

**Small mammal trapping in the grounds of Churchill College, Cambridge, overnight from
10 October 2024 to 11 October 2024 - Peter Pilbeam, Emma Boland, several
members of the College grounds staff, and several students.**

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 clockwise direction round the grounds from around 5pm on 10 October 2024 and checked from around 8am on 11 October 2024. Each animal caught was weighed and sexed. The animals were all released where caught - all the traps were then removed.

Trap No.	Location	11/10/2024 – from 8am
70	Under large willow	o
65	Under large willow	FV - m - 17gm
53	Next to Cowan Court - over mound	WM - m - 13.5gm
55	Ditto - under willow	o
61	Along path - on RHS under tree	WM - e - c20gm
69	Ditto - next tree	o
63	Near composting area - behind blue trailer	o
62	Ditto - next to yellow roller	WM - 21.5gm
51	Ditto - 2m past on bank	WM - m - 20gm
54	Round mound - by log pile on RHS down bank	o
52	Along path - LHS opp observatory drive	o
67	Further along - behind bench on LHS	pa
57	Under large oak on LHS	WM - f - 16.5gm
58	Adj bug hotel on LHS	BV - m - 19gm
60	Behind small log pile on LHS	o
56	LHS near buildings by white frames	o
59	In flower beds on LHS	WM - f - 13.5gm
66	Ditto - 10m on under bay tree	WM - m - 11gm
68	In flower bed on LHS behind first lamp	WM - m - 13.5gm
64	Ditto - 10m on	WM - m - 15.5gm

WM -- Wood Mouse

FV -- Field Vole

BV -- Bank Vole

m -- male

f -- female

e -- escaped

pa -- pulled apart

o -- open (not tripped)

In summary, out of 20 traps there were 9 Wood Mouse, 1 Field Vole and 1 Bank Vole catches. This represents (of 20 trap sessions) an overall catch rate of 55%.

Trap 67 - pulled apart by a badger or a fox - both species known on site. The nest box part of the trap showed evidence (a small tunnel into the bedding) of having had a small mammal in it - it is surmised that whichever animal pulled the trap apart has been attracted to the trap by the small mammal (for an easy meal).

The weather overnight and when the traps were checked was clear, cold (down to 0 degrees/grass frost), and dry.

Peter Pilbeam

18 October 2024