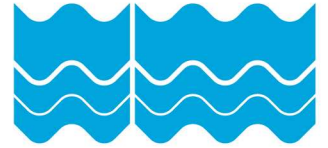


East Sussex Highways

Fact Sheet | ESH 02



Grass cutting – urban and rural

Why do we cut the grass?

East Sussex Highways is responsible for cutting highway verges so the public can use the roads and pavements safely. We cut around 560 hectares (1,381 acres) of grass each year. This includes verges in residential areas, rural verges and areas at road junctions.

Grass cutting in urban areas

We cut grass on verges, roundabouts and traffic islands in built-up areas. We currently cut the grass in urban areas five times a year, generally between March – October.

Grass cutting in rural areas

We cut grass in rural areas to make sure other traffic, pedestrians and road signs can be seen. In rural areas we cut grass twice a year, sometimes more if the length of grass could affect road safety.

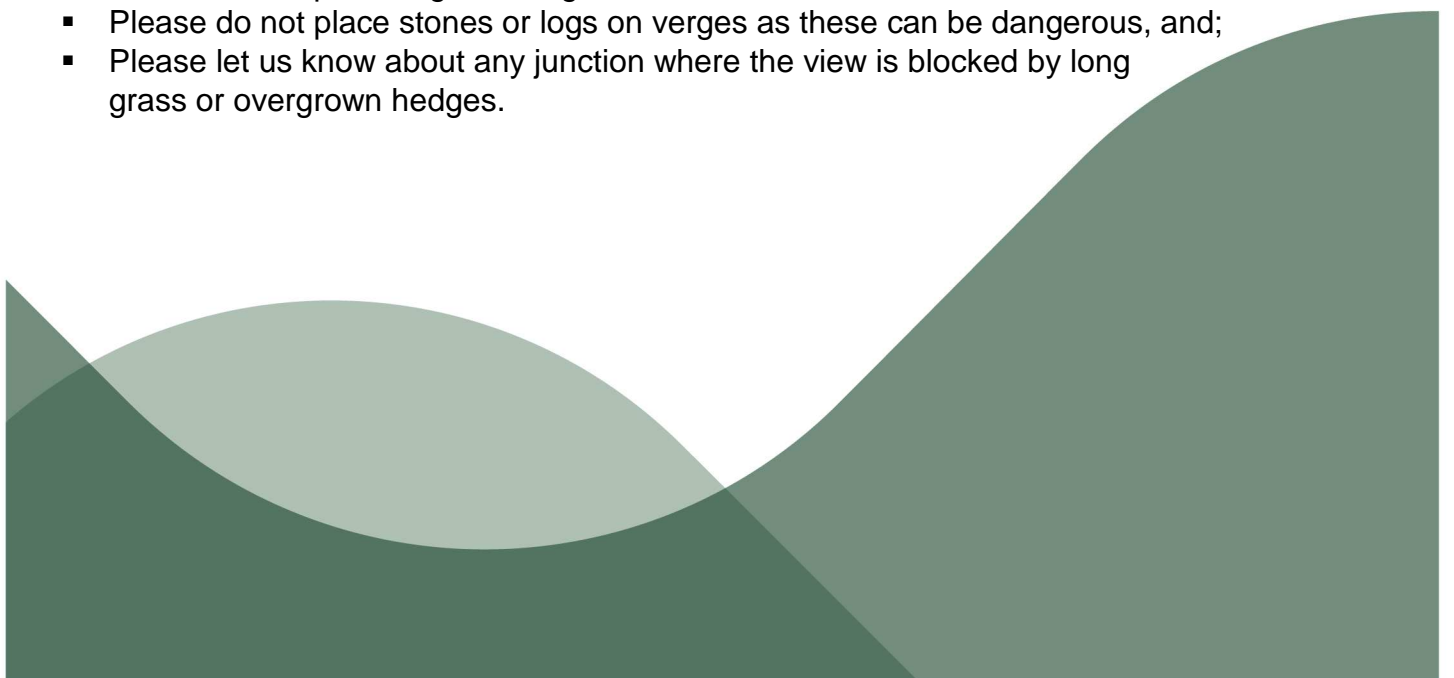
Roadside verges in the county provide a habitat for many rare species, some of which are identified as areas of 'special botanical interest'. We will not cut these areas between 1 March and the end of August so that plants can flower. In the autumn we will cut the verges to remove the deadheads and help spread the seeds.

It is important to cut verges in rural areas regularly to:

- Provide drivers with clear visibility, particularly at junctions;
- Prevent grass overhanging roads and pavements, and
- Keep road signs visible.

How you can help us

- Please do not park on grass verges;
- Please do not place stones or logs on verges as these can be dangerous, and;
- Please let us know about any junction where the view is blocked by long grass or overgrown hedges.



Grass cutting – urban and rural

Your questions answered

Q. Why are grass clippings not removed from the cut area?

A. The clippings are relatively short and rot down quickly, which slows down re-growth. Raking up, loading, transporting and disposal of grass cuttings would increase the cost by twelve times.

Q. Do you cut grass in all rural areas?

A. No. For example, we will not cut steep slopes and embankments unless they are directly next to a road. We will cut the verge next to a pavement where this verge is considered to be part of the highway.

Q. I have a grass verge outside my property which I like to maintain myself. Is there anything I should do about this?

A. We are aware that some people like to cut the grass near their home. You should be aware of the possible risk of injury to yourself, passing pedestrians and traffic. For more information, please contact us.

How to contact us

You can get more information about our services and view our series of fact sheets, by visiting our website, or by contacting our East Sussex Highways Contact Centre.

Phone: 0345 60 80 193 (calls charged at the local rate)

Fax: 01273 482955

E-mail: highways@eastsussex.gov.uk

Website: eastsussex.gov.uk

Report a fault online: eastsussex.gov.uk/fault

All our fact sheet leaflets are available in large print, Braille, on audio tape, on CD or in other languages. Please let us know if you would like any of these services by calling our East Sussex Highways Contact Centre on 0345 60 80 193. Leaflets are also available in PDF format which you can download from our website at eastsussex.gov.uk/highways