

Plantlife Case Studies – Restoring Shropshire’s Verges Project 2021

Managing grassland road verges: a best practice guide

Case Study: Establishment of a wildflower verge

A case study from: Restoring Shropshire’s Verges Project (RSVP)

EDGTON VILLAGE

Partners/Funders: Supported by the Shropshire Hills AONB Trust, through the AONB Conservation Fund, Restoring Shropshire’s Verges Project (RSVP).

Costs:

- Volunteer time approximately 200 hours
- Shropshire Hills AONB grant for plant plugs and seed £500



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RESTORING SHROPSHIRE’S VERGES PROJECT : EDGTON VILLAGE

The initial project in Edgton Village (see case study https://plantlife.love-wildflowers.org.uk/uploads/documents/RVcasestudy_EdgtonShropshire.pdf)

Has been maintained and expanded to several sites throughout the village.

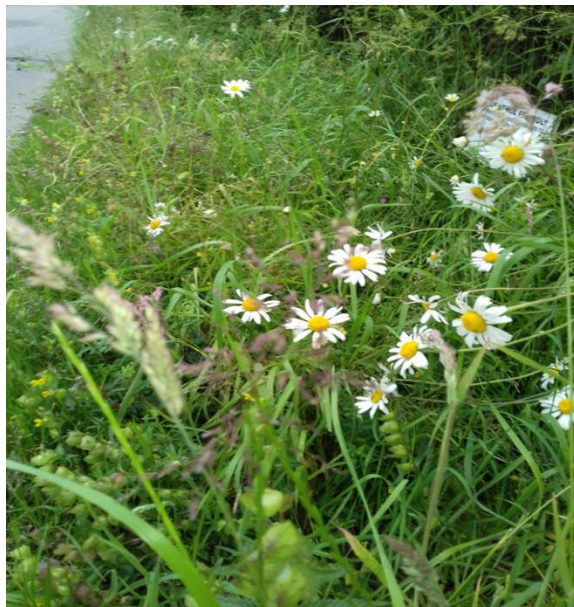
2020 proved a difficult year to work collectively (Covid-19) so people in Edgton ‘adopted’ lengths of verges in front of their properties to work on to restore grasses and wild flowers. Shropshire Hills AONB small grant to further support the Edgton project was rolled over from 2020 to 2021.

During 2021 once restrictions had been lifted the local verge volunteer group were able to work together again to:

- Remove the more aggressive species dominating many verges such as hog weed, nettles & brambles where necessary.
- Intentionally plant wild flowers that had been grown on from seed into poor verges.
- Cut and remove arisings in late July/August.

Site 1: Edgton Village Hall

One year's difference from a poor verge with no wildflower species to a verge intentionally sown with Yellow Rattle, oxeye daisies, knapweed, St Johns Wort, primroses, cowslips and agrimony.



Site 2: 100 metre verge just outside Edgton Village.

A new verge was exposed after hedge laying.



Some intentional planting took place alongside natural regeneration - results



Further work includes:

- Writing a report for Shropshire Hills AONB
- Offering outreach support to other RSVP groups
- Presentations to parish meetings and RSVP conference.
- Establishment of more restored verges in Edgton
- Recruitment of more volunteers