



ARCHAEOLOGY 2030: A STRATEGIC APPROACH FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

**WE WANT ARCHAEOLOGY TO BE
ACCESSED AND VALUED BY AS
MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE, LED
BY A SECTOR WHICH IS HEALTHY,
RESILIENT AND CONNECTED.**

Foreword

History resonates in Northern Ireland. Our connection with the past is both strong and fluid, and our understanding of it is based on the landscapes around us today, and the historic sites and environments from different periods in the past.



Archaeology is defined as the study of people and societies of the past through examination of the material remains they left behind. We believe that archaeology is for everyone; that it offers a range of opportunities to participate, enjoy and learn about our heritage. Archaeology can help to underpin our understanding of our people and communities; it can help create unique places; it contributes to our economy and well-being.

The narratives of our past are important and worth telling, and it is clear that people from Northern Ireland and around the world want to hear about our heritage, visit our important sites and get actively involved in preserving, enjoying and benefitting from our archaeological assets. This document therefore sets out a strategic approach and recommendations as to how we, as a society, develop our engagement with, and understanding of, our archaeology.

Archaeology 2030: A Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland was drafted in 2019, and predates the emergence of COVID-19. We recognise that, as well as the immediate impacts of the Coronavirus at the time of publishing in 2020, there are likely to be longer-lasting and wide-ranging effects which will need to be taken into consideration as the recommendations of this document are taken forward.

Having a strategic vision provides us with a strong basis for the future, and it is more important now than ever that we work together to achieve our vision: **We want archaeology to be accessed and valued by as many people as possible, led by a sector which is healthy, resilient and connected.**

Iain Greenway

Chair of the Way Forward for Archaeology in NI Steering Group

Steering Group Members during the development of this document

Prof. Gabriel Cooney, until January 2019 Chair of the Historic Monuments Council

Audrey Gahan, from February 2019 Chair of the Historic Monuments Council

Colin Dunlop, until March 2019 Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, and since then Historic Environment Division

Lianne Heaney, Northern Archaeological Consultancy Ltd

Caroline Nolan, Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership

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Cover Image: Archaeological Investigation at Dunluce Castle, Co. Antrim © Crown Copyright HED

Image left: Aerial photograph of Carn tree ring and the Boho valley, Co. Fermanagh © Crown Copyright HED

Section 1: Context and Objectives

Introduction

'We are the product of our history. The hill forts, cairns and passage tombs of prehistory; the ruins of ancient monasteries and early churches; the farm houses and low stone walls built into the landscape; the functional red brick terraces and mills; the Georgian spires and Victorian edifices presiding over our towns. Each tells a part of our story.'

(Heritage Delivers: Treasure the Past, Enrich the Future, 2018, <https://niheritagedelivers.org/>)

The remains of the past are all around us, and our society comes into contact with them every day, in many different ways. It includes seeing the landmarks that dot our towns and countryside and give us our sense of 'home', to the traces of ancient settlements that are unearthed in new-build developments. It can be the actions of a farmer safeguarding a monument on the family land for another generation; or the exploration and discovery of the young at school or the young at heart out for a walk, engaging with archaeology for the first time or in new ways.

This document is the collaborative product of four cross-sectoral working groups, co-ordinated by a steering group, and involved people from a wide range of disciplines working in, or related to archaeology. Convened as 'The Way Forward for Archaeology in Northern Ireland', the aim was to conduct a review of the current position of archaeology here, and through a series of workshops, survey and dialogue, to develop a sector-wide, strategic approach, with recommendations for the future.

In this document we have used the term archaeology in its widest possible sense. As well as buried archaeological remains and upstanding historic monuments it includes our industrial, defence and maritime heritage and historic gardens sites. Archaeology also involves a range of activities – the most obvious of which may be excavation. However, it also encompasses surveying, recording, managing, maintaining, protecting, conserving, archiving, licensing and regulating activities, and developing and implementing policies and procedures which ensure that our heritage sites are passed on to future generations in the best condition they can be.



Aerial view of the industrial mill complex at Cloughmills, Co. Antrim © NAC Ltd.



Visitors to the Ulster Museum, Belfast © NMNI

Within our society there are many groups, frequently overlapping, that engage with archaeology:

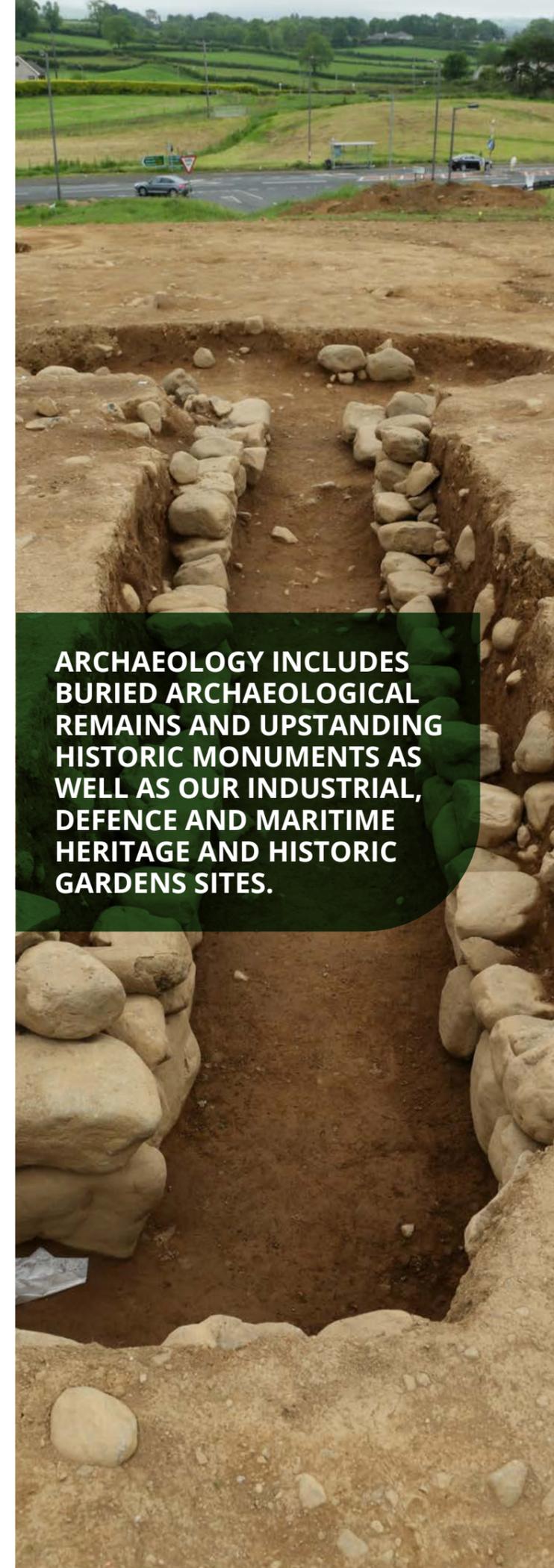
Government is tasked with the recording, conservation and protection of our heritage assets. It also has responsibility for the care of important archives through bodies such as the Public Record Office Northern Ireland (PRONI) and the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland (HERoNI), and the curation of artefact collections, primarily through local and national museums.

The archaeology of Northern Ireland is taught and researched in both of our **universities** and it also features in the **school curriculum**.

In the past 20 years there has been a considerable increase in the number of archaeological excavations conducted in Northern Ireland, with the majority undertaken by **commercial archaeological companies**. This is partially as a result of changes in land-use, including increased **infrastructure delivery** and construction work by **commercial developers**, but is also due to a growing appreciation of how archaeology was being impacted by this development and the threat that without archaeological investigation and recording this unique resource of information about our collective past would be lost.

Image right: Excavated early medieval Souterrain at Drumadoon, Co. Antrim © Crown Copyright HED

ARCHAEOLOGY INCLUDES BURIED ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS AND UPSTANDING HISTORIC MONUMENTS AS WELL AS OUR INDUSTRIAL, DEFENCE AND MARITIME HERITAGE AND HISTORIC GARDENS SITES.



The **public appetite** - as reflected in television programming, popular publications in print and online, and in visits to heritage 'assets' - is at an all-time high. **International visitors** to Northern Ireland are increasing, and heritage has come to be seen as a crucial element of 'Destination NI'. Public participation in projects centred on archaeology but which also provide many further social interactions are more popular than ever. We understand more about the multiple benefits of engaging with heritage and archaeology today than ever before.

People in Northern Ireland live with and look after our archaeological sites and historic monuments every day - the remnants of our past surround us throughout our towns, villages and especially our countryside. People often take a huge interest in their local heritage sites, have a strong sense of ownership of them, and show a deep care and concern for their upkeep. Often there is a wealth of knowledge in **local communities** that has been passed down through generations. Many local **historical societies** are flourishing, producing in-depth research, records and publications about their surrounding area. This interest has preserved many of these sites, and provides huge potential.

Archaeology also has a role to play in significant current issues such as identity, well-being, climate change, sustainability and heritage-led regeneration. It is essential that archaeology is relevant and positively contributes to these issues if the sector is to be resilient.

