



Roadside Wildflower Survey

Woodbury Parish

Survey results 2009 v 2019

The Process

4 x 30m roadside verge sites chosen for comparison at different heights above sea level

Soil tests carried out in 2008 and 2019

Plants in flower recorded regularly 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2019

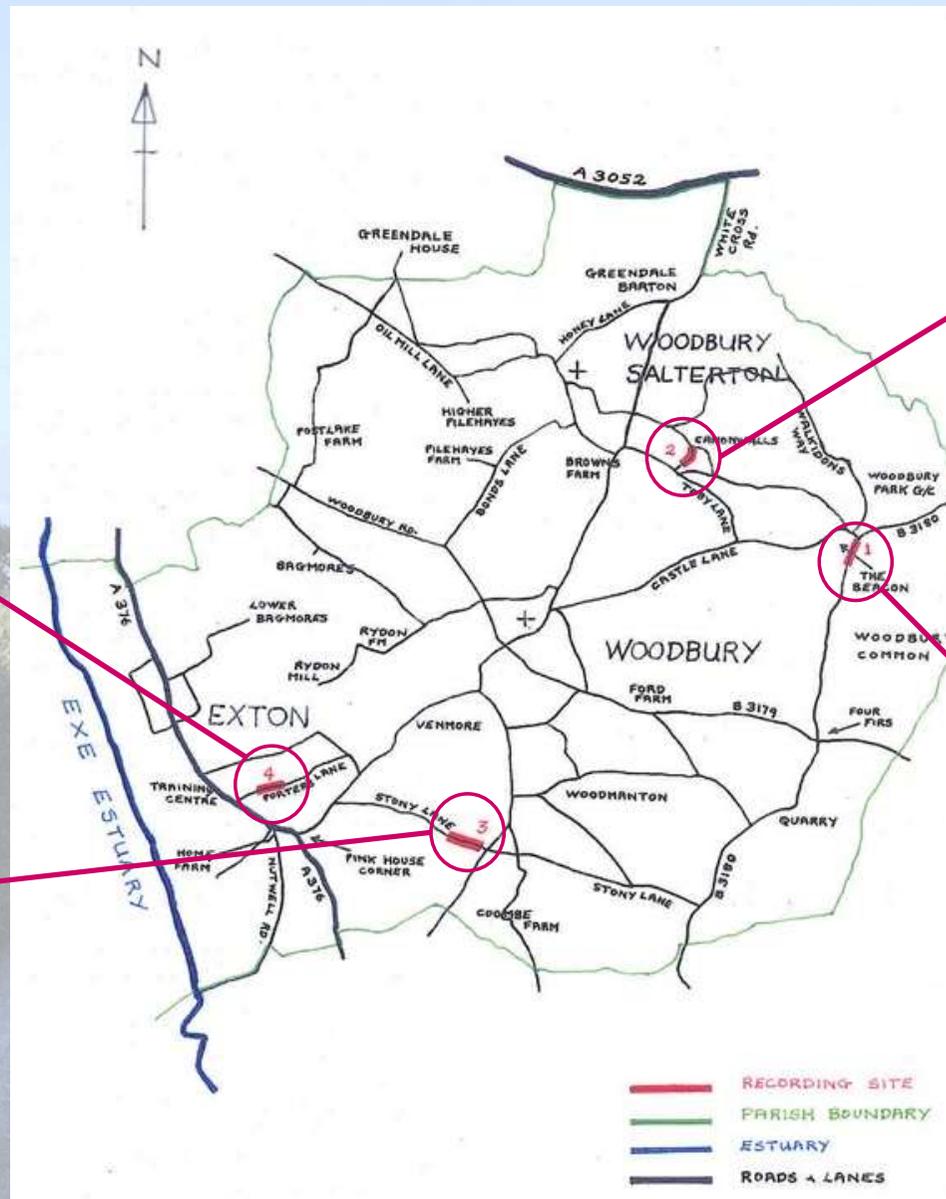
2009 and 2019 results compared to see a decade of change

2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 surveys completed by Sally Elliott and Sylvia Wickenden
2019 survey completed by Sally Elliott and Susie Culhane

