

### 13.3 ROADSIDE NATURE RESERVES:

Roadside Nature Reserves can contribute to the core objectives as follows

**Safety** Remove risk of visibility obstruction to users of the highway

**Serviceability** Allow reasonable access to these areas

**Sustainability** Fulfilling statutory duty  
Protection of the environment for future generations

#### 13.3.1 Introduction

The County Council has identified areas of roadside verge that have high value of flora and fauna. These are recorded and shown on a GIS overlay and are identified on site by means of marker posts. No cutting, other than for road safety in swaths and visibility splays, shall take place on roadside nature reserves.

Within this document, the County Ecologist will produce a report each year that sets out the treatment that is required for each nature reserve. Any maintenance work required by the County Ecologist shall be carried out in August/September or as directed. Where required, all cuttings shall be collected and removed from a nature reserve.

There are also a number of sites of special scientific interest (SSSI) throughout the county. No cutting, other than for road safety in swaths and visibility splays, shall be carried out on these verges without first contacting Natural England or the County Ecologist.

#### 13.3.1.2 RVNRs & SSSIs - Management requirements

This list was originally created in 1998. It has been amended in 2000 and again in 2002 as surveys have revealed more information about sites or other circumstances have changed. In 2002 the list was expanded to include reserves on trunk roads though it is recognised that the management of such roads remains with the Highways Agency. It is expected that new sections of trunk roads such the Bedford Southern bypass will have stretches which will be treated as verge reserves but details are as yet unknown. Further verge reserves may be identified from time to time as biodiversity knowledge develops

##### **Selection of verge reserves**

Road verge nature reserves are selected at sites where it is desirable and possible to protect and manage important wildlife interest. Sites where road safety would be prejudiced by nature conservation management would not normally be selected. Wildlife interest would normally be expected to meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Within or adjacent to a nationally important wildlife site (SSSI)
- All or part of a County Wildlife Site or meeting the criteria for CWS status.
- Supporting species that are rare or protected

##### **Types of verge reserve @ January 2007**

17 Verge reserves known to be of high ecological value and selected after consultation with the Wildlife Trust and Bedfordshire Wildlife Working Group. These are the traditional road verge reserves, many of which have been known for at least 30 years. The County Council Ecologist should be consulted before any work is carried out.

11 Verge reserves which are part of larger Sites of Special Scientific Interest or are immediately adjacent to SSSI with a statutory requirement to consult Natural England before any work is carried out.

5 Verge reserves which have been seeded with wildflowers since 1985 during road construction and which require a special management regime to prosper. The County Council Ecologist should be consulted before any work is carried out.

### **Traditional verge nature reserves**

There have been road verge nature reserves in Bedfordshire for at least thirty years. Initially the local Natural History Society and Wildlife Trust negotiated with the County Council improved management of a suite of sites of high wildlife value. The object was to put in place a particularly sensitive management regime at these key sites. It has always been recognised that there are many other verges of high wildlife value either for general habitat reasons or because they support rare or protected species and the County Council is encouraged to adopt generally wildlife friendly management on all verges.

From time to time the suite of verge reserves has been reviewed and updated. Management practices have been refined and consultation procedures improved. In 1993/94 a review of verge reserves resulted in three sites being removed from the list as they no longer held wildlife judged to be of sufficient interest. Three newly recognised high quality verges were added to the list. Subsequently further survey and the development of biodiversity action plans has added two further sites to the list.

These verge reserves cover a variety of habitats. A number may be regarded as some of the last remaining remnants of species rich neutral grassland. The verge at Dungee contains a wood edge flora and at sites in the south of the county a rich chalk flora has developed on cuttings through the chalk hills. Some nationally scarce plants such as sulphur clover, bath asparagus and crested cow-wheat are found almost exclusively on verges in the north. The fauna of these sites has been less well studied but recent work has shown that hedge, ditch and verge systems can be very rich in invertebrates including national rarities. The reserve at Potton contains the strongest British population of a very rare snail.

