



## Dormice in Danger Project

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT) is extremely grateful for the support of Grundon Waste Management, The Saintbury Trust, Ratcliff Foundation, The Naturesave Trust and all our supporters who donated to our dormouse appeal for our Dormice in Danger project.

This project was targeted at a number of GWT nature reserves where there are good core populations of dormice: in the Forest of Dean, South Gloucestershire and the Stroud Valleys.

The number of hazel dormice has plummeted by 72% in the last 20 years. They depend on carefully managed woodland and hedgerows, but these special habitats are in decline.

Through your generous support we were able to undertake a number of land management projects to help halt this decline in suitable habitat on our nature reserves and allow for larger populations to flourish which will be more resilient to future challenges. This including restoring areas of **coppiced woodland** where Dormice thrive, **thinning and ride/glade enhancements** creating increased age structures of woodland increasing food sources, and erecting **Dormouse nest boxes** to monitor populations going forward.





### Coppicing Woodland

Dormice thrive in rotational coppiced woodland which produces ideal habitat structure for a wide variety of food sources being available throughout the active season. To ensure the coppice stools grow back, and a vigorous and diverse herbaceous understory, we also undertook Deer fencing.

Browsing Deer can severely restrict the regrowth of coppiced stools, and prevent an understorey developing; this would result in the clearance work undertaken developing into a habitat unsuitable for Dormice.



Deer fencing erected along the boundary of coppiced woodland to prevent Deer browsing of coppiced stools and the developing herbaceous understorey.





### Woodland thinning and ride/glade enhancements

Through undertaking thinning of dense areas of previously clear-felled woodland, we can help to encourage future veteran trees which will provide increased food sources, nesting opportunities, and hibernation sites. This also increases the amount of sunlight penetrating the woodland floor resulting in increased understorey diversity.

Enhancing rides and glades also produces more favourable habitat for Dormice with a diverse herbaceous community developing and creating scalloped ride edges allowing for connectivity throughout the woodland.



Creating scalloped edges to Rides to improve understorey vegetation while allowing connectivity in the canopy to allow Dormice to disperse throughout the wood.





### **Dormouse Nest Boxes**

Nest boxes are a fantastic method to monitor the health of Dormice populations through obtaining data on weight, breeding success, and distribution. In areas of previously clear-felled woodland, they also act as artificial nesting areas until future veteran trees are replaced.



Installing Dormouse boxes to help provide additional nesting sites and to allow for monitoring of the populations found on our nature reserves (top); a torpid Dormouse found in one of our boxes (bottom left); a Dormouse nest constructed in one of our boxes (bottom right).

**We would like to thank all our supporters  
for your valuable contribution to enable this project to go ahead**