

**Small mammal trapping around Cambourne Community Orchard overnight
from 29 August 2023 for 'Wild in the Woods' (a family wildlife event run by the Wildlife
Trust) - Peter Pilbeam, Rebecca Neal, and members of the local public.**

Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set to catch with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli, casters and diced apple) at various locations (mainly the bases of hedges and trees) in a clockwise direction round the Community Orchard in Cambourne from around 7pm on 29 August 2023 and checked from around 8am on 30 August 2023. Each animal caught was weighed and sexed and released immediately where they were caught. All the traps were then removed.

Trap No.	Location	30/08/2023 c8am
55	Next to LH (when entering the orchard) gatepost	o
57	Under 2nd tree going clockwise from gate	WM - f - 17.5gm
70	In long grass under hazel	WM - f - 25gm
68	Under hawthorn - left of brush heap	o
58	Behind heap of grass cuttings	o
61	Under pair of small hazel trees	o
63	Under hawthorn behind ragwort	te
52	Under hazel on left	o
56	Under fallen fence on left	WM - m - 26gm
69	Behind fence between 2x ash trees	o
67	Through gate behind cherry tree	o
62	Behind fence between cherry and hazel	o
51	Behind LHS of large pile of cut grass	o
54	Behind RHS of same pile	WM - m - 15gm
65	Under apple tree RHS of path	o
64	Behind pile of cut grass	o
66	Behind fence on left	o
60	Ten paces into long grass - on right	o
53	Behind fence on left	WM - f - 25gm
59	By other gatepost	o

WM -- Wood Mouse
 f -- female
 m -- male
 o -- open (not tripped)
 te -- tripped and empy

In summary, out of 20 traps there were 5 catches - all Wood Mouse. This represents (of 20 trap sessions) an overall catch rate of 25%.

The two 25gm wood mice were both pregnant/lactating. The 'tripped and empty' trap showed evidence (visible droppings in the tunnel section) of having been entered - it is surmised that the trapdoor didn't close completely when an animal tripped it but fully closed as the animal left after leaving some droppings.

The evening when the traps were set was damp and cool (and starting to rain as setting up was finished). The weather overnight was cool and wet, and when the traps were checked from 8am it was sunnyish and cool with no rain.

Peter Pilbeam
 30 August 2023