A course focusing on the ecology of the Hazel Dormouse, suitable for anyone with a professional or a strong amateur interest in this native small mammal of woodlands, scrub and hedgerows.

It is suitable for ecologists, countryside professionals and managers interested in UK Priority Species and anyone wishing to work towards a Natural England or Natural Resources Wales licence to handle dormice.

The Hazel or Common dormouse has undergone a significant decline during the last century. Their conservation depends on accurate records from surveys and sympathetic management of their habitats. They are fully protected under UK and European law.

This short course will introduce you to the complex ecology of dormice and explore ways to conserve them. It will also provide an opportunity to experience surveying and monitoring skills for this species. During the weekend we shall cover the following topics through a combination of extensive sessions out in the field and evening talks:

- The ecology of dormice and reasons for their scarcity
- Surveying methods including nibbled hazelnuts, dormouse nests and use of footprint tunnels
- Monitoring dormouse populations by checking nest boxes and nest tubes in local woodland and hedgerows (This should enable us to view and handle the animals at close quarters)
- Habitat management and conservation strategies for dormice
- Interpreting the legislation protecting dormice
The course is suitable for ecologists, woodland managers and those wishing to work towards having their own licence to check dormouse nest boxes. However, please note that the Course Tutor can only act as a referee for a handling licence application under exceptional circumstances. Although this is not an accredited course, it is suitable for CPD (Continuing Professional Development) and a Certificate of Attendance can be provided on request.

*Please note that a fair amount of brisk walking is involved, some over uneven terrain. Please be prepared for this and for some standing in the woods as you listen to discussion points. A shooting stick or equivalent outdoor stool may be useful if you have difficulty standing for long periods.*

**About the Tutors**

Simone Bullion is Senior Conservation Adviser and Consultancy Manager for Suffolk Wildlife Trust. She has been running training courses and coordinating mammal surveys for over 20 years. She has held a Natural England dormouse licence for 17 years, which enables her to check nest boxes and tubes specially designed for dormice.

Alison Looser is an experienced Ecologist, who also works for Suffolk Wildlife Trust. She has been undertaking dormouse surveys for the last eight years and is an experienced licensed dormouse surveyor and handler.

**What to Bring**

A good selection of warm and weatherproof clothing (in natural colours if possible please) and walking boots are required for the field activities. Bring things you don’t mind getting a bit grubby.

Books on this subject will be made available for use over the weekend, but please bring any of your own books which you like to use.

**Start and finish times**

Check in is from **1600** on Friday, but the first formal activity is dinner at **1900** (with the bar open from **1845**) followed by an evening classroom session.

**Residents:** Please aim to arrive between **1600 and 1800** on Friday to allow us sufficient time to show you to your accommodation and around the communal areas.

**Non-residents:** You do not need to arrive quite so early but please can you be here by **1800** as we need to show you the communal areas as well.

The course ends at **1600** on Sunday.
What the fee includes

Residential course fee includes:

- Full board accommodation including cooked breakfast, picnic lunch, homemade cakes and an evening meal. Vegetarian and other dietary option available.
- Up to 8 hours teaching time a day, plus relaxing breaks for meals and refreshments.
- Tea and coffee making facilities available throughout the day.
- Use of resources including library, workrooms, studios and the Centre grounds.
- Transport during the courses.
- Insurance to cover cancellation, personal belongings, personal accident, legal liability and medical emergency.

If you choose to be a non-resident on a residential course, the fee will include all the above except accommodation and breakfast.

Special Offer

Bring a friend!

If you are attending a course at Flatford Mill at the sole occupancy price, we are offering a special rate for a friend or partner not enrolled on the course to also stay at £50 per night for dinner, bed and breakfast.

How to book

Bookings can be made by telephoning the Centre; we are open 0930 – 1700 weekdays and most weekends. Alternatively, bookings can be made via our website: www.field-studies-council.org.