



Safety Alert

Items left in Verges

18 June 2021

The following pages of this safety alert were issued by:

Bear Scotland



Items left in Verges

No 414

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There have been several incidents over the past few years where vehicles have been damaged due to items being ejected or caught in machinery when cutting grass along the verges. This could have serious consequences for the operatives cutting the grass and for members of the public travelling on the network, who could potentially be struck by flying debris.

Items that are causing damage range from a metal clip from a ratchet strap to sign frames and redundant post foundations



Recently when an operative was strimming the grass on the roadside verge, there was a bottle lying in the grass. When the Operative went to move the bottle, they felt a sudden pain in their hand and noticed an Adder nearby. The Operative was driven straight to hospital where they received an anti-venom injection for the bite.



We have also had instances when Operatives have been walking along the verge and they have stepped into old post holes which has been left exposed and not infilled correctly after being removed through previous works. Luckily their injuries were not of a serious nature.

Action to be taken:

- It is important that all equipment and materials are uplifted from the verges at the end of each shift to make sure the area is safe for any grass cutting activities or inspections that may follow on.
- Anyone who walks along the network as part of their job, are asked to be vigilant and identify any materials in the verge that could be a danger and place them to the side and inform Supervisors to ensure they are picked up as soon as possible.

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Safety