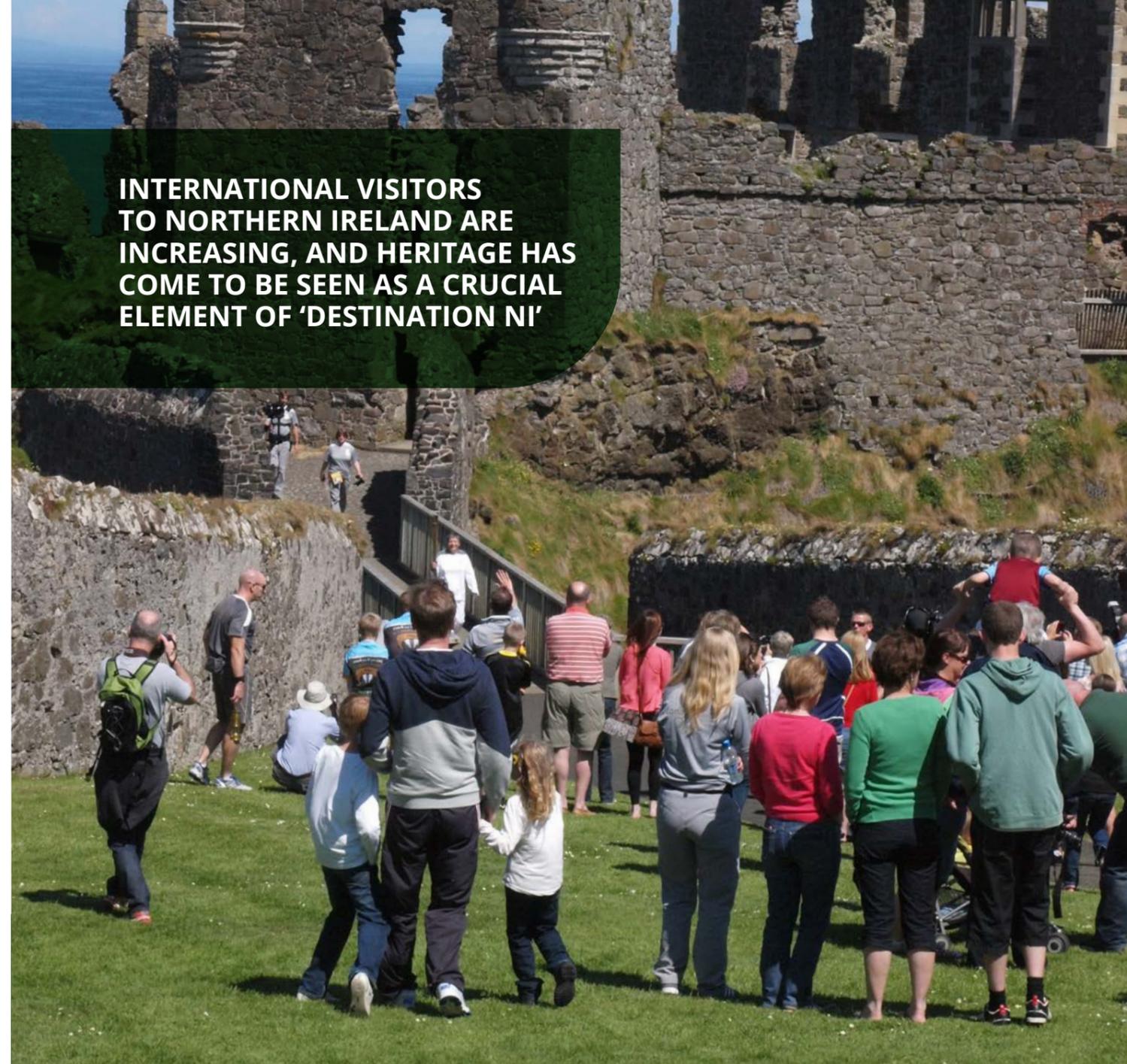
This document provides a strategic vision for the future of archaeology in Northern Ireland, with a series of recommendations for moving forward. We fully recognise that there is then a very substantial piece of work for the sector as a whole to take these

recommendations, develop an action plan and work with a wide range of participants to see them through to deliver that vision by 2030. We hope that this document is a starting point for a new discussion about the future of archaeology in Northern Ireland, and to thinking about how it can more effectively integrate with wider policies and strategies, to maximise the benefits it can deliver for everyone.

Archaeology 2030: A Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland has been written for as wide an audience as possible. In the following pages there are descriptions of what the archaeology sector currently looks like, how this strategic approach was developed, and the vision for the future of archaeology in Northern Ireland. How we get to that future is dependent on the strength of the relationships we develop, on the reach of our partnerships and our ability to advocate for the value of archaeology. Key to successfully delivering the recommendations will be our ability to connect within the sector and also gain active input from those outside the traditional interest groups. There is no doubt that this will be challenging, but there is also excitement at the opportunities and potential for innovation that this brings.



Television crew filming for "Digging for Britain" at Dunluce Castle, Co. Antrim © Crown Copyright HED



INTERNATIONAL VISITORS TO NORTHERN IRELAND ARE INCREASING, AND HERITAGE HAS COME TO BE SEEN AS A CRUCIAL ELEMENT OF 'DESTINATION NI'

Visitors to Dunluce Castle, Co. Antrim © Crown Copyright HED

Relevant strategies and policies

- New Decade, New Approach (2020)
- NI Strategy for a Better Environment (in preparation 2020)
- Heritage Delivers (2018)
- A Prospectus for Change: A strategic framework to unlock the potential of heritage-led tourism in NI (2017)

- Draft Programme for Government (2016)
- Investment Strategy for NI 2011-2021 (2015)
- Strategic Planning Policy Statement (2015)
- Regional Development Strategy 2035 (2010)
- Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage (1999)

Related strategies

- Archaeology 2025 (Royal Irish Academy)
- Scotland's Archaeology Strategy
- 21st-century Challenges for Archaeology (Historic England and ClfA)

The archaeology sector in Northern Ireland

Taking a broad view, our local archaeology sector comprises a range of stakeholders, participants and activities – from central government regulation, to field archaeologists carrying out original research, to museum-based educators, and to members of the public who visit and learn about our sites.

Central and local government

Until 2015, government responsibility for archaeology in Northern Ireland lay primarily with the Historic Monuments Unit of the Built Heritage Directorate of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), which was located within the Department of the Environment. Historic Environment Division (HED) is part of the Department for Communities, a central government department in Northern Ireland formed in 2016. The Public Records Office of Northern Ireland is also part of this Department, and the Department for Communities also sponsors National Museums NI and the Northern Ireland Museums Council as arm's-length public bodies.

HED takes an integrated approach to the historic environment, providing services relating to recording and surveying, protecting through the use of legislation and policy, providing advice to inform decision-making, licensing and consenting works and activities, conservation and management of historic monuments, and providing access both to historic sites themselves, and to information and records relating to them.

The Historic Monuments Council (a Statutory Advisory Council) advises the Department for Communities on

matters relating to the exercise of the Department's powers under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 (afterwards referred to in this document as HMAOO). Other government departments, such as the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) and the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), are responsible for a range of legislation and policies which impact on the historic environment, particularly relating to planning, development management and management of our landscape and environment.



HED site inspection at Carryduff, Co. Down © Crown Copyright HED

Image right: Archaeologist excavating a Bronze Age pot in Newmills, Co. Tyrone © NAC Ltd.

DEVELOPMENT-LED EXCAVATION, AND THE ASSOCIATED WORK IN SCIENTIFIC ANALYSIS, SPECIALIST REPORTING AND CONSERVATION HAS BEEN THE MAIN THRUST BEHIND THE EXPANSION OF THE SECTOR IN NORTHERN IRELAND IN RECENT YEARS





Underwater archaeological survey, 'Pins wreck', Strangford Lough © Crown Copyright DAERA

One of the positive outcomes of the reorganisation of government departments was the relocation of museums, archives and libraries into the Department for Communities alongside HED. This provides significant potential for co-operation with the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, National Museums NI and the NI Museums Council (with its responsibilities for local museum provision) on issues such as archaeological archives.

District councils also have a significant role to play, not only in the advancement and delivery of development management and planning for their area, but also in terms of a range of roles relating to managing and providing access to historic monuments and buildings and providing museum services and events.

Commercial archaeological practice

The archaeology sector, of course, is much more than central or local government. There is a range of consultancy firms who undertake work on behalf of both private developers and government departments. This forms the bulk of archaeological excavation undertaken in Northern Ireland, and development-led excavation, and the associated work in scientific analysis, specialist reporting and conservation, has been the main thrust behind the expansion of the sector in Northern Ireland in recent years. This has also been the case in Britain and Ireland. After a significant decline in activity during the recession, since 2015 there has been a recovery in this activity, with around 240 excavation licences issued each year, more than a third of which identify and record archaeological remains.

Academic Institutions

Queen's University Belfast (QUB) is the principal academic institution in Northern Ireland which teaches archaeology to degree level and has been an important conduit for practitioners via third level study. QUB has an international reputation of academic excellence in both archaeological and palaeo-ecological disciplines. QUB also runs the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork and the Centre for Community Archaeology, working closely with local museums and heritage societies to facilitate community archaeology programmes, and participating in international research.

The Centre for Maritime Archaeology at Ulster University has managed many surveys and excavations in relation to maritime archaeology and the impact of climate change. Again, although affected by funding cuts, they continue to conduct and publish research with both an Irish and international focus.

