



Buckinghamshire's Road Verges

"Helping to deliver the UK's National Pollinator Strategy"

Dear Delegate

The Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership (NEP) endorsed the National Pollinator Strategy (DEFRA) and see the county's road verges as hugely important for the diversity of flowering plants and as a key refuge for many beneficial pollinating insects, especially bees, butterflies and moths.

The importance of pollinating insects cannot be underestimated; the value of honeybees alone to the agricultural economy is thought to be between £120 and £150 million per annum.

Road verges provide wildlife corridors, linking habitats and allowing wildlife to re-colonise fragmented landscapes. In this way, they help create 'permeability' in the landscape, enabling migration of species and increasing resilience to climate change.

The NEP's identification of the potential of road verges is a response to the dramatic decline in biodiversity in the County and the inability of current designated reserves on their own to provide sufficient habitat to reverse or arrest this trend of decline.

At a national level David Attenborough has commented that every space in Britain from suburban gardens to road verges must be used to help wildlife.

"Nature reserves and national parks are not enough to prevent a catastrophic decline in nature. Where in 1945 it was thought that the way to solve the problem was to create wildlife parks and nature reserves, that is no longer an option. They are not enough now. The whole countryside should be available for wildlife. The suburban garden, roadside verges ... all must be used".

The Plantlife road verge campaign provides good guidance on best practise for managing road verges for wildlife, providing habitat for pollinators.

<http://www.plantlife.org.uk/roadvergecampaign>

If you are interested in understanding what can be done for wildlife in your parish please make contact with us; Email: dkent@buckscc.gov.uk or nep@buckscc.gov.uk | Tel: 01296 38 7539 | Mob: 07764313599 | web: www.bucksmknep.co.uk