Survey sites

4. Porters Lane
near Toby Carvery,
Lympstone A376

3. Stony Lane
down from
Coniger Cross,
Woodbury



2. 'Flower Lane'
near Cannonwells,
Woodbury Salterton

1. The Beacon
edge of Woodbury
Common, junction
with Castle Lane and
B3180

Map created by Sylvia Wickenden

Results

Changes in last decade	2009	2019	Change
Number of wildflower species recorded	228	162	-29%
Average annual rainfall	800mm	848mm*	+6%
Average daily max temperatures	Jan 7°C July 20°C	Jan 8.8°C July 21.7°C	+1.7% +1.8%

*Met Office data (Exeter Airport)

Five new
species
reported in
2019



Rape



Field Mouse-Ear



Woodruff



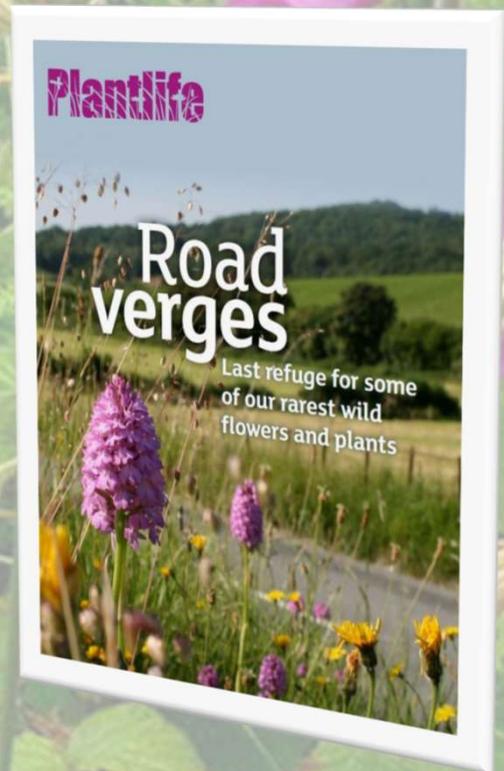
Field Madder



Yellow Archangel

Why do we need wildflowers on roadsides?

- Provide a 'wildlife corridor'
- Biodiversity (loss = species extinction)
- Rich food source for beneficial key pollination insects
- Historical and cultural value
- Last refuge for rare wildflowers and plants



Apis mellifera Honey bee on clematis 18th May 17 – image by Malcolm Randle



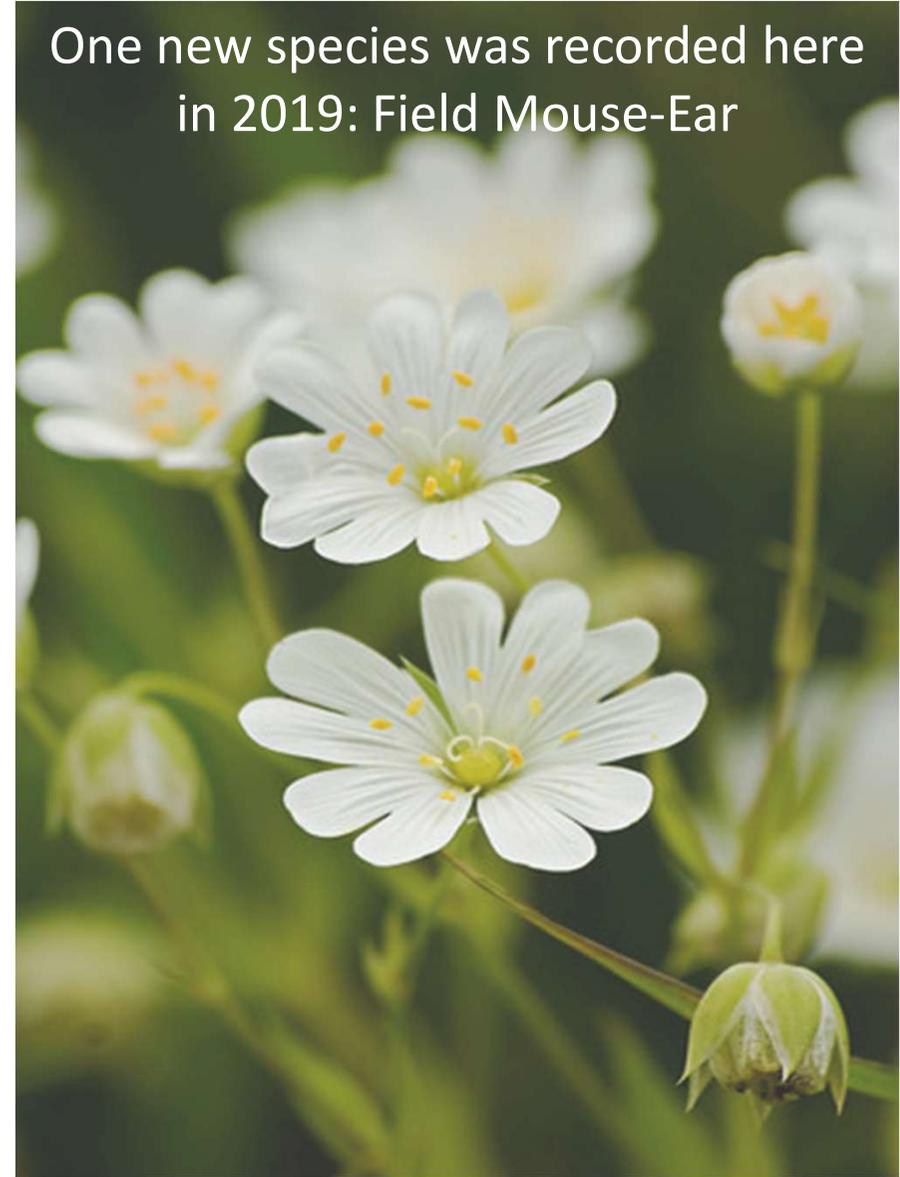
Over 10 years,
wildflower diversity
has decreased by 31%

