

Small mammal trapping near Clare College Sports Ground (Clare Wood and North Meadow) as part of a BioBlitz from 10/06/2022 to 11/06/2022 – Peter Pilbeam, Joy Dingley and attendees.

Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set up with bedding (hay) and bait (fruit and nut muesli, diced apple and casters) at various locations (three main different habitat types) on a route along Hobson's Conduit, round a grass field (North Meadow) and inside Clare Wood from around 7pm on 10 June 2022. They were checked from 8am on 11 June 2022 - each animal caught was weighed and sexed and apart from one of each species each was released immediately where caught. All the traps were then removed. One of each species caught was kept in a small tank (with hay, bait and water) for about 2.5 hours to display to attendees at the BioBlitz. The displayed animals were released where they were caught.

Overnight the weather was warm, cloudy and dry.

Results:

Trap No.	Location	11/06 from 8am
66	On bank of Conduit adj water	ov
69	ditto	o
55	ditto	ov
60	On right of path just in the meadow	BV - f - 20gm
62	Ditto further round the edge	o
64	In corner of first fenced-off tree	o
65	Under hedge opp second ditto	o
57	In corner of third ditto	WM - f - lactating - 30.5gm
70	Near centre of meadow	o
53	c20m from centre of meadow	o
67	On LHS near entrance to wood	o
54	By Vicar's Brook behind tree	o
59	In scrub near fire site	WM - m - 24.5gm
68	Under sycamore by fallen tree	o
63	Behind pendulous sedge	o
51	Behind 3-trunked tree	BV - f - lactating - 28.5gm
58	At top of bank of Conduit	WM - f - 26gm
56	Under holly tree in centre	o
52	At top of bank by fallen holly tree	o
61	At top of bank near exit of wood	o

Key:

WM -- Wood Mouse

BV -- Bank Vole

f -- female

m -- male

o -- open (not tripped)

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

Conclusions:

Over the 20 trap nights/sessions 5 captures were made – 3 wood mice and 2 bank voles. One of each species appeared to be pregnant.

Therefore for the purposes of the Bioblitz – two (2) small mammal species (wood mouse [Apodemus sylvaticus] and bank vole [Myodes glareolus]) were recorded. Signs/sightings of muntjac, fox, water vole and otter were also found and reported. The relevant OS grid reference was TL454564.

Peter Pilbeam
17 June 2022