

**Small mammal trapping at Dernford Nook overnight on 11 September 2021  
Peter Pilbeam, Lorraine Jenkins, Joy Dingley, Carole Baber and George Baber.**

Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set to catch with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli, casters and diced apple) at various locations (a range of habitats) in Dernford Nook and around its lake from around 6pm on 11 September 2021 and checked at around 8am on 12 September 2021. All trapped animals were identified, weighed and sexed before being released immediately - the traps were then removed.

Trap No.	Location	12/09/2021 – c8am
59	In scrub under spindle tree	WM - m - 16gm
66	In scrub under tree	WM - f - 11.5gm
52	Under teasels in long grass	WM - f - 15gm
69	At side of path	o
45	Under rosehip and hawthorn	WM - m - 15gm
70	RHS of path 30cm from lake edge	HM - ? - 5gm
68	In scrub up bank under hawthorn	WM - ? - 14.5gm - e
60	RHS of path near lake edge	WM - e
44	LHS of path up bank in scrub	WM - f? - 16gm
57	LHS of path in scrub under r/hips	WM - m - 16gm
61	LHS under hemp agrimony	o
55	RHS of path - 5m into long grass	o
58	Under hawthorn opposite 55	WM - m - 16.5gm
51	In long grass in open area	o
65	In reedy area next to lake edge	BV - m - 21gm
43	RHS of path near lake edge	WM - f - 19gm
62	LHS of path next to drain	o
56	LHS of path under big tree	o
54	LHS of path under trees	BV - m - 17.5gm
63	By side of end of drain	WM - m - 17gm

WM -- Wood Mouse

BV -- Bank Vole

HM -- Harvest Mouse

m -- male

f -- female

o -- open (not tripped)

e -- escaped

Trap 62 - on its side/partly open/droppings present inside.

In summary, out of 20 traps there were 2 Bank Vole, 11 Wood Mouse and 1 Harvest Mouse catches. This represents (of 20 trap sessions) an overall catch rate of 70%. Given the location of trap 70 and the generally boggy area around it, catching a harvest mouse there was very unexpected.

**Other mammal/wildlife signs** - 1 mole hill with a hole, several small mammal holes, 1 badger latrine and a number of badger runs (no sign of a badger sett), several muntjac droppings, 1 extremely fresh (?? less than 24 hours old) otter spraint on a log at the edge of the lake (c 1m from trap 70 - the harvest mouse catch), a possible otter holt entrance (a well-defined hole entering a heavily-reeded area with partly-flattened reeds outside), 1 adult common frog, and several woodpecker holes.

The area was in general was quite wet underfoot – the weather overnight and when the traps were checked at 8am were cloudy, mild and dry.

**Comment** - suggest a trail cam is set up asap to cover the possible holt entrance - if otters present then advice **must** be taken about the future management of at least that part of the site.

Peter Pilbeam

19 September 2021