Community archaeology

There are many historical societies which take an active interest in local archaeology and a very active Young Archaeologists Club. The Ulster Archaeological Society (UAS) remains the primary 'voluntary' society in Northern Ireland, with a venerable record of publishing the Ulster Journal of Archaeology. UAS has led a number of initiatives which have broadened access to archaeological fieldwork, notably through their field survey unit. There has also been a growth in collaboration between local community groups and professional archaeologists, and a recognition that archaeology has a role to play in helping us develop a better understanding of our challenging history, and of ourselves as a society in Northern Ireland. The value of community engagement can be seen in projects such as the National Lottery funded

'Battles, Bricks and Bridges' project in Co. Fermanagh, led by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency; and the Hillsborough Castle Gardens community dig, led by Historic Royal Palaces.

Third sector organisations

Since its foundation in 2009 the Northern Ireland Archaeology Forum (NIAF), under the auspices of Northern Ireland Environment Link, developed a broad membership base which advocated for the value of Northern Ireland's archaeology. NIAF is currently under review, awaiting the outcome of the process of developing this document and its implementation structures, but there is a recognition that the sector is currently lacking a strong and cohesive advocacy voice. There are also other third sector organisations and groups who, whilst not being specifically archaeology focused, often have an active interest in archaeological sites and historic monuments and buildings, such as Landscape Partnerships and the Northern Ireland Protected Areas Network.

Professional Institutes

The people who work in the sector are crucial to our long-term success. There are two professional bodies representing archaeologists working in Northern Ireland – the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland (IAI). They represent the interests of archaeology and archaeologists in the public domain and set standards for archaeological practice.

All of these groups are interdependent and often work closely together, collaborating on specific projects or issues, but there has been relatively little strategic engagement in recent years.

THERE HAS BEEN A GROWTH IN COLLABORATION BETWEEN LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS AND PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS, AND A RECOGNITION THAT ARCHAEOLOGY HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN HELPING US DEVELOP A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR CHALLENGING HISTORY



The 'Way Forward' process

In response to the organisational changes and ongoing challenges facing the sector, HED initiated a process of developing a strategic approach for taking archaeology forward in Northern Ireland. This commenced with a symposium in November 2016, and following on from this, a 'Way Forward' draft proposal was sent out for general consultation in January 2017.

The focus of the proposal was around the following 'Key Issues' that emerged from the Symposium:

- Engagement and Communication
- Systems, Procedures, Standards, Legislation and Policy
- Research Framework and Archives
- Skills and Training

It was clear from discussion at the symposium and the subsequent consultation that there was a consensus that a new way of approaching archaeology would be beneficial in engaging with these key issues and in delivering the results of archaeological activity for the benefit of all.

While the process was convened by HED, it was agreed that success would depend upon engaging with the broader sector of archaeology practitioners. Task Groups were set up for each of the key issues, with representatives from the relevant organisations sitting on each group.

Each Task Group focused on drafting discussion papers to further explore the needs identified from the symposium feedback. Northern Ireland Environment Link provided the secretariat.

The Chair of each Task Group, as well as the Chair of the Historic Monuments Council, sat on the Steering Group for the Way Forward process, which was chaired and convened by HED. The Steering Group has overseen the work of the Task Groups, considering cross-cutting and overarching matters and working to produce this document.

The next key step was the 'Progressing the Strategy' event held in East Belfast Network Centre on 1st July 2019. At this event the Steering Group presented a Discussion Document setting out a draft way forward. There was a wide ranging discussion which dealt with a range of issues including:

- What structures are needed to take the process forward?
- What resources are required?

The Steering Group considered the feedback from, and following the event to finalise this document, and set out the next steps.

Image left: Community excavation at Castle Ward, Co. Down © The National Trust

Image below: Volunteers celebrate after completion of the restoration works at Slieve Gullion Cairn, Co. Armagh © Crown Copyright HED



VISION 2030: ARCHAEOLOGY FOR ALL

An important milestone in the development of any strategic approach, is setting an overall vision: by 2030 we want archaeology to be accessed and valued by as many people as possible, led by a sector which is healthy, resilient and connected.

Viking brooch from Rathlin Island © NAC Ltd.



What will success look like?

- The value and benefits of heritage are articulated effectively, imaginatively communicated, understood and appreciated at all levels and ages of society
- Archaeology is embedded in communities so that people from all backgrounds and cultures feel ownership and want to participate, learn about and connect with heritage sites, and opportunities to do this are provided, particularly at monuments in public ownership and in State Care
- The profession in NI is joined up and focused on delivering archaeology which contributes to society in a wide variety of ways
- Heritage is included within key strategic Government objectives, set out in the Programme for Government and Community Plans (amongst others)
- The regulations, structures, procedures, infrastructure and funding arrangements for archaeology are fit for purpose to meet the needs and demands of archaeological work being carried out now and in the future
- Legislation and related policy across government supports, and is fully relevant to, archaeological matters
- Guidance and standards are in place, up-to-date, fully implemented and aligned with those of the professional institutes
- Archaeological archives stored by museums and other bodies are appropriately collected, stored and curated, with clear guidelines and procedures for management, and are accessible and utilised for telling the stories of our past
- The lead archaeology bodies in NI are clearly identifiable and outward-facing, connecting with our neighbouring regions and internationally, and providing accessible, user-friendly and dynamic online resources
- The archaeological sector is relevant and resilient, and is embedded in tackling the significant current questions and issues, such as climate change, identity, sustainability and well-being
- The profession is reflective of society's diversity and enables a plurality of approaches and activity which is important for engagement and learning
- The learning and development needs of the sector are identified and positive actions are being taken to meet these needs for the present and the future
- There is regular, active communication within the sector, and we are engaged positively with our professional colleagues elsewhere, and participate in international collaboration, particularly with neighbouring jurisdictions, with strong archaeological connections
- Cross-disciplinary working and collaboration is encouraged, particularly with the sciences, to develop both archaeology and other disciplines, and to take advantage of new innovations and discoveries
- Publication and dissemination of information, in a range of media, is a fundamental priority in all archaeological projects and is built into every project design.

Who is this document for?

It is for anyone and everyone who wants to be involved in Northern Ireland's archaeology.

As discussed earlier, there are a range of drivers for the development of this new work. The archaeological and related professions felt that there were gaps in terms of guidance and recognition of the wider public benefit of archaeological activity. There are a number of risks and opportunities afforded by Local Government's new powers around community and spatial planning; and similarly by Central Government's new outcomes-based draft Programme for Government.

There is a growing sense amongst the heritage sector in Northern Ireland that we simply need to do some things differently. There is recognition that the sector is not working together as effectively as it could, to deliver results which provide tangible benefits to the people of Northern Ireland.

One of the first pieces of work undertaken by the new Historic Environment Stakeholder Group (brought together by HED in 2016) was to review the heritage sector's approach to advocacy. It quickly became apparent that the sector felt that our traditional championing of the intrinsic value of heritage was, in itself, not enough. A different approach was required – one that emphasised the wider, instrumental value and opportunities of heritage. In other words, we needed to clearly state why heritage is important to people, and how it can widely impact on and benefit our society. The resulting publication and website, [Heritage Delivers: Treasure the Past, Enrich the Future](#), sets out how heritage can deliver benefits across

a whole range of areas, from well-being to economy to community.

Similarly, this document must go beyond the traditional audience. It is certainly for people working within archaeological and related professions and will provide the framework and impetus for the strategic development of the sector. However, it is also for the wider heritage and related sectors in Northern Ireland. Archaeologists work with a wide range of other disciplines including historians, scientists, planners, museum curators, and developers. This work needs to speak to all of them.

Perhaps most importantly, the strategy aims to achieve the Vision. **By 2030, we want archaeology to be accessed and valued by as many people as possible, led by a sector which is healthy, resilient and connected.** In order to do this, it needs to demonstrate and deliver on the potential that archaeology has to impact on society – on the people and communities of, and visitors to, Northern Ireland.

