



**Wiltshire Protected Road Verge Scheme**

**GUIDELINES FOR THE SELECTION OF PROTECTED ROAD VERGES  
2006**

The following criteria apply to the selection of verges for inclusion in the Protected Road Verge scheme. The verge must meet at least one of the following criteria in order to be designated:

NB: When the criteria are referred to in text it will be in the format **PRV.1.06**, where 1 is referring to the number of the criteria which the verge is designated for and 06 refers to the year that this criteria was adopted.

**1. RARE AND NATIONALLY SCARCE SPECIES**

Verges where the presence has been recorded of either a single species, or group of species classed as RDB, Na or Nb; BAP species and species on Schedule 8 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.

**2. SPECIES RARE OR LOCAL TO WILTSHIRE**

Verges where the presence has been recorded of species which may not fit into the above categories but which are included in the 'Wiltshire Notable Species' list.

**3. VERGES LINKED TO SITES**

Verges which form integral parts of National Nature Reserves or Sites of Special Scientific Interest (as agreed with English Nature), or County Wildlife Sites (as agreed with the Wiltshire Wildlife Sites Project) or significant areas of semi-natural woodland, and verges linking such sites (wildlife corridors).

**4. HABITATS**

Verges which are high quality examples of particular habitats (ie. a NVC community as defined in the Detailed Criteria for the Selection of County Wildlife Sites in Wiltshire).

**5. GEOLOGY**

Geological or geomorphological feature forming part of a Site of Special Scientific Interest or County Geological Site, or including geological exposures or features recommended by the Wiltshire RIGS Group as being of conservation significance and worthy of special protection/management.

**6. VERGES OF HIGH COMMUNITY VALUE**

A small number of verges which are valued by the local community and are of high public profile may be considered for inclusion in the scheme although not meeting the above criteria. These verges offer an opportunity to promote the project and increase public awareness and interest.

## NOTES

1. If adequate management of a proposed verge is restricted by physical criteria or cannot be agreed with local landowners, etc. or if a monitor cannot be found, protected status will not be granted.
2. Verges which do not meet satisfactory Health and Safety criteria for monitoring will not be considered for protected status.
3. WCC and Highways Agency have a statutory duty to maintain the roads so as to ensure that the carriageway is kept clear of obstruction and that visibility is sufficient to ensure the safety of users. Where management to preserve or enhance a site conflicts with this duty Protected Verge status will not be granted.
4. There is no restriction on the size of a Protected Verge, nor is there any limit to the number of road verges which may be designated as Protected Verges.
5. Protected Verges have no statutory protection. The scheme operates on the goodwill of the WCC's Highways Department and landowners.
6. Designated verges which cease to meet the above criteria will lose their designated status and be deleted from the scheme.