



Caution Site Traffic (Buttercup and Yarrow), enamel paint on aluminium  
105cm x 75cm, 2024, in-situ at Scotney Castle, Kent  
Photo: Paul Henry / Shooting Stars TV

## Unloved places

Artist **Nessie Ramm** shares her love for road verges and discarded road signs

**R**oad verges are my passion. They are unloved and functional places – yet Nature can thrive on them. While I don't love the infrastructure we've created, verges are a brilliant example of how Nature doesn't need things to be perfect. Wildlife is able to use these marginal spaces and there are many more – car parks, industrial estates, shopping centres, hospitals, roundabouts, schools and new developments add up to a huge area of untapped potential. If we changed our priorities and managed all of this for Nature, it would form a connected network of habitat to allow wildlife to move around the countryside and through our towns and cities. It would increase biodiversity and resilience, and bring us all closer to Nature in our day-to-day lives: everyday Nature.

I was inspired to recreate road signs in my paintings

after finding overgrown signs dumped in a hedge while out litter picking. In my paintings, roadside plants grow over and rewild the text, changing the meaning and allowing the plants to question our relationship with Nature. 'Caution Site Traffic' (above) is positioned overlooking a sweep of land on the Scotney Castle estate that has recently been converted to regenerative grazing. A small herd of longhorn cattle are helping to 're-engineer' the species-poor grassland. Hidden in my sign are silhouettes of invertebrates and amphibians – part of the future re-awakened ecosystem. R

An exhibition of Nessie Ramm's work *Changed Priorities Ahead* is at Scotney Castle, Kent until 20 October, free with admission.  
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