



Wildlife Trust for  
**Beds, Cambs  
& Northants**

# SYRESHAM VERGES

A baseline report from  
The Wildlife Trust

May 2023



## Verge 1: Wappenham Rd – Triangle with bench and Jubilee Tree



This is a lovely area on entering/exiting the village with a bench offering a good opportunity for people to enjoy the birdsong and study the visitors to the bird feeder on the Oak tree. Birds that could be seen and heard included Great tit, Blue tit, Chaffinch, Blackbird, Skylark and Red Kite. A bank of Sedum is running alongside the hedge which should provide food for pollinators when it flowers. Parallel to this, there is a large patch of Common Knapweed (to the right of the bench leading towards the Silver Birch tree). Knapweed can attract various butterflies when in flower from June to September, so would be good to be left as part of a mini-meadow. Good access comprising of a mown path would be needed for the bench and feeder, with the rest of the verge being left as a meadow, to be cut twice a year (early cut in March/April and a late cut July/Aug after flowering) with the cuttings removed.

A Burnet Companion moth and Rustic Soldier beetles were also found, providing evidence of an invertebrate community on this verge.

## Species list for Verge 1: Wappenham Rd Triangle

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup
<i>Sedum</i> sp.	Caucasian stonecrop
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Common Knapweed
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
<i>Rumex acetosa acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Vicia sativa segetalis</i>	Common Vetch
<i>Erophila verna</i>	Common Whitlowgrass
<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion
<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dove's-foot Crane's-bill
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forget-me-not
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>	Lesser Celandine
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire-fog

## Verge 2 - Wappenham Rd Verge

This verge is lovely! A great compliment to the one opposite, making this entrance/exit a great feature of the village. Lots of Lady's Bedstraw is to be found here, which will look lovely when in flower and Pignut was also flowering when we visited. Pignut is found occasionally across Northamptonshire but is rarer than it used to be, which is why this verge is so special! We also found several other species which could put it on the Protected Wildflower Verges list, and we would like to revisit the site when in full flower to confirm this is the case. This verge would benefit from an early cut, again March/April to remove the winter grass growth which helps to promote the wildflowers. It can then be left to grow with another cut in late summer, after flowering has finished, with the cuttings removed from both cuts. The benefit of removing the cuttings is to reduce the amount of nutrients put back into the soil which can lead to grasses taking over and suppressing the wildflowers. A safety cut of roughly 1m adjacent to the road can be regularly mown to maintain driver's vision if needed. These two verges could be a great inspiration for promoting 'No Mow May' in the future and furthering the villages biodiversity and climate causes. It may be worth erecting signs on each of these verges to make the community aware of the reasons behind the venture.



## Species list for Verge 2: Wappenham Rd Verge

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
<i>Rumex acetosa acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Vicia sativa segetalis</i>	Common Vetch
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion
<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog-rose
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Wood-rush
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's Bedstraw
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow



