

Hazel Dormouse surveying introduction guide

Hazel dormice are a protected species in the UK. We are asking those on the ground and other volunteers to search for hazelnuts at woodland due for felling along the proposed HS2 line, to survey for the presence of hazel dormice. What you will be looking for is evidence that the hazelnut has been eaten by a hazel dormouse - so you will need to collect hazelnuts and then have a look at the marks which have been left on it.



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Hazel is a small, shrubby tree with oval, toothed, and hairy leaves. Find out more about how to identify hazel trees [here](#).

Hazelnuts (as shown [here](#)) are a popular food source for hazel dormice, as well as a number of other woodland animals. You should search nearby hazel trees, in the middle of woodland rather than in outer boundaries.

You can see to the left the markings from a hazel dormouse on a hazelnut ([photo from the Mammal Society](#)). The hazelnuts chewed by hazel dormice will be smooth on the inner rim of the hole created, with teeth marks along the upper surface of the hazelnut at an angle to the hole.

For more information on how to identify hazelnuts chewed by dormice and how they look different to the markings left by other mammals, go to the [People's Trust for Endangered Species](#) website and take a look at [their guide](#). Further guidance can also be found at the [Mammal Society](#).