

National Harvest Mouse Survey 2025/26

Cornwall Mammal Group

Hi all – it's that time of year again and we will be heading out for the fifth, and what could be the final year of the National Harvest Mouse Survey. Our work in Cornwall has been amazingly productive, and we now can be fairly sure that these endearing and tiny rodents are doing pretty well – we have found them from St Just to the Tamar and from Morwenstow to Lizard Point.



This year I'm hoping to fill in a few gaps, check a few places where we were unsuccessful (some of you will remember it took us 4 visits to find nests at Greena Moor!), and return to a couple of olde faithfuls to give us some continuity.

The first question I need to ask is 'are you happy to stay on the circulation list?'. If not, please let me know. I will be operating the same system as last year – I will circulate information as during the season, let me know which dates you would like to join in, and I will send meeting details and risk assessments a few days before the visit.

I will try and organise events on weekends and weekdays, so hopefully something for everyone. If you have other ideas, please let me know and we can try and include them. If you get any chances to check out sites – please do so and let me know what you find. My plan is to cover several sites in Penwith to build on our success at Bartinney and Trevean. We will be heading to the Penwith Moors around Trecrom and Treen and then onto the coast at the NT farm at Treveal. I have a couple of other coastal sites at Sennen and Lamorna as well. Moving south we will be off to Predannack Downs and having a second look at Kynance/Mullion. While we are still down west, I want to look at Carvannal Downs near Portreath. Moving along the North coast – Penhale Dunes will be on the list as we have not surveyed many dune sites. We don't have nest records from the Padstow area, but we do have video footage of a harvest mouse in a Padstow garden, so that's the incentive to look in the park area behind the town and return to Trevoze Farm to see if the changes in management by the NT have had impacts on Harvest Mice. We have had some success around the CWT reserve at Creney, so I want to look further afield at Breney Common, Crift Downs and Redlake. Further east we have a couple of sites in the northern edge of the Moor – Hamatethy has records, but there have been plenty of changes recently and I want to see if we can find nests on the main farm, likewise – heading back to the Duchy farm at Tregooden to look at changed management. There are several sites on the Moor itself that will be worth checking out, including part of the Stannon Pit SWLT site that we have yet to survey, Cardinham Moor and several eastern sites where we failed to find nests previously. Closer to (my) home I have identified several farms and sites near Launceston that will worth a trip as well as the quarry restoration site at Greystone. Overall, I think we have about 40 sites on the list – I'm going to be starting down west in the next week or so, so keep an eye out for emails, dig out your waterproofs and gloves and pack your sandwiches...

Dave

