



The Milestone Society

**MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF
ROADSIDE HERITAGE ASSETS (RHAs) – Advice note**

In liaison with the Milestone Society (MSoc), a Management Plan for RHAs was produced by URS on behalf of the Department for Transport (DfT) in 2013 for inclusion in the Service section of future tender documents for highways asset management contracts as follows:

SI 227 Roadside Heritage Assets

The Milestone Society champions the finding, researching, protection and welfare of milestones, boundary and mark stones, mounting blocks, butter crosses, obelisks, old cast iron signs and fingerposts (collectively called Roadside Heritage Assets or RHA's) in liaison with local council Historic Environment Records Teams and English Heritage.

Descriptions and locations of RHA's are held by the Council, and the Milestone Society obtains and keeps detailed records of RHA's on its website at <http://www.milestonesociety.co.uk>

Where Assets are listed buildings the duties and responsibilities of the Council and Service Provider will be subject to additional considerations such as those contained in the Memorandum of Understanding of May 2011 between the Highways Agency and English Heritage, and in planning and conservation legislation.

The Service Providers staff, operatives and sub-contractors must fully acquaint themselves and be aware of the location of all Roadside Heritage Assets (milestones, boundary/mark stones, old finger posts, bench marks, cast iron indicators etc.) on the road network within the Affected Property by means of database material and photographs obtained from (or provided by) the local authority Historic Environment Records (HER) team and from the Milestone Society.

Where works are required as part of the Contract that affect RHA's, either as part of the general Service Provision or as part of a Task Order, the Service Provider shall undertake works in accordance with guidance published by the Milestone Society.

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URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Ltd

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URS

United Kingdom

In the event, DfT decided that this clause, and the care and maintenance of RHAs should not be included in asset management contracts, but left as a responsibility of the Local Highways Authorities.

Notwithstanding this DfT decision, by a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 2011 between English Heritage (EH) and the Highways Agency (HA), all Highways Authorities have a moral (rather than a legal) obligation to uphold a government objective “to conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance”.

Although some milestones (and particularly mileposts) are stolen or damaged in Road Traffic Collisions, anecdotal evidence indicates that most damage is caused accidentally by the passage of hedge or verge maintenance equipment. The damage is often unnoticed for some time resulting in the asset being lost or becoming beyond economic repair.

Although MSoc has prepared (in collaboration with EH) detailed Conservation Guidance for Milestones (see <http://www.milestonesociety.co.uk> and follow the link) it is considered that an additional short practical **Model Management Plan** for highway engineers will assist in reducing the extent of accidental damage and in increasing the chances of detection of damage when it occurs.

Pending a formal policy from DfT, it is recommended that the **Model Management Plan** is used as a provisional template and method statement for the surveillance, repair and maintenance of RHAs by all engineers working for Highway Authorities.

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