



WILDFLOWER VERGE PROJECT



Desford, Hunts Lane Verge Survey and Management Recommendations 2023

The verge on Hunts Lane in Desford is part of the County Council's Verge Biodiversity Project and is being managed by the Parish Council and local residents to help improve local wildlife habitat and to raise awareness about the importance of biodiversity.

Leicestershire County Council is working with many Parish Councils on the project and the Leicestershire wildlife charity NatureSpot is supporting this by carrying out an ecological survey of each new verge, meeting parish council representatives and local residents, and by providing a report of the survey findings together with management recommendations.

NatureSpot is also promoting every verge as a featured Wild Place on its award-winning website, which describes the project, lists all the species recorded during the survey, together with a selection of images, and also invites local residents to contribute their own records of wildlife sightings which will then also appear on the page. Parish councils are encouraged to publicise the page link below as a way of informing local residents about the project and raising awareness of the wildlife found on the verge.

[https://www.naturespot.org.uk/Desford Hunts Lane verge](https://www.naturespot.org.uk/Desford_Hunts_Lane_verge)



The mowing of all new verges joining the project should cease between April and August to enable the survey to assess the existing floral composition before any further management takes place. A narrow visibility strip may continue to be regularly mown alongside the carriageway and/or footpath.

ABOUT THE SURVEY

The verge surveys are primarily focussed on the grasses and wildflowers to be found growing in the verge, though casual sightings of other wildlife may also be recorded. It is important to identify the grass and wildflower species already present in order to assess the quality of the grassland habitat before deciding on ongoing management.

Where a hedge is present at the back of the verge, or when individual trees are present, these species are included in the survey as they generally add to the wildlife value. The shade and shelter they provide often supports species of plants and animals that prefer these conditions, adding to the overall diversity.

The species listed in **appendix 1** includes all the plants and animals identified during the survey. Any species that are used as indicators when assessing Local Wildlife Site designation are highlighted in green. These species, plus other desirable meadow plant species, are given a score that enables the verge as a whole to be rated as to its current quality as meadow grassland. This score helps us to assess the quality as low, medium or high and to provide management recommendations based on this.

It is important to note that the meadow score and quality rating only refers to the plant composition and not the overall biodiversity value of the verge. All verges left to grow provide excellent wildlife habitat compared to the short-mown alternative.

All species records from the survey have been submitted through NatureSpot's website and have been checked by an expert. The records now form part of the Leicestershire and Rutland species database and are shared with local and national recording schemes, the Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre and the National Biodiversity Network.

SURVEY DATE

The survey of this verge was carried on on 27th June by David Nicholls (NatureSpot) and attended by 4 residents.

SURVEY FINDINGS

The verge lies to the west of the village and adjacent to the cemetery. It is approximately 50m in length and varies from 2-4m in width. Two medium-sized trees are located near the centre, both Small-leaved Lime. A thick and mature hedge lies at the rear, comprising of mainly Hawthorn. The verge borders the footpath which in turn is separated from the carriageway by a further 1m wide grass verge which is regularly mown.

The verge was surveyed initially in 2021 and then again in 2022. The third survey this year enables the verge's development to be monitored and management options reassessed.

A total of **36** flora species were recorded this time, including **11** species which are typical of good quality meadow grassland. Yellow Rattle seeds were added in 2022 and these have established well, clearly helping to reduce the vigour of neaby grasses and creating a shorter and more open sward.

Inevitably some plants found in previous surveys were not recorded this time and conversely a few new species have appeared. Plant species that appear missing may have been simply missed as growth conditions and the timing of the survey affect the visibility of different species. New species include Yellow Rattle (seeded), Lesser Trefoil, White Clover and Hairy Tare – all good additions. A few grasses found in

2022 were not seen (Yorkshire Fog, Annual Meadow Grass and Red Fescue) but grasses can be particularly hard to spot if sparse.

The hedge adds wildlife value and also creates partial shade, forming a different habitat to the more open verge and providing opportunities for different species such as Black Bryony, Nettle and Cow Parsley.

Overall, the verge is developing well with improvement demonstrated over the 2022 survey position. There are some desirable new species and increased populations of other desirable species that will ultimately help create a quality meadow habitat.

