

RESTORING SHROPSHIRE'S VERGES: Case Studies

LITTLE LYTH. Grid reference SJ47705 06929

Establishment of a wildflower meadow and wildlife habitat



RESTORING
SHROPSHIRE'S
VERGES
PROJECT



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RESTORING SHROPSHIRE'S VERGES PROJECT:

- Partners/Funders: • Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project (RSVP)
- Costs. 2 volunteers for site preparation (approx. 40hrs). Planting and sowing (approx. 4hrs). Total approx. 44hrs. Free agrimony seeds and Ox Eye daisy plant plugs. Donation to charity made as thanks for a wide variety of native wildflower seeds and Devil's Bit Scabious and Agrimony plant plugs that were given.

In Spring 2023 I attended a meeting, arranged by Lyth Hill Residents Association, where Janet Cobb shared facts about the loss of wildflower verges throughout the U.K. and, more locally, the work of RSVP.

This inspired me to develop a nearby verge. I spoke with neighbours and the local farmer about the project, and it was well received.

The RSVP information leaflet that was handed out at the meeting was most helpful and also signposted me to the Marches Meadow Group site and the online case study projects and other available contacts.

The subsequent telephone conversations with Janet were very valuable.

My husband and I began the work in September 2024 and spent three weekends clearing the brambles and nettles which had completely overrun the verge.



On a subsequent weekend in October, we invested more time in digging over the verge in preparation for planting and sowing.

Janet kindly provided us with ox eye daisy plugs for planting, and also some agrimony seeds to start off in pots.

We visited Robert Lee at Wildflower Seeds Ltd. in Albrightlee, who was very informative and who supplied us with enough seed for the 23 square metres of verge - Toadflax, Field Scabious, Betony, Hedge Woundwort, Lady's Bedstraw, Yarrow, Ox Eye Daisy, Musk Mallow and Red Campion. He also generously gave us some Devil's Bit Scabious plant plugs and some Agrimony plant plugs.

It took half a day to plant out the plugs, and to sow and rake in the seeds. We had mixed the seeds with horticultural sand before sowing for ease of spreading and to achieve even application. Very much looking forward to seeing the results, which I believe will take 2 to 3 years to become fully established.

Finally, we made a few signs to inform folks of the verge restoration, and to prevent vehicles disturbing the area.



We also intend to purchase some naturalising crocus bulbs and snowdrops in order to provide early annual colour and attraction for wildlife. Future plans involve the planting out of the agrimony plugs in Spring 2025 and also getting hold of some yellow rattle as this has, so far, proven difficult for us.

Many Thanks to: -

Janet Cobb, RSVP, for her inspirational talk, her advice and for the free seeds and plant plugs.

And Robert Lee of Wild Meadow Seeds, Albrightlee, Shropshire, for his advice and for providing plant plugs and a variety of local wildflower seeds. Agreed a donation from us to Water Aid.

With thanks to Restoring Shropshire's Verges Project (RSVP) for the inspiration!

and Shropshire Hills National Landscape Trust for initial funding for RSVP



**Shropshire
Hills
National
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