



## Species and Habitat Action Plan Assessment Form

Please refer to the accompanying guidance for information about how to complete this form and an explanation of terms used

### Field 1: Action Plan details

Species/Habitat Action Plan	Dormouse <i>Muscardinus avellanarius</i>
Lead Partner/Agency	The Wildlife Trusts & English Nature (TWT/EN)
Steering Group/Other organisations	Yes, as a >Focus Group=, EN, CCW, The Wildlife Trusts, Forestry Commission, Royal Holloway College, People=s Trust for Endangered Species, FRCA/MAFF, Mammal Society.
Work programme in existence?	Yes

### Field 2: Objectives and targets overview

Please list the targets for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the target is applicable, and additional comments including the rationale for new targets. For each new target please add new sequential paragraph numbers and target text. Please provide information about progress and country disaggregation in Table A for all targets.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Comments
4.1 Maintain and enhance dormouse populations in all the counties where they still occur		Y			Y	
4.2 Re-establish self-sustaining populations in at least 5 counties where they have been lost		Y			Y	

### Field 3: Proposed actions overview

Please list the proposed actions for the action plan, indicating in which country/region the action is applicable. For each new action please add new sequential paragraph numbers and action text. If the action is regarded as significant (please see guidance) indicate this in the box and provide further details in Table B. For actions not regarded as significant simply state if the action is ongoing or complete. Remember any action which is being dropped from the workplan will be regarded as significant for the first round of reporting.

Number and text	UK	E	NI	S	W	Action significant ?	Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)
5.1.1 Seek to ensure that PPG9 guidance issued by DETR and the WO is taken into account by Highway Authorities and LAs. (DoT, LAs, WO)		Y			Y		ongoing
5.2.1 Sites supporting dormice		Y			Y	Y	ongoing

should be identified and advice provided to land managers on appropriate management. (CCW, EN)							
5.2.2 Grant-aid and incentive schemes (such as the Woodland Grants Scheme) should be used to encourage owners to manage suitable habitat sensitively. (FA)		Y			Y	ongoing	
5.2.3 Manage woodlands and hedgerows to maintain current populations and prevent further habitat fragmentation. (FA, MAFF)		Y			Y	some work ongoing	
5.3.1 Continue the programme to re-introduce dormice in 5 counties where they are currently absent. Reinforce populations in at least 3 other counties where they are scattered. (EN)		Y			Y	ongoing	
5.3.2 Establish by 1996 a co-ordinated programme of captive breeding to support the reintroduction programme, including research into the long-term survival of captive bred individuals. (EN)		Y			Y	yes	
5.4.1 A new manual on dormouse conservation will be published in 1995. (EN)		Y			Y	yes	
5.4.2 Support training in conservation of dormice both for land managers and advisers. (MAFF, FA, WOAD, CCW, EN)		Y			Y	Y	ongoing
5.5.1 Continue research into dormouse ecology, with particular emphasis on the ecology of dormice in hedgerows or conifer sites, the analysis of existing population data, hibernation requirements, and the effects on populations of isolation. (EN)		Y			Y	Y	ongoing
5.5.2 Promote research on methods of conserving dormice which are consistent with various silvicultural systems. (EN, FA)		Y			Y		not started
5.5.3 The National Dormouse Monitoring Scheme should be maintained and extended to 25 counties. Methods of surveying or monitoring should be further developed and standardised to obtain sufficient long-term data on which to assess the effects of site management and successional development. (CCW, EN)		Y			Y	Y	ongoing

5.5.4 Surveys of sites identified in the Great Nut Hunt of 1993 should be repeated at 5-10 year intervals to provide data on changes in distribution and abundance. (EN)		Y			Y		not started yet
5.5.5 Carry out a survey of dormice in Wales to assess the range and habitat use and identify necessary conservation measures. (CCW)					Y	Y	yes
5.5.6 Encourage research on the ecology and conservation of this species in an international context. (CCW, EN, JNCC)		Y			Y		ongoing
5.5.7 Pass information gathered during survey and monitoring of this species to JNCC in order that it can be incorporated in a national database and contribute to the maintenance of an up-to date Red List. (CCW, EN)		Y			Y		no longer applicable
5.6.1 Ensure that landowners, agencies and local authorities are aware of the requirements of the dormouse, especially the impact woodland and hedgerow management may have, and the effects of habitat fragmentation. (CCW, EN)		Y			Y		ongoing
5.6.2 Ensure continued public awareness of this species as a key indicator of desirable woodland and hedge conditions. (CCW, EN, FA, MAFF, WOAD)		Y			Y		ongoing

**Field 4: Assessment of status**

Please tick the appropriate category to indicate the assessment of status of the species or habitat, for each country/region where appropriate, and provide a statement supporting the category selected.

