

Small mammal trapping in Coton Orchard, overnight from 28 – 29 June 2024. Ben (On The Verge, Cambridge); Cambridgeshire Mammal Group: Pippa Keynes & Peter Pilbeam; members of the public.

Twenty Longworth traps were set to catch with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli, casters and diced apple) at various locations around the periphery and within the orchard. Habitats included hedgerow (periphery) and long grass within the orchard around the base of the fruit trees (lines of fruit trees in rows, within mown area).

Traps were set out from 7pm on Friday 28th June (Ben, PK, PP) and opened from 8.30am on Saturday 29th June. All trapped animals were identified to species level, weighed and sexed before being released immediately where they were caught. The traps were then removed.

Trap No.	Location	Species	M/F	Weight (g)
54	Under old timber fence panels on hardstanding next to barns	CS	-	a few gm
67	Opp new trees at base of hedge	WM	M	28.5
64	At base of hedge, opp gap in 1 st row of trees	BV	M	21.5
60	To 2 nd row (at base of orchard tree)	O		
69	To 6 th row (at base of orchard tree)	O		
57	Straight across to fence line (wooded area)	WM	M	27
55	Fence corner (edge of wooded area)	WM	M	25 (short tail)
59	LH of split path	WM	F	30 (lactating)
56	RH of split path	O		
53	By roller, edge of hardstanding	O		
52	Under timber pile; hardstanding area	O		
65	LH of 52, under old tree	BV	M	26.5
61	Opp. Large door in barn, 3 rd tree along in orchard row	O		
63	In long grass, corner	O		
51	In long grass opp. Young tree	O		
62	LH at edge of gateway, near hedge	WM	M	28.5
68	Under large bramble in hedge	O		
58	LH corner towards entrance	E/WM	?	?
75	At base of fir hedge along driveway	WM	F	21.5
66	Under 2 nd tree in 1st row of orchard trees	O		

WM -- Wood Mouse
 BV -- Bank Vole
 CS -- Common Shrew
 m -- male
 f -- female
 o -- open, not tripped
 t -- tripped and empty

In summary, 20 traps over one night trapped 7 Wood Mouse, 2 Bank Vole and 1 Common Shrew. This represents (of 20 trap sessions) an overall catch rate of 50%. The catches were largely around the periphery of the site. There were no catches within the rows of orchard trees.

The weather on Friday evening, overnight, and Saturday morning was warm and dry.

Pippa Keynes, 29th July 2024