



Sustainable Management of Historic Heritage Guidance

Information Sheet 6

Model Heritage Rules for RMA Regional¹ and District Plans (Historic Sites)

The effectiveness of rules for historic sites depends on the quality of location information in the plan. As with all heritage places and areas listed in the regional or district plans, the setting of historic sites should be defined. This setting should incorporate a buffer area to safeguard the site from adjacent inappropriate development. Establishing a setting will require consideration of each site and its geographical and geological features on a case-by-case basis.

Best practice rules relating to archaeological sites are based on the assumption that small archaeological sites are located on planning maps to within 15 metres and large sites or areas are displayed as an area with at least a 10 metre buffer zone. To obtain this level of accuracy, it will have been necessary for the local authority to have obtained up to date information from the New Zealand Archaeological Association Upgrade Project and further specialist professional advice about site extent, and for this information to be incorporated in plan maps.

If archaeological sites can only be assumed to be located to within about 100 metres, the rule should be modified accordingly to state that land disturbance should not take place within 100 metres of any archaeological site recorded by the New Zealand Archaeological Association, unless an archaeologist has inspected the site and advised that it will not be affected.

If the site is also an archaeological site, integration with archaeological authority processes under the Historic Places Act 1993 is an important consideration when assessing effects involving historic sites. The NZHPT should be contacted in the early stages of a proposal as an archaeological authority from the NZHPT may be required.

¹ For regional coastal plans, see Guide No. 2 *Regional Plans* and information sheet No. 23

**NZHPT Best Practice Guidance - Rules for Regional and District Plans
Listed Historic Places (Sites)**

Activity	Consent Status	
	Group A: Nationally significant historic places	Group B: Places of heritage value and significance
Maintenance	Permitted with performance standards (or controlled)	Permitted with performance standards (or controlled)
Erection of a new sign obstructing a listed historic site or within the setting of a listed historic site	Restricted discretionary	Restricted discretionary
Subdivision of land containing or affecting a listed historic site	Discretionary	Discretionary
Land disturbance (including repairs) within the setting of a historic site	Non-complying	Discretionary
Destruction of a historic site	Non-complying-prohibited	Non-complying

Source: NZHPT, *Sustainable Management of Historic Heritage Guidance Series*, Guide No.3 District Plans, 3 August 2007

The NZHPT welcomes any feedback and comments on this information sheet.

Comments can be provided to information@historic.org.nz. (Attention: Sustainable Heritage Guidance)