

**Small mammal trapping in Meadow Lodge Farm, Bluntisham, overnight from
2 December 2022 to 3 December 2022 - Peter Pilbeam, Peter Dean,
and members of the owners' families.**

Eleven (11) Longworth traps were set to catch with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli, casters and diced apple) at approximately 10m intervals going north along a section of the west side boundary of the farm from 2.30pm on 2 December 2022.

A further five (5) traps were set with contents as above along the southern edge of the line of ponds going east, and four (4) more traps were set in the block of apple trees just south of the line of five traps and going west. All the traps were checked from 8am on 3 December 2022.

Each animal caught was weighed and sexed and one was marked by fur clipping to demonstrate the technique. The animals were all released where caught - all the traps were then removed.

Trap No.	Location	03/12/2022 – from 8am
54	Start of hedge line on w boundary	oe
55	c10m on going north	oe
56	c10m on going north	BV - m - 22.5gm
66	c10m on going north	WM - m - 18.5gm
59	c10m on going north	o
64	c10m on going north	WM - f - 18gm
63	c10m on going north	WM - m - 16.5gm
67	c10m on going north	o
53	c10m on going north	o
69	c10m on going north	BV - mc - 14.5gm
68	c10m on going north	WM - m - 20.5gm
57	W end of southern edge of line of ponds	WM - m - 22.5gm
51	c10m on going east	o
62	c10m on going east	WM - f - 16gm
52	c10m on going east	BV - f - 18gm
60	c10m on going east	o
61	E end of block of apple trees	WM - f - 18gm
70	c10m on going west	o
65	c10m on going west	o
58	c10m on going west	WM - f - 16gm

WM -- Wood Mouse

BV -- Bank Vole

m -- male

f -- female

o -- open (not tripped)

oe -- open and entered (with tunnel in hay) - no animal caught

c -- marked by fur clip

In summary, out of 20 traps there were 8 Wood Mouse catches and 3 Bank Vole catches. This represents (of 20 trap sessions) an overall catch rate of 55%.

Traps 54 and 55 had both been entered (evidenced by droppings in the traps and by tunnels in the hay) but had not been tripped. Two possible reasons - water preventing the flap from dropping or the animals had been small enough to go under the trip wire.

The weather overnight and when the traps were checked was overcast, cold, and wet.

Peter Pilbeam

5 December 2022