## Verge 3 – Bell Lane alongside the brook

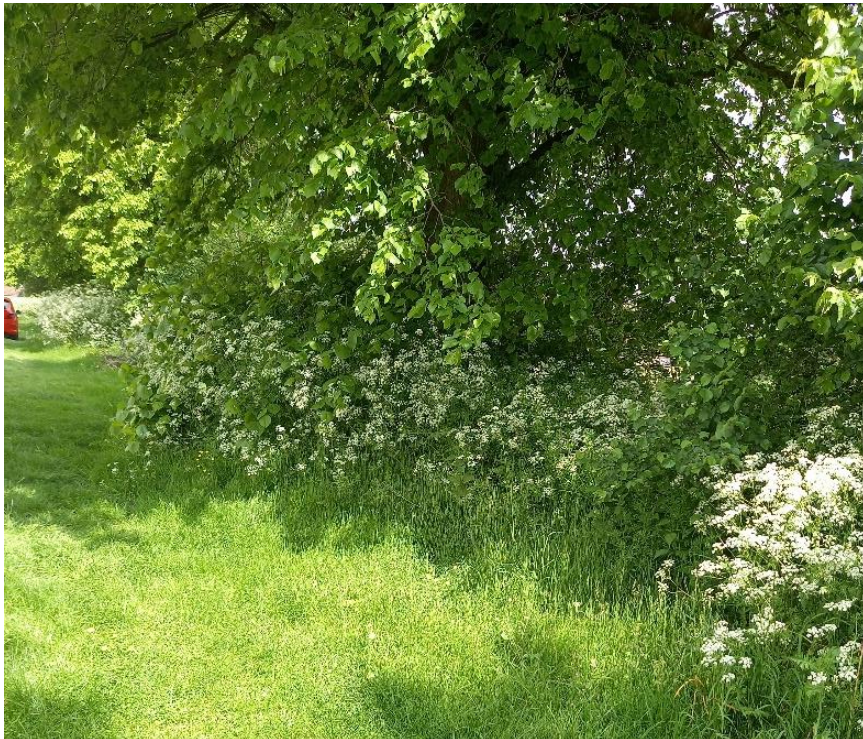
This verge is in a prominent part of the village with through traffic and families walking to and from school and the play area. Although we found a good area of Yarrow, the rest of this verge is quite lush with mainly grass sprinkled with a few wildflowers but not to the extent of verges 1 and 2. It would probably be wise to keep this cut after 'No Mow May' and concentrate on the others for the time being. However, the Meadowsweet running alongside the brook's boundary would look lovely when it flowers from June– September. It is a good food plant for the larvae of several moth species as well as for pollinators, so could be left if desired.



Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup
<i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>	Cat's-ear
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort
<i>Rumex acetosa acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Taraxacum officinale agg.</i>	Dandelion
<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander Speedwell
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil
<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>	Meadowsweet
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>	Pineappleweed
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly Lettuce
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Sanguisorba minor minor</i>	Salad Burnet
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse
<i>Potentilla anserina</i>	Silverweed
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Sow-thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Wild Angelica
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow Iris
<i>Prunus</i>	Cherry sp.

## Verge 4 – Abbey Rd

This verge is opposite a row of houses leading to Main Road. The hedge running along the back has Lime trees with an Elm hedge mixed with Wild Privet and Hawthorn. This area isn't as botanically abundant as verges 1 and 2, although lots of Cow Parsley can be seen. Moving forward, we would suggest that this area can be mown with the clippings removed and the hedge maintained. This will continue to support the invertebrate and bird community. Consultation with the hedge owner may be needed to facilitate this. A good source of wildlife friendly hedgerow management advice can be found at [hedgeline.org.uk](http://hedgeline.org.uk).



### Species List for Verge 4: Abbey Rd

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.	Dandelion
<i>Ulmus</i> sp.	Elm sp.
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>	Field Forget-me-not
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy
<i>Tilia x europaea</i>	Lime
<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly Sow-thistle
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild Privet

## Verge 5 – Main Rd opposite Village Hall

Verge 5 runs along Main Road and is opposite the new housing estate. A hedge runs along the back with the roadside falling away into a ditch in front of the hedge. Various species of flowers and grasses can be found here making it good for invertebrates. We saw a Swollen-thighed Flower Beetle during our visit. We saw Swifts flying overhead, as well as hearing Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Blue Tit and Wren, no doubt taking advantage of the insects and hedgerows. Whilst this verge is not as botanically rich, it would be good to be left as tussocky grassland which is good for the various stages of invertebrate life cycles as well as small mammals and would add a different sort of habitat to the village verges.



