

**Small mammal trapping around Cottenham Old Rec overnight
from 11 August 2023 as part of a 'New Life on the Old West' event - Peter Pilbeam,
Olivia Boulton, 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) in an anti-clockwise direction round the Old Rec (off Broad Lane, Cottenham) from around 6pm on 11 August 2023 and checked from around 8am on 12 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	12/08/2023 c8am
69	2m along hedge from LHS of gate	BV - f - 30gm
70	c20 paces along under overhanging tree	BV - f - 27.5gm
51	c20 further paces along ditto	WM - m - 19gm
67	c20 paces on under hedge under hawthorn	o
52	c45 paces on under brambles	o
54	c20 paces on against fence	o
56	c20 paces on against fence	o
57	c35 paces on against fence	o
61	c25 paces on against fence	WM - m - 16gm
64	in long grass to LHS of narrow entrance	o
66	turning left - c20 paces on in thistles	WM - f - 15gm
58	to nearest left corner of old dry pond	o
55	to right corner of Rec over earth bank	WM - e - 10/15gm
59	turning left onto drain bank - c15 paces on left of top	o
63	c20 paces on - RHS down bank	o
65	c30 paces on - left on top	o
60	by new pond margin - c halfway along pond	o
62	at base of large tree LHS of bank	o
53	RHS down bank by clump of purple loosestrife	o
68	RHS down bank by 'open water'	o

BV -- Bank Vole

WM -- Wood Mouse

f -- female

m -- male

e -- escaped prior to precise weighing

o -- open (not tripped)

In summary, out of 20 traps there were 6 catches - two Bank Vole and four Wood Mouse. This represents (of 20 trap sessions) an overall catch rate of 30%.

Both Bank Voles were pregnant/lactating.

The site was dry everywhere during the entire trapping exercise - there had been very little recent rain. The weather overnight was cloudy, warm and dry, and when the traps were checked from 8am it was sunny, warm and dry.

Peter Pilbeam
29 August 2023