



Parc Ynni Calon y Gwynt

ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

Appendix 5M: Dormouse Survey Report





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TYPE OF DOCUMENT (VERSION) PUBLIC

PROJECT NO. PROJECT NO

OUR REF. NO. UK62282400-APP5M_001

DATE: JULY 2026

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QUALITY CONTROL

Issue/revision	First issue	Revision 1	Revision 2	Revision 3
Remarks				
Date	June 2026	June 2026		
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Signature				
Project number	UK-62282400	UK-62282400		
Report number	UK62282400-APP5M_001	UK62282400-APP5M_002		

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LEGISLATION



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

WSP UK Ltd (WSP) was commissioned by Wind2 to undertake a dormouse *Muscardinus avellanaria* survey which would facilitate the construction of an access road (hereafter referred to as the 'Site') associated with the Calon Y Gwynt Energy Park, Powys.

Wind2 are intending to construct an approximate 4km access road to connect the proposed energy park to the A470, hereafter referred to as the 'Proposed Development'. Previous ecological surveys have confirmed the presence of habitat suitable for dormice at the Site. Consequently, WSP was commissioned to carry out a targeted dormouse survey of the Site.

A dormouse nest tube survey was carried out between June and November 2024. This confirmed the presence of dormice using woodland and hedgerow habitats on and connected to the Site.

Some of these areas would be cleared and individual dormice may be at risk during construction of the Proposed Development. Dormice are afforded a high level of protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the 'Habitats Regulations') and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). In addition, dormice are afforded additional consideration in development through planning policy. As such, measures to support legal compliance and their long-term protection would be required during implementation of the Proposed Development.

Proposals for mitigation and compensation that would address potential impacts on dormice are provided in this report. The measures proposed will enable the Local Planning Authority to assess the planning application, including their obligations under the Habitats Regulations. A European Protected Species (EPS) Licence would also be required post planning, to enable the Proposed Development to proceed. Further details of mitigation measures would be provided as part of the application for such a licence.

With implementation of the mitigation measures proposed, long-term adverse effects on the local dormouse population would be avoided and compliance with wildlife legislation enabled.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1. WSP UK Ltd (WSP) was commissioned by Wind2 to provide ecological support services including a dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* survey to support the construction of an access road which would facilitate the construction of the Parc Ynni Calon Y Gwynt, Powys, mid-Wales (approximate central grid reference: SO 001 983) (hereafter referred to as the 'Main Site').
- 1.1.2. The Parc Ynni Calon y Gwynt Main Site is located on the hills to the north of the A470 trunk road, approximately 3.5 km east of the village of Carno, 3.5 km north of the village of Pontdolgoch and 12 km north-west of Newtown. To facilitate the construction of the Energy Park on the Main Site, an access road is required to be constructed. The access road is planned to extend for approximately 4km from the southern grid reference SO 01372 93553 to the northern grid reference SO 01139 97325, at which point the access road joins with the Main Site. The route will bisect farmland, hedgerows, woodland and scrub and will connect the A470 to the Energy Park. The access road will hereafter be referred to as the 'Site' and works to facilitate its construction will hereafter be referred to as the 'Proposed Development'. The route is presented within **Figure 5M.1**, which consists of a central line and a 20m buffer each side of the indicative line.

1.2. ECOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.2.1. A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) of the Site and the Main Site were produced separately by WSP in April and May 2024 respectively^{1,2}.
- 1.2.2. Habitats within the Main Site were considered poor for supporting dormice due to the small, discrete areas of habitats suitable to support commuting, foraging or nest-building dormice, such as woodland, and the lack of connectivity between such habitats.
- 1.2.3. The Access Road PEA¹ did not identify any desk study records of dormouse within the 1km Search Area, however it identified suitable dormouse habitat within the Site in the form of a network of connected hedgerows, broad-leaved woodland and dense scrub. These habitats were assessed as being suitable to support dormouse populations and would be directly impacted as part of the Proposed Development. The Access Road PEA therefore recommended that dormouse surveys were completed to determine the presence or likely absence of dormouse within the Site.

