

**Small mammal trapping and hedgehog tunnel survey.  
Grafham Churchyard, part of BioBlitz 2022.  
18/19 June 2022  
George Baber and Peter Pilbeam.**

The weather on 18 June was overcast, showery and turning to wet, with significant overnight rain. On 19 June the weather was much improved - being dry, sunny, and warm.

**Longworth Traps**

Twenty (20) 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) from 7.30pm on 18 June 2022. They were checked and opened from 8.00am on the following day and then removed from the site. Animals found in traps were identified for species, weighed, and sexed. Two (a male Bank Vole and a male Wood Mouse) were retained in individual containers, with bedding, food, and water, for visitors to the BioBlitz to see and before being released, where they were caught, at 10.00am.

**Results:**

|    | <b>Trap No.</b> | <b>25/07 am</b> |
|----|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1  | 61              | o               |
| 2  | 57              | CS – f – 6.5g   |
| 3  | 53              | o               |
| 4  | 65              | CS - ? – 11.5g  |
| 5  | 77              | o               |
| 6  | 41              | o               |
| 7  | 54              | WM – m - 19.5g  |
| 8  | 67              | o               |
| 9  | 80              | o               |
| 10 | 71              | o               |
| 11 | 70              | o               |
| 12 | 78              | o               |
| 13 | 46              | o               |
| 14 | 57              | o               |
| 15 | 58              | o               |
| 16 | 62              | BV – m – 31g    |
| 17 | 74              | o               |
| 18 | 56              | o               |
| 20 | 49              | o               |



**Key:**

WM -- Wood Mouse  
 BV -- Bank Vole  
 CS – Common Shrew  
 o -- open (not tripped)

## **Hedgehog Tunnels**

Four hedgehog footprint tunnels were placed around the churchyard along the boundaries between long and short grass. Sadly, none of the tunnels had prints but this is likely to have reflected the poor overnight weather rather than an indication of presence/non-presence.

### **Conclusions:**

From twenty traps four captures were made; two common shrews (a first for a Grafham BioBlitz), one bank vole and one wood mouse. This is a reduction of four individuals from last year's Grafham BioBlitz when eight animals were trapped using thirty traps. There was no evidence of hedgehog presence. However, the poor overnight weather may have had an impact on catch rate and on hedgehog detection.

George Baber  
25 June 2022