

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

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CHAPTER X SCOTLAND

Information about the protection of road verges of conservation importance in Scotland has been obtained through the Nature Conservancy Council and the Scottish Wildlife Trust; no enquiries have been made of the County Council Highways Departments.

The Scottish Wildlife Trust reported that in the latter part of 1973 it had considerably increased its efforts to organise protection for roadside verges, but West, Mid and East Lothians, Berwickshire and Perthshire were still the only counties with marked verges. An advance over the 'traditional' marker post had been made in East Lothian where the letters SWT had been painted in roadpaint directly on to the road surface, some yards in advance of the protected verge to allow time for the road man to lift the cutting machine clear. Some very useful co-operation had developed between the Scottish Wildlife Trust and the County Amenity Society in the East Lothian area over the guardianship of the marked verges. It was also hoped that verges with common plants could be marked to provide roadside areas of amenity value as well as wildlife importance.

Meanwhile the management of the marked sites in the Lothians was for there to be no cutting until after the seeds had set.

Of the other Counties, the Road Surveyors of Ayrshire, Wigtownshire, Banff, Wester Ross, Kirkcudbrightshire and Aberdeenshire had been approached as to the regimes of roadside verge maintenance and the possibility of verge reserves. Kirkcudbrightshire had already agreed to verge marking and surveys of Aberdeenshire verges were being planned.

The Trust's main problem had been getting the roadside verge's importance across to the appropriate authorities. On several occasions 'pressure from farmers' was quoted as a reason for verge cutting and other forms of disturbance. It was hoped that the Branches where this had occurred could establish closer relationships with the agriculturalists and approach the problem from their side.

The excellent DOE circular 36/73 circulated by SPNR had not been passed on to Scottish County Councils who relied on the Scottish Development Department Technical Bulletin on verge management for their official guidance. The Trust had approached the Scottish Development Department Chief Road Engineer and was attempting to persuade him that the contents of this circular should be passed on to the appropriate authorities in Scotland.

The attached lists for Berwickshire, Mid, East and West Lothian, Perthshire, Roxburghshire and Selkirk, together with a confidential list of 19 sites from Angus are believed to be a complete account of the recognised roadside sites of conservation interest in Scotland at the present date (March 1974). Those in the Lothians, Berwickshire and Perthshire have been marked by the Wildlife Trust and scheduled with the County Authorities, but it is not known what management arrangements, if any, have been made except in the Lothians.

