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Ufd82. Little Chesterford Verges (0.33 ha) TL 519418 to TL 520406

These three sections of road verge comprise part of an Essex County Council protected Roadside Verge UTT24b. They support an important chalk grassland flora, which includes Wild Liquorice (*Astragalus glycyphyllos**), Small Scabious (*Scabiosa columbaria*), Greater Knapweed (*Centaurea scabiosa**), Wild Basil (*Clinopodium vulgare*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Restharrow (*Ononis repens*), Common Broomrape (*Orobanche minor**) and Hoary Plantain (*Plantago media*).

The northernmost section includes grassland recreated on the route of the former road, which was diverted when the Chesterford Park access road roundabout was constructed. The soil came from the section of verge disrupted by this road realignment. The northernmost section of the current road verge, reprofiled during the recent junction improvement works, supports a large population of the Essex Red Data Listed Hawkweed Ox-tongue (*Picris hieracioides**), along with a few plants of Wild Liquorice, and frequent Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*).

LoWS Selection Criteria: HCr15, SCr15

Condition and Management Issues: Appropriate mowing regimes for roadside verges are a perennial problem. This, and all other protected or interesting verges need managing as grassland, not just trimmed as a highway fringe. Nutrient enrichment is likely to be a long-term trend.

Date of first designation: 1994

Date of last revision: 30/09/2007