

All Town and Parish Councils have rural and urban verges that would benefit from management that attracts pollinators and makes them more attractive. Five types of verge have been identified on the Island.

Grassland verges

These are the most common.



OXEYE DAISY

Throughout the seasons one can see flowers such as Dandelion, Oxeye Daisy, Meadowsweet and Knapweed. For example, whole sections of the coastal Military Road connecting Chale with Freshwater show plenty of colour in summer if correctly managed.



KNAPWEED

Sunken lanes

These are a special feature of rural parishes, often established as ancient hollow ways. They are shaded under a tree canopy and need very little management. In spring there might be wild daffodils and snowdrops flowering through ivy on the steep banks. Later there are Bluebells and Ramsoms, all against a backdrop of Male Ferns and Hartstongue Ferns.



BLUEBELL

Chalk grassland verges

These are found ascending to and across the top of our



PYRAMIDAL ORCHID

Island Downs. They support for example, Pyramidal Orchids (the Isle of Wight County Flower), Lady's Bedstraw, Scabious and Birds Foot Trefoil, which is at the top of Plantlife's Top Ten Plants for Pollinators (supporting 160 different species).



BIRDS FOOT TREFOIL

Woodland margins

These are found on the edges of woods and small copses, often providing vital green corridors linking wooded areas for birds and small animals to pass safely through. In the spring the most colour comes from Primroses and Celandine. The rarest of all is the Wood Calamint, only found on the Isle of Wight and nowhere else in Britain.



PRIMROSE

Acid grassland verges

These are found on acid, usually sandy soils, for example on lanes such as Bagwich Lane and Chequers Inn Road behind Rookley. Surveys in June will find flowers such as Hedge Bedstraw, Yarrow, Agrimony and Pennywort.



HEDGE BEDSTRAW

Wild Flower Images provided by Ian Pratt LRPS