

FW: A0001032 farm – dormice

To: '.....' @cyfoethnaturiolcymru.gov.uk

From: (AVFM - Rural Payment Wales) @Wales.GSI.Gov.UK

18.03.2015

Hi, I hope you are well.

My apologies, it's been a while but this is an update on our correspondence regarding Otter at We have now arranged for to carry out an otter survey and I have attached a copy of report to this email, this also includes a summary of relevant experience. Although otter are present along banks of the river Usk advised that a licence to disturb would not be required as the operations planned in this GWM scheme would have minimal impact on otter; nevertheless I would be grateful if you could let me know your thoughts on this before I submit a felling licence.

Evidence of Dormice activity was also found during the otter survey and, as also has experience of surveying for DM we asked him to carry out an assessment of the impact on DM of our planned works. You will note from the report that all the woods where we are planning to carry out works are deemed to be "high favourability" for DM. The woods are ASNW consisting of unmanaged mixed conifer (JL, NS, WH) and native broadleaves (AH, OK, CAR) with significant areas of HAZ and CAR coppice.

The original plan – Plan A (see attached Operations plan A) was to lightly thin & coppice 50% of each cpt area over 5 yr period to develop ground vegetation – leaving 50% of area as non intervention. In view of the presence of DM I'm thinking we may have to scale this back for the licence to disturb?

If you feel there would be an issue with us securing a licence for plan A then we could consider scaling back operations to 25% in all three cpt's but look at 2 interventions in cpt 2 in 5 yr period; this would enable us to remove the exotics in Cpt 2 whilst also carrying out a light thin the of the BL canopy and coppice the understory to develop bramble and ground vegetation.

In terms of scale it would be more economically viable for the landowner to work as much of the area as possible in the 5 yr period and plan A would be his preferred option. However, I'd be grateful for your thoughts on this before I draw up EPS licence application and Method Statement.

All the compartments will be stock excluded. Veteran BL trees will be retained.

..... also advised that there are records of lesser horseshoe bat adjacent to the Usk and possibly Brants in the farm buildings at (I think the owner has recently applied for a licence to disturb bats when carrying out work on his barn) will also advise on roost trees/flight lines and best practice for the felling licence application.

Please ring if you require further information.

Many thanks

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Glastir Woodlands Manager (South) Wales

Rheolwr Coetiroedd Glastir De Cymru