

## About the Survey

This survey is designed to discover sites that are important for wildlife. This will enable the Don't Mow Let It Grow project to develop conservation management options for these roadside verges and council parks.

You can use either the Standard OR Advanced sections of the survey form. The standard survey only involves recording a relatively small number of species which are illustrated in the accompanying ID guide.

### To do a standard survey:

- Please make sure you refer to a recognised plant identification guide: e.g. The Wild Flower Key: How to Identify Wild Plants, Trees and Shrubs in Britain and Ireland (Rose); Collins Flower Guide (Streeter et al.)
- Complete only section 1-3 & 5 of this form.
- For either survey if you wish to record other species such as insects or birds, please use the 'Additional Species' section 4, if you don't see anything or do not record them please note this.

### To do an advanced survey:

- Complete sections 1-3 & 6 and section 4 as above.
- You may wish to use a wild flower identification book.

## THE SURVEY

### Before:

- Please contact the Don't Mow Let It Grow Project Coordinator (details below) to discuss choosing a site to survey and to request a map of your chosen site. When you are allocated a site the Project Coordinator will let you know how many 2x2m quadrats you will need to complete, for example if your site is a verge it will be approximately one every one kilometre. A new survey form must be completed for each quadrat, this will all be explained in the training. If you find a particularly interesting or rare species outside your designated quadrat please record but circle the entry and make a note in the "other" box on the sheet, this will be especially important for both rare species and invasive alien species. Alternatively, visit [dontmowletitgrow.com/volunteer](http://dontmowletitgrow.com/volunteer) and follow the instructions.
- A high visibility vest must be worn whilst carrying out the survey. These can be supplied at no cost. Please contact the Project coordinator.
- You can confirm the start and end points of your survey with reference to the verge map using a satellite photograph where necessary.

### During:

- Please be safe at all times. See the advice in the 'Health and Safety' section overleaf.
- Please park safely and considerately such as avoid parking on the grass verge or near a junction and do not block a gate or field entrance unless you have the landowner's permission.
- Please take photographs of your site if possible. It is worth showing things such as any damage, or views of the site to show good stands of wild flowers or dense scrub. Please contact the Project Coordinator to arrange how you can send these photographs to us, or upload on to the website [dontmowletitgrow.com](http://dontmowletitgrow.com)

**Please be safe at all times and survey only if you are comfortable you can do so safely.**

### After:

- Please record your results on-line at [dontmowletitgrow.com](http://dontmowletitgrow.com) via your PC or smart phone. If you do not have a PC or smart phone please send your completed survey forms to the Project Coordinator at the address below.
- Your time spent on the survey helps us with our funding and it is important that we have a record of the time volunteers have dedicated to the project. Please therefore record, in the 'General Information' section, your time spent on all aspects of the survey.

### Contact details for help and further information:

Rachel Bain

Biodiversity Officer, Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council, 66 Portstewart Rd, Coleraine, BT52 1EY

## SURVEY HEALTH AND SAFETY

**By completing the survey form you are confirming that you have read and understood the health and safety guidelines listed below and have taken all reasonable precautions to ensure your personal safety and the safety of others.**