	Not appropriate	Recovered	Signs of recovery	No change	Declining	Lost	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>							
<i>England</i>							Y
<i>Northern Ireland</i>							
<i>Scotland</i>							
<i>Wales</i>							Y

Insufficient information is available in both England and Wales to determine yet whether numbers or distribution are increasing naturally. Recent reintroductions in England have extended the species range there, but the number of reintroduced populations is low and most have only recently been established. Climate is probably a limiting factor for dormice in some areas of England and Wales

**Field 5: Summary statement**

Please provide an overview of plan implementation, including new factors affecting the species or habitat which will accelerate or constrain progress towards meeting of the targets. Where a factor results in new action(s) please cross-reference back to the relevant numbers under Field 3 and Table B.

Implementation of many aspects of the dormouse SAP predates BAP. Action was begun by the NCC and continued (in England) as a Species Recovery Programme. Major initiatives dating from this include the reintroduction programme, the key sites monitoring system and the conservation manual. In Wales, survey and research work has been carried out by CCW and the Vincent Wildlife Trust.

**Field 6: Signing off**

Please 'sign off' the form below to confirm that steering group members or key contacts have been consulted and agreed the information provided.

Contact details	Lead Partner	Contact Point
Name	A J Mitchell-Jones / A Craven	A J Mitchell-Jones
Organisation	English Nature / The Wildlife Trusts	English Nature
Assessment date (dd/mm/yy)	28/09/99	28/09/99

Completed forms should be submitted to JNCC

Biodiversity Information Service  
 Joint Nature Conservation Committee  
 Monkstone House  
 City Road  
 Peterborough PE1 1JY  
 Tel: 01733 562626  
 Fax: 01733 555948  
 E-mail: lpr99@jncc.gov.uk

**Table A: Action Plan objectives and targets (Copiable table)**

For each target please state how, if applicable, it has been disaggregated to the country level. Please insert the paragraph number, UK target and country Bspecific disaggregated target(s) into the table. Please tick the appropriate category to indicate progress against published and disaggregated targets. For each target please copy the table and detail the (existing or new [new paragraph numbers should run sequentially, under relevant headings in the published volumes]) paragraph number, target text and an assessment of progress.

Objective/target <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>		4.1 Maintain and enhance dormouse populations in all the counties where they still occur			
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>	Y				
<i>England</i>			Y		
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	Y				
<i>Scotland</i>	Y				
<i>Wales</i>			Y		
<p>England: nest-box schemes have been established in a wide range of woods. These both contribute to the national monitoring scheme and allow higher densities of dormice in these sites. Woodland management sympathetic to dormouse conservation has been undertaken in many woodlands, some managed by the Wildlife Trusts and other conservation organisations, others managed by private owners with advice from conservation organisations. Wales: a national dormouse survey has been carried out to identify remaining populations and characterise dormouse sites in a Welsh context. Welsh sites to be added to the monitoring project. Woodland management sympathetic to dormice is undertaken in some woods. Hedgerows are of particular importance for dormice in Wales and work is commencing to assess suitable management for these.</p>					

Objective/target <i>(For new or revised targets please provide the new paragraph number and target text.)</i>		4.2 Re-establish self-sustaining populations in at least 5 counties where they have been lost			
Country	Not appropriate	Target achieved	Some progress	No progress	Insufficient information
<i>UK</i>	Y				
<i>England</i>			Y		
<i>Northern Ireland</i>	Y				
<i>Scotland</i>	Y				
<i>Wales</i>	Y				
<p>Text description of target progress (separate for each country/region): In England, dormouse releases have been undertaken in Cambridgeshire (1993), Nottinghamshire(1994), Cheshire (1996), Buckinghamshire (1998), Warwickshire(1998) and North Yorkshire (1999). Dormice are still present at all sites and are known to have spread considerably at the Cambridgeshire site. No reintroductions will be undertaken in Wales until a</p>					

requirement has been established.

Table B: Proposed actions (Copiable table)

For each significant action please copy and complete the table below.

