



Verges on Moor Lane, Stutton An important wildlife corridor

Road verges play a part in habitat and species conservation and help to form important wildlife corridors that allow the movement of species through the countryside. Most are grasslands but some are woodland verges with bluebells and dog's mercury, and steep hedge banks with primroses and celandines. The variety of habitats leads to a wide variety of plant and animal life and many verges are now strongholds for old hay meadow species that have largely been lost from our farmed land.



Early purple orchid
Lawrence Davenport



Aerial view of the verges on Moor Lane, Stutton

The road verge here has recently been recognised as being important for wildlife and has been designated and recognised by North Yorkshire County Council as a candidate Local Wildlife Site.



Pyramidal orchid
Joanna Richards



Common broomrape
Phil Palmer



Bee orchid
Jirsky Brown

From late spring to early summer the spikes of various orchid species, from twayblade to common spotted, bee, pyramidal, early purple and marsh orchid, will all bring colour to this verge and the careful observer may also notice the misleadingly named common broomrape, which is sadly not so common anymore. The verge will also be buzzing with life as many insects forage for food amongst the swathe of flowers. Look out for six-spot burnet moths and ringlet butterflies.



Six-spot burnet moth
Carl Watts



Ringlet
Rachel Scopes



Common spotted orchid
Martin Batt

To maintain this road verge for wildlife it is important that it is carefully managed which includes no cutting between April and September, to allow the flowers to set seed for future years. For the same reason it is important that vehicles do not park on the verges and that visitors are careful not to trample or pick flowers.

Full Species List for the Verge

Common Name	Scientific Name
Bee orchid	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>
Birdfoot trefoil	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>
Black medick	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>
Bladder campion	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>
Bush vetch	<i>Vicia sepium</i>
Charlock	<i>Sinapis arvensis</i>
Cinquefoil sp.	<i>Potentilla</i> sp.
Common broomrape	<i>Orobanchaceae minor</i>
Common centaury	<i>Centaurea erythraea</i>
Common cleavers	<i>Galium aparine</i>
Common fumitory	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>
Common snapweed	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>
Common mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>
Common poppy	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>
Common ragwort	<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Common scurvy	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>
Common spotted orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>
Common vetch	<i>Vicia sativa</i>
Cow parsley	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
Cowslip	<i>Primula veris</i>
Creeping buttercup	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Crosswort	<i>Cruciatia laevis</i>
Curled dock	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
Daisy	<i>Bellis perennis</i>
Dandelion	<i>Taraxacum</i> sp.
Dog rose	<i>Rosa canina</i>
Dovesfoot cranesbill	<i>Geranium molle</i>
Fairy flax	<i>Linum catharticum</i>
Field forget-me-knot	<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>
Field scabious	<i>Knausia arvensis</i>
German speedwell	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>
Goatsbeard	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>
Greater plantain	<i>Plantago major</i>
Hairy tare	<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>
Hawweed sp.	<i>Hieracium</i> sp.
Hedge bindweed	<i>Calyptegia sepium</i>
Hedge woundwort	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>
Hogweed	<i>Hieracium sphondylium</i>
Meadow buttercup	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>
Meadow sweet	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>
Meadow vetchling	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>
Mouse-ear hawkweed	<i>Hieracium pilosella</i>
Northern marsh orchid	<i>Dactylorhiza purpurella</i>
Perennial sow-thistle	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>
Pyramidal orchid	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>
Red campion	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Red clover	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>
Ribwort plantain	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
Rosebay willowherb	<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>
Self-heal	<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>
White campion	<i>Silene latifolia</i>
White clover	<i>Trifolium repens</i>
White dead nettle	<i>Lamium album</i>
Yarrow	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>

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