All these verges are of County Wildlife Site quality (the tier of wildlife value below SSSI) and are therefore protected by policies in Local Development Plans, the biodiversity action plan for Bedfordshire and Luton and via the "Duty to Conserve Biodiversity" placed on all public bodies in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

### **Newly created verge reserves**

Since 1985 the County Council and the Department of Transport (more recently the Highways Agency) have made attempts to sow wildflowers on some newly created road verges. Wildflower sowing on the Bromham bypass was used by the Department of Transport to help develop habitat creation procedures now used nationally. The subsequent management of these sites is necessarily very similar to that of the traditional verge reserves. A number of these verges are now regarded as of equivalent ecological value to the traditionally known sites.

### **Verges within, or adjacent to, Sites of Special Scientific Interest**

The Wildlife and Countryside act 1981 (as amended) resulted in the review and renotification of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). This work was undertaken by Natural England, the Governments advisors on nature conservation in England. SSSI's are

part of a national series of sites representing the best examples of the biological and geological features in Britain.

Notification as an SSSI gives legal protection to the best sites for Wildlife and geology in England. Natural England has the responsibility for identifying and protecting SSSI's in England under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981(as amended). The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 was recently amended by the Countryside Right of Way Act 2000. The new provisions of this act significantly strengthened the protection afforded to SSSI's and place certain responsibilities on owners and occupiers of SSSI's as well as on public bodies.

Public bodies under section 28G of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) include:

- Any statutory undertaker (as defined in section 262(1), (3) and (6) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990);
- A person holding office under the Crown (including government departments and agencies);
- Organisations created under a public general Act of Parliament; and
- Any other public body of any description. The definition includes privatised utilities and statutory undertakers.

Natural England would therefore class Bedfordshire County Council as a public body for the purposes of the Act and are therefore subject to the requirements of Section 28G of the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000.

### **Duties of Public Bodies**

As a public body Bedfordshire County Council therefore has a duty under the provisions of the Countryside Rights of Way Act (2000) to "take reasonable steps, consistent with the proper exercise of their functions, to further the conservation and enhancement SSSI's". Public Bodies are required to consult Natural England if they wish to undertake any work which may damage an SSSI, or if they are considering authorising other people to carry out operations which may do so. The "Duty to Conserve Biodiversity" was reasserted in the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. The duty, which applies to all public bodies, relates particularly to the conservation and enhancement of habitats and species of principle importance for biodiversity (national priority habitats and species). Those habitats and species are listed by the Secretary of State. The duty therefore relates to more than just sites designated as of national importance. Many of the road verge reserves in Bedfordshire contain examples of habitats of principle importance to biodiversity and all represent habitats covered by the general duty.

### **Work Undertaken By Bedfordshire County Council Which May Damage SSSI's.**

This guidance applies when Bedfordshire County Council themselves (or contractors acting on their behalf) are undertaking an operation which is a statutory function. In this instance Bedfordshire County Council are required to inform Natural England prior to undertaking any operations that are likely to damage any of the features of interest of any SSSI. This applies to operations within an SSSI, and to operations outside the SSSI which may affect the features of interest.

Natural England has 28 days to respond to the proposals outlined in the consultation. Natural England may respond by either:

- Giving assent without conditions or,
- Giving assent with conditions, or
- Refusing assent

If Natural England agrees with the proposals, assent will be given and the work can be undertaken without waiting 28 days.

If a public body (Bedfordshire County Council in this instance) decides to undertake the operations in a manner which is contrary to Natural England's conditions (provided in the assent) or to go ahead with the operations where Natural England has refused assent then the public body must give Natural England 28 days notice that it plans to carry out the operations. This further notice must include the proposed start date and must explain how Natural England's advice has been taken into account. During this further 28 day period, Natural England may refer the case to the Secretary of State to consider.

