



Ms Susan Davis

request-9422-b17fd762@whatdotheyknow.com

Your ref:

Our ref:
Fol/09/00344

Date:
8 April 2009

Dear Ms Davis

Road verges: Ecological protection scheme

Thank you for your email of 15 March 2009 requesting information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 about the ecological protection of road verges. Transport Scotland is the government agency with responsibility for the management, development, operation and maintenance of the Scottish trunk road network. This network covers much of mainland Scotland and is approximately 3,400 km long. All other roads are managed by the relevant local authority.

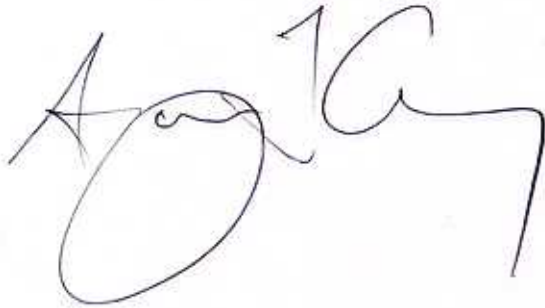
Transport Scotland recognises the importance of the trunk road verge in terms of its contribution to Scotland's biological diversity. Those responsible for the design and delivery of new interventions within the trunk road network, as well as those who undertake the management and maintenance of the existing soft estate, are required to take due cognisance of the value of this ecological resource in the development of plans and programmes, particularly in relation to any designated sites.

Transport Scotland does not operate a specific ecological protection scheme for road verges but does require consultants and contractors to follow the guidance in the agency's landscape design and management policy document, [Cost Effective Landscape: Learning from Nature](#). In addition, part of the remit of the Operating Companies, who undertake the maintenance of the trunk road on behalf of Transport Scotland, is to identify and record areas of ecological importance as they develop their maintenance strategies for the routes under their responsibility. As long as the variation does not impact on the safety of road users, this provides the opportunity to adjust the timing and/or extent of the specified maintenance operations for that area in order to safeguard the ecological resource.

Transport Scotland is also in the process of developing a Geographical Information System to record and manage the trunk road soft estate and this will provide a greater level of refinement in the identification and protection of areas of high ecological value within the trunk road boundary.

I hope this information is helpful. If you are unhappy with this response to your request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review by writing to Mr David Middleton, Chief Executive, Transport Scotland, Buchanan House, 58 Port Dundas Road, Glasgow G4 0HF. Your request should explain why you wish a review to be carried out and should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter. We will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If you are not satisfied with the result of the review, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angus Corby', written in a cursive style.

Angus Corby
Landscape Advisor

Cost Effective Landscape: Learning from Nature
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library/docs-l/lld-00.htm>