HAZARD/RISK	SAFETY PRECAUTIONS
Lone Working and Working in Remote Areas	Take a mobile phone. If you plan to survey alone, let someone know where you are going and report back at the end of the survey.
Parking	When parking, park safely and courteously, do not obstruct the carriageway or any access points and avoid any sharp bends, crest of hills or junctions.
Survey Site Hazards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Passing Traffic</li> <li>• Bends in the road</li> <li>• Hidden dips in the road</li> <li>• Uneven ground</li> <li>• Crest of hill</li> <li>• Deep sheughs</li> <li>• Steep slopes and banks</li> <li>• Maintenance work</li> </ul>	<p>Wear high visibility clothing at all times whilst on the site and only survey in daylight and good weather.</p> <p>(A high visibility vest is available on request from the Project coordinator who can post this to you.)</p> <p>Do not walk in the road to carry out the survey.</p> <p>Surveyors should always walk facing oncoming traffic.</p> <p>Do not walk within 1.1m of the edge of the verge whilst surveying.</p> <p>Please take extra care if you need to cross thin sections of verge to continue the survey.</p> <p>Be alert to other road users and their needs.</p> <p>Be especially careful on busy roads, especially A-roads.</p> <p>Wear footwear with good ankle support and a good outdoor grip.</p> <p>Take special care when working adjacent to deep water or steep slopes.</p> <p>Take special care if you see any maintenance activity and decide whether it is safe for you to continue the survey. Flying debris from moving machinery and noise can be particularly hazardous. Keep at least 15m from any vegetation strimming and wait for the operator to see you and stop before getting any nearer.</p>
Animals and Bites/Stings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Horse riders</li> <li>• Dog walkers</li> <li>• Weil's disease (contaminated water)</li> <li>• Ticks (Lyme's disease)</li> </ul>	<p>Be careful of animals and considerate to their needs.</p> <p>If working near water wash hands before eating, drinking or smoking.</p> <p>Bites/Stings – seek medical advice.</p> <p>Wear long trousers.</p> <p>Use insect repellent.</p> <p>Remove any ticks as soon as possible and report to your GP.</p>
Fly Tipping	Do not move or touch waste and beware of any sharp objects such as broken bottles, wire or syringes.
Proximity to railway crossings	Do not enter onto railway property to carry out survey work.
Proximity to active airfield	Do not be distracted by noise.
Sun exposure – poor shade: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sun burn/heat stroke</li> <li>• Dehydration</li> </ul>	<p>Take plenty of drinking water.</p> <p>Keep covered and wear a sun hat.</p> <p>Use sunblock.</p>
Scratches/cuts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Barbed wire</li> <li>• Blackthorn/hawthorn/bramble</li> </ul> Burns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Giant hogweed/wild parsnip/spurge</li> </ul> Allergens: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pollens</li> </ul>	<p>Carry a small first aid kit in the car.</p> <p>Take medications with you if suffering from any allergens.</p> <p>Avoid touching poisonous plants such as ragwort and giant hogweed</p> <p>Keep tetanus jabs up to date.</p>

Please note:

Please avoid picking and trampling plants. It is an offence under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, as amended by the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, to pick wild plants listed in Schedule 8 and, without the owner's permission, to uproot any wild plant.

### 1. Surveyor Details

Recorder Name:

Telephone:

Email:

### 2. Survey Details

Date of survey: / /

Time spent surveying: hrs

### 3. Site Details

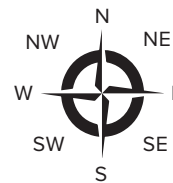
Site name and location:

Site Reference Number:

Grid reference of quadrat:

Please note your Project Coordinator will advise you with quadrat sampling.

On which side of the road is the verge you are surveying (N, S, E, W, etc)? (please circle):



Initial quality assessment of verge / open space (please tick):

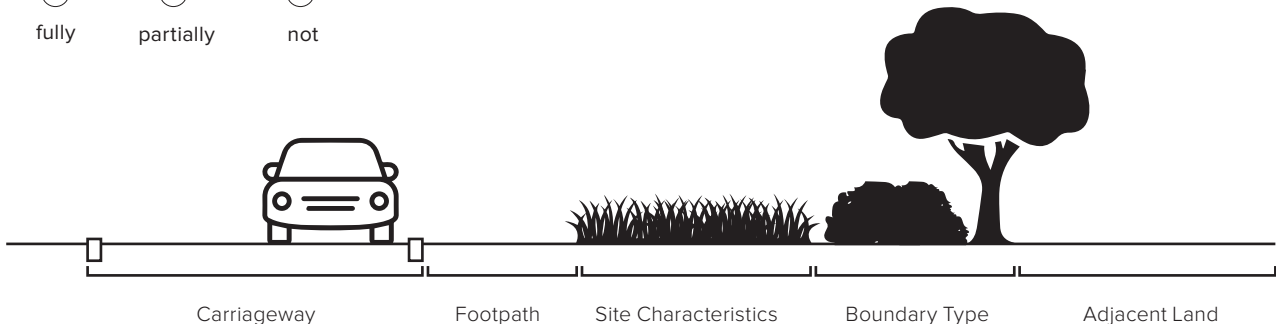
exceptional  
  very good  
  good  
  average  
  poor