SURVEY SUMMARY

Floral diversity: **36** (27 in 2022)

Local Wildlife Site indicator species: **3** (2 in 2022)

Meadow quality species score: **13** (10 in 2022)

Meadow quality: **Moderate - Good**

Wildlife value score: **83 – rated Moderate** (see Toolkit section below)

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The main management requirement is to continue to cease mowing between April and August, then cut and collect in September. It is vital to remove the cuttings to help reduce soil fertility, prevent matting by dead vegetation and to encourage a more flower-rich habitat.

As an option, the verge could be mown after the September cut if desired, ideally removing the cuttings each time.

If desired, additional species could be introduced by either seed or plug plants. Only species on the desirable meadow plant list in appendix 4 should be introduced (those highlighted in green are probably the species most suitable). Ideally the seeds should be sourced locally to avoid introducing different genetic variants. Additional seeding is best done in small patches of say 1m square, with 3-5 such areas along the verge. These areas should be vigorously raked after the September cut and collect, to expose soil on at least 50% of the ground. Seed can then added and gently raked in.

The hedge should not be allowed to grow further into the verge. Liaison with the farmer who manages this hedge should recommend trimming every alternate year to allow flowering and fruiting. The trees growing on the verge are the uncommon native Small-leaved Lime. Whilst these are valuable trees, they will shade the grassland and limit its development. Some trimming of the lower branches would help but not prevent this.

Shade tolerant species such as Red Campion and Hedge Woundwort could be added in these shady areas and at the base of the hedge if desired.

The current signage, whilst great to have, is partly hidden in the vegetation and would be much better if displayed at a higher level, 1m or more above the ground. Including a QR code to the verge's feature page on NatureSpot would be very useful. The QR code can be generated very simply and for free by adding the page URL (the link above the map in this report) into the website below.

<https://express.adobe.com/tools/qr-code-generator>

Those interested in promoting the verge to local people could help by submitting records and photos of flowers and any wildlife seen on the verge to NatureSpot. These will then automatically appear on the verge

page helping to keep it fresh and updated, as well as adding to the knowledge of the wildlife supported by the verge.

Appendix 2 describes a range of management options in more detail.

VERGE WILDLIFE ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT

A new interactive toolkit has been developed to help assess the wildlife value of verges and to help explain how appropriate management can increase this over time. The toolkit can be downloaded for free from the Verges for Wildlife page on NatureSpot – link below. This page also provides lots of further information on verges, their management for wildlife and how to get new verges added to the scheme.

www.naturespot.org.uk/verge_wildlife

A scorecard has been completed for this verge using the survey results and is shown in **appendix 3**. This gives the verge a current wildlife value score of 83 which is rated moderate, reflecting good plant diversity, the verge's size and rear hedge. This score can be boosted further by following the management recommendations described above and by adopting some of the measures described in the toolkit.

FURTHER HELP

If you would like any help or advice with managing your verge then please contact:

Roseanna Burton, Leicestershire County Council: Roseanna.Burton@leics.gov.uk

David Nicholls, NatureSpot: dnicholls@naturespot.org.uk

Appendix 1 – species recorded during the survey

Species highlighted in orange are species typically found in high quality meadow grassland.

Any highlighted in green are also notable as indicator species for Local Wildlife Sites.

Abundance key: Dominant (D), Abundant (A), Frequent (F), Occasional (O), Rare (R).

Taxon	Common name	Taxon group	Abundance	Meadow Quality Score
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	Wildflowers	F	1
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley	Wildflowers	R	0
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	Wildflowers	R	1
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge Bindweed	Wildflowers	O	0
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	Wildflowers	O	1
<i>Dioscorea communis</i>	Black Bryony	Wildflowers	R	0
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	Wildflowers	1	0
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	Wildflowers	R	0
<i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i>	Common Ragwort	Wildflowers	O	0
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle	Wildflowers	R	0
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	Wildflowers	O	1
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil	Wildflowers	F	0
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow-rattle	Wildflowers	A	2
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock	Wildflowers	R	0
<i>Scorzonerooides autumnalis</i>	Autumn Hawkbit	Wildflowers	O	2
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle	Wildflowers	R	0
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion	Wildflowers	F	0
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil	Wildflowers	F	0
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	Wildflowers	O	1
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle	Wildflowers	F	0
<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Tare	Wildflowers	O	1
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	F	1
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	F	1
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	O	0
<i>Avena fatua</i>	Wild-oat	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	R	0
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i>	Soft-brome	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	O	0
<i>Bromus sterilis</i>	Barren Brome	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	O	0
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	F	0
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Common Couch	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	O	0
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	A	0
<i>Poa trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow-grass	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	F	1
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	Trees, Shrubs & Climbers		
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy	Trees, Shrubs & Climbers		
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	Trees, Shrubs & Climbers		
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	Trees, Shrubs & Climbers		
<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small-leaved Lime	Trees, Shrubs & Climbers		
<i>Pisaura mirabilis</i>	Tent Spider	Spiders		

