

**Small mammal trapping in parts of King's College, Cambridge from 21/07/2021 to 22/07/2021.  
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with Dr Cicely Marshall and colleagues from King's College.**

**Preamble:**

The aim of the exercise was to check for the presence of any small mammals in the wild flower meadow immediately prior to it being mown for hay approximately one week later. For comparison the border (the Echium border) immediately to the north of the meadow (and abutting Clare College Master's Lodge) was also checked as a possible 'reservoir' of/for small mammals. For further comparison the wooded northern edge of 'Scholar's Piece' (immediately west of the meadow and on the other side of the River Cam) was also checked.

**Methodology:**

Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set up with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli, diced apple and casters) in three different locations (as shown in the table of results below) behind the west end of King's College Chapel from around 7.00pm on 21 July 2021. They were checked and opened (all of the trapped animals being released immediately after weighing and sexing) from 8.00am on the following day. One of the trapped animals was marked by fur clipping to demonstrate the technique. The traps were then removed.

Overnight the weather was cloudy, dry and warm.

**Results:**

Trap No.	Location	21/07/2021
39	Echium border	o
65	Echium border	o
66	Echium border	o
69	Echium border	o
70	Echium border	o
37	along wooded edge of Scholars' Piece	o
38	ditto	o
54	ditto	o
60	ditto	WM - fc- 13.0gm
61	ditto	WM - m - 15.0gm
58	in wild flower meadow	o
55	ditto	o
56	ditto	o
57	ditto	o
59	ditto	o
51	ditto	o
68	ditto	o
62	ditto	o
63	ditto	o
52	ditto	o

**Key:**

- WM -- Wood Mouse
- m -- male
- f -- female
- c -- fur clipped
- o -- open (not tripped)

**Conclusions:**

Over the 20 trap nights a total of 2 captures were made – both were Wood Mouse. The results for the meadow were entirely as expected - it has no connectivity with any other areas where small mammals might live, and the Echium border was almost entirely devoid of any vegetation, except for a large number of large Echium plants, and was against a stone wall for its entire length with no connectivity at either end. The wooded edge of Scholars' Piece however produced results much as expected - an 'ordinary' woodland edge to a field used for grazing cattle and with little or no disturbance by people.

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