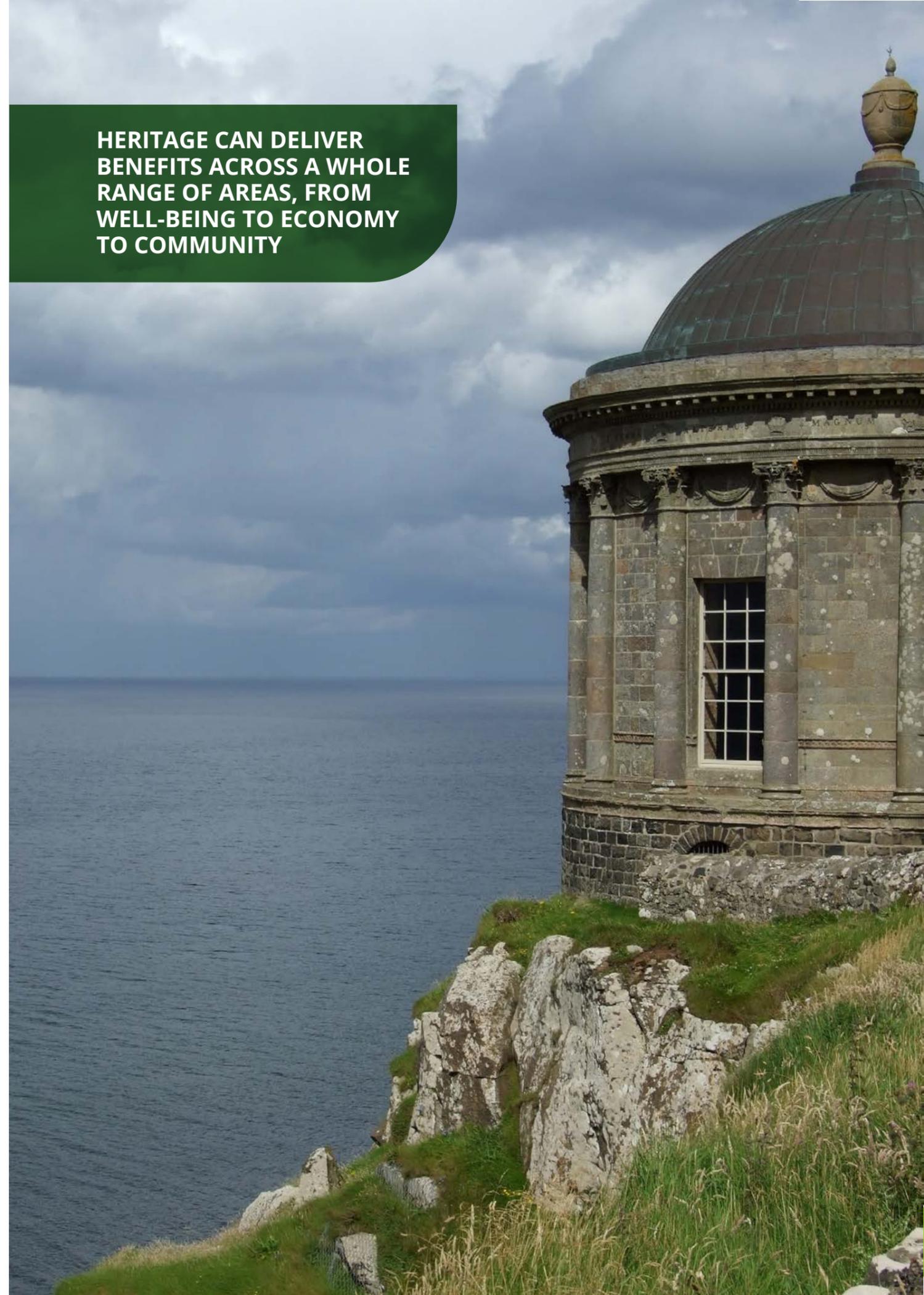
This document can be used in a number of ways:

- As a key advocacy document for the value of archaeology
- As a guiding plan for the sector
- As a reference point for policy makers

One thing is absolutely clear - the archaeology (and wider heritage) sector recognises the need for an outward looking approach, which emphasises the value and benefits of archaeology to the widest possible audience.

Image right: Mussenden Temple, Downhill, Co. Londonderry © Crown Copyright HED

HERITAGE CAN DELIVER BENEFITS ACROSS A WHOLE RANGE OF AREAS, FROM WELL-BEING TO ECONOMY TO COMMUNITY





**ARCHAEOLOGY IS
THE STUDY OF OUR
PAST THROUGH
MATERIAL REMAINS**

What are the Priorities?

Aim 1 Archaeology on the ground

Archaeology is the study of our past through material remains. The practice of archaeology in Northern Ireland has key strengths, including a statutory regulatory system that includes the licensing of archaeological investigations under the HMAOO. This provides baseline quality assurance. Improved communication and collaboration between all who study and conduct archaeology (the academic, government, commercial and voluntary sectors), as well as good working relationships with relevant stakeholders, is essential to deliver top quality research to enrich our understanding of the past. Communication and partnership need to underpin the overall practice of archaeology.

Most new archaeological information being extracted from the ground comes as a result of development-led interventions, which have been conducted to fulfil planning conditions. To realise the research value and public benefits of developer-funded work, an appropriate project design is required. This should be delivered through a Programme of Work which includes research aims and processes, as well as preparation of records and artefacts for deposition in an appropriate repository. More broadly, this approach should underpin all archaeological work. Communication of the significance of the project can be through publication, access to the data (digital information and archive) and to the curated finds.

Good practice in archaeology needs to be guided by relevant, internationally recognised standards. The full range of archaeological work should be carried

out in compliance with accepted industry standards, including the key principles of the ClfA and IAI Codes of Conduct, which define the ethical responsibilities of archaeologists. To ensure conformity with legislation, policy and good practice, guidance should be produced on how those practising archaeology can comply with the relevant professional standards within a Northern Ireland context.

Northern Ireland has a rich and diverse archaeological resource, but it is finite and under threat. While there is appreciation and engagement at community level, the political awareness of the significance of this resource, and of its social and economic benefits, could be improved. The establishment of district councils with devolved planning powers, and the responsibility for Local Development Plans (as well as a range of heritage services, including museums), offers a significant opportunity to highlight archaeology and the historic landscape within strategies for local sustainable development.



Excavation of Turnony Dolmen, Co. Londonderry © Crown Copyright HED

Image left: Archaeological excavations within Derry's Walls © Crown Copyright HED

Aim 2 Understanding the past

All archaeological work aims to broaden and deepen our understanding of the past, reflected in the richness and complexity of the material remains of societies which we unearth. Building on the analysis and assessment of previous research we can identify key issues and good practice approaches, and gain maximum knowledge from new work.

This approach provides the basis and rationale for establishing a research framework. Thematic and chronological approaches are useful as a context to identify key questions and issues. A collaborative approach, including engaging with a range of expertise across other disciplines, improves our ability to address them in a meaningful way to maximum public benefit. This approach places the heritage of Northern Ireland in the context of north/south and east/west connections among these islands, allowing its wider international setting to be appreciated and understood.

Young Archaeologists Club community excavation at Moira Demesne, Co. Down
© Queen's University Belfast

Digital data and information technology provide the capacity to build integrated datasets. This integrated approach is crucial. For a research framework to be meaningful and provide value, the assessment of the current state of knowledge has to be based on comprehensive data. In turn there has to be confidence that research will actively improve current knowledge, and assist in the effective management and protection of the historic environment. It needs to be widely accessible in a form that engages and is useful to public and professional audiences.

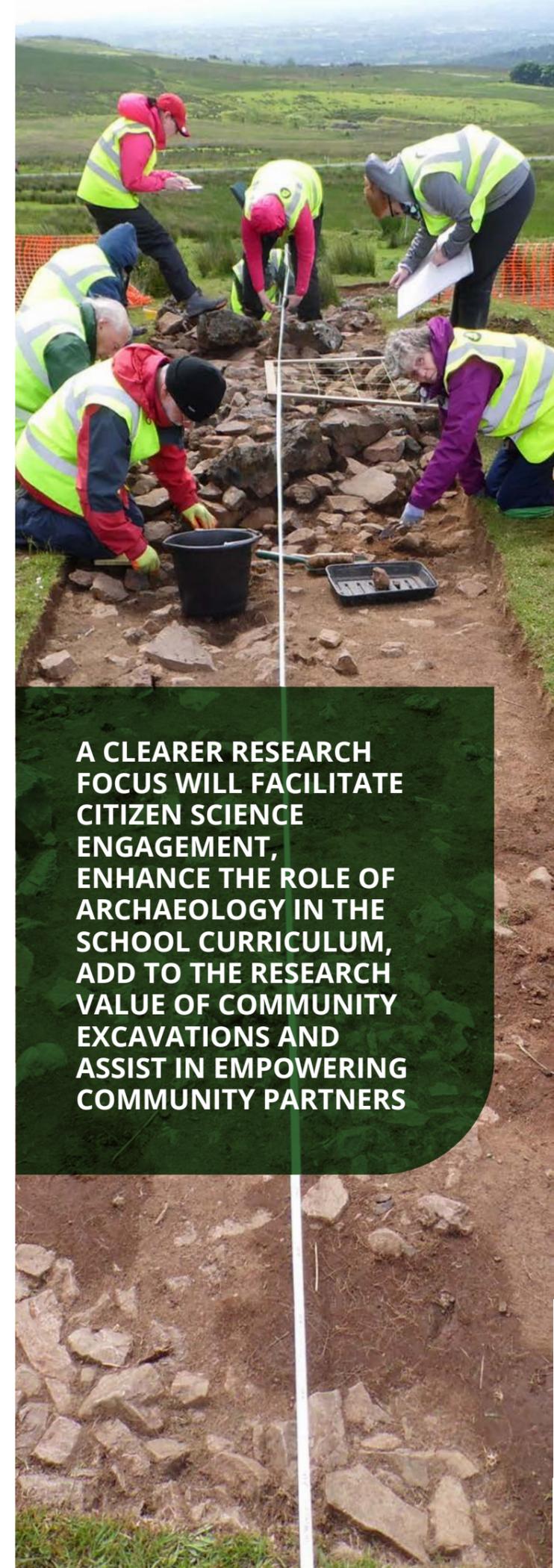
Structured collaboration between all sectors and stakeholders is the essential mechanism to achieve success. This requires engagement across and beyond the sector to agree on the approach. We need to work within an overall strategy to identify more immediate objectives to ensure sustainability. It is also important to emphasise that the results of this approach will be accessible, highlighting the wider social value.

An important outcome will be that the research value of development-led excavations and surveys will be more fully realised, whilst ensuring that no additional burden is placed on the developers. Implementing and sustaining this will be challenging, but there is already substantial public investment in archaeology through infrastructure projects, and a stronger research framework will enable this funding to achieve more. To facilitate this, we need to bring together the various aspects of our record of the historic environment, with a 'hub' enabling the sharing of information and up-to-date baseline data.

