

Small mammal trapping on Countryside Restoration Trust land at Barton overnight on 26/10/2018 - Peter Pilbeam, Jo Chesham, Sharon Erzinclioglu, Fi and Richard Draper, Vicky Dewar-Fowler and Vince Lea.

Context: This exercise was conducted to provide small mammals for display on 27 October 2018 during the National Hedgelaying Championships while the Group had a publicity stand during the day.

2 sets of 15 Longworth traps each were set up with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli, casters and diced apple) in two habitats from 4pm on 26 October 2018 and checked at around 8am on 27 October 2018. One set of traps was placed along a hedge/ditch line at 10m intervals. The second set was placed in an area of uncut rough grassland with some opposite/nearby in a bank/hedge line. One of each of the two species trapped was kept separately in small tanks for some 3 hours (with hay, water and bait). Most of the trapped animals were weighed and sexed. The first set of traps was then removed. The second set of traps were rebaited and reset until final checking at about 1pm that same day - those traps were then removed.

First set (along hedge/ditch line):

Trap No.	Location	27/10 – c8am
1	On hedge/ditch line starting opposite tents	WM - f - 15gm
2	10m left of previous trap	WM - f - 15gm
3	10m left of previous trap	o
4	10m left of previous trap	o
5	10m left of previous trap	o
6	10m left of previous trap	WM - f - 21gm
7	10m left of previous trap	WM - m - 17gm
8	10m left of previous trap	WM - f - 16gm
9	10m left of previous trap	WM - m - 22gm
10	10m left of previous trap	WM - f - 16gm
11	10m left of previous trap	WM - m - 18gm
12	10m left of previous trap	o
13	10m left of previous trap	o
14	10m left of previous trap	o
15	10m left of previous trap	o

Second set (in uncut rough grassland plus some in hedge/bank line):

Trap No.	Location	27/10 – c9am	27/10 – c1pm
16	Inside corner of grass area	WM - mr - 15gm	o
17	c10m around corner	WM - mr - 16gm	o
18	By manure heap opposite 17	BV - mr - 22gm	o
19	c10m further on	or	o
20	Opposite 19 in hedge line	or	o
21	c10m further on	WM - er	o
22	Opposite 21 in hedge line	WM - mr - 17gm	o
23	c10m further on	or	o
24	Opposite 23 in hedge line	BV - mr - 27gm	o
25	c10m further on	or	o
26	Opposite 25 in hedge line	or	o
27	c10m further on	WM - fr - 14gm	o
28	Opposite 27 in hedge line	WM - fr - 16gm	o
29	c10m further on	WM - mr - 14gm	o
30	Opposite 29 in hedge line	WM - fr - 16gm	o

WM -- Wood Mouse
BV -- Bank Vole
m -- male
f -- female
e -- escaped
r -- reset
o -- open (not tripped)

In summary, out of 30 traps plus 15 resets, there were 16 wood mouse catches and 2 bank vole catches. The area was in general wet underfoot – the conditions overnight and when the traps were checked at c8.15am were overcast, cold and damp. During the morning it became very windy and very wet.

Peter Pilbeam
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