Weather Conditions (please tick):

sunny  
  raining  
  cloudy  
  windy  
  cold

Site exposure - Shaded (please tick):

fully  
  partially  
  not



Site Characteristics Score all from 0-3 (0=absent)	0	1	2	3	Boundary Type Tick all that apply	x	Adjacent land Tick all that apply	x	Any damage to site? L=Light / M=Medium / S=Severe	L	M	S
Recent tree-planting					Wall		Arable		Ruts			
Flower - planting					Bank		Farmed grassland		Dumping			
Footpath / cyclepath					Ditch with water		Mown like a lawn		Storage			
Scrub					Fence		Private garden		Burning			
Tall trees					Scrub		Railway		Litter			
General Notes: Please describe where certain conditions/plants are distributed along the verge (e.g. on north-east verge at southern end of section)					Hedge		Industrial		Other factor (describe) Example leaf litter, thatch.			
					Wood		Amenity (public park)					
					Tall trees		Woodland					
					Open		Scrub					
					Other (describe)		Lough/River					
							Peatland					
						Other (describe)						

#### Evidence of recent/ current management

(tick all that apply):

Recently mown  
  Historically mown  
  Planted  
  Untouched

#### Average Vegetation height of site

(tick all that apply):

0-10cm  
  11-50cm  
  51+cm

#### Approximate ratio of herbs (flowers) vs grass

(please circle):

0/100   25/75   50/50   75/25   100/0

#### 4 ADDITIONAL SPECIES - OPTIONAL

Put an X in the box to record each species

Brown Butterflies		Meadow Brown		Speckled Wood	
Burnet Moths		Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet Moth		Bumblebee sp.	
Common Blue		Orange Tip		Wall Butterfly	
Cryptic Wood White		Ringlet		White Butterflies	
Dark-green Fritillary		Silver-washed Fritillary		<b>Other Species</b>	
Fritillary		Six-spot Burnet Moth			
Grayling		Small Copper		Common Lizard	
Green Tiger Beetle		Small Heath		Pigmy Shrew	
Green-veined White		Small White		Smooth Newt	
Large White					

Other (describe)

Notes: The RED species are considered negative indicators; other negative species will be assessed using the attributed DAFOR scoring. On the Advanced List the surveyor should record all species for the species groups in BOLD using the "Other Species" box. Surveyors should also record any rare or negative indicators occurring on the site but outside the quadrat - please highlight these by circling them on the form.

#### 5 STANDARD PLANT LIST

Put a letter in the box to record each species as: D = Dominant A = Abundant F = Frequent O = Occasional R = Rare DN = Didn't do it

Common Name	Scientific	
Common Knapweed	Centaurea nigra	
Bluebell (native)	Hyacinthoides non-scripta	
Bramble sp.	Rubus fruticosus agg.	
Buttercup sp.	Ranunculus sp.	
Cherry Laurel	Prunus laurocerasus	
Coarse grasses		
Daisy	Bellis perennis	
Dandelion sp.	Taraxacum sp.	
Docks all species	Rumex sp.	
Fine grasses		
Fine Umbellifers		
Foxglove	Digitalis purpurea	
Giant Rhubarb	Gunnera manicata	
Harebell	Campanula rotundifolia	
Heathers		
Herb Robert	Geranium robertianum	
Himalayan Balsam	Impatiens glandulifera	
Honeysuckle	Lonicera periclymenum	
Ivy	Hedera helix	
Knotweed sp		
Lady's bedstraw	Galium verum	
Lady's Smock	Cardamine pratensis	
Lesser Celandine	Ficaria verna	

Common Name	Scientific	
Meadowsweet	Filipendula ulmaria	
Orchids (all species)		
Ox-eye daisy	Leucanthemum vulgare	
Plantain sp.	Plantago sp.	
Poppy	Papaver sp.	
Primrose	Primula vulgaris	
Ragged robin	Lychnis flos-cuculi	
Red Campion	Silene dioica	
Red clover	Trifolium pratense	
Rhododendron		
Rushes	Juncus sp.	
Sedge sp.	Carex sp.	
Speedwell sp.	Veronica sp.	
Stinging Nettle	Urtica dioica	
Stitchwort sp.	Stellaria sp.	
Thistle sp.		
Vetches/Trefoils		
Violets all species		
Wild Garlic	Allium ursinum	
Willowherb sp.		
Wood Anemone	Anemone nemorosa	
Wood-rush	Luzula sp.	
Wood-sorrel	Oxalis acetosella	