It should be noted that breaking these requirements is a criminal offence which may carry a fine of up to £20,000 (unlimited in the Crown Court) and a restoration order.

### **Management of important verges.**

SSSI verges should be managed to individual prescriptions agreed in advance with Natural England.

Most verges are historically a managed habitat and it is this that has given rise to their wildlife value. To stop grass cutting would allow bushes and trees to invade and shade out rare grassland species. This may also create a road safety problem.

It is important to create a range of different habitats across the width of the verge. This can be achieved by cutting only those areas essential to road safety during the summer, creating a short sward. This safety cut would normally not exceed one metre in width except where vegetation may obscure visibility at junctions or on particularly tight bends. The full width of grassland road verge reserves should be cut every autumn, within the period mid August to late September. If there are areas which cannot be reached by flail, scrub should be cut on a rotation tailored to the needs of the individual verge. From time to time it may improve long term management if stumps of cut scrub are poisoned with chemicals to prevent regrowth. Roadside hedges can spread laterally to smother important wildflowers and may need to be occasionally cut back. Where ever possible cut material, both grass and bushes, must be removed from the site to avoid the smothering of important species. Cut material must never be burnt on a verge nature reserve.

Verge reserves must never be used even temporarily for the storage of soils or other materials. Soil excavated from adjacent ditches can also cause severe damage if spread in the wrong places and where ever possible this too should be removed.

Excavation to install or repair services, kerbs etc should be avoided where ever possible but if unavoidable should be contrived to minimise damage and be agreed in advance with Natural England or the County Ecologist. Restored ground must not be sown with grass seed but should be allowed to regenerate naturally.

Herbicides and fertilisers should never be applied to verge reserves as both could lead to very rapid loss of important species. The two exceptions to this are scrub management described above and the potential spot treatment of notifiable weeds if agreed in advance with Natural England or the County Ecologist.

Most verge reserves would be damaged in the long term by the planting of trees.

### ***Consultation***

#### **Before any work is carried out on an SSSI verge contact:**

The Conservation Officer (Justin Tilley),

Natural England, Ham Lane House, Ham Lane, Nene Park, Orton Waterville, Peterborough  
PE2 5UR

Tel: 01733 405850 Fax: 01733 394093

**For all other verge reserves contact:**

County Ecologist (John Comont)

Heritage and Environment Section, Bedfordshire County Council, County Hall, Cauldwell St  
Bedford MK42 9AP

Tel: 01234 228066 Fax: 01234228232

There follows a list of the current nature reserves and SSSIs in Bedfordshire.

District **Bedford Borough**

**Site:** **Bletsoe - Thurleigh** **Grid Reference:** **TL 030569 - 030591**

Location: Minor roads and cutting near RAE, Bedford

Special interest National priority habitat. An extensive area of very species rich grassland with an associated rich invertebrate fauna which has developed on the verges of a road system created during world war two. A national priority moth species has recently been noted breeding on scrub within the site A County Wildlife Site.

Management All flat areas require a full width cut in late August or early September each year with cut material removed. Earlier mowing for road safety reasons should be kept to the minimum needed but it is recognised that such mowing is necessary on a number of sectors of the reserve at important junctions. Cutting slopes require removal of a proportion of scrub each year to preserve a scrub/grass mosaic with grassland as the dominant component whilst preserving both young and mature scrub. Scrub regrowth is now very strong on the south facing cutting slope and will require immediate and regular intervention to prevent loss of species rich grassland. The scrub removal regime has lapsed for several years and must be reinstated and maintained annually  
Care is needed not to damage anthills on the cutting slopes. The hedges around the site may need occasional trimming.

