

**Small mammal trapping in the RSPB's Hope Farm in Knapwell as part of a LEAF event
from 11 June 2022 to 12 June 2022**

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Forty (40) Longworth traps were set up with bedding (hay) and bait (fruit and nut muesli, diced apple and casters) in two groups of twenty (20) - one at intervals along a track between a wild area and a crop and at intervals in two agroforestry strips, and one round the margins of a grass field and among wild areas near the farm house - in four areas of the farm from 7pm on 11 June 2022. They were checked from 8am on 12 June 2022. 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, mild and cloudy.

Results:

Trap No.	Location	12/06 from 8am
077	10m from start of track	ov
068	10m on	ov
074	10m on	o
057	10m on	o
041	10m on	o
049	10m on	o
058	10m on	ov
046	10m on	ov
071	10m on	ov
054	10m on	o
052	5m into agroforestry strip 1	ov
061	5m on	FV - m - 41gm
062	5m on	WM - escaped - 33gm
053	5m on	ov
056	5m on	o
065	5m into agroforestry strip 2	ov
070	5m on	o
078	5m on	o
080	5m on	o
067	5m on	te
61	Over fence c 5m RHS of gate of field	o
52	c10m on (anticlockwise)	o
63	c10m on (anticlockwise)	o
59	c10m on (anticlockwise)	o
67	c10m on (anticlockwise)	ov
55	c10m on (anticlockwise)	o
68	c10m on (anticlockwise)	o
64	c10m on (anticlockwise)	o
66	Side of far end of barn	o
60	Side of centre of barn	o
58	Under conifer in scrub	o
57	Under hazel tree ditto	WM - f - 14.5gm
56	Under buckthorn ditto	ov
70	Near rear gate under apple tree	ov
62	Under dead tree	te
69	Under bug house	ov
65	Under roped-up fruit tree	BV - f - 32.5gm
53	Under large bird box in scrub	o
51	Under another ditto	ov
54	Under old moth trap	o

Key:

WM -- Wood Mouse

BV -- Bank Vole

FV -- Field Vole

m -- male

f -- female

o -- open (not tripped)

e -- empy

v -- visited (external bait removed, not necessarily by small mammals)

t -- tripped

Conclusions:

Over the 40 trap nights a total of 4 captures were made – 2 wood mice, 1 bank vole and 1 field vole. The catch rate was low and not consistent with the season, the weather and the habitats chosen.

However, each (very new) agroforestry 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 looked promising only a few small mammals had made it across the crop - hopefully more will follow.

Peter Pilbeam

16 June 2022