Eriophyes lateannulatus		Mites, Ticks & Pseudoscorpions		
Closterotomus norwegicus	Potato Capsid	Bugs		
Leptopterna dolabrata	Meadow Plant Bug	Bugs		
Sylvia atricapilla	Blackcap	Birds		
Coccinella septempunctata	7-spot Ladybird	Beetles		
Harmonia axyridis	Harlequin Ladybird	Beetles		
Lasius flavus	Yellow Meadow Ant	Bees, Wasps, Ants		
Lasius niger	Small Black Ant	Bees, Wasps, Ants		

Appendix 2 - Management of Verges

VERGES AS WILDLIFE HABITAT

Grassland road verges represent a habitat that has suffered a devastating decline over the last century. 98% of traditional wildflower meadows have disappeared in Britain so the plants and animals that rely on this habitat have very few places left where they can thrive. Road verges, if appropriately managed, can help to reverse this trend and make an important contribution to supporting local biodiversity.

Regularly mown grassland offer very little to wildlife. Few plants are able to flower so there is little food for nectar-feeding insects such as bees and butterflies. The exposed ground dries out creating a very inhospitable environment for most invertebrates. Without these creatures the food chain collapses so there are fewer birds and mammals such as hedgehogs.

The answer is simple, allow the grassland verge to grow. Taller vegetation offers cover, feeding opportunities and a range of micro-habitats that are not available in regularly mown grass. In addition, many more plants can flower and offer nectar to pollinators such as bees and butterflies.

In general, the more species of grasses and wildflowers that grow in the verge, the better it is for wildlife. Many insect species are specialised to feed on just one or two types of plant so the more diverse the flora the more wildlife it supports. The verge surveys have shown that in most cases there is a surprisingly diverse flora already present. By simply allowing the verge flora to grow during the Spring and Summer they will produce a valuable wildlife-rich grassland habitat.

MOWING REGIME

The simplest and most important action is to stop mowing between April and August. This allows the grassland to grow, flower and set seed. Ideally in early September it should then be cut short and the cuttings left for a few days to dry and drop their seeds.

Many mowing machines will struggle to cut long vegetation so a strimmer or a reciprocating blade mower is probably needed. Traditionally meadows were cut by hand with a scythe so this could be an option if anyone is keen to learn this skill.

Whilst an annual cut will help the plant diversity it does deprive other wildlife of important cover and over-wintering sites. The ideal solution is therefore to only cut half the verge each year leaving the other half as tall vegetation, then alternating the areas the following year.

REMOVING THE CUTTINGS

The second most important action is to remove the cuttings after a few days. This is vital to prevent the build up of a mat of dried stems which will smother the smaller plants. It will also enrich the soil as it gradually decomposes, the opposite of what is desirable!

The types of plants growing on the verge is largely determined by the soil. Most verges are rich in nutrients, particular nitrogen, which allows large plants such as Cow Parsley, Nettle, Docks and False Oat-grass to dominate. Whilst these species do support a lot of wildlife, they also out-compete the smaller species leading to a reduced floral diversity overall. By removing the cuttings the soil fertility will gradually fall and a wider range of flower and grass species will naturally develop over several years.

Disposing of the cut vegetation can be a challenge. Once dry it is effectively hay so is ideal food and bedding for horses, rabbits and other pets. Local residents with these animals may be keen to collect the

hay from the verge, especially if raked into a convenient pile. Failing this it can be composted simply by piling it into a heap. It is unlikely that the verge itself will be suitable for this so it is probably necessary to find a suitable site nearby. The cuttings can also be taken to your nearest Waste and Recycling Site for treatment as 'green waste'.

Note: if the verge contains Ragwort, it may be worth hand-pulling these before cutting so they do not get mixed into the hay.

TO SEED OR NOT TO SEED?

