



Road Verge Management Guidance – Case Study



Norfolk Roadside Nature Reserve System



The Norfolk Roadside Nature Reserve (RNR) system comprises over 100 designated RNRs on roads managed by Norfolk County Council.

Surveys by volunteers for Norfolk Wildlife Trust over 20 years have identified the best verges for wildlife and these have been taken out of the main cutting contracts, where flail mowers cut the verges 2-3 times per year.

Instead, these verges are managed by a smaller contractor who cuts with a BCS mower and rakes. Originally, this was done by Norfolk County Council staff.

Cost is the biggest issue and so in Norfolk this work is now carried out by a contractor who is low cost and understands the work.

The system is suffering from several years of underfunding, although this has been partly resolved at present with County Hall setting aside enough money to manage most of the system annually. The next step is to set up an annual management programme and try to address sites that need more than a cut and rake (for example for verges which require scrub removal).

For information regarding site records, location of RNRs, and candidate verges, contact:

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