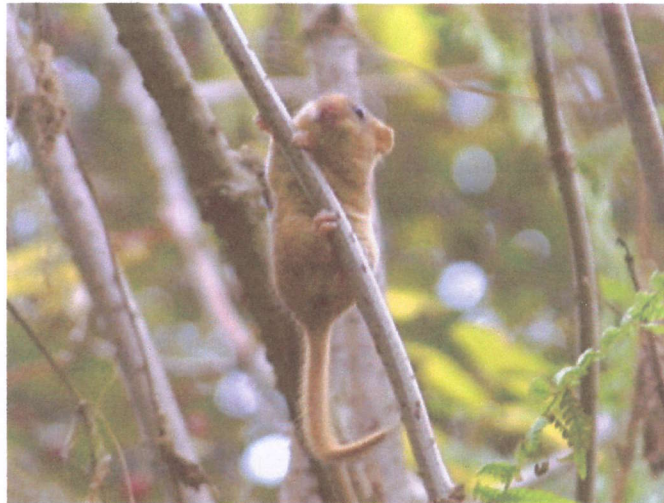
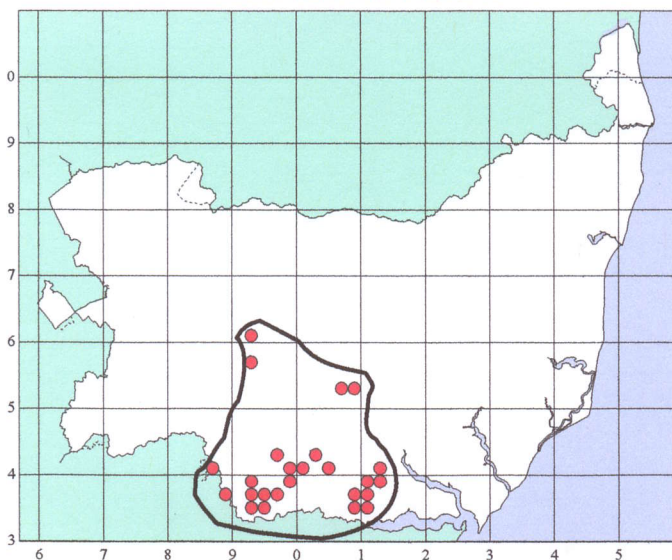


Working out your
Environmental Stewardship Scheme
Entry Level Scheme (ELS) &
Higher Level Scheme (HLS):



Dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius*



Use this leaflet to choose simple options and
help the dormouse

Helping you choose your ELS options

To receive your ELS payment of £30/ha * you need to select from a range of management options, each of which gives you points towards the total you need to be eligible (30 points per hectare). Some options could especially benefit dormice.

Where do dormice occur in Suffolk?

The map overleaf shows known distribution of dormice in Suffolk. Most of the records are found in the south of the County, within the River Stour catchment and in the south-east on the Shotley peninsular. Within the known range for dormice in Suffolk it is highly likely that there are undiscovered sites.

What habitats can support dormice?

They are typically found in woodland habitats, particularly ancient woodland which has had a history of coppice management. Planted Ancient Woodlands (PAWS), where conifers have been introduced, may still support dormice. Occasionally dormice may be found in secondary woodland and scrub, when such habitat is linked to ancient woodland.

Hedgerows can also provide good habitat for dormice, supporting permanent populations or providing food-producing dispersal corridors. Hedgerows therefore provide both habitat space and vital connections between woodland sites.

Dormice are usually found in hedgerows that are ancient and species-rich. The suitability of such hedgerows can be determined by the presence of the following features:

- Ancient woodland within 500 metres (which may also support dormice)
- Good hedgerow links to ancient woodland with few gaps
- Contains a mixture of hazel, bramble, oak, honeysuckle and dog rose (although not all may be present). Other shrub species may also be present
- Width at least 3-4 metres
- Top uncut and often at least 4 metres high

Other hedgerows and tree lines may also occasionally act as dispersal corridors for dormice, particularly if they link ancient woodland to ancient hedgerows, so the likely presence of dormice in other field boundaries should also be considered.

What if you don't have dormice?

If you have hedgerows on your land then why not choose from these options anyway. By restoring and enhancing hedgerows you could encourage dormice, if present locally, to move in from neighbouring areas. You will also help a wide range of other wildlife in and around your farm.

Why choose the options in this leaflet?

- save time choosing your options
- with little extra management effort add more environmental value to your cross compliance margins
- improve the quality of boundary features on your farm and their connections to other wildlife habitats
- Dormice are on the north-eastern edge of their range in Suffolk and in many areas populations are isolated or only just hanging on
- by choosing dormouse-friendly options you could make a valuable contribution to the Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan
- by helping dormice you will be part of the nationwide campaign to maintain the viability of existing dormouse populations.

We suggest these ELS options

The ELS Handbook has full details of the scheme and the points (on page numbers shown). For equivalent options on organic land refer to the Organic Entry Level Scheme Stewardship Handbook.

Entry Level Stewardship options to help dormice*

ELS options	How the option helps dormice
EB1 Hedge management 22 points/100m p36 EB2 Half hedge management 11 points/100m p36	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sensitively manage hedges to improve structural diversity• Enhance food availability by cutting less frequently
EB3 Enhanced hedge management 42 points/100m p38	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is particularly suitable where dormice may be present to retain and enhance the structure and diversity of their habitat
EB8, EB9, EB10 Combined hedge and ditch management 28, 38 or 56 points/100m p40-41 Only available under ELS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improve hedge and ditch structural links with other habitat areas
EC4 Management of woodland edges 380 points/ha p44	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unshaded shrubs at woodland edges can provide a rich food source for dormice
EE1-EE6 Buffer strips 2m/4m/6m wide on cultivated and intensive grassland 300-400 points/ha p50-54 Available under both ELS and HLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buffer hedges and ditches on field margins on cultivated land or intensive grassland to improve structural diversity
EK1 Take field corners out of improved grass management 400 points/ha p73 Available under both ELS and HLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Promotes scrub development

*** These options will help other target species such as bats and great crested newts.**

