

Small mammal trapping around and in Manea allotments from 16 July 2018 to 17 July 2018 – Peter Pilbeam and Amy Smith.

Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set up with bedding (hay) and bait (nut and fruit muesli, diced apple and casters - all in excess) around part of the perimeter trackway and along the edges of the central trackway from 7pm on 16 July 2018. They were checked from 8.00am on 17 July 2018. The traps were then removed.

Two of the catches (one (1) wood mouse and one (1) bank vole) were kept in small tanks in deep shade with hay, food and water until about 10am for display to 4 groups of c 30 schoolchildren each (during short talks about trapping and small mammals) while on a visit to the allotments, and then released where caught.

Overnight the weather was dry, very warm and cloud-free (after a number of exceptionally dry days with temperatures approaching 30 degrees C).

Results:

Trap No.	Location	16/07 from 8 am
72	Corner of large compost heap	vo
71	Partway along ditto	WM - m - 27gm
70	RHS of perimeter trackway - 10m from corner	FV - f - 32gm
69	RHS of ditto - under large elder	o
68	RHS of ditto - behind brown shed	o
67	RHS of ditto - in thick bed of nettles	BV - m - 22gm
66	RHS of ditto - in thick bed of thistles	vo
65	Edge of ditch - corner of site	o
64	Edge of ditch - 10m along	o
63	Edge of ditch - 10m further along	vo
62	RHS of central trackway - 10m along	o
61	LHS of ditto - 10m further along	o
60	LHS of ditto - 10m on by corner of communal plot	BV - f - 24gm
59	RHS of ditto under water storage tanks	o
58	In plot B7 - under LHS of shed	o
57	In plot B7 - under raspberry bushes	o
56	LHS of central trackway - by green netting fence	o
55	In plot A3 - under LHS of shed	vo
54	In plot A3 - under raspberry bushes	veo
53	In plot A3 - under edge of black polythene	vo

Key:

WM -- Wood Mouse

BV -- Bank Vole

FV -- Field Vole

m -- male

f -- female

o -- open (not tripped)

e -- entered

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

Conclusions:

Over the 20 trap nights a total of 4 captures were made – 1 Wood Mouse, 2 Bank Vole and 1 Field Vole. The Field Vole was not kept in a tank as it appeared to be a lactating female. The catch rate was low but not at all consistent with the weather and the habitats chosen.

Peter Pilbeam
19 July 2018