Other (describe)

## 6 ADVANCED PLANT LIST

Put a letter in the box to record each species as: D = Dominant A = Abundant F = Frequent O = Occasional R = Rare DN = Didn't do it

Common Name	Scientific	
Birds-foot trefoil	Lotus corniculatus	
Bluebell (native)	Hyacinthoides non-scripta	
Bramble sp.	Rubus fruticosus agg.	
Broad-leaved dock	Rumex obtusifolius	
Bugle	Ajuga reptans	
Bush Vetch	Vicia sepium	
Carnation sedge	Carex panicea	
Cat's-ear	Hypochaeris radicata	
Cherry Laurel	Prunus laurocerasus	
<b>Clover sp. (List species)</b>	<b>Trifolium sp.</b>	
<b>Coarse grasses (List species)</b>		
Common dog-violet	Viola riviniana	
Common Heather	Calluna vulgaris	
Common Hogweed	Heracleum sphondylium	
Common Knapweed	Centaurea nigra	
Common ragwort	Senecio jacobea	
Common sedge	Carex nigra	
Common sorrel	Rumex acetosa	
Common spotted-orchid	Dactylorhiza fuchsii	
Common Vetch	Vicia sativa	
Common Yellow sedge	Carex demissa	
Cowslip	Primula veris	
Creeping Buttercup	Ranunculus repens	
Creeping Thistle	Cirsium arvense	
Curled dock	Rumex crispus	
Daisy	Bellis perennis	
Dandelion sp.	Taraxacum sp.	
Devil's-bit scabious	Succisa pratensis	
Early dog-violet	Viola reichenbachiana	
Early Marsh-orchid	Dactylorhiza incarnata	
Early Purple orchid	Orchis mascula	
Eyebright sp.	Euphrasia spp.	
Fairy flax	Linum catharticum	
Field Wood-rush	Luzula campestris	
<b>Fine grasses (List species)</b>		
Foxglove	Digitalis purpurea	
Fragrant orchid sp.	Gymnadenia sp.	
Giant Hogweed	Heracleum mantegazzianum	
Giant Rhubarb	Gunnera manicata	
Glaucous sedge	C. flacca	
Greater Birds-foot Trefoil	Lotus pedunculatus	
Greater Butterfly-orchid	Platanthera chlorantha	
Greater Stitchwort	Stellaria holostea	
Greater willowherb	Epilobium hirsutum	
Greater Wood-rush	Luzula sylvatica	
Harebell	Campanula rotundifolia	
Heath bedstraw	Galium saxatile	
Heath spotted-orchid	Dactylorhiza maculata	
Herb Robert	Geranium robertianum	
Himalayan Balsam	Impatiens glandulifera	
Himalayan Knotweed	Persicaria wallichii	
Honeysuckle	Lonicera periclymenum	
Ivy	Hedera helix	
Japanese knotweed	Fallopia japonica	
Lady's bedstraw	Galium verum	
Lady's Mantle	Alchemilla spp.	

