



As part of our response to the climate and ecological emergency, Dorset Council are changing the way roadside verges are looked after in Dorset.

There is a huge opportunity for verges to be managed more sympathetically to help compensate for the 97% reduction in UK wildflower meadows since the 1930s. Dorset Council teams are working to improve biodiversity and help wildflowers thrive on our roadside verges, to create thriving wildlife corridors.



To find out more, visit:
dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/love-your-verge



What are we doing?

We're cutting many verges less often, allowing more flowers to complete their lifecycles.



Where possible, we collect the cuttings after verges are cut. This helps to reduce the soil fertility over time. It creates a better environment for wildflowers because they prefer less fertile soil and have less competition from other plants, like grass which thrives in fertile soil.

Reducing soil fertility gives native wildflowers, which are perfect for our local climate and wildlife, a chance to seed and grow naturally.

We still need to cut all verges at least once or twice a year. If we didn't cut verges at all, plants like grass, bramble and scrub would take over, stopping wildflowers from growing.

And less cutting also means financial savings – money that can be redirected toward other essential Council services.

We also organise litter picking on the worst affected roadside verges around late Winter/early Spring, prioritised according to levels of litter. We try to coordinate this work with our verge cutting contractors whenever possible.

What about road safety?

Road safety is our top priority. In some places, tall verges are dangerous for road users and need to be cut regularly, while others can be left for longer. We cut verges regularly where it's needed to keep road users safe.