

Grass verge maintenance (rural)



Service summary:

It is our duty to cut rural grass verges and to make sure that vegetation on rural verges does not impair visibility for road users.

We will:

- cut rural grass verges a minimum of twice a year
- cut down vegetation on verges to maintain good visibility for road users
- avoid cutting in the nesting season unless there is a safety hazard.

You can help by:

- letting us know about any areas which contain rare flowers, or are of environmental importance
- informing us if a grass bank verge is impairing visibility.

The service does not include:

- using mowers with grass collectors.

Contact us:

01934 888 802

www.n-somerset.gov.uk

Streets and Open Spaces, North Somerset Council, Weston Court,
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Frequently asked questions

Rural grass verge maintenance

1. Why have you left it so late to cut this verge?

Probably because there are rare plants growing in it, as we like to let them seed off before we mow.

2. In what months do you normally cut the verges?

Towards the end of May and again in August and September.

3. Why don't you cut back to the full boundary of the verges?

It is the present policy in North Somerset to cut one cutter bar width on all rural roads. This provides a refuge for pedestrians who happen to be walking along such roads, in addition to preventing uncontrolled herbage from falling on the carriageway, causing an obstruction to traffic and a barrier to water in road channels. Further widths are cut as necessary on visibility splays at junctions and bends. Nature conservationists state that it is the managed habitat of verges that has given rise to their value for wild flowers. To stop cutting will result in the development of scrub and trees, which will reduce the great variety of grassland flowers which make verges so attractive.

4. What do you do about ragwort removal?

We prioritise the removal of ragwort according to its proximity to grazing livestock. It is either sprayed three times a year or pulled, bagged and incinerated, depending upon its location.

5. I have concern over the height of vegetation at a junction - will you come back to cut this even if you have already undertaken your cut for that month?

Yes, certainly. If vegetation is causing a problem for highway users we will cut as necessary. Some strategic/difficult junctions do in fact already receive more cuts per season.