

**Small mammal trapping and general mammal surveying in Edwards Woodland, Dry Drayton, Cambridge
on request of the Trustees - overnight on 31/08/2021.**

**Peter Pilbeam, Joy Dingley and Carole and George Baber
(with some potential members of the Group and a Trustee and family).**

Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set up with bedding (hay) and bait (nut muesli, diced apple and casters) at various locations (slightly different habitat types) on a route round and through the woodland from 6pm on 31 July 2021. They were checked (any trapped animals being released immediately after weighing and sexing - one animal was marked by fur clipping to demonstrate the technique) from 8.00am on the following morning - the traps were then removed.

During and after laying out the traps and opening them the whole woodland was looked over for traces of other mammal species.

Overnight the weather was cloudy and wet at times, and cool.

Results:

Trap No.	01/08 am
56	o
65	WM - e - ??20gm
54	o
58	o
37	o
57	WM - mc - 17gm
60	WM - f? - 11gm
69	BV - m - 15gm
68	o
59	o
39	o
70	o
61	o
66	o
38	CS - 8.0gm
55	o
52	o
63	o
51	o
62	o

Other mammal signs:

One badger latrine was found adjacent to a badger path entering the woodland - no sett was found in the woodland itself. There was a distinct smell of red fox on one path, and a large amount of rabbit droppings (the paths were being kept open by rabbits) - rabbits were seen just outside the site. No animal tracks were seen.

Key:

WM -- Wood Mouse
BV -- Bank Vole
CS -- Common Shrew
f -- female
m -- male
o -- open (not tripped)
c -- marked with fur clip
e -- escaped

Conclusions:

Over the 20 trap nights five catches were made – 3x Wood Mouse, 1x Bank Vole and 1x Common Shrew. Given the young age of the woodland, the lack of any understory in places, and the long rank grass cover in many parts of the site the catch rate was more-or-less as expected, though unpredictable. However, three species! It is suggested that the trapping be repeated perhaps every two years in the future to see how the site matures.

Peter Pilbeam
01 August 2021