1.3. POLICY AND LEGISLATION

- 1.3.1. Dormice are protected under the following pieces of national nature conservation legislation:
- The Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the 'Habitats Regulations');
 - Section 7 of the Environment Wales Act (2016); and
 - The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) (WCA).

¹ WSP UK Ltd. (2024a). Calon Y Gwynt Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) – Access Road. April 2024

² WSP UK Ltd. (2024b). Calon Y Gwynt Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) – Main Site. May 2024.

- 1.3.2. The context and applicability of each piece of legislation is explained within Annex 5M.2 Legislation. Dormice are also listed as a priority species in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP)³, although have not been listed specifically within the Local Biodiversity Action Plan or the Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan⁴. They can therefore be a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal (as per the ODPM circular 06/2005⁵).
- 1.3.3. Planning Policy Wales (PPW) 2024⁶ forms the basis for planning system decisions with respect to conserving and enhancing the natural environment and the species it supports (including dormice). The policy sets out that the planning system should protect and enhance biodiversity by promoting the protection and recovery of priority species populations. Paragraph 6.4.35 of PPW (2024)⁶ states that the presence of protected species is a material consideration when a planning authority is considering a development proposal.

1.4. BRIEF AND OBJECTIVES

- 1.4.1. Wind2 commissioned WSP to complete a dormouse survey to:
- Establish whether dormice are present or likely absent from the Site; and
 - If present, make recommendations as to how future proposals should account for dormice.
- 1.4.2. The results of this survey, and subsequent recommendations, are included within this baseline dormouse report. This baseline report does not, in general, define the value of any receptors from an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) perspective or undertake any assessment of effects of future proposals on the receptors on Site. This is discussed in **Chapter 5: Ecology** of the Environmental Statement.

³ Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010) UK priority species pages version 2 Muscardinus avellanarius. Available: <http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/speciespages/462.pdf>, accessed 07/02/2025

⁴ Powys Nature Partnership (2022) Powys Nature Recovery Action Plan – Our Strategy for Nature Recovery.

⁵ Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) (2002). Office of the Deputy Prime Minister Circular 06/2005. Government Circular: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation - Statutory Obligations and the impact within the planning system.

⁶ Welsh Assembly Government (2024). Planning Policy Wales. Edition 12.

2. METHODS

2.1. OVERVIEW

- 2.1.1. To establish whether dormice were present or likely absent dormouse tubes were installed within suitable habitat on and adjacent to the Site in June 2024 and surveyed through to November 2024. The survey work was completed in accordance with current good practice guidance⁷.

2.2. DORMOUSE SURVEY

- 2.2.1. A total of 50 dormouse tubes were installed along the route of the access road on the 12th - 13th June 2024 as illustrated in Figure 5M.2. Nest tubes were installed at 10-20m spacing within suitable habitat within and connected to the Site and were attached to branches of a variety of native woody species. The tube survey was designed to ensure effective coverage of the Site as a whole.
- 2.2.2. Survey visits were undertaken between July and November 2024 inclusive. Surveys were carried out in accordance with the Dormouse Conservation Handbook⁷. During these monthly visits, any signs of dormouse, including individuals, nests and feeding signs (e.g. gnawed nuts) were recorded.
- 2.2.3. Best practice guidance⁷ provides an index of the probability of detecting dormouse presence in tubes in each month between April and November using a minimum of 50 nest tubes per hectare as standard. Using this scoring system, a survey effort of 20 is required to meet the minimum standards for detecting dormouse presence. The survey effort achieved a survey score of 20, which is considered to have met the effort indicated in the guidance as shown in **Table 2-1** below.

Table 2-1 - Index of probability score per month for nest tubes deployed between April and November

Month	Index of probability score ⁸ for 50 tubes	Months that the survey was undertaken (and therefore score achieved)
April	1	
May	4	
June	2	X
July	2	X
August	5	X
September	7	X
October	2	X
November	2	X
Total	25	20

⁷ English Nature (2006) The Dormouse Conservation Handbook.

