

**SMALL MAMMAL SURVEY AT LETTON CHURCHYARD
SEPTEMBER 19TH – 21ST 2003-09-22**

Small mammal survey was carried out using Longworth traps. The traps are filled with hay and baited with food which is suitable for rodents and shrews. The animals are released as soon as possible. A general survey of the churchyard for signs of other mammals was also carried out.

Results of Longworth trapping

40 traps were set and left in situ for 2 days, checked morning and evening.

Date	Trap number	Species	Sex	Weight	New Animal
20 th - am	20	C. Shrew		7.5	Y
	31	C. Shrew		7.0	Y
	33	Bank vole	M	28.5	Y
	38	Bank vole	M	17.5	Y
	40	Bank vole	J	11.5	Y
20 th - pm	16	C Shrew	J	6	Y
	18	Bank vole	F	21.5	Y
	15	C. Shrew	J	5.5	Y
	22	Bank vole	F (lac)	20.5	Y
	23	C Shrew		6.0	Y
	33	Bank vole	M	16.5	Y
	32	Bank vole	F	21.5	Y
	38	Bank vole	F	20	Y
	40	Bank vole	M	27	?
	21 st - am	14	C Shrew		
17		Bank vole		19	?
21		C Shrew		6.0	?
22		C Shrew		6.0	?
33		Bank vole	M	28	N
35		Bank vole	F	17	y
38		Bank vole	M	17.5	?

Animals were not marked so it assumed that there were some re-captures looking at location, size and sex.

Total:

Common shrew (cannot be easily sexed) - 5
Bank vole – Males - 3
 Females – 4 (one lactating)
 Juvenile - 1

Conclusions:

- Bank vole and common shrew are both breeding within the churchyard
- The trapping results indicate quite a high population of both species
- There are a large number of holes throughout the churchyard which will be used by both bank voles and moles.
- Even though field voles were not captured it is possible that they are present when the grass is longer.

Management recommendations:

There was very little cover for small mammals at the time of the visit. The grass was cut throughout most of the area. It is not known what the management regime is here, but it is recommended that a taller grass verge at least 70 cm wide alongside the boundaries is allowed to be present all year round, particularly the boundaries where the animals were caught. This will