<i>Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	5.2.1 Sites supporting dormice should be identified and advice provided to land managers on appropriate management. (CCW, EN)	
<i>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	Sites added to national monitoring scheme RHUL/EN - ongoing Inventory project EN/RHUL - 1999- Local surveys contribute to inventory - TWT - ongoing Welsh sites added to monitoring scheme - CCW Advice to landowners via conservation manual and site visits - EN/TWT	
<i>Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)</i>	Yes	
<i>Description of work taken and organisation responsible.</i>	<i>National monitoring scheme continues to grow - in October 1998 it included 77 sites with 5570 nest-boxes. (EN funding to RHUL) Dormouse inventory project begun in 1999; (EN funding to RHUL) Some county surveys undertaken by Wildlife Trusts Survey of woods in Wales completed (CCW funding to RHUL)</i>	
<i>Output and timescale</i>		<i>Action by EN, CCW RHUL, Wildlife Trusts</i>
<i>Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>	<i>Expansion of scheme limited by availability of trained recorders. Training courses are being provided to reduce this restriction.</i>	
<i>Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	<i>Mostly ongoing</i>	
<i>Next steps</i>	<i>Completion of national inventory and distribution to local authorities and Forestry Commission</i>	
<i>Output and timescale</i>	<i>National inventory report 2000/2001</i>	<i>Action by EN/RHUL</i>

<p><i>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</i> (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</p>	<p>5.3.1 Continue the programme to re-introduce dormice in 5 counties where they are currently absent. Reinforce populations in at least 3 other counties where they are scattered. (EN)</p>	
<p><i>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</i> (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</p>	<p>Continue reintroduction programme when suitable sites are available</p>	
<p><i>Action/workplan undertaken?</i> (Please state yes or no.)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	
<p><i>Description of work taken and organisation responsible.</i></p>	<p>Reintroductions to: Cambridgeshire (1993), Nottinghamshire(1994), Cheshire (1996), Warwickshire(1998) and North Yorkshire (1999). Restocking at one site in Buckinghamshire (1998),</p>	
<p><i>Output and timescale</i></p>	<p>Self sustaining populations founded at each reintroduction site.</p>	<p>Action by EN, RHUL. TWT</p>
<p><i>Constraints to action</i> (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</p>	<p>The main constraint is the difficulty of locating appropriate reintroduction sites. These must be large woods under sympathetic management with local volunteer support for the reintroduction process. A range of organisations owning significant amounts of woodland has been approached and possible new collaborators identified.</p>	
<p><i>Action complete or ongoing?</i> (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p><i>Next steps</i></p>	<p>Further reintroductions will be made as sites are discovered</p>	
<p><i>Output and timescale</i></p>	<p>New populations in counties where the dormouse is rare or from which it has disappeared entirely. Approximately one new population per year.</p>	<p>Action by EN/RHUL /TWT and others</p>

<p><i>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</i> (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</p>	<p>5.3.2 Establish by 1996 a co-ordinated programme of captive breeding to support the reintroduction programme, including research into the long-term survival of captive bred individuals. (EN)</p>	
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<i>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	<i>Review operation of Captive Breeding Group (CBG/RHUL/EN) -1999 Support Group through grant-aid as appropriate (EN) 1994-</i>	
<i>Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)</i>	<i>Yes</i>	
<i>Description of work taken and organisation responsible.</i>	<i>Captive Breeding Group set up in 1994 to provide dormice for reintroductions. The Group maintains a studbook for captive-bred dormouse,</i>	
<i>Output and timescale</i>	<i>More than 100 dormice provided to release schemes</i>	<i>Action by CBG</i>
<i>Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		
<i>Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	
<i>Next steps</i>	<i>Ensure Group is properly constituted and that output matches demand for captive-bred animals for reintroductions.</i>	
<i>Output and timescale</i>	<i>Annual report by CBG and estimate of likely production.</i>	<i>Action by CBG, EN</i>

<i>Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	<i>5.4.1 A new manual on dormouse conservation will be published in 1995. (EN)</i>	
<i>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	<i>Publish manual (EN/RHUL) 1996 Relaunch and increase availability (EN/RHUL) 1999</i>	
<i>Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)</i>	<i>Yes</i>	
<i>Description of work taken and organisation responsible.</i>	<i>Manual published</i>	
<i>Output and timescale</i>	<i>Bright, P., Morris, P. &amp; Mitchell-Jones, T (1996) The Dormouse Conservation Handbook. English Nature, Peterborough, 30pp.</i>	<i>Action by RHUL, EN</i>
<i>Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve</i>		

<i>should also be detailed.)</i>	
<i>Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	<i>Complete</i>
<i>Next steps</i>	<i>Distribute manual to a wider range of woodland managers.</i>
<i>Output and timescale</i>	<i>Action by EN</i>

