



Protecting Woodland Archaeological Features

The Chiltern Woodlands Project, with the support of the Chilterns Conservation Board and the Forestry Commission has produced this as a reminder to owners, managers and contractors the importance of archaeological features in the Chilterns Woodlands. Your comments are appreciated.

To help protect and conserve these features:-

- Identify features on the ground before you start felling.
- Remember - avoid damage to any features that have been pointed out to you.
- It is an offence to damage scheduled monuments!
- Mark off sensitive areas with hazard tape or temporary Heras fencing.
- Always keep to agreed extraction routes and stacking areas.
- Use only the equipment and machinery agreed in any contract with the owners.
- Avoid crossing BANKS AND DITCHES with heavy machinery except at agreed points.
- Protect sensitive features, such as old tracks and ditches, with brash mats etc where they have to be crossed.
- Stop work if weather conditions deteriorate, ie if it gets too wet.
- Avoid damage by machinery to any PITS (large or small).
- Do not fill or excavate any PITS (large or small) with material, unless work is agreed.
- Keep fencing design to the landform ie fence outside boundary banks and ditch lines - do not straighten out by crossing features.
- Avoiding planting into archaeological remains such as banks.
- If you discover features or artefacts get advice / consult!
- Treasure Act (1996) requires certain finds to be reported and the Portable Antiquities Scheme helps identify and record objects - contact the County Museum for more information. (See www.finds.org.uk)
- Record exactly where you find any objects in case further investigation is needed.

VETERAN TREES, ANCIENT COPPICE AND OLD HEDGES are all important features of the historic landscape and should be retained where possible. They should be managed sensitively - get expert advice.

PROTECTING WOODLAND ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES

A reminder for... owners, managers and contractors

Ancient woods in the Chilterns are likely to contain features of archaeological interest that help explain the history of the wood. They should be assessed and surveyed before any work starts.

Remember - not all archaeological features are visible. Some are important and can easily be damaged by machinery or other changes of use. Many features in woods have not been identified, surveyed and recorded. Check for scheduled monuments.

above: sawpit
below: hollow way
bottom: boundary bank

'Make sure you don't destroy hundreds of years of history'