

# It's for Them - Changing mowing to save wildlife

We are in a nature emergency. 1 in 6 species assessed in Wales are at risk of extinction. We need to act now to save them.

We can make road verges, parks and other green spaces more wildlife friendly. Regularly cut, closely mown grass may look tidy but it has little benefit for wildlife. Letting grass grow and having more meadow-like areas with wildflowers helps wildlife.

## Plants

Wildflowers, including rare wildflowers, grow and produce seeds, allowing them to increase year-on-year.

## Invertebrates

Wildflowers and grasses provide food for insects, including beetles, moths, butterflies, grasshoppers, bumblebees and hoverflies.

Long grass gives shelter for them to lay their eggs and complete their life cycles. A typical natural meadow can support more than **1,400 species** of invertebrates.

## Mammals

Bats, field mice, voles, shrews and hedgehogs eat the plants and invertebrates found in meadows.



## Amphibians

Frogs and toads feed on invertebrates.

## Reptiles

Slow-worms and lizards also eat invertebrates, and grass snakes eat frogs.

## Birds

Small birds like finches eat seeds from wildflowers. Other birds such as swallows and swifts eat insects. Kestrels, buzzards and barn owls feed on small mammals.

**Changing how we cut grass is about saving wildlife, not reducing costs.**

## For more information:

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