

**Small mammal trapping in Wicken Fen Nature Reserve as part of a BioBlitz from  
21 July 2018 to 22 July 2018 – Peter Pilbeam, Laura Kor, Amy Smith,  
Roger Featherstone and attendees.**

Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set up with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli, diced apple and casters) at various locations (slightly different habitat types) on a near-circular route round part of the fen near the Visitor Centre at around 7pm on 21 July 2018. Later in the evening a further twenty (20) traps were set up similarly along the side of a length of boardwalk and in a grass field. They were checked (all the trapped animals being released immediately after weighing) from 7am on 22 July 2018. Twenty-nine (29) of the traps were immediately reset and rebaited and then reopened from noon - the traps were then removed.

Overnight the weather was dry, hot and slightly cloudy. The weather during the morning session was dry, very hot and intermittently slightly cloudy.

**Results:**

<b>Trap No.</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>22/7 am</b>	<b>22/07 pm</b>
55	Under edge of start of boardwalk	vo	-
57	Behind 'marsh thistle' sign	or	o
54	Behind bench	vor	o
59	In reeds LHS over bridge	CS - 9gm - r	o
61	Under LHS of sluice adj windmill	vor	o
68	LHS of bridge past windmill	vor	o
64	At water's edge by double sign	or	o
53	At water's edge by chaser sign	or	o
72	At water's edge by hawkers sign	vor	o
71	By cleared tree trunks	vor	vo
56	By cut straw	vor	o
58	By cut straw	vor	o
65	Under stack of pallets	vor	o
60	By cut stump	vor	o
62	Behind 'large white' sign	or	o
63	Under large fallen trunk	or	vo
66	RHS of track in ditch	vor	o
70	LHS of track in ditch	vor	o
69	RHS of track in ditch	or	vo
67	RHS of track in cut trees	vor	o
37	Under edge of board walk	or	o
23	c10m from above	or	o
24	A further c10m along	or	o
25	A further c10m along	or	o
27	A further c10m along	or	o
31	A further c10m along	or	vo
29	A further c10m along	or	vo
22	A further c10m along	or	vo
32	A further c10m along	or	o
35	A further c10m along	CS - r	vo
26	A further c10m along	or	-
38	A further c10m along	vor	-
33	A further c10m along	or	-
28	A further c10m along	or	-
39	A further c10m along	vor	-
40	Near centre of grass field	vo	-
36	10m from above	vo	-
30	A further 10m away	vo	-
34	A further 10m away	vo	-
21	A further 10m away	vo	-

**Key:**

CS -- Common Shrew

o -- open (not tripped)

v -- visited (external bait removed, not necessarily by small mammals)

r -- reset

**Conclusions:**

Over the 40 trap nights and the following 29 trap sessions a total of 2 captures were made – both Common Shrew. The catch rate was extremely low - much lower than expected but probably consistent with the weather and the amount of disturbance (from members of the public during the morning of the event).

Therefore for the purposes of the Bioblitz – one small mammal species was noted.

Peter Pilbeam

26 July 2018