

Small mammal trapping round Clare College Sports Ground as part of a BioBlitz from 07/06/2019 to 08/06/2019 – Peter Pilbeam, Jo Chesham, Fi and Richard Draper, Sharon Erzinclioglu and attendees.

Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set up with bedding (hay) and bait (fruit and nut muesli, diced apple and casters) at various locations (slightly different habitat types) on a circular route round part of Clare College Sports Ground from around 7pm on 07 June 2019. They were checked from 8am on 08 June 2019 - each animal caught was weighed and sexed and apart from one of each species each was released immediately where caught. One animal was marked by fur clip to demonstrate the technique. One of each species caught was kept in a small tank (with hay, bait and water) for about 3 hours to display to attendees at the BioBlitz. All the traps were then removed. The displayed animals were released where they were caught.

Overnight the weather was wet, overcast and mild.

Results:

Trap No.	Location	08/06 am
61	At edge of woodland	WM - f(pregnant) - 29gm
55	By log pile in woodland	WM - mc - 22gm
54	By tree near hedge	vo
56	Behind tree by path	BV - m - 23gm
70	By hedge	WM - m - 27gm
71	By fallen tree in woodland	WM - f - 27gm
72	Behind tree in corner of woodland	o
67	By tree in shelter belt	o
60	In large twig pile in shelter belt	o
57	In gap in tree by guided busway	WM - m - 25gm
58	Behind large pile of grass cuttings	o
53	Behind tree in corner of shelter belt	WM - f - 27gm
66	In ditch halfway along field/wood boundary	WM - f(?pregnant) - 30gm
63	c20m into grass field	o
62	Behind tree next to conduit	o
69	In long grass next to path by conduit	WM - m - 30gm
59	Alongside overgrown hedge in field	WM - e
65	In middle of field	o
64	In side of undergrowth round tree in field	o
68	Ditto - other side of tree	WM - f - 28gm

Key:

WM -- Wood Mouse

BV -- Bank Vole

f -- female

m -- male

e -- escaped

o -- open (not tripped)

c -- marked by fur clip

v -- visited (external bait removed, not necessarily by small mammals)

Conclusions:

Over the 20 trap nights/sessions 11 captures were made – 10 wood mice and 1 bank vole. One of the wood mice was definitely pregnant and another highly likely to be pregnant.

Therefore for the purposes of the Bioblitz – two (2) small mammal species (wood mouse [*Apodemus sylvaticus*] and bank vole [*Myodes glareolus*]) were recorded. The relevant OS grid reference was TL456561.

Peter Pilbeam - 11 June 2019