

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

9. ISLE OF WIGHT

A. County Council Roads and Planning Department

Reported in 1972 that there was a general contact with the Nature Conservancy, but not specifically on the subject of roadside verges. There was very little contact with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalists' Trust, but there was a continuing liaison with the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society, who were actively scheduling sites of conservation importance together with proposals for their management. The Society was also being kept informed of and asked to comment upon the Department's policies for the maintenance of roadsides in general on the Island. In 1973 a meeting was arranged at the Roads Department's request with the Nature Conservancy to discuss technical aspects of roadside management for conservation. In 1973 the general cutting policy took regard of the recommendations made at this meeting. This was reflected in the Instructions to Mower Operators issued by the Department in May just before the cutting season began, and which specifically referred to the public interest in conservation. In addition three stretches of road were set aside as trial areas to demonstrate the effects of not cutting at all, although this was more to be a public relations than a conservation exercise.

B. Nature Conservancy

Besides the most recent contact in 1973 there had been discussions with the County Surveyor at intervals over the years. At the meeting in 1973 the Conservancy was able to recommend the Natural History Society as the local organisation with whom the Roads Department should liaise in the first instance.

C. Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalists' Trust

Had not been active on the Island with respect to roadsides on account of the existing liaison between the Roads Department and the Natural History Society.

D. The Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society

Drew up a preliminary list of roadside of especial importance in 1970 and has had a continuing correspondence and meetings with the Roads Department since that time. There has evidently been some earlier contact, for instance with the Newport Borough Council over the protection of the Wood Calamint Site between Apes Down and Rowbridge. In June and September 1973 the Conservation Committee was able to write to the County Surveyor commending the general cutting policy for roadsides on the Island, and commenting on good stands of wild flowers and abundance of butterflies together with other insects resulting from its implementation. In addition to the special sites notified to the County Surveyor in 1970 (which were in some cases marked on the ground and for some of which particular management proposals had been made), a number of other 'picturesque' sites had been identified but not notified.

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|-----------|--------|-------------------|---|----|---|---|---|---|
| ISLE OF WIGHT - Not all of these sites have been scheduled with the Highways Department | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | SZ 318858 | B 3322 | Totland | | NW | | A | | Lizards |
| 10 | SZ - | B 3041 | Thorley | | | | | | Clematis vitalba var. timbali |
| 10 | SZ 368854 | A 3055 | Freshwater | | B | | | | Brassica oleracea, Matthiola incana, Glaucium flavum, Crithmum maritimum, Chalk flora. Butterflies |
| 10 | SZ 388836 | A 3055 | Brook | | N | | | | Symphytum asperum |
| 10 | SZ 404826 | A 3055 | | | N | | | | Lychnis flos-cuculi |
| 10 | SZ 396851 | B 3399 | Brook Shute | | | | | | Chalk flora |
| 10 | SZ 396846 | B 3399 | Brook Shute | | | | | | Claytonia perfoliata |
| 10 | SZ 404838 | B 3399 | Huverstone | | N | | | | Early flowering gorse |
| 10 | SZ 410836 | B 3399 | Strawberry Lane | | N | | | | Erigeron acer |
| 10 | SZ 412836 | B 3399 | Pitt Place | | N | | | | Viola odorata, Asplenium adiantum-nigrum |
| 10 | SZ 425835 | U | Fortune's Corner | | E | | | | Centaurium erythraea, Lathyrus sylvestris, Cichorium intybus, Orobanche minor, Mixed flora and insects. |
| 10 | SZ 424844 | U | Brightstone Shute | | | | | | Chalk flora |
| 10 | SZ 420851 | U | Calbourne Bottom | | | | | | Geranium lucidum |
| 10 | SZ 425862 | U | Westover | | E | | | | Lunularia cruciata |
| 10 | SZ 454867 | U | Apes Down | | | | | | Calamintha sylvatica |
| 10 | SZ 442827 | B 3399 | Orford Cottage | | | | | | Calystegia pulchra |
| 10 | SZ 445827 | B 3399 | Monks Path | | | | | | Saponaria officinalis |
| 10 | SZ 458840 | B 3323 | Cheverton Shute | | B | | | | Primroses |
| 10 | SZ 473872 | B 3323 | Bowcombe | | NW | | | | Erigeron acer |
| 10 | SZ 480877 | B 3323 | | | NW | B | | | Chalk flora |
| 10 | SZ 547773 | | Heights Hotel | | | | | | Orchidaceae |
| 10 | SZ 435902 | | London Heath | | | | | | Orchidaceae |
| 10 | SZ 602893 | | Hardingshute Road | | | | | | Anacamptis pyramidalis, Sedum telephium |

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|-----------------------|-----------|---|-------------------|---|---|---|-----|---|------------------------------|
| ISLE OF WIGHT - contd | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | SZ 576798 | | Cowlease | | | | | | Ophrys apifera <u>et al.</u> |
| 10 | SZ 565888 | | Rowland's Copse | | | | | | Ophrys apifera |
| 10 | SZ 581883 | | Ashley Road | | | | | | Allium triquetrum |
| 10 | SZ 514813 | | Beacon Alley | | | | APV | | Plants and birds |
| 10 | SZ 513832 | | Bohemia | | | | | | Umbilicus rupestris |
| 10 | SZ - | | Blackwater Hollow | | | | | | Orchis morio |