Common Name	Scientific	
Lady's Smock	Cardamine pratensis	
Lesser Butterfly-orchid	Platanthera bifolia	
Lesser Celandine	Ficaria verna	
Lesser knotweed	Persicaria campanulata	
Meadow Buttercup	Ranunculus acris	
Meadow Crane's-bill	Geranium pratense	
Meadow thistle	Cirsium dissectum	
Meadow vetchling	Lathyrus pratensis	
Meadowsweet	Filipendula ulmaria	
Milkwort sp.	Polygala sp.	
Mouse-ear Chickweed	Pilosella officinarum	
Northern Marsh Orchid	Dactylorhiza purpurella	
Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage	Chrysosplenium oppositifolium	
Other Orchid sp (List species)		
<b>Other Rush sp (list species)</b>	<b>Juncus sp.</b>	
<b>Other Vetches/Trefoils (list species)</b>		
Pignut	Conopodium majus	
<b>Plantain sp (list species)</b>	<b>Plantago sp.</b>	
<b>Poppy sp. (List species)</b>	<b>Papaver sp.</b>	
Primrose	Primula vulgaris	
Quaking grass	Briza media	
Ragged robin	Lychnis flos-cuculi	
Red Campion	Silene dioica	
Red clover	Trifolium pratense	
Rhododendron sp.		
Ribwort Plantain	Plantago lanceolata	
Rosebay willowherb	Chamerion angustifolium	
Sanicle	Sanicula europaea	
<b>Sedge sp. (list species)</b>	<b>Carex sp.</b>	
Self-heal	Prunella vulgaris	
Sheep Sorrel	Rumex acetosella	
Sheeps-bit	Jasione montana	
Silverweed	Potentilla anserine	
Soft rush	Juncus effusus	
Spanish Bluebell + hybrids		
<b>Speedwell sp. (List species)</b>	<b>Veronica sp.</b>	
<b>St. John's Wort sp. (List species)</b>	<b>Hypericum sp.</b>	
Stinging Nettle	Urtica dioica	
<b>Stitchwort sp. (List species)</b>	<b>Stellaria sp.</b>	
<b>Thistle sp. (list species)</b>		
Tormentil	Potentilla erecta	
Tufted Vetch	Vicia cracca	
<b>Umbellifer sp (list species)</b>		
Wild Carrot	Daucus carota	
Wild Garlic	Allium ursinum	
Wild Strawberry	Fragaria vesca	
Wild Thyme	Thymus polytrichus	
<b>Willowherb sp. (list species)</b>		
Wood Anemone	Anemone nemorosa	
Wood crane's-bill	Geranium sylvaticum	
Wood-sorrel	Oxalis acetosella	
<b>Woody species (List species)</b>		
Yarrow	Achillea millefolium	
Yellow rattle	Rhinanthus minor	

Other (describe)

THANK YOU FOR TAKING PART IN THIS SURVEY

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## **APPENDIX:**

### **Guidance notes for recording DAFOR scores**

In order to make the data more useful we would like you to record the relative abundance of each species you find in the square on the DAFOR scale: D = Dominant; A = Abundant, F = Frequent, O = Occasional, R = Rare. To do this, tick species off on your list as you find them in the normal way. When you have finished surveying the square, assign a DAFOR letter to each species.

The trick to doing this is to go through the list quickly and for each species write the first score that comes into your head. Try not to think about it too much.

If a species seems intermediate between two categories and you are unsure which to assign to it, choose the lower category, e.g. if you are unsure if something was occasional or frequent, choose occasional.

#### **D for Dominant**

In practice you will rarely, if ever use this. To score D, a species would have to be the most common plant by far, in well over three quarters of the square. It is possible that in a square that is entirely conifer plantation, that Sitka spruce *Picea sitchensis* might score D; or in a square that is almost all occupied by highly improved grassland, perennial rye-grass *Lolium perenne* might sometimes score D, but even these two scenarios are unlikely most of the time. If you are not sure if something should score D or A, give it A.

#### **A for Abundant**

Only use A if the plant was really very common in many parts of the square. For most species this would mean that there were thousands of individual plants present. In most squares, few species will score as highly as A and in quite a few squares there will be no species that score that highly. If you are not sure if something should score A or F, give it F.

#### **F for Frequent**

Use F if you found the plant in several places in the square and there was usually more than just a few individuals in each of these places. You could also use F if the plant was only present in one part of the square but was very common in that part, with many individuals and covered a substantial area (e.g. between one eighth and one quarter of the area of the whole square). If you are not sure if something should score F or O, give it O.

#### **O for Occasional**

Use O for species that occur in several places in the square, but whose populations are usually not very big. You would also use O for species that are very common in one bit of habitat within the square that occupied just a small area (e.g. less than one eighth of the area of the whole square). You will use O for many species in most squares. If you are not sure if something should score O or R, give it R.

#### **R for Rare**

Use R for any species that occur as a small number of individuals in the square. This small number of individuals may be located in one place in the square, or scattered over several different locations within the square. In many squares R is likely to be the score that most species get. If you are not sure if something should score O or R, give it R.

For those of you who are used to using the DAFOR scale, please stick to the basic 5 scores only and avoid entries like O/F (occasional to frequent) and particularly please avoid using the prefix 'L' as in LF (locally frequent).

#### **DN for Didn't do it**

Use DN for didn't have time to take survey