Research access to the archaeological record itself needs to be greatly enhanced. This includes written, photographic and digital archives, and also the artefacts and samples from excavations, to enable their further study and interpretation.

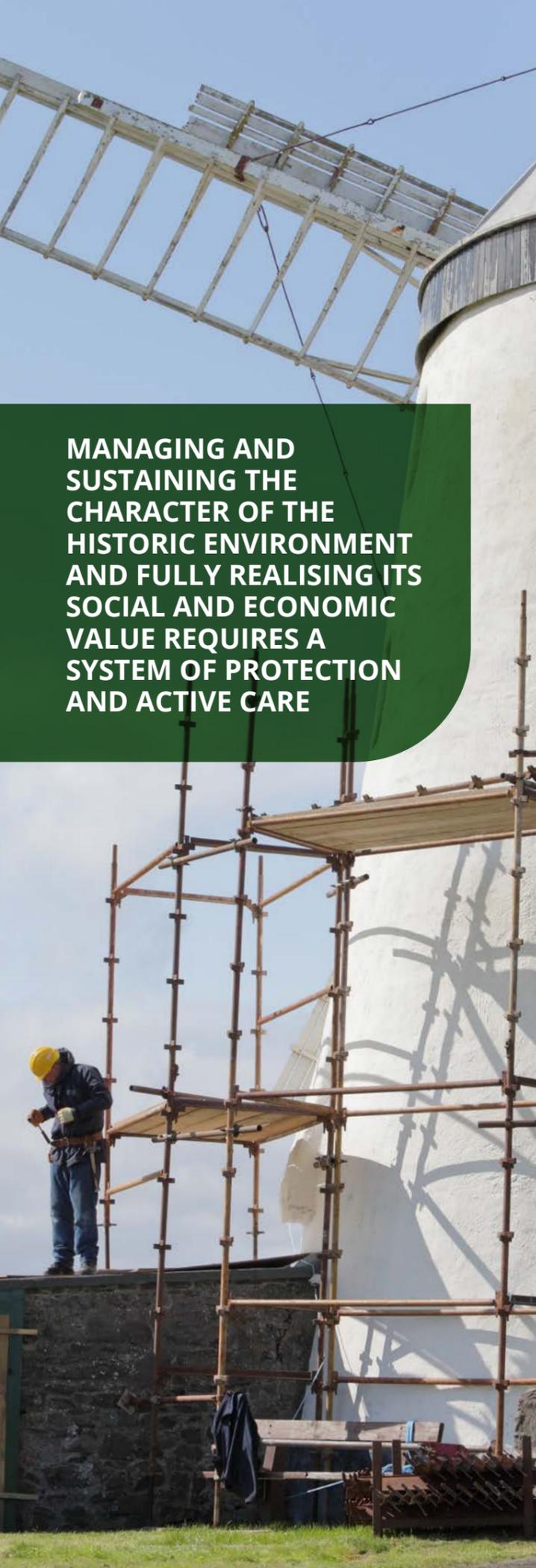
A more coherent framework for archaeology will facilitate the identification of potential external collaborations and funding sources. Greater recognition of the international value of archaeological research in Northern Ireland will assist in channelling more research funding. There are opportunities for greater national and international collaboration and developing partnerships which will benefit research, skills exchange and sharing of the results of our work. In a complementary manner, a clearer research focus will facilitate citizen science engagement, enhance the role of archaeology in the school curriculum, add to the research value of community excavations and assist in empowering community partners.

Image right: Community excavation on Divis Mountain, Belfast © The National Trust



A CLEARER RESEARCH FOCUS WILL FACILITATE CITIZEN SCIENCE ENGAGEMENT, ENHANCE THE ROLE OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM, ADD TO THE RESEARCH VALUE OF COMMUNITY EXCAVATIONS AND ASSIST IN EMPOWERING COMMUNITY PARTNERS





MANAGING AND SUSTAINING THE CHARACTER OF THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AND FULLY REALISING ITS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC VALUE REQUIRES A SYSTEM OF PROTECTION AND ACTIVE CARE

Aim 3 Sustaining the historic environment

Managing and sustaining the character of the historic environment and fully realising its social and economic value requires a system of protection and active care. The historic environment faces a range of both short and longer term pressures and significant challenges such as the potential impacts of development and agriculture, climate change and heritage crime. Management decisions need to be based on appropriate legislation, policy, expert advice and effective communication with stakeholders.

The current key legislative context for the recording, protection and management of archaeological sites and historic monuments within Northern Ireland is the HMAOO. Significant changes have occurred over the last quarter of a century in how archaeology is practised and it is now timely to review the legislation with the aim of developing and delivering a better managed and protected historic environment.

HED has already commenced the process by examining and reviewing licences for archaeological work. This licensing system is key to enforcing statutory requirements, archaeological requirements and compliance with professional standards. Work on revising the legislation will include a review of statutory designations. It may be that we need to seek a statutory duty for HED to revise, maintain and make accessible a record of heritage assets in the Historic Environment Record. The digital repository of all archaeological and historic environment records

Image left: Conservation work to Ballycopeland Windmill, Co. Down © Crown Copyright HED

should be improved and augmented with significantly improved accessibility. In addition to the provisions of the UK Marine Policy Statement and the Marine Plan for Northern Ireland (when adopted), the legislative review will consider additional provision for the protection and management of the marine historic environment.

A review of the legislation provides an opportunity to address the critical issue of what happens to the archives and artefacts which are mostly produced as the result of excavation. The current situation where there is limited guidance on selection and retention, and no designated repository for either the records or the archaeological finds, must be urgently addressed. Whilst recognising that this will require substantial resources to deliver, it is essential that plans are developed for appropriate provision of long term storage and curation, so that the benefits which these archives and artefacts should be delivering, in terms of engagement, research and understanding, are realised. A braver and more active approach to selection and retention will be an essential part of this, focussing on the potential of material to further our knowledge.

The Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland (HERoNI) is the key record which provides baseline data and informs all decisions relating to historic environment assets in Northern Ireland. In this context it is critical that it is continuously reviewed and kept up to date. It provides the evidence base for decisions about protection and management and is also crucial to the determination of potential impacts of development on historic environment assets. It also provides the evidence for recognition of the importance of the historic environment in Local Development Plans, which form a key

element in the management framework for the future of the historic landscape.

The Strategic Planning Policy Statement and Planning Policy Statement 6: Planning, Archaeology and Built Heritage currently provide the strategic policy framework for a plan-led system. Particular focus needs to be placed on district councils adopting a consistent approach to consultations on archaeological issues and the setting of planning conditions. This will also ensure consistency with the Regional Development Strategy 2035.

Taking a broader view and considering the sustainability of the historic environment, key issues include the management of field monuments, construction craft skills and related industries, the recording and management of upstanding structures and buried deposits, and the effectiveness of long-term strategies for in-situ preservation, particularly in light of the climate change threat to certain types of monuments or those in particularly vulnerable locations.

As most sites and monuments are in private ownership, often on farmland, landowners and land management policies across government departments are key to ensuring their ongoing maintenance and survival for future generations. This is particularly pertinent at a time when future land management policies are being substantially reviewed and redrafted in the post-Brexit era, and when the potentially significant impacts of climate change are coming to the fore.

Local communities are often very active in looking after the heritage on their doorstep and we must find effective ways of encouraging and maximising the potential of this huge resource of knowledge and passion.

Aim 4 Engaging and enriching people's lives

People love history and learning about the past. Visitor figures at museums, monuments, archives and heritage centres continue to rise. Heritage is a cornerstone of the tourism industry, and interest in understanding where we come from seems boundless. Archaeology is exciting because it provides the opportunity to engage directly with the tangible remains of our past; to see how people lived and died; to hold the objects they used.

Communicating the importance of heritage generally, and archaeology specifically, has not been a priority in Northern Ireland. We have never really focused on communication, either within the sector itself and even less so on our message to wider society. For people to be engaged, we need to show why archaeology matters and develop a more proactive approach to participation and learning (in its widest sense). There is no more effective way to encourage people to value and support the care of our heritage than by helping them to find ways to connect, such as through enabling opportunities for volunteering and active learning. There is a need to build the potential for public interaction with excavations and other archaeological work, where possible, and encourage engagement through academia, museums and archives, the media, publications, and new digital technologies.

There are also opportunities for community upskilling to contribute to the better management of the historic environment, such as surveying, or recording of threatened heritage sites and getting involved in non-invasive archaeological investigation. Engagement must be a two-way process. Local people and landowners have a huge amount

of knowledge that they can share and add to the record, and they are often the people on the ground maintaining and caring for heritage assets. The communication process must be made as accessible and inclusive as possible.

Encouraging the use of archaeology as a teaching tool, contributing to the school curriculum, is just one possible example of encouraging early engagement. Archaeology should have a central role in helping us better understand society, and in helping us to challenge some of our perceptions of our history. Our society is becoming ever more diverse - it is important that the activities and programmes that we undertake reflect this diversity. There is exciting potential to create much stronger community connections with heritage sites, artefacts and records that we are only just starting to explore.

The recent recruitment of Heritage Officers by a number of district councils also offers new opportunities to help realise the social and community value of archaeological heritage. This also opens up exciting potential for appropriate community and tourism / rural development use of archaeological and heritage sites.

Diversification of skills will be increasingly important in the future. We have always been good at producing excellent archaeologists, but there is a growing recognition that the skill set that the sector requires goes beyond this and there is also a need for people with a range of expertise in communications, education, learning and access. Good interpretation is essential in helping people to understand and value our heritage sites.

