



Nature Recovery  
Shropshire and  
Telford & Wrekin

# Helping nature to recover by... establishing wildflower verges

## Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project (RSVP)

Started in 2018 in the villages of Norbury and Edgton. With small grants from the Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund, wildflower plugs and seeds were bought to improve damaged verges and to extend verge restoration. Verges were surveyed to establish what plants existed (base-line).

Alongside this practical work, RSVP, began discussions with Shropshire Council Highway Department about verge management and cutting regime to enhance the verges for wildlife.

Since then RSVP has helped to initiate 40+ verge projects in Shropshire, gained national attention, facilitated conferences, given presentations to many groups including Town & Parish Councils and is at the table negotiating with Shropshire Council Highways department to change verge management.



FRAMING a verge by cutting 1 metre strip helps inform the public this verge is a managed verge as well as a safety cut for sight lines.

[Click here to see RESOURCES](#)



[WATCH VIDEO](#)

## Inspiration to take action:

- RSVP restoration leading to the creation of long linear meadows for connectivity and habitat
- Combined with field margins, hedges, ditches and roadside verges these are essential highways for nature
- Long term aim is to change the highways contract to cut, collect and restore and reverse the poor management practice that is leading to the destruction of this potential meadow habitat

## Top tip from Bushmoor Verges Group...

**“Planned verge activities need to be flexible – creating a ‘depending on the weather Activities Calendar’ is a useful way to keep track of the project plan and monitor progress over the year.”**



Restoring our verges is helping to build nature recovery networks across the county. [Read more about Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Recovery Strategy.](#)



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**“Don’t underestimate the generosity and talent of volunteers – over the last four years the capacity of our volunteers to design and self-manage verge activities continues to provide evidence of their resourcefulness, tenacity and commitment to the Project.”** Coordinator, Bushmoor Verges Project

## RSVP Impact

- RSVP featured as one of two national case studies in RESTORING A GREEN BRITIAN - [read here](#)
- Over 40 volunteer groups and demonstration verges around Bishop’s Castle amounting to several kilometres of restored verges around Shropshire.
- Change in number / abundance of species – baseline surveys completed for some sites + photographs and intentional planting.
- Number of volunteers engaged, RSVP board established with a constitution + many volunteer groups.
- Change in relationship with key players – relationship built with Shropshire Highways managers and influencing any new contracts to Cut, Collect & Restore.
- Community engagement with volunteer groups & Town and Parish councils.
- Process / mechanisms / signage developed - ability to share learning and replicate around the county.
- Growth of parish councils / local groups taking action through time.
- Working collaboratively with Marches Meadow Group & Middle Marches Community Land Trust – especially on conferences.

## Thinking of starting up your own verge project?

For advice and support get in touch with RSVP, email [shropsverge@gmail.com](mailto:shropsverge@gmail.com)

& see short reports about recent community verge projects at

- [Edgton](#)
- [Ludlow](#)
- [St George’s Primary School, Clun](#)

& visit the [RSVP Facebook page](#) & [RSVP webpage](#)



## other useful links:

- [Shropshire Hills Conservation Fund](#)
- [Marches Meadow Group](#)