Other considerations The site is well known in wildlife circles and is studied by naturalists specialising in a wide variety of disciplines. We tend not to know who is visiting the site until something goes wrong! The farmer of land to the northwest of the cutting is gradually encroaching on a very rich part of the verge despite attempts to explain the significance of the site. Cultivations are spreading onto the verge and machinery has been stored on the verge for months at a time. A physical barrier may be needed to stop further encroachment. The farmer to the northeast of the cutting occasionally flails scrub. Gypsies occasionally camp on the widest part of the verge for short periods but this does not appear to cause permanent damage.

**Site:** **Bromham Bypass** **Grid Reference** **SP993513 – T1005503**

Special interest Newly created national priority habitat. Five substantial blocks of cutting slopes sown with various wildflower mixtures in 1987 and subsequently managed annually to realise their wildlife potential.

Management Four of the blocks are open grassland which require mowing with all cut material removed from site in autumn. The fifth block is a grassland scrub mosaic which will require occasional scrub coppice or scrub removal.

Other considerations The site was one of the first wildflower sowing of the Department of Transport. It's development has been studied by a variety of ecologists most recently by students from de Montfort University during 2002. The unown sector of the reserve was subject to enhancement as common lizard habitat in 2003/04



**Site:** **RAE Tunnel site** **Grid Reference:** **TL 024542**

Location: Cutting on both sides of the private road from Clapham to RAE Tunnel site

Special interest Recently created national priority habitat. A good example of species rich neutral grassland on the cutting slopes

Management Annual full width cut in late August or early September with cuttings removed. Ensure that scrub does not invade the cutting slopes. Avoid damage to anthills on the slopes

Other considerations This is currently a private road and thus responsibility for management rests with the landowner, currently thought to be the owners of the RAE site.

**Site:** **South of Bushmead Cross** **Grid Reference:** **TL 110595**

Location: Both sides of minor road from Colmworth to Little Staughton

Special interest National priority habitat. A good example of species rich neutral grassland with strong orchid populations and a population of the nationally scarce Sulphur clover

Management Annual full width cut in late August or early September with cuttings removed. Scrub should be included in the flailing regime on the western verge. Any scrub that cannot be flailed on the western verge should be cut and the stumps killed. An area of scrub/grassland mosaic should be retained at the northern end of the eastern verge.

Other considerations The western verge has been damaged by the adjacent farmer dumping soil from the ditch on the site in the early 1990's. Indications are that it is beginning to recover well but the farmer is cultivating right up to the ditch edge and using an access across the verge thus spray drift and Unseasonal mowing could be a problem on the western verge

**Site:** **Stagsden Bypass** **Grid Reference:** **SP 984491**

Location: Both sides of Spring Lane exit to bypass, south of Spring Lane exit, along the bypass north of B560 around the balancing pond.

Special interest A substantial area of verge including a permanently flooded balancing pond and some areas seeded with wildflowers.

Management The verge and balancing pond should be allowed to develop without intervention. Such intervention as may be necessary for highway safety or to preserve drainage functions should respect the verge reserve status of the area.

Other considerations Local people were involved in growing and planting the wildflowers in both parts of the site and are protective towards it.

**Site:**                    **Stevington Turn**                                    **Grid Reference:**                    **SP978514**

Location                    North side of the A428 just west of a minor road to Stevington

Special interest        National priority habitat. A good example of a species rich neutral or slightly calcareous grassland. The site includes a substantial ditch and several poorly drained areas which add to the ecological value of the site.

Management            Vegetation growth on this verge affects visibility at a road junction and the first metre width of verge should be included in early summer visibility cutting regimes. The remainder of the verge should be subject to an annual full width cut, including that part of the verge distant from the road between the ditch and the field hedge, in late August or September. All cuttings to be removed. The ditch banks may also need to be flailed regularly to prevent blockage and colonisation by trees.

Other considerations    Repair of a major water main has caused recent disruption at this site.

**Site:**                    **Traylesfield Farm**                                    **Grid Reference:**                    **TL 053552**

Location:                    Both sides of unclassified road west of Ravensden Wood End

Special interest        National priority habitat. A good example of species rich neutral grassland with a population of Elecampane

Management            Annual full width cut of the verges on both sides of the road in late August or early September with cuttings removed. All scrub on the verges which is small enough should be cut with the flail. The western hedge should be trimmed back with a flail once every three years to prevent it spreading across and shading the verge.

