PRESERVATION OF MILEPOSTS

1. Stones or posts marking mileages on highways are important indications of historic development, especially for the turnpike age, and the Secretary of State is anxious that they should be preserved wherever considerations of cost or practical difficulties of siting do not rule this out. He therefore asks that the following points should be borne in mind by his agent authorities in dealing with works on trunk roads and by local highway authorities on other roads.

2. Stones and posts should be retained on their original sites wherever possible. If a post has to be moved because of highway widening or for traffic purposes it should, if physically possible, be re-set at the same distance point but further back from the road centre. The advice given in the Traffic Signs Manual should be followed when re-locating mileposts. If a diversion by-passes the highway at a milepost point, the post should be retained on the original alignment if this is practicable. In cases of extensive redevelopment at the site of a milepost, the possibility of retaining the post and including it in the new development should be considered. Should there be some reason, such as redevelopment which obliterates the highway or a risk of vandalism, which compels removal of the post entirely, the owners should be asked to offer it to a local museum or other custody for preservation.

3. Museums and local preservation societies may be interested to make and keep photographic records of historic mileposts, whether threatened or not. It is suggested that in any case where a milepost will be removed by road works, such local interests should be invited to record it for posterity before removal.

4. It is the policy to schedule mileposts only if they are the best examples of their type. Scheduled posts are protected under the Ancient Monuments Acts and must not be altered or moved without prior reference to the Ancient Monuments Secretariat in the Department of the Environment. Mileposts have also been protected by listing under section 54 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 and preceding legislation. Local highway authorities must consult the relevant local planning authority in cases where listed mileposts are affected.

5. Any enquiries about this Circular should be made to DOE, HM2a at Marsham Street, London (telephone 01-2128514). Distribution enquiries should be made to Highways Manual Branch at Marsham Street (telephone 01-2124944).
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