

**Small mammal trapping in Coton Orchard from 27 June 2025 overnight to 28 June 2025 – Peter Pilbeam, Pippa Keynes, Laura Allen, Ben Grieg and several attendees.**

Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set to catch with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli, excess diced apple and excess casters) from around 7pm on Friday 27 June 2025 on a roughly circular route at various locations around the periphery and within the orchard. Habitats included hedgerow (periphery) and long grass within the orchard around the base of the fruit trees (lines of fruit trees in rows, within mown area). They were opened from 8.30am on Saturday 28 June 2025. All trapped animals were identified to species level, weighed and sexed before being released immediately where they were caught. The traps were then removed.

Overnight the weather was very warm, dry and mainly clear.

Trap No.	Location	8.30am - 28 06 25
63	Under old timber fence panels on hardstanding next to barns	o
69	Opp new trees at base of hedge	o
68	At base of hedge, opp gap in 1st row of trees	o
56	To 3rd row (at base of orchard tree)	o
54	To 7th row (at base of dead tree)	o
66	Straight across to fence line (wooded area)	o
61	Fence corner (edge of wooded area)	YNM - fe - c10gm
57	LH of split path	o
67	RH of split path	o
51	Behind roller, edge of hardstanding	YNM - m - 35gm
60	Under timber pile; hardstanding area	o
55	LH of , under old tree	o
64	Opp. Large door in barn, 1st old tree along in orchard row	o
65	In long grass at base of small old tree	o
59	In long grass opp. Young tree	o
62	LH at edge of gateway, near hedge	WM - f - 26.5gm
53	Behind old stump in hedge line	WM - f - 28gm
70	Opp trap 53	o
52	At base of fir hedge along driveway	o
58	Opp corner of end of fir hedge	o

WM -- Wood Mouse

YNM -- Yellow-Necked Mouse

m -- male

f -- female

o -- open, not tripped

e -- escaped

Over the 20 trap nights/sessions 4 captures were made – 2 yellow-necked mice and 2 wood mice. The mouse caught in trap 61 was a juvenile - the one caught in trap 51 was lactating.

Signs of other mammals - a very high number of rabbit droppings were seen and one good example of a fox dropping. One old/disused badger sett entrance was seen in the hedge base near trap 66.

Peter Pilbeam  
30 June 2025