

**Small mammal trapping
Paxton Pits 28-29 August 2021.
Carole Baber, George Baber, Peter Pilbeam, Mike Thomas.**

The weather over both days was cool and predominantly dry. Overnight was dry and cool with a light breeze.

Longworth Traps

Forty (40) Longworth traps were set up with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli, diced apple and casters) in two locations: 1) The lower meadow behind the visitor centre, and 2) Peter's Field. See maps below. Traps were set from 6.30pm on 28 August 2021. They were checked and opened from 8.00am on the following day and then removed from the site. All members of the group wore masks to prevent transfer of COVID to the mammals and those handling them used hand sanitiser before each trap was opened. The trapped animals were released immediately after weighing and sexing.

Results:

Lower Meadow

	Trap No.	29/08 am
1	53	o
2	46	o
3	73	o
4	61	o
5	68	o
6	74	o
7	76	CS (adult, died after opening)
8	57	o
9	49	CS - 8.0g
10	69	o
11	71	o
12	41	WM – 23.0g - escaped
13	54	WM – M – 15.0g
14	52	WM – M – 25.0g
15	78	WM – M – 24.0g
16	60	o
17	66	te
18	45	BV – M – 17.0g
19	70	WM – M – 25.0g
20	48	o
21	56	o
22	62	WM – M – 15.5g
23	80	o
24	77	o
25	58	o
Total captures:		9/25

Peter's Meadow

	Trap No.	29/08 am
1	63	o
2	65	o
3	75	o
4	50	BV – M – 20.0g
5	55	o
6	51	WM – M – 16.5g
7	79	o
8	72	o
9	67	o

10	42	WM – M – 15.0g
11	64	o
12	59	CS – 7.5g
13	44	WM – M – 29.5g (shortened tail)
14	43	BV – M – 20.0g
15	47	o
Total captures:		6/15

Key:

WM -- Wood Mouse
 BV -- Bank Vole
 CS – Common Shrew
 M -- male
 F -- female
 o -- open (not tripped)
 te -- tripped/empy

Conclusions:

From forty traps, fifteen captures were made; three were bank voles, nine were wood mice and three were common shrews. All animals that were sexed were males. The shrews were weighed and released immediately so their sex was not ascertained. The first shrew was alive but inactive. Attempts to warm and revive it were unsuccessful; this will be reported as standard procedure on form GL01Annex to Natural England..

Carole Baber
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Lower Meadow Transect:



Peter's Field Transect:

