

7.1 Archaeological Features

Definition: to date, 15,500 historic monuments and archaeological features have been identified in Northern Ireland; all of these are unique and irreplaceable. If an archaeological feature is present, management requires that the area around the feature is protected from damaging farming practices. This 'protection zone' will normally extend **ten** metres immediately surrounding the feature, but in some cases may be further – refer to the farm management plan for further information.

Aims: to protect and maintain sites which are vulnerable to farming practices by restricting damaging operations and implementing positive management such as scrub control, if required.

Biodiversity objectives: to protect and conserve archaeological features.

Management requirements

- Cultivation, ploughing, reseeded, drainage, any ground disturbance or removal of any material is not permitted.
- Fertilisers, slurry, farmyard manure, sewage sludge, herbicides, lime, insecticides, pesticides, sheep dip, fungicides, or application of any other material, are not permitted.
- Archaeological features must not be used for supplementary feeding sites or the storage of any material such as round bale silage or hay.
- Dumping and burning is not permitted.
- Operation of tractors and other agricultural machinery is not permitted.
- New lanes or access routes are not permitted.
- No poaching within the protected area.
- Eroded areas must be repaired by filling with a mixture of sharp stone, sand and then reseeded.
- Spreading scrub/trees must be controlled by hand cutting.
- Additional specific management requirements, which may be provided by the Environment and Heritage Service, Built Heritage, must be followed.

Further advice:

Grazing is permitted within the protected area and grass cover must be maintained on and around the archaeological feature. Farm access tracks should, where possible, be re-routed away from archaeological sites. Dead, dying or unstable trees should be cut down before they fall. They should then be cut into pieces and removed from the site for disposal elsewhere.

Large tree trunks must not be dragged along the ground in the protected area. Uprooted trees should be cut into pieces and removed from the site. The remaining root plate should then be replaced into the existing root depression. Further information on scrub control is given Appendix IV.

Management plans are provided for
participants in the
**Environmentally Sensitive Areas and
Countryside Management Schemes**