THE WIDER HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SECTOR IN NORTHERN IRELAND HAS COME TOGETHER TO DEVELOP A NEW APPROACH TO ADVOCATING FOR THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF HERITAGE



Visitors to Dundrum Castle, Co. Down © Crown Copyright HED

Publicly accessible monuments, particularly sites which are in State Care, offer wonderful opportunities for learning, education, enjoyment, building connections and contributing to well-being. Innovative technologies can offer huge potential in helping to engage people with these heritage assets in new ways and to see their local history through new eyes.

In **Heritage Delivers: Treasure the Past, Enrich the Future** the wider historic environment sector in Northern Ireland has come together to develop a new approach to advocating the importance and value of heritage. In this document the sector sets out why heritage is important, but in particular it focuses on the wider value - how heritage contributes to our economy, our community identity, our sense of place, our tourism and health and well-being. Collaboration such as this is crucial, as the heritage sector is small, and we need to maximise our resources.

Heritage Delivers is a great first step, but there is also need to embed advocating for archaeology into the work of the sector, and plan for working together to

do this consistently and effectively into the future. Advocacy is a skill that the sector must develop, in the same way the development of other professional and technical skills is encouraged. Advocacy is particularly important at a time when Local Government has increased decision making, and with constrained resources across government. Connecting key decision makers with the social, economic and well-being benefits of archaeology, and embedding that into emerging policy and plans is also essential. The value and benefits of archaeology should constantly be emphasised - building public support will help to secure the resourcing and buy-in that the sector needs to maximise the public benefit.

Finally we must communicate better within the archaeology sector - something which is challenging with ever-increasing workloads, time pressures and budget limitations. There is a recognition of the silos that exist, and the process of developing **Archaeology 2030: A Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland** has unlocked a new determination to work more closely together moving forward.



Aim 5 Innovation, understanding and skills

Developing archaeological skills and training is a strategic priority. A discipline like archaeology requires a range of vital skill sets, from specialist survey and professional excavation skills, to scientific approaches and methodologies applied to extract the maximum information from the archaeological process. The sector also needs teaching and research experience, and the suite of heritage skills required to record, manage, protect and interpret and communicate the historic environment. Organisations contracting archaeological services need to have full confidence in the quality, accreditation and standing of those who are providing those services.

More broadly, conservation knowledge and skills are key. A conservation approach should inform all our decision-making and activities, from artefact processing and long-term curation and conservation of collections, to the management and protection of sites and monuments. Skills in spatial planning in relation to heritage assets are also particularly important at this time when the 11 district councils are drawing up their Local Development Plans which will shape our landscape for the next decade and more.

There are specific issues to be addressed in planning for the future. Archaeological qualifications provide skills which are specific to the profession but which are also transferable. However, on entering the commercial sector there can be a gap between the skills acquired by the graduate and those needed in the field.

Image left: LiDAR survey of Clogher Iron Age Hill fort and the surrounding area © Crown Copyright HED

Progression through the professional ranks in all parts of the sector requires opportunities to gain experience and develop skills, and if these opportunities are not available people tend to leave, a problem which can be exacerbated by a lack of consistent demand and employment. This has had an impact on the commercial sector, and particularly on specialists who undertake the analysis of artefacts and environmental data from excavations, and there tends to be a shortage of these roles and of opportunities for new people to break into the field and gain experience.

A challenge (and opportunity) is to widen expertise across fields such as heritage management, presentation and interpretation. There is a particular requirement for skills in digital data and information technology, and the utilisation of approaches emerging from this technology. This is applicable across the breadth of archaeology. For example, there is the value of technologies such as LiDAR in survey and reading landscape history, and the use of information technology in landscape management and heritage research. Information technology has the potential to improve our recording and understanding of the past, strengthen the linkages and

interrogation of data sets, improve access and interpretation and to capture public interest and excitement.

Innovation and skills have to be tackled at both organisational and personal level. Continuing Professional Development should be recognised as a core part of working in the sector. Complementing this personal commitment, employing organisations should facilitate the development needs of staff. Consideration should be given to articulating the expected level of competency, skills and wages associated with defined roles across the sector.

The relationships between the commercial, government, educational and voluntary sectors would benefit from being strengthened and formalised. This would foster the development of skills, training and learning opportunities for current and future archaeologists.

Innovation should be key to the way that we address skills and training issues. The sector should aim to be recognised for the development of collaborative and creative ways of working, the application of new techniques and new approaches to funding, organising and managing archaeological work, and for communicating and teaching archaeology.

Archaeologist investigating a 16th Century wall at Society Street, Derry/Londonderry © Crown Copyright HED



THERE IS A PARTICULAR REQUIREMENT FOR SKILLS IN DIGITAL DATA AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, AND THE UTILISATION OF APPROACHES EMERGING FROM THIS TECHNOLOGY

Section 2

Delivery, recommendations and creating an action plan

Delivering by 2030: Next Steps

The archaeology sector has developed this strategic approach through developing a wide partnership base. We have set out to achieve a ten year vision: **Our archaeology is accessed and valued by as many people as possible, led by a sector which is healthy, resilient and connected.**

It is clear that delivering this ambitious way forward for the archaeology sector will present a significant challenge, over an extended period of time. We also recognise that there will be complex processes to be worked through, and difficult decisions to be made along the way. Continued strong collaboration across the sector will ensure the best prospect of success. The processes of exploring delivery may require changes to some of the recommendations in this document. That is a normal outworking of delivering any set of recommendations; reality comes up against ambition and the tensions created have to be worked through. In such cases, the vision and priorities set out in the first part of this document will be guiding principles for addressing the tensions.

Co-ordinating delivery through a Programme Board

Moving forward, a cross-sectoral programme board will be established to co-ordinate delivery, ensure a shared focus and maintain momentum. It will be convened as a sub-committee of the Historic Monuments Council, which has a statutory role as an advisory body to the Department for Communities

(including HED). The programme board will aim to involve representatives of all parts of the sector, including government (both central and local), commercial archaeological companies, universities, museums, professional institutes, NGOs, conservators and specialist consultants. As work progresses there will be a need to engage with and consult a wide range of stakeholders and participants. We anticipate that secretariat support will be put in place to facilitate the work of this group, and that a project officer will help with establishment, co-ordination and action planning, as well as providing professional advice.

Action Plan

Recognising the scale of the proposals, the initial phase of work for this programme board will be to consider the actions needed to deliver the recommendations, and articulate the project plan. This will be critical in establishing the detail of the proposed delivery, priorities, interdependencies, timescales and mechanisms.

It will also be essential to create a detailed action plan, so that we complete an honest and realistic assessment of the timeframes within which we can progress and complete work on the recommendations in this document, given the ongoing work that all in the sector are already committed to undertake. It will only be at the end of this planning phase that we will be clear on what we can deliver, in what timeframe, and what the particular



THERE IS ENORMOUS POTENTIAL TO PRODUCE GREATER KNOWLEDGE, ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION IN ARCHAEOLOGY

Community excavation of the 18th Century Bishop's Palace, Downhill, Co. Londonderry © The National Trust

constraints are. It is clear that the work set out will deliver a stronger sector which can deliver more effectively but, as so often, reaching that point will take additional labour at a time when many are labouring hard already.

The action plan, with defined requirements for delivering each of the recommendations, and identified lead bodies, will be published. Like any action plan for a programme of this anticipated duration and scale, it will be a live document that will need to be amended and updated regularly as work develops.

Delivering the action plan

It is anticipated that a number of standing groups will be established to take forward key strategic pieces of work, with shorter-term task and finish groups also established to take forward specific actions. Individuals will be sought to participate in the groups, bringing their particular range of expertise to deliver relevant actions.

Thought will need to be given to how success will be measured, and what data might need to be captured to inform

that, including establishing baselines for benchmarking purposes. We will need to review this delivery process and evaluate it as it progresses. This will be particularly important given the anticipated ten year timescale for delivery, and will help to ensure flexibility as government, the sector and society's priorities change, and feedback and suggestions for improvements and new areas to address arise as more people learn about the proposals and want to become involved.

This is an exciting time to be involved in the archaeology sector. The overwhelming message which came through from the work to date on **Archaeology 2030: A Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland** has been about the enormous potential we have to produce greater knowledge, engagement and participation in archaeology. The following recommendations will form the basis for taking the work forward, and to developing and delivering the associated action plan, to meet the needs that the sector has identified.

THERE ARE SUBSTANTIAL STRENGTHS WITHIN THE PROCESSES FOR DELIVERING ARCHAEOLOGY IN NORTHERN IRELAND BUT THERE ARE ALSO AREAS WHERE IMPROVEMENTS COULD BE IMPLEMENTED WHICH WOULD HAVE SIGNIFICANT BENEFITS

Recommendations

An action plan will be developed for the delivery of each of these recommendations, with lead bodies clearly identified.

