



# Mercia Marinas Mammal group Newsletter

March 2017

Issue 3

The weather seems to have been against us this month with trying to get a couple of our mammal folk out on a walk. However, with March here it should give us a better chance!! Well hopefully. We do want to try and get out there again soon, especially as our small mammals will now be thinking about breeding which should make signs of them more visible.

Live trapping can start as soon as the weather warms up. We will be using the Longworth trap used in strict accordance with the General licence from Natural England. The licence lays out the exact way in which traps can be used i.e. construction of trap, how to place, what to provide as bedding, food etc. How often to visit is vitally important as shrews can die if left too long without food. 3-4 hours is the maximum time between checking. However, we will always ensure that we leave sufficient food i.e. apple or carrot, oats, casters, raisins etc.

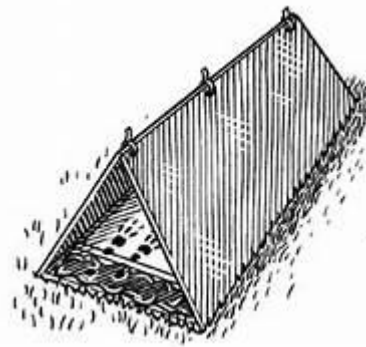


We had success last year catching Bank Voles & Wood Mice in the traps but we did not start until September, so hopefully more variety to come this year. We know we have Water Shrews (as we found a dead

one) but it would be good to find out for definite what else we have.

We would probably start trapping in the wood as it is more sheltered and fairly certain we would get some Wood Mice which would be an ideal start for those of you wanting to learn how to trap. They are lively so you need your wits about you but they are enchanting little things

Bearing trapping in mind we are also planning to use footprint traps.



Simply made from mountboard with ink pads at each end (non-toxic), food source in the middle and paper for the footprints. Ideal for hedgehogs, which we do not know if we have, sadly. We may get anything from voles, shrews, weasels, rats who knows. Obviously, what we use as bait would have to reflect the animals we want to attract. We could use much smaller footprint traps closer to the water for Water Shrew, Water Vole. The last is highly unlikely but you never know what is around.

Looking forward to lots of ventures this year maybe visiting other nature reserves, bat detecting, talks etc.