

Small mammal trapping around part of Trumpington Meadows, Cambridge for a BCNWT activity ("Wild in the Meadows") for families overnight from 19 to 20 August 2026 – Peter Pilbeam, Rebecca Neal, and c 25 adults and children

Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set to catch with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli, excess diced apple and excess casters) at various locations (mainly the bases of hedges and behind piles of cut grass) in a clockwise direction round part of Trumpington Meadows from around 6pm on 19 August 2026 and checked from around 8am on 20 August 2026. Each animal caught was weighed and sexed and released immediately where caught. All the traps were then removed.

Trap No.	Location	20/08/2026 c8am
63	c5m clockwise from start – under sycamore by fence	WM – m – 16gm
56	c10m on – by fence behind plum tree	BV – m – 18.5gm
70	on RHS by fence of protected ash	WM – f – 15gm
55	c10m on – by fence under tall ash	o
67	c 5m on – LHS c2m before large grass pile	o
61	c5m on – behind LH end of large grass pile	WM – e – ?15gm
57	c3m on – behind centre of grass pile	o
64	c3m on – behind RH end of grass pile	o
52	on LHS behind willow near entrance to Rainbow Garden	o
62	LHS of garden under brambles	o
69	RHS of pond area behind large iris	WM – f – 24.5gm
54	c20m on – inside protection of tree 321	o
58	c10m on – on RHS in middle of newish hawthorn fence	WM – m – 14gm
68	c10m on – on RHS behind hedge at jn of three paths	o
59	c25m on – on RHS under hawthorn in hedge	o
66	c25m on – behind large entrance sign in hedge	WM – f – 22gm
65	c10m on – on RHS behind grass heap	BV – f – 27gm
60	c5m on – on RHS behind grass heap under rowan	o
51	ditto – other end of grass heap	t
53	c10m on – on RHS behind small grass heap	WM – f – 20.5gm

WM -- Wood Mouse

BV -- Bank Vole

f -- female

m -- male

o -- open (not tripped)

e -- escaped

t -- tripped (empty)

In summary, out of 20 traps there were 9 catches – 7 Wood Mouse and 2 Bank Vole. This represents (of 20 trap sessions) an overall catch rate of 45%.

The animals in traps 69, 66 and 65 were pregnant/lactating. The Wood Mouse that escaped prior to being weighed and sexed was guesstimated to be c15gm.

The site had been very very dry for several weeks prior to the event. However, there was a cloudburst while the traps were being loaded (leading to a delay in setting them out). They were eventually set out after the rain stopped. The weather overnight (apart from a small rain shower) and when the traps were opened was cool and dry.

A similar exercise undertaken the weekend before on behalf of the Cambridgeshire Mammal Group produced a very similar catch rate and the same mix of species but included one Common Shrew.

Peter Pilbeam
20 August 2026