

Small mammal trapping at Wicken Fen overnight on 1 October 2021
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Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set to catch with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli, casters and diced apple) at various locations (a range of habitats) mainly just off the main boardwalk and the nearby track at Wicken Fen from around 5pm on 1 October 2021 and checked from around 8am on 2 October 2021. All trapped animals were identified, weighed and sexed before being released immediately - the traps were then removed.

Trap No.	Location	02/10/2021 – c8am
62	Alongside b/w by first corner	BV - f - 16gm
61	Opposite 'Pigeon Steps' sign	o
52	Behind 'dragonfly' bench	o
56	RH end of timbers by mill	WM - m - 15.5gm
51	Behind timbers RH of mill	WM - f - 22gm
55	LHS of centre of return bridge	BV - m - 27gm
68	Opposite next bench along b/w	BV - f - 15gm
42	Behind '4-spotted chaser' sign	BV - f - 15gm - ✓✓
70	Behind 'Common Comfrey' sign	o
69	Alongside rotting tree section	WM - e
41	By fence by brick kiln	WM - f - 14gm
66	In log pile on LHS at next bend	WM - e
63	Behind brown sign at 4way jn.	o
59	By old dead hedge - c2m in	BV - m - 14gm
65	RHS in small group of trees	WM - m - 16gm
60	In ditch by first gp of trees in lane	o
53	RHS in ditch by hedge gap	WM - m - 22gm - y
58	Edge of ditch on LHS	te
54	Behind silver birch on RHS	WM - m - 19gm
57	In ditch on LHS at end of track	BV - m - 17gm

WM -- Wood Mouse

BV -- Bank Vole

m -- male

f -- female

o -- open (not tripped)

e -- escaped

te -- tripped/empy

✓✓ -- with at least two large ticks

y -- with a very strong yellow/orange stripe down its chest

In summary, out of 20 traps there were 6 Bank Vole and 8 Wood Mouse catches. This represents (of 20 trap sessions) an overall catch rate of 70%.

The areas next to the boardwalk were very wet underfoot whereas the areas next to the trackway were quite dry – the weather overnight was clear and cool, and when the traps were checked at 8am was cloudy, cool and dry.

Peter Pilbeam
2 October 2021