

Small mammal trapping around Linton Pocket Park overnight from 18 to 19 July 2026 - Peter Pilbeam, Lola Mota Redondo, Alex Ward, Helen Brookes, and c15 FROG members and families.

Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set to catch with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli, diced apple and excess casters) at various locations (a narrow range of habitats) at intervals alongside the mainly perimeter path round Linton Pocket Park from around 6.15pm on Saturday 18 July 2026. They were opened from 8am on Sunday 19 July 2026. All trapped animals were identified to species level, weighed and sexed before being released immediately where they were caught - the traps were then removed. One animal was marked by fur-clip to demonstrate the technique

Trap No.	Location	19/07/2026 – from 8am
58	behind the main entrance sign	BV – f – 19gm
66	working clockwise round the site – c15m on – behind brash	o
68	c10m on – under wooden bridge	o
64	c30m on – on RHS by pond	BV – m – 18.5gm
67	c20m on – on RHS by dry pond	WM – m – 16gm
60	c30m on – on LHS between alder trees	WM – f – 24gm
57	c25m on – on LHS just past large willow	BV – f – 23.5gm
62	c30m on – on LHS down bank next to watercourse	o
56	c30m on – on RHS under hawthorn	o
55	c40m on – in centre of triangular patch of veg on RHS	o
69	c30m on – on LHS under gap in trees	WM – f – 26.5gm
61	c40m on – under wooden bridge	BV – f – 22.5gm
51	c30m on – on RHS under nettles and willows	o
53	c40m on – on RHS in open glade	o
59	c50m on – on RHS under bases of trees	BV – f – 22gm
65	c50m on – on LHS behind pile of brash	o
54	c40m on – on RHS behind log pile	BV – m – 15.5gm
63	c50m on – on LHS just behind fence	o
52	c50m on – on LHS behind fence under maple	o
70	on LHS up bank just outside the Park entrance	o

WM -- Wood Mouse
 BV -- Bank Vole
 m -- male
 f -- female
 c – marked by fur clip
 o -- open, not tripped

In summary, out of 20 traps over one night there were 6 Bank Vole and 3 Wood Mouse catches. This represents (of 20 trap sessions) an overall catch rate of 45%.

In comparison, in the previous exercise from 20 to 21 July 2024 using very similar trapping sites the catch rate was 20%.

The weather overnight and when the traps were checked at 8am on 19 July was cloudy, mild and dry.

Peter Pilbeam
 20 July 2026