<i>Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	<i>5.4.2 Support training in conservation of dormice both for land managers and advisers. (MAFF, FA, WOAD, CCW, EN)</i>
<i>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	<i>Organise training for trainers (MS/RHUL) 1999 Provide training days for land managers etc (FC) 1999-</i>
<i>Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)</i>	<i>Yes</i>
<i>Description of work taken and organisation responsible.</i>	<i>Training day for trainers and land-managers held September 1999</i>
<i>Output and timescale</i>	<i>Action by EN/RHUL</i>
<i>Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>	
<i>Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>
<i>Next steps</i>	<i>Further training days for land-managers will be organised on demand, provided resources are available.</i>
<i>Output and timescale</i>	<i>Action by FC</i>

<i>Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	<i>5.5.1 Continue research into dormouse ecology, with particular emphasis on the ecology of dormice in hedgerows or conifer sites, the analysis of existing population data, hibernation requirements, and the effects on populations of isolation.</i>
<i>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if</i>	<i>Ecological research where dormice present in hedges (EN/CCW) Research on hedgerow ecology and management (MAFF) Liaise with hedgerows HAP (EN)</i>

<i>possible.)</i>	<i>Liaise with Highways Agency over corridor management (EN)</i>	
<i>Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)</i>	<i>Yes</i>	
<i>Description of work taken and organisation responsible.</i>	<i>Major project on dormice in hedgerows initiated (RHUL, PTES, Earthwatch, EN) Research programme on hedgerow management (MAFF) Liaison with hedgerows HAP and Highways Agency initiated (EN)</i>	
<i>Output and timescale</i>	<i>Research report on dormice in hedges - 2001 Information provided to hedgerow HAP and Highways Agency</i>	<i>Action by RHUL PTES EN Earthwatch</i>
<i>Constraints to action (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)</i>		
<i>Action complete or ongoing? (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	
<i>Next steps</i>	<i>Research outputs will feed into improved advice for landowners/managers and assist the Hedgerows HAP</i>	
<i>Output and timescale</i>		<i>Action by EN, RHUL, PTES</i>

<i>Published action/organisation(s) responsible (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)</i>	<i>5.5.3 The National Dormouse Monitoring Scheme should be maintained and extended to 25 counties. Methods of surveying or monitoring should be further developed and standardised to obtain sufficient long-term data on which to assess the effects of site management and successional development. (CCW, EN)</i>	
<i>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)</i>	<i>Continue to expand monitoring scheme (RHUL/EN/CCW) Review monitoring data (RHUL/EN) Develop monitoring for studying the effects of management on sites (TWT)</i>	
<i>Action/workplan undertaken? (Please state yes or no.)</i>	<i>Yes</i>	
<i>Description of work taken and organisation responsible.</i>	<i>Monitoring scheme currently covers 20 counties but continues to expand; contribution of results is a condition of dormouse licences (RHUL/EN)</i>	
<i>Output and timescale</i>	<i>Annual newsletter to contributors</i>	<i>Action by RHUL EN</i>

		CCW TWT
<i>Constraints to action</i> (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	<i>Expansion of scheme depends on voluntary effort. This limits the number of new sites to join the scheme.</i>	
<i>Action complete or ongoing?</i> (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	ongoing	
<i>Next steps</i>	<i>Monitoring scheme may be incorporated into wider mammal surveillance system.</i>	
<i>Output and timescale</i>	<i>[Integrated mammal monitoring scheme may be in place by 2003]</i>	<i>Action by</i>

<i>Published action/organisation(s) responsible</i> (For new or revised actions please provide the new paragraph number and action text.)	<i>5.5.5 Carry out a survey of dormice in Wales to assess the range and habitat use and identify necessary conservation measures. (CCW)</i>	
<i>Work plan/organisation(s) responsible</i> (Summary of work plan agreed by the steering group, broken down by year if possible.)	<i>Survey of sites in Wales 1998/99 (CCW funding to RHUL)</i>	
<i>Action/workplan undertaken?</i> (Please state yes or no.)	Yes	
<i>Description of work taken and organisation responsible.</i>	<i>Over 600 sites have been surveyed for dormice. VWT are also carrying out some survey work</i>	
<i>Output and timescale</i>	<i>Report due October 1999</i>	<i>Action by CCW, RHUL, VWT</i>
<i>Constraints to action</i> (Please provide an explanation of the significant issues or difficulties encountered and how they have been or will be resolved. Any constraints which the steering group are unable to resolve should also be detailed.)	<i>Restrictions on funding meant that no historic sites were surveyed.</i>	
<i>Action complete or ongoing?</i> (Please state yes, not started, or ongoing.)	Complete	
<i>Next steps</i>	<i>Woodlands with dormice will be targeted for management advice and for inclusion in the national monitoring scheme.</i>	
<i>Output and timescale</i>	<i>Ongoing</i>	<i>Action by</i>

		<i>CCW, RHUL</i>
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