⁸ Bright, P., Morris, P., & Mitchell-Jones, T. (2006). The dormouse conservation handbook . Natural England.

2.3. WEATHER AND PERSONNEL

- 2.3.1. All surveys were undertaken under suitable weather conditions. The survey dates and weather recorded are presented in **Annex 5M.1**.
- 2.3.2. Survey visits were conducted by a dormouse licenced ecologist (Natural Resources Wales licence reference - S093072-1).

2.4. NOTES AND LIMITATIONS

- Ecological survey data collected as part of this assessment is typically valid for 18 months (i.e. until November 2026) unless otherwise specified, for example if conditions are likely to change more quickly due to ecological processes or anticipated changes in management⁹. However, an update extended Phase 1 habitat survey carried out in Spring 2026 identified no changes in the habitats within the Site and their suitability to support dormice. Therefore, this finding is considered valid for a further two years, until Spring 2028.;
- It was not possible to safely deploy dormouse tubes within woodland blocks in the north of the Site as steep banks made suitable features inaccessible. However, the tubes deployed within connected habitat are considered suitable to provide a robust survey effort as such there is no limitation on the survey findings; and
- During the first survey of nest tubes, two tubes had fallen to the ground. These were repositioned and remained in place for the rest of the survey period. This is not considered a limitation to the method as the nest tubes remained in place for the remainder of the surveys and any evidence of dormice nests could have been identified on the latter surveys.

⁹ CIEEM (2019). Advice Note on the Lifespan of Ecological Reports & Surveys. [Available online: <https://cieem.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Advice-Note.pdf>]

3. RESULTS AND EVALUATION

3.1. RESULTS OF DORMOUSE SURVEY

3.1.1. The surveys confirmed dormouse presence on the Site. Details of dormouse evidence recorded are summarized in Table 3.1 below and raw data is included in **Annex 5M.1**.

Table 3.1 - Dormouse evidence recorded

Tube number	Date	Description of evidence present	Photos
21	29/07/2024	Two adult male dormouse and a partially complete dormouse nest.	 
18	19/11/2024	Partially complete dormouse nest.	NA
21	19/11/2024	Partially complete dormouse nest.	NA

4. DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1. AVOIDANCE AND MITIGATION MEASURES

- 4.1.1. The Proposed Development has been designed to avoid the majority of woodland and hedgerow habitat.
- 4.1.2. As the Proposed Development would impact some areas of vegetation likely to be used by dormice (for quantities of permanent and temporary habitat loss, please refer to **Appendix 50: Net Benefit for Biodiversity**), a derogation from the legislation protecting dormice and their habitat would be necessary to permit the works to proceed lawfully. Therefore, a European Protected Species (EPS) Licence would be required from Natural Resources Wales (NRW) prior to commencement of construction. This is normally obtained once planning permission is granted.
- 4.1.3. Where loss of hedgerow, scrub or woodland habitat cannot be avoided, mitigation and compensation measures will be required in support of the planning application and as part of the EPS licence application. A summary of the recommended measures are provided below and full details will be provided within the Environmental Statement and the EPS Licence method statement.
- Retained habitat would be protected during the construction phase. As a minimum, this would be in accordance with BS5387:2012 'Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction – Recommendations';
 - New and enhanced habitat would be created as compensation for the loss of existing habitat. To achieve compensation, an area of planting/enhancement of 2:1 creation to loss is generally required. New planting should comprise native shrubs and trees and be planted in advance of existing habitat removal to allow time to develop into suitable habitat;
 - A Management Plan would be created which would identify appropriate management prescriptions for the retained and created habitat in the long-term; and
 - Seasonal timing of clearance works and appropriate phasing would be employed to reduce the risk of incidental killing or injury of dormice. This would likely be achieved by implementing a two-stage process, with above-ground vegetation cleared to approximately 20-30 cm during the winter (November to March) and stumps grubbed out during the following May. This phased approach is recommended in order to avoid impacts upon breeding dormice which would result from habitat clearance during the dormouse active season (April to November). It also minimises the risk of impacts upon hibernating dormice (which hibernate at or below ground level between approximately November and March). Clearance works in areas containing suitable dormouse habitat would be completed using hand tools. This avoids crushing of dormice in hibernation nests by machinery. These clearance works would be carried out in tandem with an inspection of the vegetation by a suitably qualified ecologist, to identify any nests present and enable measures to be taken to ensure their protection.
- 4.1.4. PPW 2024 states that development proposals 'must consider the need to support the maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity and the resilience of ecosystem'. To achieve this, the following measures are recommended to be included within a Landscape and Ecological Management Plan (or similar), to be produced during the detailed design stage of the Proposed Development, above and beyond those required for compensation for impacts from the Proposed Development:

