European Community Directive
on the Conservation of Natural Habitats
and of Wild Fauna and Flora
(92/43/EEC)

Second Report by the United Kingdom under Article 17

on the implementation of the Directive from January 2001 to December 2006

Conservation status assessment for

Species:

S1341 - *Muscardinus avellanarius* - Common dormouse

The information in this assessment corresponds to the "species fact sheet" submitted by the UK to the European Union in February 2008 (second and final submission). Please note that this is a section of the UK's report. For the complete report visit http://www.jncc.gov.uk/article17

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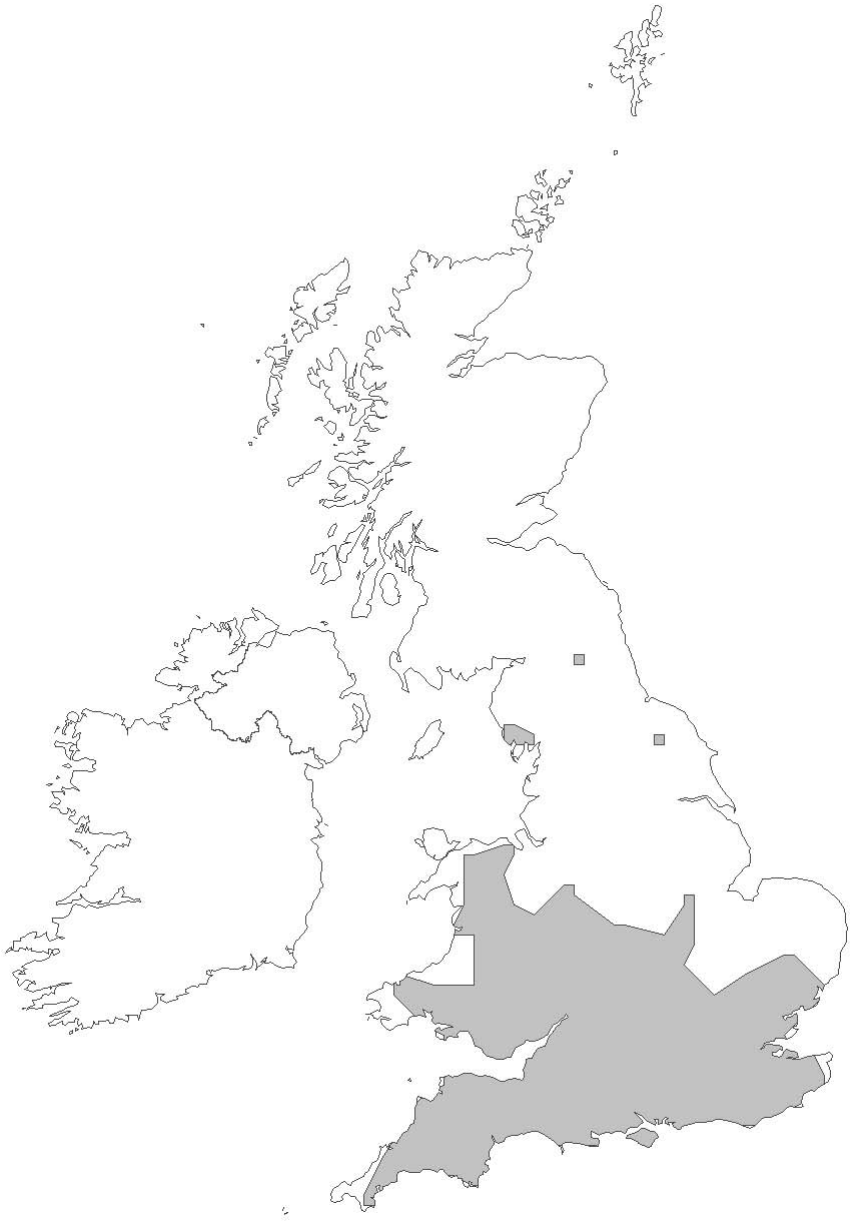
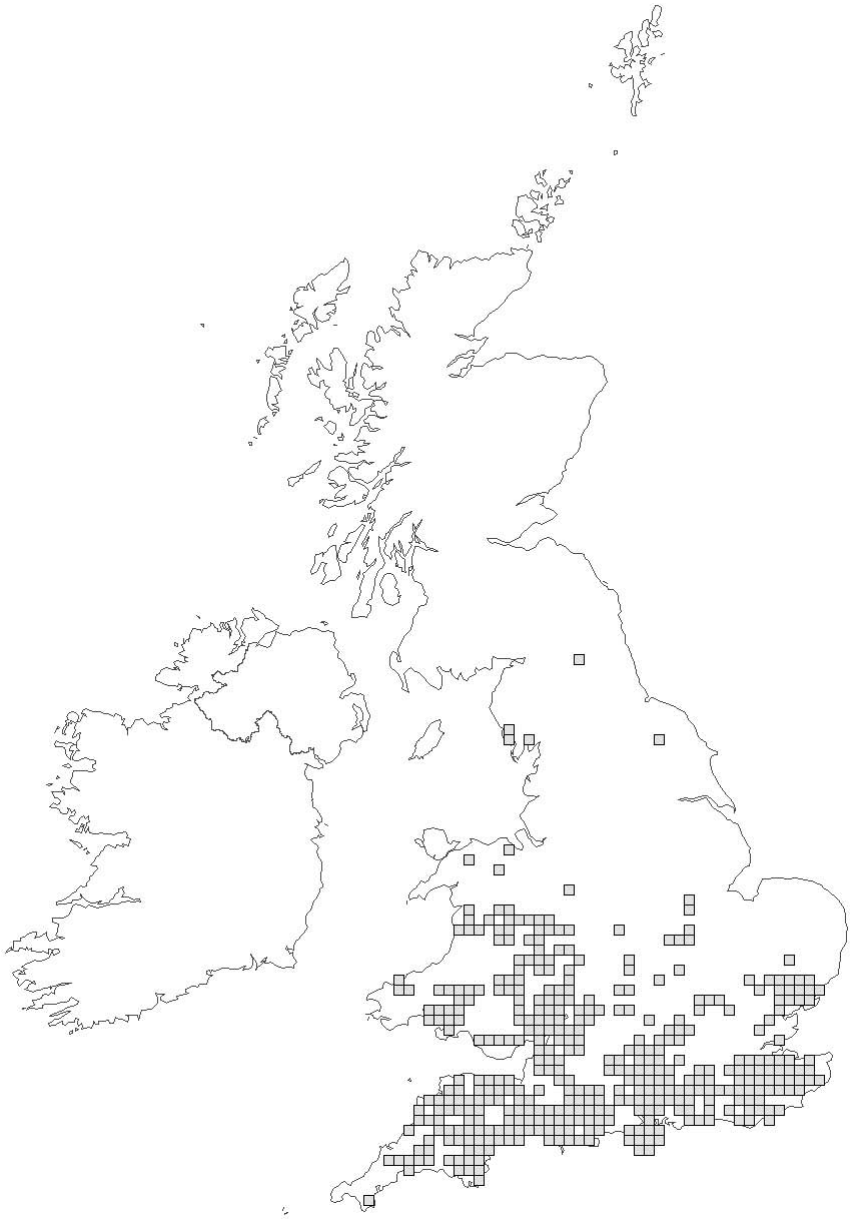
Species Name: *Muscardinus avellanarius*

