

**Small mammal trapping in the RSPB's Hope Farm in Knapwell as part of a LEAF event  
from 10 June 2023 to 11 June 2023**

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Forty (40) Longworth traps were set up with bedding (hay) and bait (nut muesli, diced apple and casters) in two groups of twenty (20) - one at intervals along a hedgeline opposite two agriforestry strips and in those strips, and the other round the margins of a grass field and among wild areas near the farm house - in four areas of the farm from 7pm on 10 June 2023. They were checked from 8am on 11 June 2023. Each animal caught was weighed and sexed and apart from one of each species each was released immediately where caught. All the traps were then removed. One of each species caught was kept in a small tank (with hay, bait and water) for about 2.5 hours to display to attendees at the event.

Overnight the weather was dry, warm and clear.

**Results:**

<b>Trap No.</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>11/06 from 8am</b>
63	E end of hedgeline opposite agriforestry strips	0
68	c10m along to the W	0
56	c10m along to the W	0
59	c10m along to the W	0
55	c10m along to the W	0
70	c10m along to the W	0
62	c10m along to the W	0
64	c10m along to the W	0
67	c10m along to the W	0
57	c10m along to the W	0
54	S end of first agriforestry strip	0
66	c10m N in centre of strip	0
58	c10m N in centre of strip	0
65	c10m N in centre of strip	0
53	c10m N in centre of strip	0
69	S end of second agriforestry strip	0
52	c10m N in centre of strip	0
51	c10m N in centre of strip	0
61	c10m N in centre of strip	0
60	c10m N in centre of strip	0
031	c2m RHS of S entrance to field	0
024	c10m on (anticlockwise)	0
029	c10m on (anticlockwise)	0
033	NE corner of field	0
027	c10m on (anticlockwise)	ov
025	c10m on (anticlockwise)	0
030	c10m on (anticlockwise)	0
034	c10m on (anticlockwise)	0
035	NW corner by log pile	0
023	NW corner by second log pile	WM - f - 30gm
036	In mound of cut grass by S exit from field	0
040	Behind 'Farm Office' sign in garden	0
028	c10m intervals in circular route round garden	WM - f - 11.5gm
032	c10m intervals in circular route round garden	0
037	c10m intervals in circular route round garden	0
021	c10m intervals in circular route round garden	0
026	c10m intervals in circular route round garden	0
022	c10m intervals in circular route round garden	0
039	c10m intervals in circular route round garden	0
038	c10m intervals in circular route round garden	0

**Key:**

WM -- Wood Mouse  
f -- female  
o -- open (not tripped)

**Conclusions:**

Over the 40 trap nights a total of 2 captures were made – both wood mice. The catch rate was low and not consistent with the season, the weather and the habitats chosen.

The heavier wood mouse captured was lactating and was set free immediately.

Each (quite new) agriforestry strip was completely isolated/separated by a crop at least 20m wide on all sides, and the nearest hedge/field margin was c 30m away. Although the habitat still looks promising no small mammals were trapped this year - in a similar exercise in June 2022 two small mammals were trapped in a strip.

Peter Pilbeam  
12 June 2023