

Small mammal trapping on Hobson's Park as part of a BioBlitz from 08/06/2018 to 09/06/2018 – Peter Pilbeam, Duncan Mackay 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 near-circular route round part of Hobson's Park at around 7.30pm on 08 June 2018. They were checked (the trapped animal was released immediately after weighing and sexing) from 8.00am on 09 June 2018. The animal was marked by fur clip to demonstrate the technique. Eighteen (18) of the traps were immediately reset and rebaited and then reopened from about 12.30pm - the traps were then removed.

Overnight the weather was dry, warm and clear. The weather during the morning session was dry, warm and intermittently cloudy.

Results:

Trap No.	Location	09/06 am	09/06 early pm
61	Long grass area over conduit near basecamp	o	-
57	Edge of lake	or	o
65	Edge of lake	or	o
60	Edge of lake	ovr	o
59	Edge of lake	or	o
70	Edge of lake	ovr	o
62	In raised bed	or	o
67	In long grass adj to raised bed	or	o
58	At bottom of (slightly wet) ditch alongside conduit	ovr	o
71	Edge of conduit	or	o
55	Edge of conduit opp No 16	o(trap split up and moved apart)r	o
69	At bottom of corner of (slightly wet) ditch alongside conduit	or	o
64	Edge of conduit opp end house	or	o
53	At water level by pond sluice	or	o
54	At water level near pond sluice	or	o
56	At bottom of ditch on RHS of busway crossing	WM - mc - 19gm	-
68	In spinney behind heap of cuttings	or	o
72	Ditto by fence end corner	ovr	o
63	Ditto behind cut/dead tree stump	ovr	o
66	Ditto alongside log pile	or	o

Key:

- WM -- Wood Mouse
- m -- male
- o -- open (not tripped)
- c -- marked by fur clip
- v -- visited (external bait removed, not necessarily by small mammals)
- r -- reset (in am)

Conclusions:

Over the 20 trap nights and the following 18 trap sessions 1 capture was made – a wood mouse.

The overnight catch rate was not as good as hoped but in retrospect consistent with the various habitats, the weather/season, and the newness of the site. The morning capture rate was nil - consistent with the weather and the amount of disturbance (from members of the public during the morning of the event).

Therefore for the purposes of the Bioblitz – one (1) small mammal species (wood mouse [Apodemus sylvaticus]) was recorded. The relevant OS grid reference was TL45435501.

Peter Pilbeam - 20 June 2018