Whilst it may be possible to add more floral diversity through seeding and/or plug planting, this is an expensive and labour-intensive process that is not guaranteed to work. Many species added artificially tend not to thrive and, in many cases, disappear within 2-3 years. **The most cost effective, sustainable and generally most successful way to improve grassland habitat for wildlife is simply to change the mowing regime and let nature do the rest.**

If seeding is desirable, care should be taken to source the seed from a reputable source with a mix of native wildflowers and grasses suitable for the soil. We recommend using Emorsgate's [EM2 meadow mix](#) (4g per sq metre). To add some first year colour, mix in seed from the [EC1 cornfield mix](#) (2g per sq metre). Note that the cornfield species are annuals and will largely disappear after flowering in year 1, to be replaced by the perennials in the main EM2 mix so may not be worth the investment.

To prepare the ground for seeding, the verge should be mown, then scarified (partially disturbed to expose some bare soil). This can be done by vigorous raking. However, it is usually best to only seed a few areas of the verge. This is cheaper, requires less effort to prepare the ground and will enable successful plants to spread naturally. Chemical herbicides should not be used. Seeding should take place in Autumn as many seeds require the cold chill of winter to mature ready for germination in the Spring.

Yellow Rattle is generally desirable as it parasitises grasses so they weaken and become less dominant, leaving space for more wildflowers. This species isn't included in the seed mix so is best obtained separately. It needs to be sown fresh in Autumn. It doesn't usually do well as a plug plant because it needs grasses to feed on as it grows. Prepare the ground as described above.

PLUGS AND BULBS

An alternative to seeding is to plant 'plugs' of pre-grown wildflower seedlings into a small bare area of the verge in Spring. This can be easier and more effective than sowing seed. Black Knapweed, Lady's Bedstraw, Ox-eye Daisy and Bird's-foot Trefoil are all relatively easy to establish as plug plants.

There are hardly any native meadow species that grow from bulbs and it is generally not appropriate to plant any bulbs in the verges. Daffodils, Hyacinths and the like are garden plants and do not have a place in a wildflower meadow.

Appendix 3 – Toolkit – Assessing the Wildlife Value of Your Verge

How valuable is your grassland verge for wildlife? Scoring Spreadsheet	
To be used in conjunction with the Assessment Guide - available at https://www.naturespot.org.uk/verge_wildlife	
Choose the option that best fits your verge and enter the figure shown in square brackets into the My Score column.	
Plant diversity	My Score
[Enter the total number of different species on your verge]	36
[Enter the total score of your verge species listed as quality meadow plants – see appendix 1 in the guide]	13
Plant diversity total (adds the 2 scores above)	49
Size	
Length <10m [0.8] Length 10-20m [1] Length 10-50m [1.2] Length >50m [1.5]	1.2
Width <1m [0.5] Width 1-2m [0.8] Width 2-5m [1.2] Width >5m [1.5]	1.2
Mowing regime	
Regularly mown [0.1] Mown annually, cuttings left [0.5] Mown annually, cuttings removed [1] 50-70% mown annually (area rotated each year), cuttings removed [1.5]	
Habitat structure	
Native hedge at rear of the verge [1.3] Non-native hedge at rear of the verge [1.1] No hedge [1]	1.3
Wet ditch [1.3] Dry ditch [1.1] No ditch [1]	1
Slope 10-20% [1.1] Slope >20% [1.2] No slope [1]	1
Tree shade	
No shade [1]	0.9

Proportion shaded: 10-20% [0.9]	
Proportion shaded: 20-40% [0.7]	
Proportion shaded: 40-60% [0.5]	
Proportion shaded: >60% [0.3]	
Community engagement	
No events [1]	
1 annual event 1 [1.3]	
2+ annual events [1.4]	
No publicity [1]	
1 annual publicity article [1.2]	
2+ annual publicity articles [1.4]	
Wild Place page not publicised [1]	
Wild Place page publicised [1.2]	
TOTAL SCORE	83
<i>See the Assessment Guide to interpret the score.</i>	

Appendix 4 – Meadow Quality Wildflowers and Grasses

This list includes the wildflower and grass species that are commonly found in established meadows and are therefore desirable species to have in a verge when trying to develop it as meadow grassland. The species not on this list include temporary colonisers, those tolerant of trampling or salt spray, and those exploiting high nutrient levels in the soil. Over time, and with appropriate management, these plants will be replaced by the meadow species listed below.