- Planting of a variety of native species as part of landscaping to encourage invertebrates;
- Creation of additional hedgerows using native species of local provenance in line with the Proposed Development;
- Installation of dormouse, bird and bat boxes in trees to provide additional refuge sites for these species' groups; and
- Avoidance of the use of invasive species listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) in any planting.

4.1.5. The survey results presented in this baseline dormouse report are considered sufficient to inform an EPS Licence application made within the next 2 years⁹. It is therefore recommended that the dormouse surveys should be repeated should a planning permission application relating to the Site, or the commencement of works be delayed beyond Spring 2028.

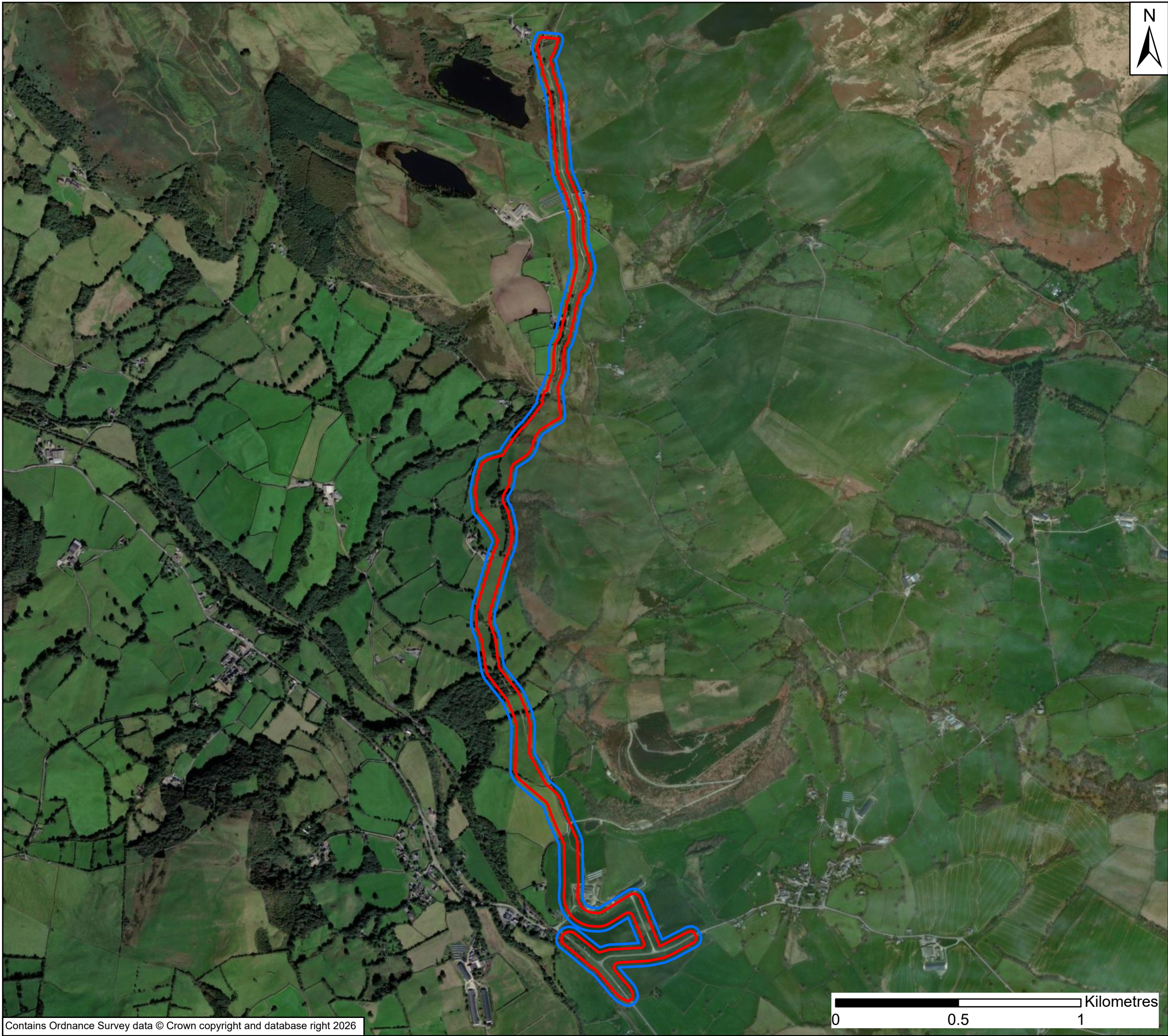
5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1.1. Without mitigation the Proposed Development would impact on individual dormice through destruction of suitable habitat, as well as potential severance across the Site for foraging and commuting purposes. There would also be risks to individual dormice during site clearance activities. As dormouse presence has been confirmed and impacts cannot be entirely avoided, a EPS Licence would be required to facilitate development following granting of planning permission. This would set out mitigation measures in detail.
- 5.1.2. A series of mitigation measures have been proposed that would be implemented as part of the Proposed Development. These would avoid, minimise and mitigate impacts on dormice, as follows:
- Impacts on the majority of suitable dormouse habitat have been avoided through sensitive design;
 - Seasonal timing of clearance works, and appropriate phasing would be employed to reduce the risk of incidental killing and or injury of dormice;
 - Retained habitat would be protected during the Site clearance and construction phase;
 - New habitat would be created to offset habitat loss arising from the Proposed Development (prior to loss); and
 - A Management Plan would be produced which would identify appropriate management prescriptions for the retained and created habitat.
- 5.1.3. A series of enhancement measures have also been proposed, which will enhance the value of the Site for dormice and other wildlife.
- 5.1.4. With the implementation of the measures described above, long-term negative effects on the local dormouse population would be avoided. It is anticipated that the recommendations associated with the access road may be applied to any connective suitable habitat within the Main Site.

