



Managing road verges for wildlife in Wales



Road verges are critical for pollinators!

- Road verges in Wales are estimated to cover over 10,000 ha of land
- They provide important habitats for plants, small mammals and pollinators
- Provide wildlife corridors
- Traditional wildflowers on road verges provide a sense of place

Good practice can save money

- **Monmouthshire County Council** saved £30,000 per year from sowing wildflowers instead of providing and maintaining annual bedding plants

Sensitive management can help wildlife and keep roads safe

- In general 2–3 cuts a year, one early; one late
- Leave some grass longer; cut only once a year
- Allow flowering herbs to flower and set seed
- Prevent smothering of delicate herbs by cut grass
- Remove cuttings
- Sow native wildflower mixes on roundabouts and similar areas

Existing good practice can become the norm

- **Blaenau Gwent** - eleven roundabouts and road verges have been seeded with a pollinator-friendly seed mix, 1km of hedgerow has been laid, and 60m of new hedgerow planted
- **Bridgend** - Wildflower mixes have been sowed on gateway roundabouts
- **Denbighshire** - nine Roadside Nature Reserves are being established
- **Monmouthshire** – Has reduced numbers of roadside verge cuts on selective sites from seven to two per year

Images

Main: @buglife – Pollination and the invertebrate fauna of roadside verges by Claire Dinham
 Left: As above
 Middle: As above
 Right: Conwy County Borough Council