

**Small mammal trapping in White Fen (part of the Wicken Fen Vision area)
as part of a BioBlitz from 7 July 2023 to 8 July 2023
Peter Pilbeam, Ben Wright and Pippa Keynes**

Ten (10) Longworth traps were set up with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli, diced apple and casters) on a near-circular route anticlockwise round the temporary car park from 6pm on 7 July 2023. Slightly later in the evening a further twenty (20) traps were set up similarly along the side of the reserve, across to the main track and back down it to near the start. They were checked from 8am on 8 July 2023 - the traps were then removed.

Overnight the weather was dry, hot and clear. The weather during the morning session was dry, very hot, breezy, and intermittently slightly cloudy.

Results:

Trap No.	Location	8/07/23 - 8am
003	Long grass by edge of temporary car park	o
004	c10m on in grass	o
007	c10m on in grass	o
006	c10m on in grass	HM - m - 7gm
008	c10m on in grass	o
005	c10m on in grass	o
009	c10m on in grass under cherry tree	o
010	c10m on in grass	o
001	c10m on in grass	o
002	c10m on in grass	o
69	By corner of edge of side of reserve	o
68	c20m on in grass	o
57	c30m on in grass	o
67	Along track c10m from start	o
58	c10m on in grass	o
55	c20m on under tree	o
66	c20m on under tree	o
56	Under rowan tree in grass	o
65	Under willow tree in grass	o
53	Under birch tree in grass	o
64	c10m on in grass	o
63	c10m along mown track	o
70	Under tree in edge of mown section	o
51	Under tree in other end of mown section	o
54	Under hazel by mown area	o
62	In grass adjacent to track	o
61	c20m on	o
52	c30m on	o
59	c50m on	o
60	Under willow near start	o

Key:

HM -- Harvest Mouse
m -- male
o -- open (not tripped)

Conclusions:

Over the 30 trap nights 1 capture was made – a Harvest Mouse. The catch rate was very much lower than expected but possibly consistent with the weather (extremely hot and windy). The density of most of the grass areas was so high that it was difficult to place traps on the ground itself, and any animals would have had to climb a little and find the traps before getting caught.

Very regrettably the harvest mouse was accidentally killed when it got caught between the lid and the base of a tank while being placed in a tank to show to members of the public.

Therefore for the purposes of the Bioblitz – one small mammal species was noted.

Peter Pilbeam
12 July 2023