

Across Devon there are approximately 2000 hectares of road verge which have the potential to provide interconnected wildlife corridors across the county supporting a variety of wildlife including plants, pollinators, bats, and reptiles.

At present it is Devon County Council policy that grass cutting on road verges is only carried out when deemed necessary for the following reasons: to maintain visibility areas/splays for highway users and/or to provide forward visibility to signs.

Starting in 2016 the Life on the Verge scheme in the North Devon Biosphere, worked with communities, parish councils and landowners, enabled the identification, adoption, and management of verges for the benefit of wildlife and people. The scheme proved a success and since then Devon County Council has endeavoured to keep Life on the Verge going by encouraging communities to manage verges for wildlife in line with the principles set out by the organisation [Plantlife](#) namely: Annual Management; grow, flower, seed, mow; remove the cuttings; mixing long and short grass, scrub and woodland. Unfortunately, uptake has been slow so as well as trying to spread the word and encourage participation we're also keen to know if you are struggling to get a community scheme going and what obstacles you've encountered. If you do have any thoughts on this, please [email us](#) with your comments.

With biodiversity likely to become a bigger factor on new schemes, and with off-setting requirements for carbon, the amount of green infrastructure Devon County is responsible for is likely to increase, so it's crucial that as a county we are able to maintain it properly. As part of this, Devon County's Asset and Public Rights of Way (PROW) teams are reviewing the maintenance policies but there is a recognition that we need help from communities, parishes, and landowners in this and as such will be looking at ways we can work with you for the benefit of Devon's wildlife.

For information on the scheme, including case studies, please follow the following link:
<https://www.devon.gov.uk/environment/wildlife/managing-verges-for-wildlife>

Devon County Council are also keen to understand their green assets fully. This will help us utilise future opportunities as a community. If you have 5 minutes, let us know your thoughts [here](#).