

Small mammal trapping on Trumpington Meadows overnight on 24/10/2018 - Peter Pilbeam, Jo Chesham, Sharon Erzinclioglu, Fi and Richard Draper, Joy Dingley, Chris Percival, Iain Webb and c14 members of the public.

Context: This exercise was conducted for the BCN Wildlife Trust to provide small mammals for display on 25 October 2018 as part of 'Small Mammals on the Meadows' during National Mammal Week while the Group had a small publicity display.

2 sets of 18 Longworth traps each were set up with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli, casters and diced apple) on two sites from 4.30pm on 24 October 2018 and checked from around 7.30am on 25 October 2018. One set of traps was placed alongside/around a footpath next to the river at c10m intervals (the northern site). The second set was placed at various intervals in various habitats in cut and uncut grassland and around grazed and ungrazed meadows (the southern site). One of each of the two species trapped was kept separately in small tanks for some 3 hours (with hay, water and bait) before being released where captured. Most of the trapped animals were weighed and sexed. Both sets of traps were then removed.

First set (on the northern site):

Trap No.	Location	25/10 – c7.30am
1	Under tree just past walkway	WM - m - 17gm
2	By riverbank nearly opposite 1	o
3	Under tree left of path c10m on	o
4	Behind 'breeding birds' sign on left of path	BV - m - 18gm
5	At base of tree on right of path	veo
6	On edge of riverbank c10m on	o
7	At base of tree on left c15m on	o
8	Near edge of river on right c10m on	WM - m - 20gm
9	In brash heap on left c10m on	BV - m - 20gm
10	Under log pile on right c10m on	BV - f - 20gm
11	Behind hydrant sign on right c 10m on	t
12	By RH end of wooden wall of platform	o
13	Near edge of river on right c15m on	veo
14	Behind small oak on right c 25m on	t
15	Behind small tree on right c 5m on	o
16	Opposite 2nd stack of hay bales	BV - f - 18gm
17	Opposite 3rd stack of hay bales	WM - m - 15gm
18	In centre of 3rd stack of hay bales	o

Second set (on the southern site):

Trap No.	Location	26/10 – c8.30am
19	Behind 'Danger deep water' sign	o
20	Near wooden otter	WM - f - e
21	Opposite corner of field with cattle	o
22	Ditto c5m on	BV - f - 17gm
23	Ditto c8m on	o
24	Over fence in hedge of pasture	o
25	Ditto c20m left	WM - e
26	Down river bank on right of track	WM - f - 18gm
27	Ditto c20m on	WM - m - 16gm
28	Ditto - behind 'Deep water sign'	WM - m - 22gm
29	c5m on past sign	o
30	Behind tree at junction of tracks	o

31	Under tree on right c10m along track	o
32	Under bush ditto	o
33	On right in grassland c10m on	WM - j - 15gm
34	Behind 'cycle parking log'	o
35	Down river bank on right of track	o
36	In end of hedge line by junction	BV - m - 18gm

WM -- Wood Mouse

BV -- Bank Vole

m -- male

f -- female

j -- juvenile

e -- escaped

o -- open (not tripped)

t -- tripped and empty

veo -- visited (exterior bait removed, not necessarily by small mammals) and empy and open (not tripped)

In summary, out of 36 traps, there were 9 wood mouse catches and 6 bank vole catches. The area was in general quite dry underfoot – the conditions overnight and when the traps were checked at from 7.30am were overcast, cold and dry.

Peter Pilbeam

1 December 2018