Other considerations    Some restoration work to remove scrub occurred during 2001.

**Site:**                    **Upper Staploe**                                    **Grid Reference:**                    **TL 134597**

Location:                    Both sides of unclassified roads south of Duke's Spinney

Special interest        A wood edge and species rich grassland site with a strong population of the nationally scarce Bath asparagus.

Management            Annual full width cut in late August or early September with cuttings removed.

Other considerations    The Parish council are protective of this site. The adjacent farmer trims hedgerows annually and has hand trimmed the ditch banks in the past as at Honeydon.

**Site:** Wilden (B660 verges)                      **Grid Reference:** TL 081562 - 090575

**Location:** B660 Kimbolton Road. Three stretches between Shrubbery Lane and New Road

**Special interest** National priority habitat. An extensive area of species rich neutral to calcareous grassland. A County Wildlife Site.

**Management** Annual full width cut in late August or early September with cuttings removed. Road safety trimming to be kept to the minimum necessary. Grass cutting regime should include all young or small scrub. Occasional trimming of adjacent hedges may be needed. A section of this road verge at the junction with the road to Wilden will require some road safety visibility cutting early in the summer. The main part of this small section seems to regularly miss it's full width cut in late summer. It is important that this is reinstated

**Other considerations** The Wilden Parish council are protective towards the shrubbery lane part of the site. The remainder is outside the parish. Trees planted on the main part of the verge are becoming large and may be damaging the grassland interest.

District **Mid Bedfordshire**

**Site: A421/Marston Bypass Grid Reference SP 989410**

Location A wide verge where the bypass diverges from the original road into Marston Moretaine south of the village and a small area adjacent to a bridge over the road...

Special interest Areas seeded with wildflowers when the road was built

Management Cut for visibility purposes but otherwise no special management.

Other considerations The site is currently managed as part of the trunk road network by the Highways Agency. The wildlife value of the site needs further investigation as there are indications that it may no longer merit inclusion as a verge nature reserve.

**Site: Coopers Hill SSSI Grid Reference: TL 025375**

Location North of Station Road, along part of A507, along part of B530

Special interest Immediately adjacent to the SSSI and including similar habitat.

Management Consult Natural England before any management. No annual conservation management presently specified

Other considerations Natural England must be consulted if planning any action which could affect the SSSI. Much of the SSSI is owned by Ampthill Town Council and managed by the Wildlife Trust as a Local Nature Reserve. Both need to be included in any discussion of action which could impact on the site.

**Site: Deadman's Hill (part Maulden wood SSSI) Grid Reference TL 074392**

Location A6 both sides of Deadman's Hill next to Maulden wood. Parts of the western verge are within the Maulden Wood SSSI

Special interest National priority habitat. Flower rich neutral grassland including substantial populations of the scarce plant, sulphur clover.

Management Annual full width cut of the accessible grassland elements in late August or September. British Trust for Conservation Volunteers have worked annually for much of the 1990's to restore areas which cannot be flailed back to grassland. This annual scrub removal must continue. Woodland elements of the verge reserve require no intervention except for the management of trees which form a threat to road traffic by virtue of their condition.

Other considerations Natural England must be consulted if planning any action which could affect the SSSI

**Site:** **Flitwick Moor SSSI**                      **Grid Reference:**      **TL 044347**

Location:                      Narrow verge along Greenfield Road

Special interest      The verge is regarded as within this sensitive wetland SSSI

Management              Occasional trimming of the roadside hedge to avoid encroachment on the footpath and road.

Other considerations      Natural England should be consulted if planning any action which could affect the SSSI..

