

**A new approach to highway verge  
management in Dorset**

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# Highway verges: understanding the system

Water

Light



Soil nutrients

Temperature

# Nutrients and highway verges



**High nutrients**



**Low nutrients**

# Cut and collect – early stages



# Cut and collect – a few years on



Pyramidal Orchid on the Blandford bypass

# Wildflower verge trials



# If you build it, they will come...



A cutting on the Weymouth relief road: opened in 2012, the verges have since been colonised by Adonis Blue and Small Blue butterflies

# Meet the team...



Scrub clearance on the A37, winter 2016: the first bit of management this verge has needed since it was created in 1995

# Meet the new verge maintenance team...



L to R: Flossy, Ewe-gine, Ram-say, B-a-a-arbara etc etc

# Barriers: 'we've always done it like this...'



Blandford bypass 'restored' after utility works: a setback in the war on topsoil!

# Changing public perceptions/expectations

## A selection of compliments from summer 2016:

*'From sceptical to spectacle...When the seeds began to grow it looked messy and untidy and I was a bit worried that it wouldn't improve. How wrong was I! The area is a sight to behold – beautiful. Well done and thank you.'*

*'Beautiful. A master stroke of inventiveness. Wild flowers to brighten the day and hopefully save council costs. Just one thing – can I buy a few packets of the seed mix?'*

*'My daughters and I took a short walk from our house to look at the verges we'd noticed whilst in the car. They were absolutely beautiful, so much wildlife enjoying them. I hope this is something that continues in our community as it's fantastic for all generations to enjoy.'*