

**Small mammal trapping in the RSPB's Hope Farm at Knapwell as part of a LEAF event
from 08 June 2019 to 09 June 2019 – Peter Pilbeam, Jo Chesham, Carol and George
Baber, Fi and Richard Draper and Sharon Erzinclioglu.**

Forty (40) Longworth traps were set up with bedding (hay) and bait (fruit and nut muesli, diced apple and casters) in two groups of twenty (20) - one along a beetle bank and a hedge line and one round the margins of a grass field - in two areas of the farm between 5pm and 6.30pm on 08 June 2019. They were checked from 8.00am on 09 June 2019. The catches of one (1) wood mouse and one (1) bank vole were kept in small tanks with hay, food and water until about noon and then released where caught. Most of one set of twenty (20) traps (round the field margins) were immediately reset and rebaited and then reopened from about 1pm – the traps were then removed.

Overnight the weather was dry, mild and cloudy. The weather during the morning session was mild and largely cloud-free with some sunshine.

Results:

Trap No.	Location	10/06 am	10/06 pm
20	Nearest end of beetle bank	o	
19	10m further along beetle bank	o	
16	10m further along beetle bank	o	
17	10m further along beetle bank	o	
18	10m further along beetle bank	o	
13	10m further along beetle bank	o	
12	10m further along beetle bank	o	
15	10m further along beetle bank	o	
11	10m further along beetle bank	BV - f - 17gm	
14	10m further along beetle bank	BV - m - 23gm	
10	Nearest end of hedge line	o	
9	10m further along hedge line	o	
8	10m further along hedge line	vo	
2	10m further along hedge line	BV - m - 30gm	
3	10m further along hedge line	WM - f - 17gm	
1	10m further along hedge line	o	
4	10m further along hedge line	vo	
7	10m further along hedge line	o	
6	10m further along hedge line	WM - f(pregnant) - 35gm	
5	10m further along hedge line	o	
58	Near corner of entry to mist-netting field	or	o
68	c10m anticlockwise round field edge	tvr	o
56	c10m further anticlockwise round field edge	vor	o
54	c10m further anticlockwise round field edge	or	o
70	c10m further anticlockwise round field edge	vor	o
53	c10m further anticlockwise round field edge	WM - m - 30gm	
61	c10m further anticlockwise round field edge	WM - f - 28gm - r	o
57	c10m further anticlockwise round field edge	or	o
55	c10m further anticlockwise round field edge	or	o
67	c10m further anticlockwise round field edge	o	
59	c10m further anticlockwise round field edge	o	
65	c10m further anticlockwise round field edge	or	o
71	c10m further anticlockwise round field edge	or	o
72	c10m further anticlockwise round field edge	or	o
63	c10m further anticlockwise round field edge	or	o
62	c10m further anticlockwise round field edge	or	o
69	c10m further anticlockwise round field edge	or	o
66	c10m further anticlockwise round field edge	or	o
67	c10m further anticlockwise round field edge	or	o
60	c10m further anticlockwise round field edge	or	o

Key:

WM -- Wood Mouse

BV -- Bank Vole

m -- male

f -- female

o -- open (not tripped)

e -- entered

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

r -- reset

t -- tripped

Traps numbers 1 through 20 were removed after the overnight trapping and not reset.

Conclusions:

Over the 40 trap nights and the following 17 trap sessions a total of 7 captures were made – 4 Wood Mouse and 3 Bank Vole. The catch rate was low and not consistent with the season, the weather and the habitats chosen. However, more individuals were caught than in the same event in 2018 (then only 3 in total) but fewer species (no Common Shrew this year).

Peter Pilbeam

11 June 2019