

**Small mammal trapping around Logan's Meadow, Cambridge, overnight
from 24 August 2024 as a 'Friends of Logan's Meadow' event - Peter Pilbeam, Laura
Allen and members of the Friends of Logan's Meadow.**

Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set to catch with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli, diced apple and excess casters) at various locations (a small range of habitats) in a loop round the wetland and woodland areas of Logan's Meadow from around 6pm on 24 August 2024 and checked from 8am on 25 August 2024. Each animal caught was weighed, sexed and released immediately where it was caught. All the traps were then removed.

Trapping results:

Trap No.	Location	24/07/2022 – c8am
53	going clockwise from the swift tower - LHS by watercourse	o
62	LHS of small bridge	o
56	in remains of fallen tree	o
54	along RHS of watercourse in reeds opp bridge	o
69	in tree roots	o
61	LHS of end of small bridge	o
51	on LHS behind ivy-covered tree	o
60	behind fallen log	o
65	by main river behind log	o
58	in collapsed tree LHS of main path	o
70	under LHS of small sleeper bridge	o
68	RHS of path behind willow logs	WM - m - 29.5g
67	by post after bridge on LHS	o
57	LHS of path under young tree	o
55	LHS of path under dead sowthistle	o
52	LHS of path under ash by fence	o
59	LHS of path under green-labelled young tree	o
63	under bridge behind first lamp post	o
64	under bridge behind large elder	o
66	behind swift tower foot	o

Key

WM -- Wood Mouse
m -- male
o -- open (not tripped)

Conclusions

In summary, out of 20 traps there was one catch - a Wood Mouse. This represents (of 20 trap sessions) an overall catch rate of 5%. This was the second visit to Logan's Meadow - the first trapping session in August 2022 yielded five Wood Mice - a catch rate of 25%..

It is important to note that the meadow is very heavily used by walkers and dog walkers, but the low catch rate was still surprising given the range of habitats and the clement weather. Only one of the traps had been disturbed (turned onto its side) while left overnight, and several traps had 'caught' large brown slugs.

The weather had been very wet and was raining when the traps were set out. Overnight it was dry, clear and cool. When the traps were checked it was dry, clear and cool with a breeze.

Peter Pilbeam
25 August 2024