1. National level	
Species Code	S1341
Member State	United Kingdom
Biogeographic regions concerned within the Member state	ATL
1.1 Range map	

1.2 Distribution map	
2. Biogeographic level	
2.1 Biogeographic region	ATL
2.2 Published sources and/or websites	BATTERSBY, J (Ed.) & Tracking Mammals Partnership 2005. UK Mammals: Species Status and Population Trends. JNCC/Tracking Mammals Partnership. BRIGHT, P. 2000. Status and woodland requirements of *M. avellanarius* in Wales. CCW Science Report 406. BRIGHT, P., MORRIS, P. & MITCHELL-JONES, T. 2006 Dormouse Conservation Handbook (2nd Ed.). English Nature, Peterborough. JERMYN, D.L., MESSENGER, J.E. & BIRKS, J.D.S 2001 The Distribution of the hazel dormouse *Muscardinus avellanarius* in Wales. Vincent Wildlife Trust, London. MACDONALD, D.W. & TATTERSALL, F. 2001 Britain's Mammals: The

	Challenge for Conservation. People's Trust for Endangered Species, London. MORRIS, P. A. & BRIGHT, P. W. 1989 The Ecology of *M. avellanarius* – Final Report on NCC Dormouse Contract April 1986 - March 1989. Royal Holloway & Bedford New College, Surrey ROPE 1885. On the range of *M. avellanarius* in England and Wales. The Zoologist 9:201-213. SANDERSON, F.J.2004 The Population Ecology and Monitoring of *Muscardinus avellanarius*. Unpublished PhD thesis. Royal Holloway, University of London Map Data Sources Biological Records Centre - Mammals & Irish Otter Databases; Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre - SW Pilot Project BAP Species Inventory 2002; Dorset ERC - Dorset SW Pilot species dataset; Natural England - Dormouse site inventory; Wiltshire and Swindon BRC - Wiltshire BAP Priority Species Distribution Records (via NBN Gateway)
2.3 Range of species in the biogeographic region or marine region	
2.3.1 Surface range of the species (sq km)	77731
2.3.2 Date of range determination	1990-2006
2.3.3 Quality of data concerning range	Moderate
2.3.4 Range trend	Stable (=)
2.3.5 Range trend magnitude (%)	Not applicable
2.3.6 Range trend period	1990-2006
2.3.7 Reasons for reported trend	3 - Direct human influence; 4 - Indirect anthropo or zoogenic influence;
2.4 Population	
2.4.1 Population size estimation	Minimum: 45000 — Maximum: 45000 Units: Individuals
2.4.2 Date of population estimation	2005
2.4.3 Method used for population estimation	2 - Extrapolation from surveys of part of the population
2.4.4 Quality of population data	Moderate
2.4.5 Population trend	Decreasing (-)
2.4.6 Population trend magnitude (%)	23
2.4.7 Population trend period	1993-2002
2.4.8 Reasons for reported trend	3 - Direct human influence; 4 - Indirect anthropo or zoogenic influence;
2.4.9 Justification of % thresholds for trends (optional)	Not applicable

2.4.10 Main pressures	141 - Abandonment of pastoral systems; 151 - Removal of hedges and copses; 160 - General Forestry management; 162 - Artificial planting; 164 - Forestry clearance; 165 - Removal of undergrowth; 167 - Exploitation without replanting;
2.4.11 Threats	141 - Abandonment of pastoral systems; 151 - Removal of hedges and copses; 160 - General Forestry management; 162 - Artificial planting; 164 - Forestry clearance; 165 - Removal of undergrowth; 167 - Exploitation without replanting;
2.5 Habitat for the species in the biogeographic region or marine region	
2.5 Habitats for the species	*M. avellanarius* has specialised habitat requirements. In the past they have most often been recorded in coppiced hazel, but they are also found in woodland habitat dominated by oak and holly, birch or oak/ash woodlands. However these latter woodland types are almost certainly poor habitat for this species. More recently, *M. avellanarius* has also been found to be present in coniferous woodland and scrub habitats. Less intensively cut hedgerows offer suitable habitat, particularly those with a variety of woody shrub species. *M. avellanarius* may inhabit old hedgerows throughout the year, or use them seasonally to exploit autumn fruits and berries. Generally the species prefers woodland edge, overgrown clearings and areas where there is a high diversity of trees. The best habitats seem to have a vigorous unshaded shrub layer. The species is found in ancient deciduous woodland, dense shrubbery and coppices, particularly where there are areas of secondary growth and trees with edible seeds, such as hazel, sweet chestnut and beech. The structure of dormouse habitat is important, particularly the availability of arboreal pathways formed by sprawling coppice and climbing plants, such as honeysuckle or bramble. A variety of trees is also needed to provide a succession of food during the active part of the year (Bright, Morris & Mitchell-Jones 2006).
2.5.2 Area estimation (sq km)	Unknown
2.5.3 Date of estimation	2006
2.5.4 Quality of data	Poor
2.5.5 Trend of the habitat	Unknown (X)
2.5.6 Trend period	1990-1998
2.5.7 Reasons for reported trend	3 - Direct human influence;
2.6 Future prospects	
2.6 Future prospects for the species	Poor prospects_Species likely to struggle unless conditions change
2.7 Complementary information	
2.7.1 Favourable reference range (sq km)	77731
2.7.2 Favourable reference population	58500
2.7.3 Suitable Habitat for the species	Unknown

2.7.4 Other relevant information	
2.8 Conclusions ***(assessment of conservation status at end of reporting period)***	
(2.3) Range	(FV) - Favourable
(2.4) Population	(U2-) - Bad and deteriorating
(2.5) Habitat for the species	(XX) - Unknown
(2.6) Future prospects	(U1-) - Inadequate and deteriorating
Overall assessment	(U2-) - Bad and deteriorating