

**Small mammal trapping and hedgehog tunnel survey.  
Grafham Churchyard, part of BioBlitz 2021.  
24-25<sup>th</sup> July 2021  
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The weather over both days was cool and predominantly dry with a short, light shower on the Saturday afternoon. Overnight was dry and cool with a light breeze.

**Longworth Traps**

Thirty one (31) Longworth traps were set up with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli, diced apple and casters) at various locations (slightly different habitat types) around the churchyard (map reference: TL15976912) and just outside, from 7.00pm on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2021. They were checked and opened from 8.00am on the following day and then removed from the site. The trapped animals were released immediately after weighing and sexing. One non-breeding bank vole was kept in a container with bedding, food and water for visitors to the BioBlitz to see and released, where it was caught, after about two hours.

**Results:**

	<b>Trap No.</b>	<b>25/07 am</b>
1	68	o
2	77	o
3	62	BV – f – 16.0g
4	71	o
5	47	o
6	50	o
7	78	o
8	48	o
9	54	o
10	65	o
11	52	te
12	41	BV – m – 21.0g
13	49	o
14	60	o
15	55	BV – f – 32g pregnant?
16	58	o
17	57	o
18	79	o
20	69	o
21	74	o
22	66	o
23	73	BV – f – 21g
24	80	o
25	46	BV – m? – 16g
26	42	o
27	44	o
28	59	BV – m – 24g
29	67	WM – f – 27g lactating
30	75	o
31	76	WM – f – 25g lactating

**Key:**

WM -- Wood Mouse  
 BV -- Bank Vole  
 o -- open (not tripped)  
 te -- tripped/empy

## **Camera Traps**

This year, during the preceding week camera traps recorded a young fox foraging and drinking from the pond, and a hedgehog drinking from the pond. One badger dropping was also found next to a yew tree on the eastern side of the churchyard.

## **Hedgehog Tunnels**

Six hedgehog footprint tunnels were placed around the churchyard, mostly along the boundaries between long and short grass. One was placed in the middle of short grass and one was placed at the west end of the church at the base of the tower. Four of the tunnels had hedgehog prints the next day. The tunnel placed in the open short grass area was blank as was the tunnel nearest to the churchyard gate. One hedgehog dropping was found in the churchyard.

## **Evidence of other wildlife activity**

One old barn owl pellet was found on the ground under the eaves of the church. Unfortunately, there were no identifiable contents.

## **Conclusions:**

From thirty one traps, eight captures were made; six were bank voles and two were wood mice. This is an increase of two individuals from last year's Grafham BioBlitz when six animals were trapped using forty traps. This included one bank vole, one field vole and four wood mice.

Hedgehogs are present despite some badger activity.

Foxes are regular visitors to the churchyard.

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