

Small mammal trapping in the Forest School area at Gretton School in Girton, overnight from 4 to 5 July 2024 - Peter Pilbeam, Alicia Watson, and several pupils and their teachers.

Twenty (20) Longworth traps were set to catch with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli, casters and diced apple) at various locations (a narrow range of habitats) at intervals alongside the roughly circular path round the periphery of the Forest School area (which included a pond about 15m in diameter) from 7pm on Thursday 4 July 2024. They were opened from 9.15am on Friday 5 July 2024. 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	02/07/2024 – c8am
62	going clockwise - under first coppice hazel by fence	WM - m - 15gm
70	down path on RHS towards pond - under veg	o
54	LHS of path under multistem cut tree	BV - m - 26gm
68	RHS of path behind large log	o
60	LHS of path behind log pile	t
61	RHS behind 3-trunk willow adj pond	o
55	RHS at edge of pond behind next willow	o
63	c 3m along at edge of pond	WM - m - 30gm
66	c 3m further along at edge of pond	o
52	LHS of path in long grass	BV - f - 19gm
53	LHS of path - further into long grass	CS - ? - 10.5gm
59	LHS up short path in nettles	o
69	LHS up bank in nettles	BV - m - 19gm
51	RHS up bank under hawthorn	o
67	LHS before entry to 'kitchen area'	o
58	LHS behind hut	BV - f - 28gm
64	LHS past firepit at base of hedge	BV - f - 12gm
65	LHS behind compost bin	BV - m - 11.5gm
57	RHS behind 'role play' hut	WM - f - 20gm
56	LHS by raised bed	o

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

In summary, out of 20 traps over one night there were 3 Wood Mouse, 6 Bank Vole and 1 Common Shrew catches. This represents (of 20 trap sessions) an overall catch rate of 50%. Unfortunately the Common Shrew had died in the trap - it was cold and rigor had set in. A report on Form GL01 Annex is being made to Natural England as required.

Traps numbered 61 and 55 had been moved (pushed over) and trap number 66 had been pulled apart (fox??) with no evidence of it having trapped any animal before being pulled apart.

The weather overnight and when the traps were checked at 8am on 5 July was cold, cloudy and dry.

Peter Pilbeam
 8 July 2024