Meadow Quality Wildflowers and Grasses			
Species	Common name	Taxon group	Score
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	Wildflowers	1
<i>Achillea ptarmica</i>	Sneezewort	Wildflowers	2
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy	Wildflowers	1
<i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>	Harebell	Wildflowers	3
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckooflower	Wildflowers	2
Centaurea nigra	Common Knapweed	Wildflowers	2
<i>Centaurea scabiosa</i>	Greater Knapweed	Wildflowers	2
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear	Wildflowers	1
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut	Wildflowers	2
<i>Crepis capillaris</i>	Smooth Hawk's-beard	Wildflowers	1
<i>Daucus carota</i> subsp. <i>carota</i>	Wild Carrot	Wildflowers	1
<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's-bugloss	Wildflowers	1
<i>Ficaria verna</i>	Lesser Celandine	Wildflowers	1
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet	Wildflowers	1
<i>Galium mollugo</i> subsp. <i>erectum</i>	Upright Hedge Bedstraw	Wildflowers	2
Galium verum	Lady's Bedstraw	Wildflowers	2
<i>Geranium lucidum</i>	Shining Crane's-bill	Wildflowers	1
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill	Wildflowers	1
Geranium pratense	Meadow Crane's-bill	Wildflowers	1
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Hedgerow Crane's-bill	Wildflowers	2
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy	Wildflowers	1
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St. John's-Wort	Wildflowers	1
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear	Wildflowers	1
<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field Scabious	Wildflowers	2
Lathyrus pratensis	Meadow Vetchling	Wildflowers	2
<i>Leontodon hispidus</i>	Rough Hawkbit	Wildflowers	2
<i>Leontodon saxatilis</i>	Lesser Hawkbit	Wildflowers	1
Leucanthemum vulgare	Oxeye Daisy	Wildflowers	2
Lotus corniculatus	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil	Wildflowers	2
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black Medick	Wildflowers	1
<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's Mercury	Wildflowers	1
<i>Ononis repens</i>	Common Restharrow	Wildflowers	2
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid	Wildflowers	2
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear-hawkweed	Wildflowers	2

<i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>	Burnet-saxifrage	Wildflowers	2
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain	Wildflowers	1
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed	Wildflowers	1
<i>Poterium sanguisorba</i>	Salad Burnet	Wildflowers	2
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	Wildflowers	2
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Selfheal	Wildflowers	1
<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow Buttercup	Wildflowers	2
<i>Ranunculus auricomus</i>	Goldilocks Buttercup	Wildflowers	2
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup	Wildflowers	2
<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow-rattle	Wildflowers	2
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel	Wildflowers	2
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel	Wildflowers	3
<i>Sanguisorba officinalis</i>	Great Burnet	Wildflowers	2
<i>Scorzoneroideis autumnalis</i>	Autumn Hawkbit	Wildflowers	2
<i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>	Water Figwort	Wildflowers	1
<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged-Robin	Wildflowers	2
<i>Silene latifolia</i>	White Champion	Wildflowers	2
<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge Woundwort	Wildflowers	1
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort	Wildflowers	2
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devil's-bit Scabious	Wildflowers	2
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>	Tansy	Wildflowers	1
<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goat's-beard	Wildflowers	1
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover	Wildflowers	2
<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White Clover	Wildflowers	1
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell	Wildflowers	1
<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common Field-speedwell	Wildflowers	1
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell	Wildflowers	1
<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	Hairy Tare	Wildflowers	1
<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common Vetch	Wildflowers	1
<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush Vetch	Wildflowers	1
<i>Viola odorata</i>	Sweet Violet	Wildflowers	1
<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>	Early Dog-violet	Wildflowers	1
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	1
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>	Creeping Bent	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	1
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	1
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	2
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking-grass	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	1
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	1
<i>Festuca pratensis</i>	Meadow Fescue	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	1
<i>Festuca rubra</i>	Red Fescue	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	1
<i>Hordeum secalinum</i>	Meadow Barley	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	2
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Wood-rush	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	2
<i>Phleum pratense</i>	Timothy	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	1
<i>Poa pratensis</i>	Smooth Meadow-grass	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	1

Poa trivialis	Rough Meadow-grass	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	1
Trisetum flavescens	Yellow Oat-grass	Grasses, Rushes & Sedges	2

This was compiled with the help of the County Recorder for Leicestershire and Rutland flora and is based on all wildflower and grass species recorded on the verges participating in the Verges Biodiversity Project.