

Managed for Wildlife Public Consultation



The Comments

Throughout 2022 we trialled a new way of managing our grass cutting to help bees and butterflies by giving native flowers a chance to grow. We asked you for your views on the selected areas which we left uncut.

From the 386 responses received, this is what you said...



22 Ticks

There were 22 comments from participants who had concerns about ticks, either on children or dogs.



63 Poo

Concerns about the amount of dog fouling in the long grass areas were raised 63 times.



72 Nature

There were 72 responses which spoke about the positive effect on biodiversity which the trials were having.



92 Flowers

92 people wanted to see more wildflower meadow areas being established.



106 Eyesore

There were 106 reports of the trial areas looking unkempt, untidy, unsightly or simply an eyesore.



167 Do more

But by far, the prevailing theme running through all comments was that we were not being ambitious enough!

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The Science

44 volunteers monitored the sites throughout the Summer, carrying out a total of 148 recording surveys.

A total of 64 wildflower species were recorded that would not have flowered had these areas continued to be closely mown. There was also a clear increase in the presence of invertebrates in the areas that had been left uncut.

 **Uncut trial areas**

 **Cut areas as normal**



Wildflowers present



Wildflowers in flower present



Number of different wildflower species



Butterflies present



Bees present



Other insects present

When compared to the 'No Mow' areas, the cut and lift sites seemed to be slightly more beneficial for flowers and insects, but a further few years would be needed to validate any results.