



## Malvern Hills Trust: Our stance on our mowing

April 2021

Grasslands come in all shapes and sizes and Malvern Hills Trust has been caring for a variety of grasslands for over a hundred years. Today, we manage grasslands in several different ways to the benefit of people, wildlife and, in certain places, for highway safety too.

Across the 1200 hectare estate, many verges and open commons are left to grow throughout the spring and summer creating swathes of wildflowers including orchids and knapweed. By not mowing areas at Malvern Common, Colwall Green and Newland Common until they are cut for hay in late summer, a diverse habitat is created providing food for pollinators through to August. These wildflower displays are also admired by local people and visitors.

Alongside those wilder areas, the Trust provides and maintains paths and open areas for public recreation. These are mown regularly through the year to provide a more easily accessible surface, trying to ensure that many people of different abilities can enjoy it. The Trust and the county Highway Authorities also regularly cut some road verges and visibility splays near road junctions for highway safety.

These shorter grass areas can also be wildlife-friendly, with certain plants such as bird's foot trefoil and clover, benefiting from the lack of taller more competitive plants. Regularly mown areas can also provide higher densities of flowering plants for pollinators ([Plantlife](#), 2021)

Malvern Hills Trust aims to strike a balance and provide a mixture of grassland types. We keep our mowing schedule under review and welcome any suggestions for improvements.

For more information about our management of grasslands in our [Land Management Plan](#).

Further information about conserving grasslands across the UK and how you can support local wildlife in your own garden is provided by [Plantlife](#).



Bird's-foot trefoil in roadside verge at Townsend Way.



Common spotted orchids and black knapweed at Malvern Common.