

Quality Report - NI Heritage Statistics as recorded on 31 March 2019

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Background information

This document contains information on the administrative data sources used to produce the report entitled 'NI Heritage Statistics at 31 March 2019' and the quality assessments of each. The report is produced by the Department for Communities, on behalf of an alliance of heritage organisations known collectively as the NI Historic Environment Stakeholder Group.

Quality assurance of the administrative data contained within the report has been carried out in order to provide users with information regarding the quality and/or limitations of the data presented.

Sites and monuments data

The Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR) holds information on approximately 17,000 archaeological sites and historic monuments.

HED collects and maintains information on archaeological sites and historic monuments on the NISMR. This includes the records of archaeological sites and reports relating to archaeological excavations and fieldwork. Data are manually input onto the NISMR by HED staff.

A public view of the NISMR is available online: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/sites-and-monuments-record>. The list of scheduled historic monuments is also published annually online: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/scheduled-historic-monuments>.

Information on scheduled monuments is published on an annual basis in the [NI environmental statistics report](#).

Data Content

Section 1.1

Number of entries on the NISMR;

Number of monuments in state care;

Number of scheduled historic monuments;

Number of historic parks and gardens of special interest;

Section 1.3

Scheduled monument designation work

Quality Assurance

The team within HED responsible for the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland (HERoNI) supply the data for 'NI Heritage Statistics' to the relevant section within HED. Supervisory staff for HERoNI check the figures before release. Guidance and training is provided to HED staff using the Buildings NISMR, and levels of access are controlled across the Division so that only professional archaeological staff can add data, with a further core staff having restricted access to review all new additions to the record in advance of their inclusion.

Figures provided are checked against previous years. The data supplied is used without further analysis.

Northern Ireland Buildings data

The Buildings Database contains records of buildings which have been judged to be of enough architectural or historic interest to merit a survey by HED. Most of the information contained in the Buildings Database relates to listed buildings. Listed Buildings are those designated through listing as being of ‘special architectural or historic interest’ under Section 80 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011.

Information about buildings that do not quite meet this standard, or have been demolished and/or removed from the list are also included on the Buildings Database.

HED collects and maintains information on buildings of architectural or historic interest on the Buildings Database. Data is collected through DfC’s ongoing Second Survey of Historic buildings. Following assessment this data may then be added to the Buildings Database (see below). Data is also added as one off requests from the public and occasional thematic surveys.

Data from the Second Survey are collected electronically and uploaded to the Second Survey database. HED consults the Historic Buildings Council and relevant district councils to determine whether or not to list each building. Data is transferred to the Buildings Database if deemed suitable for listing following the consultation process.

A view of the Buildings database is available online: <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/buildings-database>. Information on listed buildings is published on an annual basis in the NI environmental statistics report.

Note that data are based on numbers of records held on the database and do not reflect the total number of buildings protected under Section 80 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011.

Data Content

Section 1.1

Number of recorded historic buildings;

Number of listed buildings;

Second Survey and listing programme – additions to database and new listings.

Quality Assurance

The team within HED responsible for the Buildings database supply the data for ‘*NI Heritage Statistics*’ to the relevant section within HED. The process of listing a building is a legal process so a number of QA checks are carried out during data processing by supervisory staff. Supervisory staff with responsibility for the Buildings Database check the figures before release. Guidance and training is provided to HED staff using the Buildings database. Figures provided are checked against previous years. The data supplied is used without further analysis.

Buildings and Monuments at risk

The Heritage at Risk Register for Northern Ireland (HARNI) highlights properties of architectural or historic merit throughout the country that are considered to be at risk or under threat. HARNI was established in 1993 and is funded and managed by HED in partnership with Ulster Architectural Heritage (UAH). The majority of assets on this register are listed buildings. Some unlisted historic buildings of local interest and some historic monuments are also included.

UAH collects and maintains information on properties of architectural or historic merit throughout Northern Ireland that are considered to be at risk or under threat. UAH or HED propose buildings to include or remove from the Heritage at Risk Register. Once updates are signed off by supervisory staff within HED, UAH staff manually update the register accordingly.

Information on the number of buildings and monuments at risk is published on an annual basis in the [NI environmental statistics report](#).

Note that data are not based on a comprehensive survey but upon buildings which HED become aware of through the activities of its employees and contractors. There may be a proportion of buildings that have not been identified.

[Data Content](#)

[Section 1.2.2](#)

Number of entries on the Heritage at Risk register;

Number of HAR entries brought back into use/ in the process of being so;

Number of HAR entries demolished or destroyed.

[Quality Assurance](#)

The team within UAH responsible for the HARNI supply the data for '*NI Heritage Statistics*' to the relevant section within HED. Supervisory staff within HED with responsibility for the HARNI cross check the figures before release. Guidance and training is provided to UAH and HED staff recording information on HARNI. Figures provided are checked against previous years. The data supplied is used without further analysis.