**Site:**                      **Ireland**    **Grid Reference TL 134405**

Location                      Eastern side of the minor road between Shefford and Ireland

Special interest      Species rich woodland flora beneath large oaks and scattered scrub. Probable remnant of ancient woodland flora.

Management              Occasional flailing to keep the scrub in check.

Other considerations      Neighbouring farmer probably keeps the scrub in check.

**Site**                      **Potton Church**    **Grid Reference:**      **TL 229495**

Location:                      North side of Hatley Road by Potton Church.

Special interest      National priority habitat. A species rich verge on sandy soils with a wide variety of species characteristic of the greensand ridge. The verge contains the only remaining strong British population of a rare snail – the cylindrical whorl snail.

Management              Clearance of encroaching scrub including ivy to maintain open sunny conditions has occurred in recent years. Regular road safety visibility flailing is expected at the western end of the site and along the roadside. This should not damage the ecology of the site provided no more is done than is necessary for road safety. The remainder of the site should be subject to a full width cut in late August or early September but cuttings should not be removed to avoid possible removal of rare snails. Trees were removed from this site progressively from 1998 onwards and flailing should include all young scrub to prevent this becoming a management problem in future.

Other considerations      The churchyard wall may need occasional repair, this needs to be very carefully handled. The Parish Council are protective of the site. The rare snails are subject of a biodiversity action plan.

**Site:** Pulloxhill Marsh SSSI **Grid Reference:** TL 056335

Location: Narrow verge alongside road

Special interest Immediately adjacent to the SSSI

Management Consult Natural England before any management. No annual conservation management presently specified

Other considerations Natural England should be consulted if planning any action which could affect the SSSI

**Site:** Rowney Warren **Grid Reference** TL128404

Location Northern side of the A600 on towards the eastern end of Rowney Warren

Special interest A population of greater broomrape at one of only two known locations in Bedfordshire.

Management The species is parasitic on broom so maintenance of clumps of broom at this location is essential.

Other considerations There is a risk that the adjacent farmer will encroach across the highway boundary. This boundary should be maintained. Greater broomrape is the subject of a biodiversity action plan endorsed by the County Council.

**Site:** Shefford-Henlow Bypass **Grid References:** TL 142383, 148381, 165375 &169378

Location: North side of bypass at four locations.

Special interest All areas were seeded with wildflowers when the bypass was constructed.

Management Annual full width cut in late August or early September with cuttings removed

Other considerations

**Site:** Warren wood **Grid Reference** TL082371

Location National priority habitat. A6, both sides of the road between Warren wood and Simpsonshill plantation

Special interest Flora characteristic of greensand soils and important invertebrate populations.

Management Annual full width cut in late August or September. Some scrub removal is needed occasionally at the southern end of the eastern verge.

Other considerations Periodically monitored by local naturalists and the scrub cover is now considered a threat to the quality of the site.

**Site:** Wavendon Heath Ponds SSSI **Grid Reference:** SP 931336

Location: Two parts of road near Longslade Cottages

Special interest The verge is immediately adjacent to the SSSI part of which is a particularly sensitive acid wetland community.

Management Consult Natural England before any management. No annual conservation management presently specified

Other considerations Natural England should be consulted if planning any action which could affect the SSSI.

District **South Bedfordshire**

**Site: Barton le Clay Bypass Grid Reference TL 075300**

Location Parts of the embankments on both sides of the road. The site abutts an SSSI at its southern end.

Special interest Newly created national priority habitat. A substantial area of steep embankment in the main with no topsoil applied to the chalk when the road was built in 1989/90. Much of the area was seeded with a variety of wildflower seed mixes.

Management No special action is needed at present.

Other considerations An SSSI abuts the southern end of the bypass and any action here would require the consent of Natural England.

**Site Fox Corner Grid Reference: SP 925290**

Location: Both sides of the A418 just north of Heath and Reach, beside and opposite to the turning to Stockgrove.

Special interest National priority habitat. Verges on sandy soils with a rich flora and invertebrate fauna.