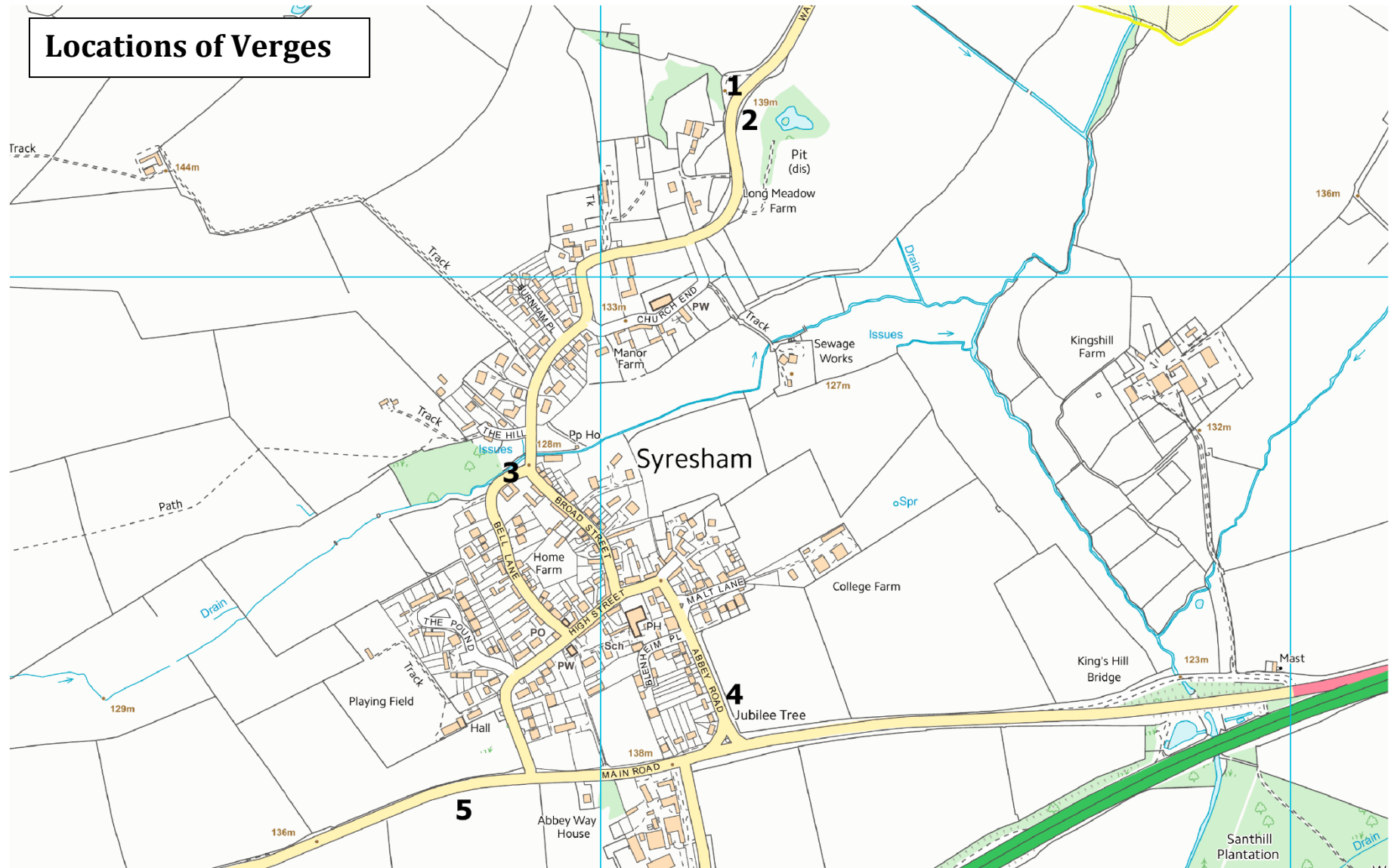


## Species List for Verge 5: Main Rd opposite the Village Hall

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Ash
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black Bryony
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Picris echioides</i>	Bristly Oxtongue
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common Mouse-ear
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Common Nettle
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort
<i>Bromus hordeaceus hordeaceus</i>	Common Soft-brome
<i>Rumex acetosa acetosa</i>	Common Sorrel
<i>Vicia sativa segetalis</i>	Common Vetch
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping Cinquefoil
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle
<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved Crane's-bill
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Taraxacum officinale agg.</i>	Dandelion
<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field Bindweed
<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb
<i>Plantago major</i>	Greater Plantain
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground-elder
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground-ivy
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser Trefoil
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail

Scientific Name	Common Name
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort
<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Oxeye Daisy
<i>Senecio squalidus</i>	Oxford Ragwort
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red Clover
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear Thistle
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved Speedwell
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle
<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Wood Avens
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow

# Locations of Verges



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