

Small mammal trapping in the gardens of Robinson College, Cambridge, over two nights from 8 April to 10 April 2022 - Peter Pilbeam, Joy Dingley, Carol Baber and George Baber.

Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set NOT to catch with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli, casters and diced apple) at various locations (a range of habitats) in the gardens of Robinson College from around 5pm on Friday 8 April 2022. They were rebaited and set to catch from around 5pm on Saturday 9 April and opened from 8am on Sunday 10 April. All trapped animals were identified, weighed and sexed before being released immediately - the traps were then removed.

Trap No.	Location	10/04/2022 – c8am
51	by S side of lake among small trees	o
52	behind large tree by path going right	BV - m - 20.5gm
53	in shrubbery behind CWB sign	pulled apart
54	behind brown box on N side of lake	o
55	behind small trees on corner of brook	WM - m - 19gm
56	behind LH end of log pile	o - turned on its side
58	behind RH end of log pile	o - turned on its side
60	behind 'mature' compost heap	pulled apart
57	on path to right of inspection cover	pulled apart
59	towards LH end of border near CWB	o
62	towards RH end of border near CWB	o
61	in corner near semi-circular steps	WM - m - 21.5gm
64	RH end on rough bank by brook	o - turned on its side
63	LH end on rough bank by brook	o - turned on its side
65	in SW corner of garden by pile of waste stone	WM - f - 20gm
66	in NW corner of same behind pile of old tiles	WM - f - 18.5gm
68	under E side of stage	WM - m - 20gm
70	at side of S (of 2) sheds	WM - f - 16.5gm
67	behind N (of 2) sheds	pulled apart
64	by trunk under mulberry tree	o

WM -- Wood Mouse

BV -- Bank Vole

m -- male

f -- female

o -- open (not tripped)

In summary, out of 20 traps there were 6 Wood Mouse and 1 Bank Vole catches. This represents (of 20 trap sessions) an overall catch rate of 35%.

It is surmised that the traps that had been pulled apart or/and moved on to their sides are likeliest to have been disturbed by foxes. Those that were pulled apart had no evidence of any small mammals having been in them when they were disturbed.

Other mammals seen: grey squirrels and muntjac.

The weather overnight and when the traps were checked at 8am on 10 April was clear, cold, and dry.

Peter Pilbeam

10 April 2022