

Small Mammal Training Workshop at Priory Country Park

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Figure 1 A Longworth trap in situ (left) and a small mammal being weighed before release (right)

Peter Pilbeam ran our annual small mammal training workshop at Priory Country Park at the end of October 2015.

11 Longworth traps were set up with bedding (hay) and bait (muesli and casters) at various locations (different habitats) within the immediate area of the Visitor Centre and nearby in the park. Traps were set at around 5pm on 31st October 2015 and checked at around 8am on the 1st November 2015. One trapped animal was marked (hair clipping) and most were weighed. All trapped animals were released immediately. All the traps were rebaited and reset. Final checks were made at about 12.30pm that same day; the traps were then removed.

Table 1 Capture results from Longworth traps

Trap No.	Location	8:00 1 st Nov	12:30 1 st Nov
31	Corner of Centre car park	o	o
33	Next to entrance to garden	o	o
32	Behind rock wall	veos	vo
40	By fence in garden	veos	o
38	In shrubbery near pond	WM - mcs - 14.5gm	o
37	In shrubbery near pond	WM - mus - 13gm	o
39	By log pile in garden	WM - mus - 16.5gm	o
36	By fence in garden	BV - mus - 20gm	o
34	Bank of lake	veos	o
35	Bank of lake	WM - fus - 12gm	o
46	Bank of lake	BV - mus - 16gm	o

Key:

WM -- Wood mouse *Apodemus sylvaticus*

BV -- Bank vole *Myodes glareolus*

f -- female

m -- male

r -- recapture

c -- marked by fur clipping

u -- unmarked

s -- reset

o -- open (not tripped)

t -- tripped and empty

veo -- visited by small mammal/s and empy and open (not tripped)



Figure 2 A bank vole after release

In summary, out of 11 traps plus 11 resets, there were 4 wood mouse catches and 2 bank vole catches. The marked wood mouse was not recaptured. The area was in general quite dry underfoot - the conditions overnight and when the traps were checked at 8am were overcast and mild (with no rain overnight).

This workshop provided practical training in mammal identification, trapping techniques, and owl pellet analysis. Details of the upcoming 2016 workshop at Paxton Pits can be found [here](#).