

**Small mammal trapping on Isleham Railway Nature Reserve as part of a BioBlitz
from 25/07/2017 to 26/07/2017 – Peter Pilbeam 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 along the disused railway line and back along the adjacent field margin at around 7pm on 25 July 2017. They were checked (all the trapped animals being released immediately after weighing and sexing) from 8.00am on 26 July 2017. One animal was marked by fur clip to demonstrate the technique. The traps were then removed.

Overnight the weather was warm, cloudy and mainly dry. The weather during the opening session was warm, cloudy and dry initially followed by light rain.

Results:

Trap No.	Location	01/07 am
70	LHS c25 from entrance	WM - m - 19gm
69	RHS under rose and bramble	o
68	LHS under bramble	o
3	LHS under Prunus sp	BV - f* - 31gm
66	RHS alongside corrugated mat	WM - m - 15gm
65	LHS behind flowers	o
2	RHS under hawthorn	o
63	Opposite 2	BV - f* - 26gm
62	LHS under large hawthorn	ov
61	LHS by three mats	BV - f* - 26gm
60	LHS behind concrete bench	o
59	LHS by mats	BV - m - 18gm
58	In edge of opposite side of field	**
57	LHS of field gate	o
56	Under red-berried plant	o
55	Under dead branch	o
54	Under hedge by black mat	WM - f* - 17gm
1	In corner of field	o
52	In hedge by dead buddleia	o
51	LHS of main gate	o

Key:

WM -- Wood Mouse

BV -- Bank Vole

m -- male

f -- female

o -- open (not tripped)

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

* -- lactating and/or pregnant

** -- trap pulled apart (?fox) - it had trapped a small mammal

Conclusions:

Over the 20 trap nights a total of seven (7) captures were made – wood mouse and bank vole. Therefore for the purposes of the Bioblitz – two small mammal species (wood mouse [Apodemus sylvaticus] and bank vole [Myodes {Clethrionomys} glareolus]) was recorded. The relevant OS grid reference (the entrance to the reserve) was TL639728.

Peter Pilbeam
28 July 2017