Managing grass verges for biodiversity in times of austerity: a one-day symposium
Friday 13 September 2019 at The Earth Trust, Little Wittenham

Programme

Chair: Clare Pinches, Senior Grassland Specialist, Natural England

10.00  Registration, workshop sign-up, refreshments, posters and networking

10:40  Welcome and introduction from the Chair
       Clare Pinches, Senior Specialist – Grasslands, Natural England

10.45  Managing grass verges for biodiversity in times of austerity
       Clare Warburton, Principal Adviser – Green Infrastructure, Natural England

10.55  Understanding your verges
       Dr Richard Jefferson, Senior Specialist, - Grasslands Natural England

11.20  Creating new wildflower verges
       Dr Phil Sterling, Building Sites for Butterflies Programme Manager, Butterfly Conservation

11.45  Maintaining high quality verges and how to change management to increase biodiversity
       Mark Schofield, Conservation Officer, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

12.10  Lunch

13.00  Selecting grasslands for management and enhancement along high speed roads in the Southwest
       Leo Gubert, Senior Ecologist (South West), Highways England

13.10  How volunteers are helping to look after wildflowers on verges – the north Devon experience
       Jo Pullin, Life on the Verge Project Coordinator, Tarka Country Trust

13.20  Q & A Session

13.25  Persuading decision-makers of the case for change – the Dorset Council experience
       Giles Nicholson, Countryside & Greenspace Manager, Dorset Council

13.35  Working with contractors – the experience of Cornwall Council and Cormac
       Dr Helen Fearnley, Making Space for Nature, Cornwall Council

13.45  The Sheffield Living Highways Project – challenges in the urban environment
       Dr Nicky Rivers, Living Landscape Development Manager, Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust & Olivia Richardson, PhD Student, University of Sheffield
14.00  **Wildlife Ways – creating corridors for people and wildlife in urban Solihull**  
*Adam Noon, Development Officer – Ecologist, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council*

14.10  **Q & A Session**

14.30  **Transforming the way the UK’s verges are managed: the launch of the new best practice guide**  
*Kate Petty, Road Verge Campaign Manager, Plantlife*

14:45  *Introduction to workshops and refreshment break*

15.00  **Workshop session 1 – Please see table below. Sign up to one on arrival.**

15.30  **Move to next Workshop**

15.35  **Workshop session 2 – Please see table below. Sign up to one on arrival.**

16.05  **Reconvene in the Fison Barn**

16.10  **Workshop Feedback**

16.25  **Closing Remarks**  
*Clare Pinches, Natural England*

16:30  **Finish**

17.00  **Optional guided walk around The Wittenham Clumps**  
*Phil Sterling, Butterfly Conservation*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop themes</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Facilitator</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. How to mow for maximum biodiversity gains?</td>
<td>Fison Barn</td>
<td>Clare Pinches, Natural England</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Urban verges</td>
<td>Fison Barn</td>
<td>Nicky Rivers, Sheffield &amp; Rotherham Wildlife Trust</td>
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<td>C. The business case – learning from other sectors</td>
<td>Resources Room</td>
<td>Ian Jelley, Director of Living Landscapes, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust</td>
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<td>D. Getting people on board – public, volunteers, authorities</td>
<td>Resources Room</td>
<td>Giles Nicholson, Dorset Council</td>
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