

Guidance for Logging Jobs in Lyme

The Town of Lyme places great value on historic features such as cellar holes and stone walls. Before beginning a logging job, search your property carefully to find and map cellar holes and other foundations, wells, stone walls, or grave sites. Damage to historic sites is rarely intentional; most often it is accidental and occurs when operators do not know the site locations or their value.

- ☛ **Flag the historic site *and a protective buffer* around it.**
Show the contractor and crew the locations of all historic features within cutting areas. Discuss protection measures with all who will work on the site before harvesting begins.
- ☛ **Avoid piling or burning slash in or near cellar holes.**
Filling a cellar hole with slash creates a trap for wildlife and people walking in the area. On property open for public recreation, such a hazard could leave the property owner unprotected by New Hampshire liability coverage if someone is hurt by falling in the hole.
- ☛ **Avoid damage to stone walls and culverts.**
If stone walls must be crossed, use existing openings where possible. Limit the number of crossings, and cut out only the minimum width needed. Store the removed stone next to the wall so it can be replaced later. Avoid skidding over a stone-faced culvert, or use a deck to cover it, if necessary. Stone walls marking property boundaries may not be removed because they serve a legal purpose. RSA 472:6 limits the removal or alteration of boundary markers including stone walls.
- ☛ **Protect trees that are part of an old homestead.**
Flag trees such as paired maples that were planted in dooryards or plantings such as lilacs to protect them during harvesting or road building.
- ☛ **Plan operations near an historic site in advance.**
Decide with your forester and contractor whether special equipment or directional felling are needed to work near the site. Decide if a restricted log length is needed to protect certain areas, or just reserve the right to restrict log lengths. If a tree must be removed even though it is close to an historic feature (such as a rock-lined well), consider using fabric mats to cover the feature and/or using small equipment or horses to winch logs away from the site to minimize disturbance.
- ☛ **Place landings, yards, skid trails, and access roads away from historic features.** Use pre-existing skid trails and woods roads whenever possible.
- ☛ **Contact the Lyme Historians for an inventory of your historic site.**

For more information:

Stonewalls & Cellarholes: A Guide for Landowners on Historic Features and Landscapes in Vermont's Forests. Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, Waterbury, VT 1994.

or contact the Lyme Historians (795-2508).

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