

Want to help?

- Take time to enjoy and protect these fragments of wild landscape, rich with plants and animals.
- Volunteer with Kent Wildlife Trust to help on management days.
- Register as a Kent Wildlife Trust Voluntary Road Verge Warden.
- Report any damage to designated
- Roadside Nature Reserves including fly tipping.
- Avoid parking on roadside verges.
- Take nothing but photographs; leave nothing but footprints!

Want to know more? Contact

The Roadside Nature Reserves Officer

Kent Wildlife Trust,

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Kent Wildlife Trust is the leading conservation charity for Kent and Medway - protecting wildlife, educating the public, influencing decision makers and restoring habitats. In addition to over 89 kilometres of RNRs, the Trust also manages over 62 reserves covering more than 3,000 hectares of land.



Roadside Nature Reserves in Kent and Medway

Large print version available:
Call 01622 662012

Supported by



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The Roadside Nature Reserve Project

The Kent and Medway Road Verge Project, established in 1994, works to identify, protect and manage road verges which contain threatened habitats or wildlife. These are marked by special signs.

The Project is a partnership between Kent Highways Services and Kent Wildlife Trust (KWT). It has a Road Verge Project Officer, based with KWT, who works with a dedicated team of Voluntary Road Verge Wardens to maintain the condition of the verges and monitor their wildlife interest.

Wildlife corridors

Roadside Nature Reserves can link existing wildlife areas, helping to reconnect and restore landscape so that wildlife is no longer struggling to survive in isolation. This supports a living landscape, which benefits both people and wildlife and makes nature more resilient to future change. They provide vital wildlife corridors for many species, particularly reptiles such as slow-worms and viviparous lizards, and mammals such as badgers.



Important habitats

Roadside Nature Reserves include a number of scarce and threatened wildlife habitats such as ancient woodland, heathland and chalk grassland. One chalk grassland verge supports so many plants that the flower and grass seed has been collected and used to help create new chalk grassland on nearby arable land.



Flower rich verge

Wildlife Refuges

Some Roadside Nature Reserves hold locally or nationally rare animals or plants. These include green-flowered helleborine in Kemsing and the Adonis blue butterfly on a verge in Maidstone.



Pyramidal orchid

Many are also important for wild orchids including pyramidal orchid, man orchid and lady orchid.

Female viviparous lizard

In summer, chalk grassland verges provide colourful array of flowers which attract many insects including bees and butterflies such as the chalkhill blue, brown argus, small skipper and marbled white.



Marbled white



Adonis Blue

Management of Roadside Nature Reserves

Every Roadside Nature Reserve has its own management plan to ensure that any maintenance work respects the special plants or animals that are present and improves the habitat so that more wildlife can use it. Historically, road verges were cut for hay, or grazed by domestic livestock. Although grazing has been re-introduced on a few reserves, present day management is likely to involve cutting once or twice a year. Care is taken to avoid the late spring and summer when most plants are in flower and birds are nesting. Neglected verges, dominated by coarse herbs or scrub, will need a regular programme of cutting and clearing to restore the original habitat and wildlife value.



Scrub clearance



Butterfly monitoring