Management Annual full width cut in late August or early September with cuttings removed. Remove at least 50% of the encroaching scrub on the eastern verge by gradual annual reduction. Trim hedges on the western verge to reduce encroachment. Leave some dead elm, if not a safety problem, as invertebrate habitat.

Other considerations

**Site: Houghton Regis cutting Grid Reference TL 005233**

Location Both sides of the A5 west of Houghton Regis

Special interest A massive steep sided cutting through the chalk with a rich flora.

Management No special management is currently required

Other considerations The site is currently managed by the Highways Agency as part of their trunk road management programme.

**Site: Kings and Bakers Wood - SSSI      Grid References: SP 923292 & 930293,**

Location: Along both sides of Brickhill Road and north side Woburn Road.

Special interest Parts of the SSSI have been declared a National Nature Reserve and are of great ecological and historic interest.

Management Hedges on the Woburn road may need to be regularly trimmed for road safety reasons. All trimming and flailing to be kept to the minimum necessary. Consult Natural England before any management.

Other considerations Natural England should be consulted if planning any action which could affect the SSSI. Parts of the site are managed by the County Council and the Wildlife Trust as a National Nature Reserve. Parts are managed by the County Council as a Country Park. There is considerable local interest in the site from the Parish Council and other local bodies. Extensive consultation is needed before any alteration to these verges

**Site: Nine Acre Pit - SSSI      Grid Reference: SP 943277**

Location: Along the side of Mile Tree Road

Special interest The verge is within the SSSI which is notified for its geological interest.

Management No annual conservation management presently specified

Other considerations Consult Natural England only if actions may affect the geological interest of the adjacent quarry.

**Site: Smithcombe, Sharpenhoe and Sundon Hills SSSI  
Grid References: TL 046288 & 065298**

Location: Along part of Sundon Road and Sharpenhoe Road.

Special interest National priority habitat. An area of calcareous grassland within the SSSI on both sides of the Sharpenhoe road. The verges along the Sundon road are regarded as adjacent to the SSSI. It is recognised that road safety visibility flailing will be needed from time to time.

Management Consult Natural England before any management. No annual conservation management presently specified

Other considerations Natural England should be consulted if planning any action which could affect the SSSI. The National Trust manage land adjacent to the eastern edge of Sharpenhoe road

**Site:** Sundon Chalk Quarry SSSI      **Grid Reference:** TL 041276

Location: Along road leading west out of Upper Sundon to the former waste disposal centre.

Special interest Immediately adjacent to the SSSI

Management Consult Natural England before any management. No annual conservation management presently specified

Other considerations Natural England should be consulted if planning any action which could affect the SSSI

**Site:** Totternhoe Chalk Quarry SSSI      **Grid Reference:** SP 982224

Location: Along both sides of unclassified or private track

Special interest The verge is within the SSSI and is part of the chalk grassland and chalk scrub community of the site.

Management Consult Natural England before any management. No annual conservation management presently specified

Other considerations Natural England should be consulted if planning any action which could affect the SSSI

**Site:** Totternhoe Knolls SSSI:      **Grid Reference** SP 977220

Location: Along Castle Hill Road.

Special interest The verge is immediately adjacent to the SSSI.

Management Consult Natural England before any management. No annual conservation management presently specified

Other considerations Natural England should be consulted if planning any action which could affect the SSSI

**Site:** Well Head      **Grid Reference:** SP 999204

Location: Cutting on east side of B489 south of Dunstable

Special interest Newly created national priority habitat. A species rich flora has developed on the chalk slopes left when the road was widened.

Management Remove up to 25% of scrub to keep an open scrub/grassland mosaic. Pay particular attention to removing sycamore where this has invaded the site. Cut sycamore stumps to be poisoned. Regularly intervene to cut scrub and kill some stumps to create a scrub/grass mosaic at various stages of development.

Other considerations