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<b>SCOTLAND</b>									
ANGUS - 19 road verge sites notified to County Road Department in confidence									
BERWICKSHIRE - all notified to the County Surveyor									
81	NT 792512	A 6112	Nisbet House			E	P		Lysimachia nummularia
81	NT 868534	B 6437	Whitsome Road			W	P		Geranium pratense
81	NT 866541	B 6437	Allanton			W	P		Rosa arvensis
81	NT 805533	C 30	Wedderburn Castle			N	P		Polygonum bistorta
81	NT 825467	A 699	Swinton Bridgend Farm			E	P		Senecio erucifolius
81	NT 797447	A 699	Bughtrig East Lodge Gate			S	P		Rosa arvensis
81	NT 784438	A 699	Leitholm			S	P		Cicerbita macrophylla
81	NT 815414	C 23	Charterpath Bridge, Castlelaw				P		Plantago media
81	NT 829422	C 23	Hirsel Law Cross Roads			N	P		Galium boreale, Sedum telephium
81	NT 668384	A 6089	Girrick			E	P		Dianthus deltooides
81	NT 664381	U 40	Girrick			N	P		Agrimonia eupatoria
81	NT 576374	B 6356	Cowdenknowes			S	P		Aremonia agrimonoides
EAST LOTHIAN - all scheduled (Column 7 - R = road painted SWT)									
82	NT 487690	C	Nr Blance, E. Saltoun	20		R	P		Geranium endressii, G. pratense
82	NT 456757	C	Nr Elvingston	25		R	P		Geranium phaeum
82	NT 472723	C	Blinkbonny	400	B	R	VP		Geranium pratense
82	NT 477724	C	Gladshot	100		R	P		Dactylorhiza fuchsii
82	NT 560681	B 6355	Gifford	4		R	P		Sedum telephium
82	NT 563697	C	Bara	15		R	P		Geranium phaeum
82	NT 563819	C	Waighton Cross Roads	210		R	P		Dianthus deltooides, Potentilla argentea Trifolium striatum Saxifraga granulata
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
EAST LOTHIAN - contd									
82	NT 576815	C	Leuchie	40		R	P		Silene dioica
82	NT 652738	C	Burnhead	200		R	P		Geranium sylvaticum, Myrrhis odorata
82	NT 721571	C	Dryburn	10		R	P		Arum maculatum
82	NT 861682	C	Bolton Cross Roads	25		R	P		Pyrola minor
82	NT 864682	C	Bolton Cross Roads	150		R	P		Listera ovata, Dactylorhiza fuchsii, Salix repens, Leontodon hispidus, Silaum Silaus
MIDLOTHIAN - only first site scheduled, others for investigation									
83	NT 352602	C	Catcune	240	B	P	P		Astragalus cicer, Cardaria draba, Bunias orientalis, Euphorbia uralensis, Vicia tenuifolia
83	NT 375585	A 7					P	P	Galium mollugo
83	NT 460448	B 6362	Stow - Lander				P	P	Vicia orobus
83	NT 353576	C	Middleton	580	E	P	P		Orchids
PERTHSHIRE - all scheduled									
88	NO 152151		Wicks of Gaiglie Road	35	W	P			Sambucus ebulus
88	NO 117165		Pitkeathly Wells	350	W	P			Mentha x scotica
88	NN 969131	B 8062	Pairney Bridge	20	E	P			Orithogalum umbellatum
88	NN 931172	B 8062	Millearn	30	S	P			Geum macrophyllum Acer campestre
88	NN 80-22-	A 85	Lavers School of Agriculture	30	N	P			Pentaglottis sempervirens
88	NO 107356		S.W. Kings Myre	10	W	P			Rumex alpinus
88	NO 105358		Drummond Hall	22	W	P			Doronicum paradalianches
88	NO 049396	A 9(T)	Dalpowie	30	S	P			Allium paradoxum
88	NO 000413	A 822	Rumbling Bridge	110	S	P			Betonica officinalis
88	No 002414	A 822	Rumbling Bridge	10	S	P			Cirsium heterophyllum (album)

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<b>PERTSHIRE - contd</b>									
88	NN 992479	B 898	Dalguise	17	W	P			Valeriana pyrenaica
88	NO 059367	A 9(T)	Waterloo	17	W	P			Polygonum bistorta
88	NO 133158		Dron	3000	S	P			Orchis mascula
87	NO 008049	B 934	Myrehaugh	30	W	P			Salix pentandra
88	NN 973520		Logierait	30					Leonurus cardiaca
88	NN 739699	A 9(T)		10					Linaria vulgaris
88	NN 854199		Newbigging	6836	N	P			Chelidonium majus
87	NN 685979	A 8031	Ballintone Farm	21	S	P			Astrantia major
<b>ROXBURGHSHIRE - sites for investigation</b>									
80	NT 542292								Tall herbs, base rich community with: Ononis repens, Sanguisorba officinalis, Geranium pratense, G. sylvaticum, Agrimonia eupatoria <u>et al.</u>
80	NT 541294	A 699							Sanguisorba officinalis
80	NT 505283	A 699							Geranium endressii x versicolor
80	NT 480384	A 7							Potentilla anglica
<b>SELKIRKSHIRE - site for investigation</b>									
79	NT 283153	B 709							Polygonum bistorta
<b>WEST LOTHIAN - scheduled</b>									
84	NT 069762	C	The Den	20	P	P			Galeobdolon luteum
84	NT 142754	C	Carlowrie	20	P	P			Coronilla varia, Allium carinatum

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