Aim 1: Archaeology on the ground

Standards, guidance and procedures that enable good archaeological practice

Objectives

- Archaeological work is conducted in line with internationally recognised standards and guidance
- The development management/ planning system recognises the importance of heritage assets and consistently applies policies and procedures to ensure their protection
- Licensing and consenting policies and procedures ensure good practice and quality results
- Procedures and systems meet the needs of archaeological work being carried out now and in the future
- Archaeological work is well-designed and enables the long-term research value and public benefits to be realised

There are substantial strengths within the processes for delivering archaeology in Northern Ireland, particularly the excavation licensing system, but there are also areas where improvements could be implemented which would have significant benefits. It is clear that all archaeological activities (excavation, recording, conservation and archiving etc.) need to be conducted to industry-

recognised professional standards, with guidance provided, where necessary, on how these standards are to be applied in the Northern Ireland context. This guidance must be understandable not only by practitioners, but also by those commissioning and managing the work. Much of this archaeological work is conducted as a result of commercial or infrastructure development, and managed through the planning application process by district councils, with related licences and consents managed by HED or by DAERA (relating to marine licensing). It is essential that efficient and consistently applied processes are in place between these bodies. It is also important that there is regular, clear communication between the councils and HED, so that decisions are based on a full understanding, and training opportunities should be explored to help develop a good dialogue. Careful design of archaeological projects (particularly Programmes of Works) is a key element to ensuring that they promote efficient delivery whilst producing results that share and celebrate the knowledge and material they have uncovered.

Image left: Sunrise at Beaghmore Stone Circles, Co. Tyrone © Crown Copyright HED

Aim 1 Recommendations

1.1 Applying archaeological standards and guidance in the Northern Ireland context

All archaeological activities in Northern Ireland should be conducted to industry-wide, and / or internationally recognised standards, as detailed in the following recommendations. Existing third party standards such as those available through the professional institutes (ClfA and IAI), should be used wherever possible. Guidance should be provided on how these standards are to be specifically applied in Northern Ireland.

1.2 Standards and guidance for excavation, survey and sampling

Identify standards to be applied and provide guidance for excavation, survey and sampling. This will ensure conformity with legislation and policy in Northern Ireland and consistency of approaches. These should specify any detailed requirements for data standards, reports, publications, protocols for engaging with HED.

1.3 Standards and guidance for archaeological archives and records

Identify standards to be applied and provide guidance which ensure that archives and records derived from excavations and survey are prepared for deposition in such a way as to enable future management, research and use.

1.4 Standards and guidance on human remains

Identify standards to be applied and provide guidance on appropriately dealing with human skeletal and cremated remains. These must include policies regarding the level of detailed analysis required for skeletons to ensure consistent levels of reporting, and retention / reburial policies once this work has been undertaken.

1.5 Guidance relating to the Treasure Act 1996

Provide an update of Northern Ireland guidance in relation to the Treasure Act 1996, the Treasure (Designation) Order 2002, and the associated Code of Practice.

1.6 Guidance relating to development management / planning applications

Provide and disseminate easily accessible, comprehensive guidance relating to the application of archaeological planning conditions in both the terrestrial and marine environments. This will allow all regulatory and licensing authorities, and individual developers, to fully understand the rationale for the application of archaeological conditions.

1.7 Development management (planning) processes and conditions

When archaeology is managed well through the planning process it can add value to development. Current processes and conditions should be reviewed to ensure that delays, costs and uncertainties are minimised and that archaeologists, council planners and developers can work together to make sustainable places where people want to live and work.

1.8 Liaison relating to development management (planning)

Stakeholders, including HED, DfI, district councils and other relevant bodies, should further develop existing working relationships, to discuss and consider implementation of the recommendations of **Archaeology 2030: A Strategic Approach for Northern Ireland** relating to planning-led archaeology.

1.9 Applications for an excavation licence

The process for excavation licence application and approval should be reviewed. This review should consider having a rigorous competence-based assessment for prospective licence holders, and / or adopting third party accreditation for licence holders.

1.10 Licensing / consenting/ permitting of archaeological activities

Licensing and consenting processes should be reviewed to ensure they are

appropriately applied, fit for purpose and work consistently and seamlessly together. This includes excavation licensing, metal detecting, geophysical survey, scheduled monument consent and permits for activities at monuments.

1.11 Publication of excavation reports

Processes must be established to define and ensure the appropriate level of publication of reports, commensurate with the significance of the results of an excavation.

Archaeological excavation within Derry's Walls © Crown Copyright HED



Aim 2: Understanding the past

Making knowledge and understanding more accessible

Objectives

- Broaden and deepen our understanding of the past
- Build on the analysis of previous research to identify key issues and good practice approaches, to gain maximum knowledge from new work
- Fully realise the research value of development-led excavations
- Provide knowledge that is widely accessible and engaging to a range of audiences
- Provide information that assists in the effective management and protection of the historic environment
- Publication and dissemination of information is a fundamental priority in all archaeological projects and is built into every project design.

The fundamental basis underpinning a research framework approach is the recognition that all archaeological work is directed towards increasing our understanding of the past. Currently

archaeology in Northern Ireland could be characterised as being conducted in the absence of a strategic context and in a fragmented manner by different organisations. A sectoral workshop held in October 2018 noted that by establishing a research framework for the conduct of archaeological fieldwork in Northern Ireland there is significant potential to draw on the strengths of current practice and to provide opportunities to break down silos and collaborate more across the sector. For a research framework to be meaningful, it must be based on comprehensive data, and data collection, assimilation, synthesis and dissemination are critical activities for its success. As noted in the Amersfoort Agenda (Setting the agenda for the future of archaeological heritage management in Europe (EAC 2015)), it is critical to 'Develop a sound infrastructure to support the making of informed choices: identify research frameworks and criteria, and enable access to current archaeological knowledge and data'.

19th Century munitions tunnel at Carrickfergus Castle © Crown Copyright HED



Aim 2 Recommendations

2.1 Establish a collaborative group to develop and manage a research framework

Build a collaborative structure that will facilitate and sustain a research-focused approach and build a sense of ownership. Collaboration between all sectors and stakeholders is the essential mechanism to achieve success. There needs to be engagement across and beyond the sector to agree on the approach, to work within an overall strategy, and to identify more immediate objectives and mechanisms to ensure sustainability.

2.2 Develop a research framework for the conduct of archaeological work in Northern Ireland

Develop, establish and maintain a research framework for archaeology in Northern Ireland, which is subject to periodic review. This will help to maximise the existing substantial public investment in archaeology, facilitate the sharing of information and development of research.

2.3 Integrate the results from development-led excavations

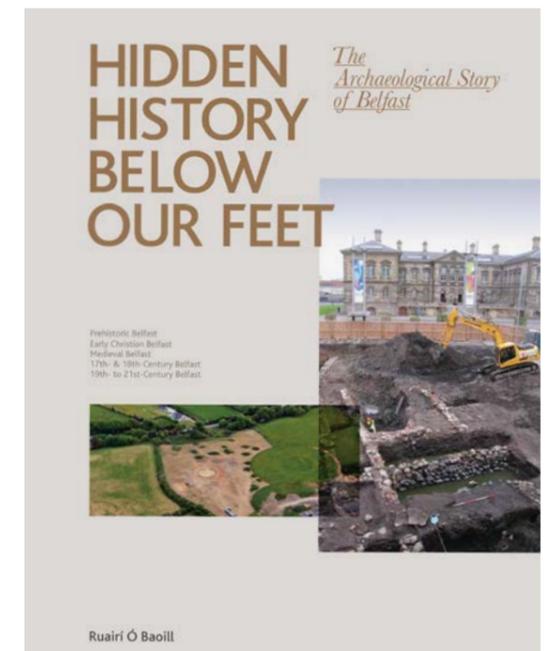
Ensure that the research value of development-led excavations is more fully realised and recognised. There is already substantial investment in archaeology, through infrastructure projects and funding of development works, and a stronger research framework should be designed to enable this funding to achieve more, without placing further burden on the relevant funders.

2.4 Provide access to historic environment information

Good information enables research, understanding, good decision-making and appropriate protection. Currently various bodies hold information, records and archives relating to the historic environment. These resources across the sector should be reviewed, to explore the potential for better integration to maximise the value which can be derived from them.

2.5 Digital data

Maintaining a digital archive will ensure that information is as widely available as possible and that it is conserved for the future. Work should continue, and where possible be augmented, to ensure the archaeological record is as fully digitally accessible by professionals and the public as soon as possible.



Hidden history below our feet - The archaeological story of Belfast © Crown Copyright HED

Aim 3: Sustaining the historic environment

The historic environment is managed, protected and actively cared for

Objectives

- Legislation and related policies are up to date, relevant and fit for purpose
- The Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland (HERoNI) is managed and augmented to provide a comprehensive and up to date record which informs appropriate decision-making
- Archaeological artefacts and their associated records are appropriately stored, curated and made accessible
- Government bodies and local authorities recognise, understand and articulate the importance of the heritage assets within their responsibility and policy remits
- Owners and communities are encouraged and facilitated in active management, maintenance and care of their heritage assets

Considering that the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 (HMAOO) is now 25 years old, and in light of recent changes in parallel legislation in other jurisdictions, the

age of other associated legislation, and significant changes in how archaeology is practised, it is timely that the relevant legislation, and associated policies, are reviewed. This will identify key strengths and weaknesses and ensure they remain useful and effective tools in the management and protection of this historic environment. As part of this review, consideration must be given to the importance of the provision of information through HERoNI and particularly to the provision of appropriate curation, storage and access to archaeological artefacts recovered through the excavation process. The review will also provide an important opportunity to ensure that there is alignment of the legislation and related policies, particularly those on planning, development and land-use change which will shape our historic environment for future generations.