B3180 on Woodbury Common [cc-by-sa/2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/) - © Derek Harper - geograph.org.uk/p/1959533

Site 1: The Beacon

Roadside stretch on Woodbury Common, approx. 30m on both east and west side of B3180 near junction with Castle Lane. Within Visibility Splay.

One new species was recorded here
in 2019: Field Mouse-Ear





Over 10 years,
wildflower diversity
has decreased by 21%

cc-by-sa/2.0 - Wood Anemones (Anemone... by Andrew Curtis - geograph.org.uk/p/1821694

Site 2: Flower Lane* near Cannonwalls

Unmarked road, known as 'Flower Lane' due to multitude of wildflowers on the verges in the 70s



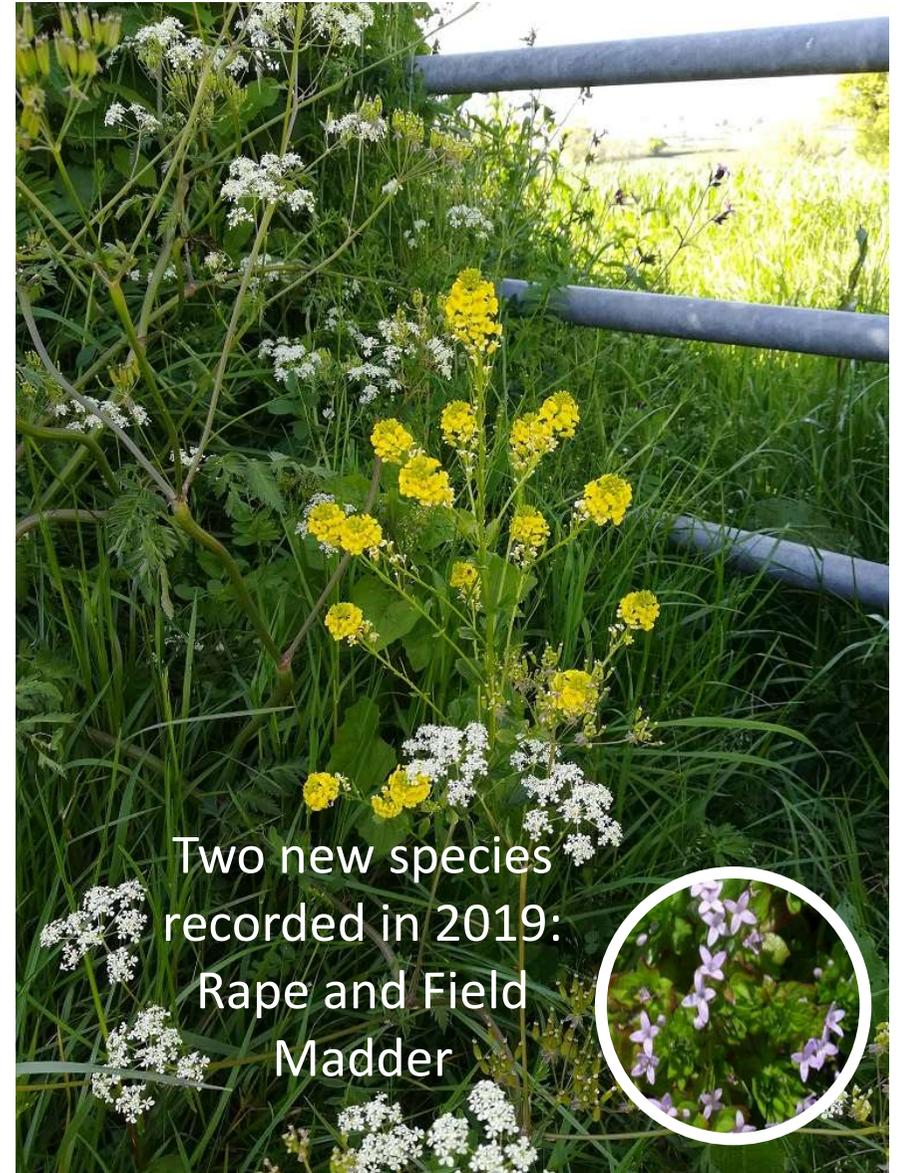
2 new species
recorded here in
2019: Yellow
Archangel and
Woodruff



