

**Small mammal trapping in the RSPB's Hope Farm in Knapwell as part of a LEAF event
from 7 to 8 June 2025 - Peter Pilbeam, Lola Mota Redondo and Claire Parsons**

Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set up with bedding (hay) and bait (nut muesli, diced apple, and excess casters) in two groups of ten (10) - one at intervals round the margins of a grass field and one among semi-wild areas near the farm house - from 6.30pm on 7 June 2025. They were checked from 8am on 8 June 2025. Each animal caught was weighed and sexed and (apart from one of each species except shrew species) was released immediately where caught. All the traps were then removed. One of each species caught (except any shrew species) was kept in a small tank (with hay, bait and water) for about 2.5 hours to display to attendees at the event. They were then released where caught.

Overnight the weather was initially very wet, then dry, cool and clear.

Results:

Trap No.	Location	8/06 from 8am
	Field	
67	just left of RHS of S entrance to field	o
65	c10m on (anti-clockwise)	o
69	c10m on (anti-clockwise)	o
61	c10m on (anti-clockwise)	o
55	c10m on adj wooden fence	o
57	c10m on adj wooden fence	o
51	c10m on adj wooden fence	o
60	c10m on adj wooden fence	o
56	c10m on adj wooden fence	o
62	c10m on adj wooden fence	o
	Semi-wild area	
66	in long grass behind 'Farm Office' sign in garden	o
59	c10m intervals in clockwise circular route round area	o
63	c10m intervals in clockwise circular route round area	o
52	c10m intervals in clockwise circular route round area	o
70	c10m intervals in clockwise circular route round area	CS - m - 15.5gm
64	c10m intervals in clockwise circular route round area	o
53	c10m intervals in clockwise circular route round area	o
58	c10m intervals in clockwise circular route round area	o
54	c10m intervals in clockwise circular route round area	o
68	c10m intervals in clockwise circular route round area	o

Key:

CS -- Common Shrew
m -- male
o -- open (not tripped)

Conclusions:

Over the 20 trap nights 1 capture was made – Common Shrew. Therefore no animals were kept in small tanks for attendees to see.

This catch rate was markedly lower than that of the 2024 exercise (which was 5 captures out of 20 traps).

Peter Pilbeam
11 June 2025