

Highway rural grass verge management.

North Yorkshire Council

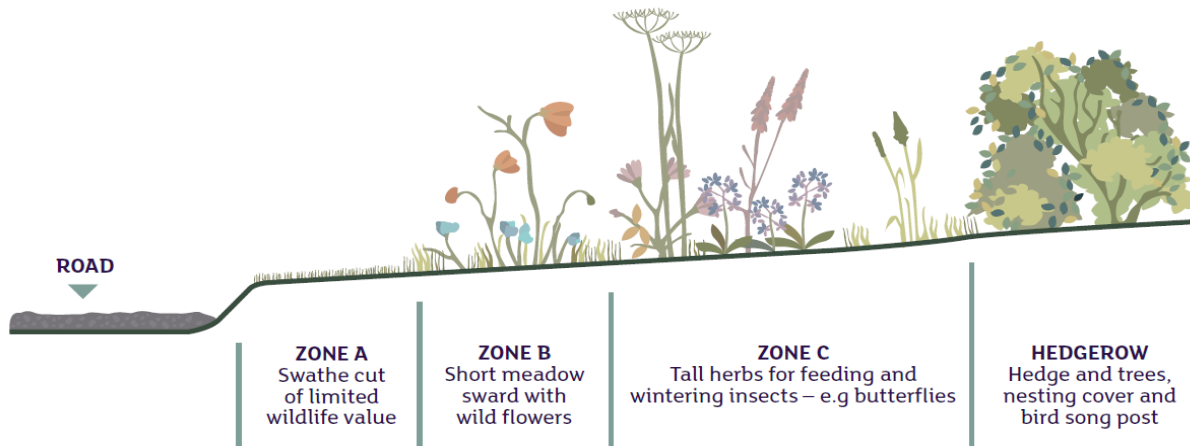
12/09/25

Restoring Nature Conference.

Rural grass verge management

- North Yorkshire has a total road network length of over 9000km, 75% is classified as rural* (approx. 7000km)
**Roads subject to a speed of 40+mph.*
 - Verge management is delivered in accordance with our safety-led policy to maintain visibility,
All highway junctions (vis-splays)
Highway signs/ assets.
 - Strategic network (approx. 1400km) also receives additional swathe cuts.
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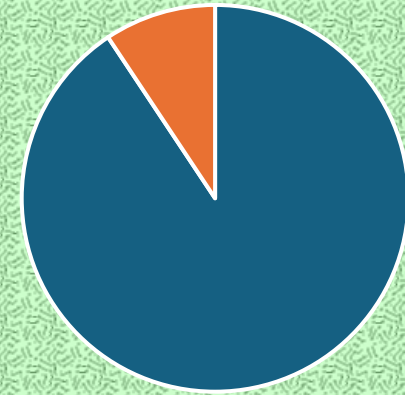
Biodiversity improvement project 2025.



- County wide project to develop stepped verge approach.
- Swathe reduction from 2.4m down to 1.2m (1st cut only)
- Removed 2.7m square metres from the programme.
- Reduced vehicle movements 850 miles/ saving 1100kg CO₂.



Rural comparison



■ uncut ■ cut

Cut & collect project.

- Project includes the complete removal of arisings from 20 selected sites across the county.
- 60,000m² roadside verge included.
- Removed 87tn of grass arisings
- Collaborated with NYMNP Grubs Up project (7 sites)



What's next?.....

Our vision is to deliver a grass management plan that maintains safety and allows nature to thrive



- Continue collaboration with external partners to help drive improvements for nature.
- Identify a suitable route to disposal for grass cuttings in NY. <https://www.adeptlivelabs.org.uk/>
- Inclusion of SIV's, SSSI's into rural programmes.
- Continuation of nature led projects, inc. C&C.
- Improve mapping of green infrastructure.