Interview guidelines for sightings

Inform [named person] of reported sighting on [phone details by preference] INTERVIEW THE PERSON(S) WHO REPORTED SIGHTING - SAME DAY, IF POSSIBLE Ask the following questions: 1. Where was the sighting? 2. What was the time of day of the sighting? 3. How many people saw the 'rat'/'mouse'? 4. Did they get a good view of the 'rat'/'mouse'?/ How close were they to the 'rat'/'mouse' when it was seen? 5. What did they see? - what was it doing? 6. For how long did they see it? 7. Can they describe the animal to you? (what colour was it/how big - can they describe any ears or tail?) 8. What makes them think it was a rat/mouse? 9. Have they seen rats/mice (in the wild) before, or do they have any experience with rats/mice? 10. How sure are they that it was a rat/mouse? 11. After the above, you could show a life-sized image of rat/house mouse alongside rodents present on the island and ask if it looked like any of them. INSPECT THE SITE WHERE THE SIGHTING OCCURRED (see Site Inspection guidelines) IS IT GOOD (OR LIKELY) RAT HABITAT? (e.g. feed shed, quay, stone wall, vegetated area, etc.)? IS THERE ANY POSITIVE OR SUSPICIOUS RAT SIGN? (e.g. suspected runs or burrows, droppings, dead rat, evidence of chews, etc.) YES NO TAKE DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHS & COLLECT ANY EVIDENCE OR SUSPICIOUS ITEMS. Email photographs/post evidence to: Named people and contact details TREAT SITE AS 'PROBABLE/CONFIRMED' SIGHTING TREAT SITE AS 'UNCERTAIN' SIGHTING (Set up bait, monitoring and trap grid - see guidelines) (Set up monitoring grid - see guidelines) YES ANY POSITIVE RAT SIGN (e.g. teeth marks, foot prints, droppings, dead rat, bait take etc.)

1. REMOVE ALL STATIONS, MONITORING AND/OR TRAPS

NO

- 2. INFORM xxxx (name/phone/email) OF RESULTS
- 3. REMAIN VIGILANT

- 1. CONTINUE BAITING AND TRAPPING GRID
- 2. INFORM xxxxx(name/phone/email) OF RESULTS
- 3. GET ADVICE FOR FURTHER ACTION [This could include wider-scale baiting and monitoring regime, more trapping, more surveys etc.]

Interview Recording Sheet for reported sightings

Name of person reporting sighting:		Name of person who made sighting (if different)	
Contact details of person reporting sighting		Contact for person who made sighting (if	
Email:		different)	
Telephone:			
Date of sighting:	Date of interview: Interviewer:		
Overview of action taken:			
Circumstances (circle as appropriate): Live animal Dead animal Footprints Droppings Damage Other			
Time / conditions of sighting:			
Location of sighting - as much detail as possible:			
Any other observers? Names and contact details if known:			
Description of the sighting			
What did you see?			
Can you describe the animal?			
What was it doing?			
How long did you observe it for?			
How close were you to it?			
Have you seen mice/rats in the wild before / Do you have any experience with mice/rats?			
What makes you think it was a rat/mouse?			
How sure are you that it was a rat/mouse?			
Does the observer wish to be notified of outcome of the monitoring?			
[Inform them that will take at least six weeks]			

Image of brown rat compared to house mouse and Scilly shrew (Scaled, but not life size, from Bell et al. 2014)



Site inspection guidelines for reported sightings

