

**Small mammal trapping around Rampton Recreation Ground overnight
from 28 July 2022 as part of a 'New Life on the Old West' event - Peter Pilbeam, Joy
Dingley, Laura Allen, and members of the local public.**

Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set to catch with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli, casters and diced apple) at various locations (a small range of habitats) in a clockwise direction round the Recreation Ground from around 6pm on 28 July 2022 and checked from around 8am on 29 July 2022. Each animal caught was weighed and sexed - the two animals trapped were kept in separate small tanks (with hay, bait and water) for about 2.5 hours to display to attendees at the event. All the traps were then removed. The displayed animals were released where they were caught.

Trap No.	Location	29/07/2022 – c8am
56	Adj hedgerow LHS of Ground	o
51	Ditto - c 30m on	o
58	In LHS corner of Ground	o
54	LH corner of hedge and wildflower area	o
61	In wildflower area behind bench	o
65	Ditto - c 20m on and 10m in on opp side	o
57	Adj hedgerow by first alder	o
53	Ditto - c 20m on	o
66	Adj hedgerow c 20m on by field maple	o
68	Ditto - c 30m on	o
59	Ditto - c 20m on	o
64	Ditto - c 30m on	o
60	By LH fence behind bug hotel	o
52	LH behind bug hotel	BV - m - 33gm
63	RH behind bug hotel	BV - m - 12gm
62	Alongside log on RHS of bug hotel	o
69	Just in bramble by birch tree	o
70	Opp corner of tennis court by log	o
55	Under blackthorn opp side of tennis court	o
67	By fallen tree brash opp tennis court	o

BV -- Bank Vole
m -- male
o -- open (not tripped)

In summary, out of 20 traps there were 2 catches - both Bank Voles. This represents (of 20 trap sessions) an overall catch rate of 10%.

It is important to note that nearly all the hedge boundaries of the site had been well-cleared (strimmed??) of virtually all vegetation up to the feet of the hedges themselves - there were very tidy edges. The only 'wild' (i.e. messy) area was around the bug hotel (produced as part of the 'New Life on the Old West' project) - this was the only area where small mammals were trapped. The conclusion is self-evident.

The site was very very dry everywhere during the entire trapping exercise - there had been effectively no rain on site for a month. The weather overnight was cloudy, warm and dry, and when the traps were checked from 8am it was sunnyish, warm and dry.

Peter Pilbeam
3 August 2022