Over 10 years,
wildflower diversity
has decreased by 15%

Site 3: Stony Lane

Steeply banked lane descending from Conigar Cross
to Exmouth Road, Woodbury



Two new species
recorded in 2019:
Rape and Field
Madder





Over 10 years,
wildflower diversity has
decreased by 48%

Site 4: Porters Lane, Exton
Very quiet lane from Exmouth Road to A376 Toby Carvery.
Waterlogged in January 2019. Verges strimmed in May.

Despite not being in a flood risk area, the
lane was waterlogged in January 2019



Floral Diversity by Survey Site 2019 vs. 2009

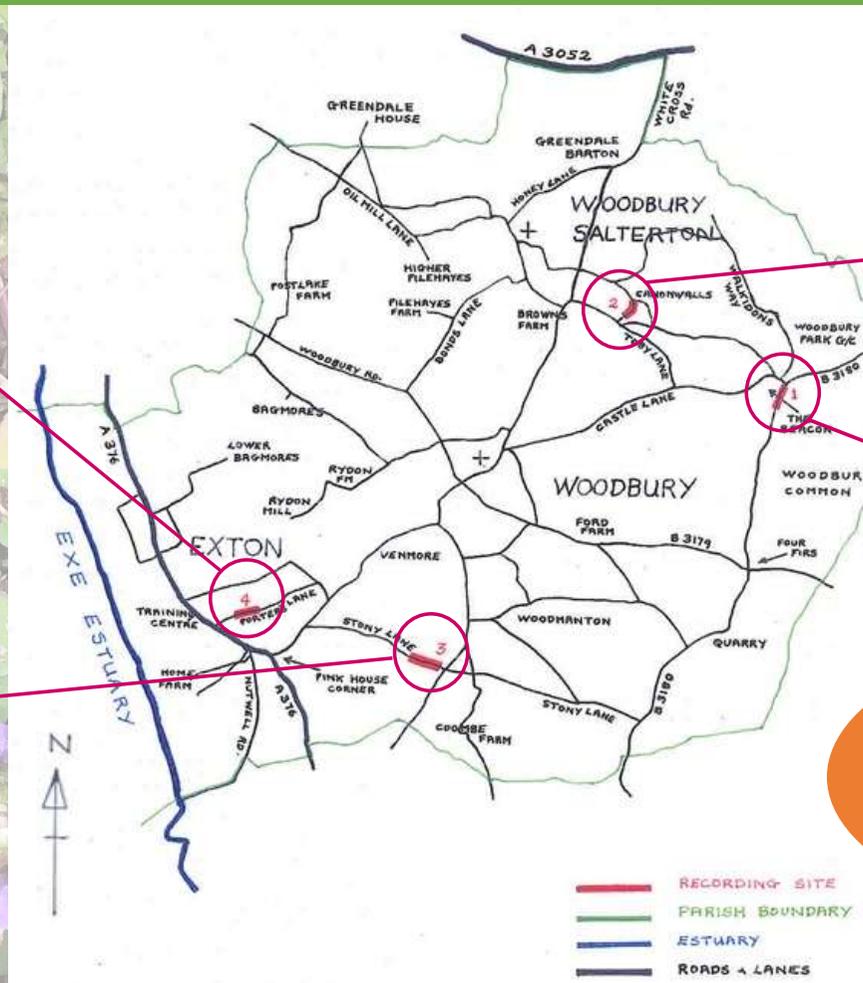
4. Porters Lane
48% decrease

3. Stony Lane
15% decrease

2. Flower Lane
21% decrease

1. The Beacon
31% decrease

Over all 4 sites,
floral diversity
decreased by 29%

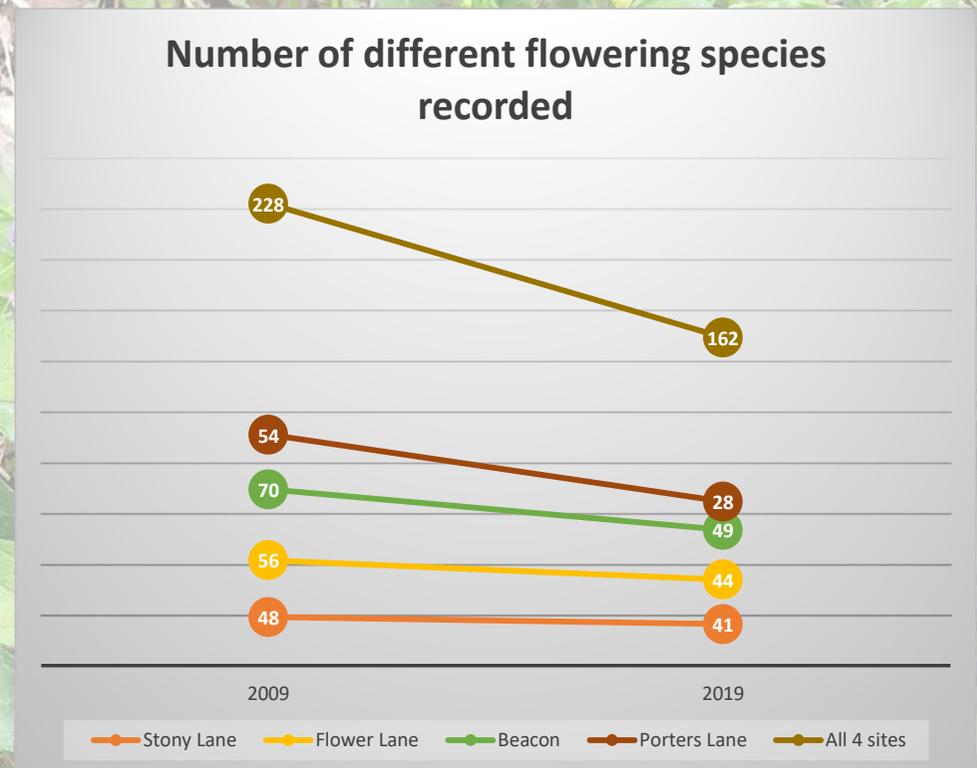


Map created by Sylvia Wickenden

Why has floral diversity decreased?

We suggest the following reasons:

- Climate change – rising temperatures, increased rainfall leading to flooding
- Verge cutting regimes practised by Highways Agency and individuals
- Traffic and footfall rise (6% rise in population + vehicles)
- Agricultural machinery increasing in size, leading to verge erosion
- Changes in agricultural methods
- Pollution



What can we do?

Thank you!

Our Recommendations:

- Plant native wildflowers in our gardens
- Take part in local wildflower surveys
- Support charities which conserve wildflowers
- Encourage those in power to protect nature
- Avoid driving over or parking on verges
- Do not trim verges between April and July so flowers can set seed
- Collect clippings once trimmed to avoid increasing nutrients on the verges

2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 wildflower surveys conducted by Sylvia Wickenden and Sally Elliott
2019 wildflower survey conducted by Sally Elliott and Susie Culhane
In conjunction with Woodbury-Wide-Awake.co.uk