Below image: Surveying Dunluce church and graveyard, Co. Antrim © Crown Copyright HED

Image right: Conservation work being undertaken on a cow skull © NMNI



THE SECTOR SHOULD COLLABORATE TO CONSIDER THE BROAD RANGE OF SKILLS REQUIRED TO DELIVER ARCHAEOLOGY, IDENTIFY WHERE SKILLS GAPS AND SHORTAGES OF SPECIALIST EXPERTISE EXIST, AND PLAN FOR THOSE INTO THE FUTURE



Aim 3 Recommendations

3.1 Review of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995, (HMAOO) and associated legislation and policies

A full review of the existing legislation and associated policies is needed to ensure that they are relevant, effective and enforceable. A review of the HMAOO provides a significant opportunity to raise the profile of the benefits of heritage assets. There is also an opportunity for Northern Ireland to be a leader in delivering new heritage legislation which is fit for purpose and ensures the appropriate and sustainable protection, management and development of the historic environment.

3.2 Legislation and archaeological licensing

Excavation licensing is seen as a substantial strength of the current legislation (HMAOO). However, it is timely that the legislation is reviewed to ensure that it aligns and works efficiently with current archaeological practice where the majority of excavation work is conducted as part of the planning process. This review must include consideration of further powers of enforcement as part of excavation licensing.

3.3 Legislation and the use of detecting devices

Detailed consideration of consenting / permitting of metal detecting and geophysical survey activities must be integrated into any review of the HMAOO.

3.4 Legislation and maritime archaeological remains

A full review of legislative approaches to the marine historic environment should be conducted, seeking parity of protection for underwater cultural heritage in Northern Ireland. Related policies and position statements should be considered as part of that review.

3.5 Legislation and the protection of Scheduled Historic Monuments

A review of the HMAOO offers an opportunity to consider strengthening the protection of Scheduled Monuments, and reviewing related offences and penalties.

3.6 Legislation and the designation of heritage assets

A review of the HMAOO should be viewed as an opportunity to consider extending protection to all historic monuments in Northern Ireland. Although this would have very significant implications, and would be a major change in approach, moving the Northern Ireland legislation away from that which is implemented in the rest of the UK, it is important that it is explored. Clear, well-defined criteria for designations are also important for consideration as part of this review.

3.7 Legislation and management of the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland (HERoNI)

Review of the HMAOO should consider incorporating a statutory duty to ensure the provision of a maintained, dynamic and accessible Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland (HERoNI). This must be updated, maintained, managed and curated, as the key record which provides baseline evidence and informs all decisions relating to the historic environment in the region.

3.8 Legislation and archaeological archives

A review of relevant legislation should be conducted to ensure that archaeological archives are clearly addressed and integrated. This should be supported by appropriate policies and processes. Consideration of potential charging / funding mechanisms will be essential as part of the review.

3.9 Appropriate facilities and curation for archaeological archives

Fit for purpose facilities for archaeological archives should be provided for Northern Ireland, which comply with recognised professional standards, meet the needs of the sector, and encourage wider access and engagement. Mechanisms for integrating existing archaeological archives from earlier excavations, conducted across the sector, should also be put in place.

3.10 Integrating heritage within policy

Central government departments and local authorities should recognise, understand and articulate the importance of the heritage assets within their responsibility and policy remits to ensure their ongoing maintenance and survival for future generations. This is essential, particularly in drafting future land-use policy and at a time when the impacts and mitigation of climate change are being actively explored.

3.11 Local Development Plans

Detailed input must be provided to Local Development Plans, to ensure that policies to protect and enhance the historic environment, and recognise the value it can deliver, are embedded at this strategic level.

3.12 Encouraging active care and management of heritage assets by landowners and communities

Landowners and local communities should be encouraged and facilitated in looking after the heritage on their doorstep.

Aim 4: Engaging and enriching people's lives

Communicating the benefits of archaeology to as many people as possible

Objectives

- The value of heritage, and the associated archives and records, is articulated effectively, understood and appreciated at all levels and ages of society
- To advocate for the value and benefits of archaeology to the widest possible audience
- To reach out by creating new partnerships, opportunities for participation and events aimed at the widest possible cross section of society
- The sector in Northern Ireland is proactive, collaborative, and focused on delivering archaeology which contributes to society and maximizes the potential of the sector and archaeology
- The lead archaeology bodies in Northern Ireland are clearly identifiable and outward-facing, connecting with our neighbouring regions and internationally, and providing accessible, user-friendly and dynamic online resources

Living history event at Greypoint Fort, Co. Down © Crown Copyright HED



There is a need to actively seek out ways to enable the wider public to know about, see or participate in archaeology – to ‘stimulate and facilitate society’s involvement in archaeology’ (Amersfoort Agenda – Setting the agenda for the future of archaeological heritage management in Europe, EAC 2015). We have fantastic monuments in public ownership that offer enormous potential for innovative ways of interpreting our history and connecting with people. As a sector we need to get better at discussing,

promoting and realising the values and benefits of archaeology for society, and communicating those benefits. As is also made clear in the Amersfoort Agenda, ‘archaeology needs to be mainstreamed into other policy domains’ if it is to be taken into consideration by those making important decisions that will shape our landscape for generations to come. There is a strong need for better communication within the archaeology sector and with associated disciplines / organisations.

Aim 4 Recommendations

4.1 Advocating for archaeology and gaining public support

There is a need to advocate for archaeology, to ensure future support and resources. A strong and cohesive advocacy voice is needed to show why archaeology matters and develop a more proactive approach to explaining how heritage contributes to our economy, our community identity, our sense of place, our tourism, health and well-being.

4.2 Creating opportunities to engage with archaeology

The sector must create more opportunities for people to engage with archaeology. People need to be able to experience and use our archaeology if they are to value it and support its care. We must maximise the opportunities for appropriate education, community and tourism / rural development use of our archaeology. Our monuments in public ownership, particularly those in State Care, offer great potential and we must find innovative ways to use and interpret these sites to enable people to engage with history.

4.3 Communicating within the sector

The sector is small, therefore good collaboration and communication needs to be established and is crucial to maximise potential and results.

4.4 Communicating with other bodies, organisations and decision-makers

There should be regular, cross-sectoral, face to face communication between key organisations, providing opportunities to communicate legal requirements and roles and responsibilities especially to district councils, developers, the community / voluntary sector, and decision-makers.

4.5 Engaging with archaeological artefact collections and records

To realise the value of the information held in the archaeological artefact collections and HERoNI requires awareness raising and engaging a wide range of stakeholders, both within the heritage sector and the wider community.

Aim 5: Innovation, understanding and skills

Developing learning and skills to equip current and future generations

Objectives

- A sector which recognises the full range of skills necessary to deliver the best results for the heritage assets of Northern Ireland
- Appropriate specialist training is available to ensure the necessary skills are available within the sector
- Improved opportunities are available to develop and progress within a career path
- People are supported to undertake training and CPD to develop their knowledge and skills and to achieve accreditation
- The sector plans for the future and identifies gaps, shortages and innovations
- Greater collaboration between employers and learning organisations

The development, growth and sharing of knowledge and skills is critical if the archaeology sector is to thrive and be fit for purpose. A comprehensive online survey was conducted to assess the current situation and future needs within Northern Ireland. This identified that there are key issues relating to skill sets and capacity within the sector to meet current needs; poor availability, uptake and support for Continuing Professional Development (CPD); and a lack of defined career paths and associated low wage structure which results in many people leaving the sector. The problems have been aggravated by the silos within the already small sector. These issues urgently need to be addressed if the sector is to be sustainable and able to deliver efficiently and effectively.

laser scan survey of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh © Crown Copyright HED



Aim 5 Recommendations

5.1 Defined industry standards for job roles

Defined industry standards for archaeological job roles in Northern Ireland should be considered, which articulate the associated expected level of competency, skills and wages, should be considered

5.2 Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Affirm a real recognition at the organisational and individual level that CPD is a core part of working in the sector and so undertaking CPD is an expectation, as it is in many other sectors. Professional accreditation can help to reinforce the need for CPD.

5.3 Developing cross-sectoral training opportunities for the future

The sector should collaborate to consider the broad range of skills required to deliver archaeology, identify where skills gaps and shortages of specialist expertise exist, and plan for those into the future. It is recognised that different academic, practical and transferrable skills will be needed across the sector, with different qualifications and pathways which support these. However, opportunities should be explored to collaborate on a programme of training within Northern Ireland, to which a range of organisations can contribute.

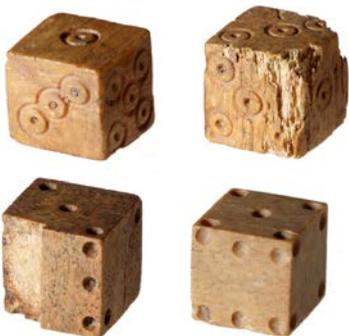
5.4 Augmenting conservation and specialist reporting skills

There is a need to increase the number of specialists within the sector, including those with skills in managing, maintaining and conserving both artefact collections, and the related range of records – photographic, paper, digital etc. In particular, there is a lack of conservators and those with specialist knowledge to produce reports on certain artefact types. Without this there is a danger that collections will not be available to future generations, and information will not be developed, researched and shared.

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The narratives of our past are important and worth telling, and we believe that people from Northern Ireland and around the world want to hear about our heritage, visit our important sites and get actively involved in preserving, enjoying and benefitting from our archaeological assets. This document therefore sets out a strategic approach and recommendations as to how we, as a society, develop our engagement with, and understanding of, our archaeology.