

**Small mammal trapping at Wandlebury Ring ditch and old orchard overnight on
23 March 2019 – Peter Pilbeam, Lorraine Jobson, Vicky Fowler and several visitors
as part of a Cambridge Science Week event.**

Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set to catch with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli, casters and diced apple) at various locations (a small range of habitats) around the Wandlebury Ring ditch and in the old orchard from around 5.30pm on 23 March 2019 and checked at around 8am on 24 March 2019. All trapped animals were identified, weighed and sexed before being released immediately (except for two (2) wood mouse and two (2) bank vole which were kept in small tanks on display for a few hours - with hay, food and water). One wood mouse was marked by fur clip to demonstrate the technique. Sixteen (16) traps (all round the Ring) were rebaited and reset. Final checks were made at about 12pm that same day - the traps were then removed.

Trap No.	Location	24/03 – c8am	24/03 – c12pm
70	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	or	o
72	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	or	o
54	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	or	o
53	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	WM - m - 25gm - r	o
55	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	or	o
71	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	or	BV - f - 15gm
68	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	or	o
69	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	or	o
67	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	or	o
57	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	or	o
66	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	or	o
65	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	WM - ? - 20gm - r	o
56	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	WM - m - 24.5gm - r	o
62	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	or	o
58	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	WM - f - 17gm - r	o
64	Floor/bankside/top edge of ditch	WM - m - 27gm - r	o
63	Old orchard	o	-
59	Old orchard	BV - f - 17gm	-
60	Old orchard	WM - f - 22gm	-
61	Old orchard	BV - f - 14gm	-

WM -- Wood Mouse

BV -- Bank Vole

m -- male

f -- female

o -- open (not tripped)

r -- reset

In summary, out of 20 traps plus 16 resets, there were 6 wood mouse and 3 bank vole catches. This represents (of 36 trap sessions) an overall catch rate of 25%.

The area was in general was very dry underfoot – the conditions overnight and when the traps were checked at 8am were slightly overcast, cold 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%. As on this occasion only bank vole was caught during the morning reset period. 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 24 March 2019.

Peter Pilbeam

3 April 2019