

**Small mammal trapping and general mammal surveying in Histon Road Cemetery, Cambridge,
on request of the Friends of the Cemetery - overnight on 7/09/2019.
Peter Pilbeam and Joy Dingley (with about ten members of the Friends).**

Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set up with bedding (hay) and bait (nut muesli, diced apple and casters) at various locations (slightly different habitat types) on a route round the edges of the cemetery from 6pm on 7 September 2019. They were checked (any trapped animals being released immediately after weighing and sexing) from 8.00am on 8 September 2019 - the traps were then removed.

After the traps were set several areas on the (sandy) paths were watered or swept to be checked for mammal prints the following morning. The whole area was covered to look for traces of mammals (e.g. droppings, tracks, kills, etc.).

Overnight the weather was clear, dry, cool and cloud-free.

Results:

Trap No.	Location	08/09 am
69	NE corner under tree	vo
70	N edge in long grass	o
68	Ditto (towards NE)	o
1	Under Euonymus bush	o
66	N side in long grass	vo
65	Ditto (towards NE)	o
2	Under hedge towards NE corner	o
62	LH of large compost heap on E side	o
63	RH of ditto	vo
61	Behind sycamore on E side	o
54	In SE corner under holly	o
51	Under yew tree along S edge	WM - mc - 19gm
3	Against fence on S edge	d
60	Against fence on S edge towards SW	o
66	In long grass adj. S edge towards SW	do
59	Adj. gravestone near S edge	do
56	Ditto towards SW corner	o
58	Near SW corner in brambles	vo
57	Near SW corner against fence	o
55	In SW corner under bushes	o

Other mammal signs:

No direct signs of other mammals were seen - no prints, droppings or runs. However, black and grey squirrels were seen and evidence of fox (remains of pigeons with bitten-off feathers) was found.

Key:

- WM -- Wood Mouse
- m -- male
- o -- open (not tripped)
- v -- visited (external bait removed, not necessarily by small mammals)
- d -- disturbed (moved or pulled apart)
- c -- marked with fur clip

Conclusions:

Over the 20 trap nights 1 capture was made – 1 Wood Mouse. The catch rate was unexpectedly low - not really consistent with the season but consistent with the amount of disturbance (from dog walkers and members of the public passing through the Cemetery, and the occasional rough sleeper).

Peter Pilbeam
12 September 2019