

**Small mammal trapping at Wandlebury Ring ditch and old orchard overnight on
10 September 2021 – Lorraine Jenkins, Joy Dingley, Sharon Erzinclioglu and Peter Pilbeam.**

Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set to catch with bedding (hay) and bait (casters and diced apple) at various locations (a small range of habitats) around the Wandlebury Ring ditch and in the old orchard from around 7pm on 10 September 2021 and checked at around 8am on 11 September 2021. All trapped animals were identified, weighed and sexed before being released immediately - the traps were then removed.

Unfortunately the muesli component of the bait had been accidentally left at home by PP - as it was known that wood mice and bank voles (the species normally caught) do (at least sometimes) eat casters and there was a surplus of diced apple present the decision was taken to proceed without the muesli.

Trap No.	Location	11/09/2021 – c8am
70	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	o
68	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	o
66	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	o
52	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	o
51	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	WM - f - 13.5gm
54	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	WM - m - 19gm
45	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	WM - f - 22gm
69	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	o
43	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	o
63	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	WM - f - 16.5gm
55	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	o
61	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	o
59	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	WM - f - 17gm
65	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	WM - ? - 18gm
57	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	o
44	Old orchard	o
62	Old orchard	o
56	Old orchard	WM - f - 18gm
60	Old orchard	o
f8	Old orchard	o

WM -- Wood Mouse

m -- male

f -- female

o -- open (not tripped)

In summary, out of 20 traps there were 7 wood mouse catches. This represents (of 20 trap sessions) an overall catch rate of 35%. The lack of muesli as part of the bait did not seem to have had any effect on any of the animals caught.

The area was in general was very dry underfoot – the conditions overnight and when the traps were checked at 8am were cloudy, mild and dry.

The same areas had previously been trapped overnight on 25 March 2017 and during the following morning - there was a greater variety of species caught (yellow-necked mouse and field vole were also caught) with 26 trap sessions and a catch rate of just on 54%. On that occasion the weather was much milder.

Overnight (only) on 5 April 2017, using 14 traps of 5 different types, wood mouse, bank vole and common shrew were caught with a catch rate of 50% - the weather then was similar to that of 25 March 2017.

Overnight (only) on 23 March 2019, using 20 traps, wood mouse and bank vole were caught with a catch rate of 45% - the weather then was similar to that of 10 September 2021 but colder overnight.

Peter Pilbeam

19 September 2021