



Note for parishes about management of roadside verges, to be available on website with application form

Roadside verges and parish/community caretakers

Several parishes and communities may be considering applying to LEADER for assistance with the costs of employing parish/community caretakers. One potential task you may employ a caretaker to carry out is cutting certain stretches of roadside verge in order to both maintain them and to enhance their value for wildlife.

Roadside verges can be very important wildlife habitats and how they are managed can make a big difference to their value for plants and animals. The National Park Authority is keen to encourage active verge management that enables wildlife to thrive on our verges whilst maintaining road safety. This note is to let parishes and communities know that if they are considering applying to the LEADER fund, match-funding may be available to ensure that their caretakers are made aware of the best ways to manage verges for wild flowers and other wildlife.

How the National Park could help caretakers benefit the wild flowers on the verges that they manage:

Training. A day's training would be available for all caretakers, which would involve how to identify a verge of value for wildlife and how such verges should be managed to conserve and enhance that value. This would be followed up by half a day out with each caretaker to see how the principles can be put into practice in their area.

Practical assistance. The help of the National Park's Volunteer Service may be available to help with management tasks to enhance the nature conservation value of particular verges.

If your parish or community is in the North York Moors National Park and would be interested in the above, please contact the Ecology team at the National Park office on 01439 770657 or by email on conservation@northyorkmoors-npa.gov.uk. The National Park gives priority to assist parishes/communities with identified "special interest" verges within their boundaries (see downloadable map), although where funding is available all can be assisted in this way.