6. FIGURES

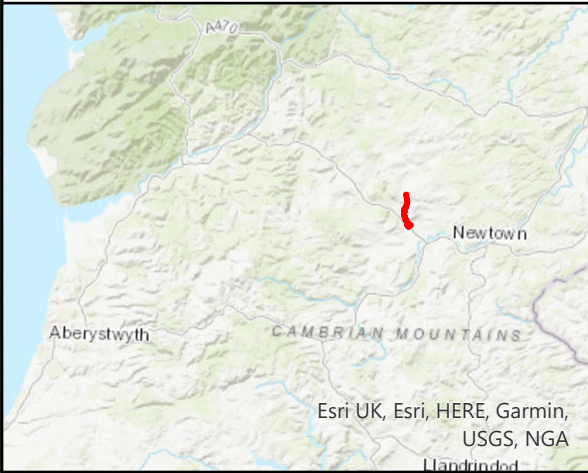
Figure 5M.1 - Site Location Plan

Figure 5M.2 - Dormouse Survey Results

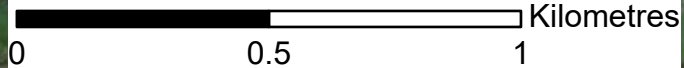


Legend

-  Site
-  20m Buffer Area



Client:	WIND2		
Project:	CALON Y GWYNT - Access Road Dormouse Survey Results		
Title	Site Location Plan		
Drawing No:	Figure 5M.1	Drawn:	AS
Date:	6/17/2026	Checked:	MB
Scale:	1:15,000 @ A3	Approved:	MC

