

**Small mammal trapping in Gutter Bridge Wood, Swaffham Bulbeck, from
1 September to 2 September 2018 – Peter Pilbeam and Joy Dingley.**

Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set up with bedding (hay) and bait (nut and fruit muesli, diced apple and casters - all in excess) along the sides of the near-circular path round the wood from about 6pm on 1 September 2018. They were checked from 8am on 2 September 2018. The captured animals were sexed and weighed and released immediately where caught. One animal was marked by fur clip to demonstrate the technique. The traps were then removed.

Overnight the weather was dry, warm and cloud-free.

Results:

Trap No.	Location	02/09 from 8 am
70	Under ivy c3m from RHS of path	BV - mc - 16gm
72	Under log c2m from LHS of path	WM - m - 15gm
69	Under log c3m from RHS of path	BV - m - 21gm
71	Behind log seat c2m from stream on LHS of path	CS - f - 8gm
68	On side of stream c3m from LHS of path	WM - f - 16gm
63	Under fallen tree c2m from RHS of path	BV - f - 27gm
67	On side of stream c5m from LHS of path	WM - m - 23gm
65	On side of stream c6m from LHS side of glade	vo
64	On side of stream c5m from LHS of log circle	vo
62	Under ivy c5m from far right of log circle	YNM - m - 26gm
61	On LHS of return path at edge of stubble field	o
66	c2m from LHS of path near stump circle	o
58	c4m from RHS of path behind fallen tree root bole	vo
53	On LHS of path behind rotting log	BVx2 - fx2 - 22gm/27gm
60	On LHS of return path at edge of stubble field	o
59	c1m from LHS of path under ivy-covered log	WM - ?f - 17gm
56	c2m from LHS of path by dead stumps	WM - m - 25gm
57	c3m from LHS of path behind rotting log	BV - m - 23gm
54	c15m from LHS of path under ivy	vo
55	c3m from LHS of path c5m before bridge	?PS?CS - m - 7gm

Key:

WM -- Wood Mouse

BV -- Bank Vole

YNM -- Yellow Necked Mouse

CS -- Common Shrew

m -- male

f -- female

c -- marked by fur clip

o -- open (not tripped)

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

Conclusions:

Over the 20 trap nights a total of 14 captures were made – 5x Wood Mouse, 6x Bank Vole, 1x Yellow Necked Mouse and 2x Common Shrew (the one in trap 55 was possibly a Pygmy Shrew).

The Yellow Necked Mouse was a juvenile. The definite Common Shrew in trap 71 had white-tipped ears. Trap 52 had two Bank Vole - unusual in itself - the one weighing 27gm was a lactating female. The Bank Vole in trap 63 was also a lactating female.

Peter Pilbeam
3 September 2018