

Extracted from  
**CO-OPERATION FOR CONSERVATION OF RURAL ROAD VERGES**  
**J.M.Way (1974)**  
**NERC ITE**

2. DEVON

A. County Council Surveyors' Department

In 1972 reported that they had good contact with the Nature Conservancy through the Regional Office. There was also an active and close liaison with the Naturalists' Trust and a number of other organisations, leading to the formation of a Working Party on roadside management under the Chairmanship of the Deputy County Surveyor. The Working Party reported to the County Roads Committee in early 1973 and its recommendations were implemented during the 1973 growing season. There were some problems in the first year of working, but these had been pinpointed and it was not thought that the general policy would be changed much for 1974, although it would be subject to constant review. A panel of the Working Party was set up in November 1973 to assess sites of special interest put forward by Parish Councils and others. In the meantime a number of verges of conservation importance had been scheduled by the Naturalists' Trust. These were marked on the ground and managed in accordance with the Trusts' advice.

Previously the Department had been concerned with the Education Authority and others in a project whereby school children collected seed of wild plants to be sown in the grass mixture on the reconstituted verges associated with road improvements. Unfortunately, in spite of the collection of a considerable quantity of seed of a wide range of plants, there was very little success in getting them to germinate and establish. This result was a disappointment for those concerned, but has provided a useful experience on the need for further research into the germination requirements of wild plants and their after-care.

B. Nature Conservancy

Noted in 1973 that their liaison with the Department was through the Naturalists' Trust.

C. The Devon Trust for Nature Conservation

Until recently the principal liaison was between the Trusts' Area Committees and the Area Officers of the County Surveyors' Department. This led to a lack of information on occasions at the Trusts' headquarters and loss of information when changes in the Area Committees occurred. However, at Area level there was good liaison with the Highway Department. The results of the roadside management policy for 1973, evolved from the Working Party's report, was thought to be a great improvement on previous years.

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DEVON - scheduled by Naturalists' Trust

A 3052	Trow Hill: Stevens Cross to Lodge		L	Cardamine pratensis
A 3052	Halfway House			Inula helenium
A 3052	Trow Cottage - junction with Weston Road at Weston Cross			Geranium phaeum
C	Fortescue Road			Inula conyza
U	Old Trow		B	Epipactis helleborine
Dis- trict	Trow - Vincroft Lane		S	Geranium pratense
	Miltown Lane - Norman Lockyer Observatory		B	Agrimonia eupatoria Hypericum linarifolium
	Salcombe Hill		B	Sanicula europaea Adoxa moschatellina Epipactis helleborine Geranium pratense
A 38	South of Welcome Stranger Inn			Orchidaceae

verges notified to Highway Department by organisations other than the Naturalists' Trust

Old A 38			S	'Wild blue geraniums'
A 383	South of the Dartmoor Half Way		S	Orchidaceae
A 38	Bittaford - Ivybridge Road		N	Chrysanthemum leucanthemum
B 3194	Stumpy Cross - Sorley Green			Planting of Primroses