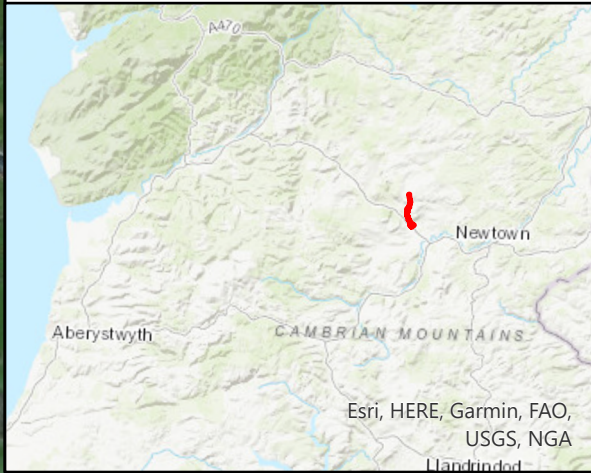


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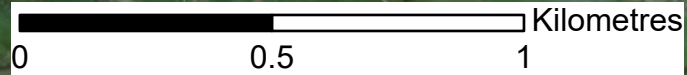


Legend

- Site
- Not surveyed - H&S issues
- Tubes 1-7
- Tubes 8-20
- Tubes 21-40
- Tubes 41-50
- Confirmed dormouse



Client:	WIND2		
Project:	CALON Y GWYNT - Access Road Dormouse Survey Results		
Title	Dormouse Survey Results		
Drawing No:	Figure 5M.2	Drawn:	AS
Date:	6/17/2026	Checked:	MB
Scale:	1:15,000 @ A3	Approved:	MC



Annex 5M.1

RAW DATA



Table 2 - Raw Survey Data

		Survey Date							
		[April]	[May]	[June]	[July]	[August]	[September]	[October]	[November]
Weather Description		NA	NA	NA	Warm, no rain.				Cold, no rain, scattered snow.
Other Notes		NA	NA	NA	Replaced two fallen tubes				
Date nest tubes installed	12-13/06/2024	Results – Dormouse present, based on findings observed during the July and November surveys.							
Nest Tube Number									
18									Partially created nest
21					Partially created nest. Two adult male DM				
45					Tube fallen – re-deployed				
46					Tube fallen – re-deployed				

Annex 5M.2

LEGISLATION



ANNEX 5M.2 – LEGISLATION

LEGAL COMPLIANCE

Dormice are afforded a high level of protection under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (the 'Habitat Regulations'), the legislation means that it is an offence to:

'Deliberately capture, injure or kill a wild dormouse;

Deliberately disturb wild dormice; 'disturbance of animals includes in particular any disturbance which is likely:

(a) To impair their ability;

(i) To survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young; or

(ii) In the case of animals of a hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate.

(b) To affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.'

Damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place used by this species.'

Dormouse receive further protection through inclusion on Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (WCA) 1981 (as amended). Under this Act it is an offence to:

Intentionally or recklessly disturb a dormouse while it is occupying a structure or place which it uses for shelter or protection; and/or

Intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection by a dormouse.

Due to the high level of protection afforded to dormice and their habitat, mitigation for this species is governed by a strict licensing procedure administered by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) (normally, planning permission must be obtained before a licence can be sought). Licencing is subject to three tests, as defined under the Habitats Regulations, these must also be applied by the planning authority before granting permission for activities affecting dormice. For permission to be granted the following criteria must be satisfied:

The proposal is necessary 'to preserve public health or public safety or other imperative reasons of overriding public interest including those of a social or economic nature and beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment';

'There is no satisfactory alternative'; and

The proposals 'will not be detrimental to the maintenance of the population of the species concerned at a favourable conservation status in their natural range'.

The dormouse is also listed as a Species of Principal Importance (SPI) for the Conservation of Biodiversity in Wales in accordance with Section 7 of the Environment Wales Act (2016). Under Section 7, public bodies have a duty to have regard for the conservation of SPI when carrying out their functions.

The reader should refer to the original legislation for the definitive interpretation.



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