

Guidance on Conservation of Milestones & Other Waymark Features
Milestone Society
Appendix 2 - Generic Risk Assessment for Roadside Work on Milestones

- **This Assessment is intended for use by members of The Milestone Society when cleaning, renovating or repainting milestones.**
- **Control Measures should be systematically checked before each visit to the work area.**
- **There may be site-specific risks, not covered by this generic assessment; these must be assessed at each location.**

This Assessment has been completed for; work on; over the period;	
Assessment made by; Additional site specific issues noted;	

Note restriction; This Generic assessment applies only when work is wholly on the verge, excavation limited to area immediately beside the milestone in order to straighten it and no open excavation left unattended. Specific training and a site-specific risk assessment may be required if work is undertaken beyond the scope of these restrictions

GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENT FOR WORK ON A MILESTONE								
Task Element	Hazard and harmful effect	Initial risk level			Control measures to reduce likelihood	Controlled risk level to Individual		
		Severity	Like- lihood	Risk level		Severity	Like- lihood	Risk level
1. Driving to site	Other road users Road traffic accident and injury	3	2	6 H	Follow Highway Code Check the survey report on the milestone for contextual information Separate tasks of looking for milestone and finding a parking space (do not get distracted)	3	1	3 M
2. Parking vehicle close to site	Parking beside the public highway Road traffic accident and injury	3	2	6 H	Based on a site visit, identify in advance a safe parking place, which is off the carriageway and will allow for unloading and long term parking of the vehicle used to transport equipment. Where possible park on same side of road as site. Observe Crossing code if necessary.	3	1	3 M

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3. Roadside Working (note that this assessment only applies to work wholly on verge – a site specific assessment must be made in conjunction with Highways if work requires or is likely to result in working access over the verge edge or onto the road surface or is obstructing a pedestrian footpath.)	Working close to traffic and equipment. Personal injury or inducing accident by others	3	2	6 H	If the milestone is less than 5m from the road edge, place “Man at Work” Hazard triangle beside road facing oncoming traffic and a similar “End” sign after work area (50m warning in 40mph zone, 100m warning in open country) If stone is less than 2 metres from the road edge, erect hazard barrier on edge of verge to define a safe work space (e.g. place cones or posts with hazard tape on roadside edge of working area). No activity or items to cross onto the carriageway Wear high visibility jacket. Keep work area clear of obstacles Clear overhanging hedges and vegetation from adjoining verge to improve visibility and access. Carry a mobile phone to summon help	3	1	3 M
4. Unloading vehicle and carrying equipment to site	Manual handling Musculoskeletal and minor injuries	2	2	4 M	Manual handling risk assessment of weight, distance etc before beginning (plan well)	2	1	2 L
5. General outdoor site work	Working at an exposed location Sunstroke, dehydration, hypothermia	3	2	6 H	Assess weather before site visit. Wear head cover in summer and warm, rainproof clothes in winter. Carry drinking water Monitor conditions constantly Carry a mobile phone to summon help	3	1	3 M

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6. Removing tall or woody vegetation	Damaging plants or habitat of special local importance	2	2	4 M	Check for “special verge identification” tags or studs close by – do no work in special areas Minimise clearance of low herbaceous plants (remove the larger woody and coarse plants) Do not remove any unusual plants or flowers Limit clearance to an area needed to make the stone visible	2	1	2 L
	Endangering local animal life	2	2	4 M	Check adjoining hedges for nests, banks for evidence of badger sets or reptile activity and ditches for amphibians – leave undisturbed Remove cut bracken from roadside Take away all items brought to site Place any “found litter” in a bag for removal from site	2	1	2 L
7. Clearing area around Milestone	Injury from cutting trees and vegetation Eye injury, knock from falling branches, collateral damage to others Damage to roadside services	3	3	6 H	Wear eye protection and gauntlets and bump hat if trees involved Inspect area and assess consequences before cutting Cut off small sections that will fall onto verge Clear debris before beginning other tasks Check for services running on hedge line both above and below ground	3	1	3 M

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8. Excavating around milestone (this assessment only applies when the excavation is immediately adjacent to the stone and goes no lower than the base of the stone. If excavations are needed to relocate the stone, additional site-specific assessment are needed regarding location of services)	Manual handling of digging tool Musculoskeletal and minor injuries	2	2	4 M	Manual handling risk assessment Appropriate manning levels Dynamic risk assessment	2	1	2 L
	Tool contact with underground services Electrocution, gas explosion or leak Damage to buried service pipes, cables or fibres	3	2	6 H	Only excavate close to the stone, restricting depth to no more than the base of the stone and limited radially to the minimum needed to straighten the stone. Do not use a fork or bar during excavation Inspect for service indicator signs and indications of probable run of pipes to properties or cables/fibres running along verge. If in doubt do not excavate. Be alert to warning tape buried above services Pre-plan activity & practice Dynamic risk assessment	3	1	3 M
9. Tripping or falling on disturbed ground		2	1	2 L	Clear area before starting work If any excavation beside the stone is needed, fill in and tamp down soil in any holes as soon as possible and certainly restore soil before leaving the site	1	1	1 L
10. Lifting a sunken milestone	Accident by other road users Vehicles crash	3	2	6 H	Use manual labour where possible – Use of mechanical equipment will need site specific assessment and probably local Authority consultation Keep working area clear	3	1	3 M
11. Raising a sunken milestone	Manual handling Musculoskeletal and minor injuries	3	2	6 H	Rock and lever the stone, avoid direct lifting Have adequate manning levels Wear Safety boots	3	1	3 M

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12. Using cleaning agents and paints	Splashes of chemicals on clothes or exposed body. Discomfort, soreness or burns from chemicals Exposure to hazardous dust (e.g. lead or silica)	3	2	6 H	Follow instructions given by manufacturers. If paint stripper is to be used, Conduct a COSHH assessment and follow actions arising from this on use and disposal of materials identified as harmful or flammable. Wear plastic gloves and goggles where appropriate Carry water container to douse affected areas Carry waste containers for used items Wear a dust mask when abrading old metal work or sanding siliceous materials.	2	1	2 L
13. Taking item off-site for restoration work	Manual handling Musculoskeletal and minor injuries	3	2	6 H	Plan the task - Manual handling risk assessment of weight, distance etc before beginning Have adequate manning levels Wear gloves and protect vehicle from scratches	3	1	3 M
14. Recording and photographing results	Stepping off the verge Road traffic accident	3	1	3 M	Decide viewing position before beginning to use camera etc Keep work area clear	3	0.3	1 L

Version 6.1
Prepared by Alan Rosevear
11th Dec 2009.