

Edible Dormouse

Glis glis

Description: Grey fur with a whitish belly. Bushy tail similar to squirrel but smaller. Large bulging black eyes with a dark ring of fur surrounding them.



Field Signs

Tree damage: Will chew bark and strip areas of bark from trees.



Nest: Not elaborate, normally made from mosses and fibres. Usually tucked away in holes in trees or walls, so not obvious.

Diet: Feeds mostly in trees on nuts, fruits, and buds.

Habitat: Woodland and large dense hedgerows. Will hibernate underground or in buildings.

Lifespan: 2-3 years. Have been recorded to live up to 12 years in wild.

Breeding: Late June to mid-August. Will not reproduce every year depending on food resource. Have litters of up to 11 young.

UK Conservation Status: Non-native. Common in Chilterns.

Oxfordshire: Rare but possibly spreading. Legislation: Invasive non-native (Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 Schedule 9i).

Don't confuse with:

Grey squirrel: Much larger and looks more multicoloured (compared to very grey dormouse). Tails are also darker on squirrel.