Excavation data

In Northern Ireland, a licence is required for all archaeological excavations and more general searches for archaeological objects, with licenses issued to suitably qualified individuals in specified locations and for particular reasons. The Historic Environment Division (HED) of DfC is the licensing authority, responsible for processing applications, issuing licences and supervising the excavation process through to publication of the results.

HED maintains an excavation database, recording the history of each application from receipt to classification of excavation reports as final. The database is central to managing the licensing process, tracking the record of each licence and licensee and allowing independent checks that HED staff is complying with customer care targets in the process of applications. Data are manually added to the excavation database by HED staff.

Information on the number of excavation licences issued is published on an annual basis in the [NI environmental statistics report](#).

Data Content

Section 1.3

Number of completed archaeological excavation reports deposited;

Number of licence applications to carry out archaeological excavations.

Quality Assurance

The team within HED responsible for the excavation database supply the data for '*NI Heritage Statistics*' to the relevant section within HED. All excavations must be licensed and Historic Environment Division is the sole body for processing and granting licences. All applications are logged on the HED database with a unique identifier and also have an individual hard copy file. A proportion of files are checked to ensure that the processing has been carried out correctly and HED reports quarterly on the percentage of applications that have been processed within the stipulated timeframes via the NIEA balanced scorecard. The processing of licence applications is also subject to annual scrutiny by Internal Audit. Guidance and training is provided to HED staff recording information on the excavation database. Figures provided are checked against previous years. The data supplied is used without further analysis.

Planning data

HED has a responsibility to record, protect and provide advice on Northern Ireland's historic environment. This requires providing advice to District Councils and Departmental planning authorities when they are:

- preparing Local Development Plans;
- determining planning applications with potential impacts on the heritage assets we record and protect.

HED maintains a planning database which is central to managing activities in relation to planning. District councils input planning applications onto the planning portal listing HED as a consultee if required. Once listed HED receives an email notification of the application and a record is automatically added HED's planning database. The record is assigned to the relevant team within HED and once work is complete HED send a response regarding the planning application to the council.

Data Content

Section 2.2.3

Statutory Planning Consultations;

Non Statutory Planning Consultations; records;

Listed Building Consent Consultations; records;

EIA Consultations;

Notifications to DfI;

Scheduled Monument Consent Applications.

Quality Assurance

The team within HED responsible for the planning database supply the data for '*NI Heritage Statistics*' to the relevant section within HED. Responses to planning applications are checked by supervisory staff. Guidance and training is provided to HED staff recording information on the planning database. Figures provided are checked against previous years. The data supplied is used without further analysis. Notification data is received by DfC from DfI.

Enforcement data

Enforcement is undertaken by HED following unauthorised works to protected heritage assets including the following:

- Damage to State Care monuments;
- Damage to scheduled historic monuments;
- Non-compliance with licence conditions of archaeological excavations;
- Inappropriate works to listed buildings (managed by district councils);
- Non-compliance with archaeological conditions specified in planning applications (managed by district councils);
- Urgent works notices in relation to long term decay of listed buildings (managed by district councils).

HED maintains an enforcement database which is central to managing activities in relation to enforcement.

The enforcement administration team within HED requests updates on a quarterly basis from other teams within HED in relation to enforcement activities. These are manually loaded onto the enforcement database. District councils are consulted on an annual basis to review data relating to enforcement activities for which they are responsible.

Note that there is no requirement for councils to respond to requests for information, hence the enforcement database may not reflect all enforcement activity being undertaken in Northern Ireland.

Data Content

Section 2.4.1

State Care incidents;

Scheduled Historic Monuments incidents;

Listed Buildings incidents.

Quality Assurance

The team within HED responsible for the enforcement database supply the data for 'NI Heritage Statistics' to the relevant section within HED. Updates to the enforcement database are reviewed and monitored by supervisory staff within HED. An Assistant Director (Grade 7) reviews changes to the database. Guidance and training is provided to HED staff recording information on the enforcement aatabase. Figures provided are checked against previous years. The data supplied is used without further analysis.

Additional HED data

The data listed below which are included in this report have been sourced from various HED data sources. The quality assurance processes associated with the recording and processing of the data have not been formally defined.

Section	Data	Source
1.1	No of historic urban settlements	Non published DfC Gazetteer compiled between 2014 and 2015 based upon defined criteria.
2.2.1	HED Support for repairs	DfC Historic Environment Fund Spreadsheet.
2.2.2	Care of the Government Historic Estate	Statistics Provided to DfC by Government Departments. DfC has not independently verified the data provided.
2.4.2	Number of fires at listed buildings	DfC HED records
3.1	HED Investment in visitor attractions	DfC HED records
3.4	Numbers of European Heritage Open Day (EHOD) visitors and events	DfC HED records
3.4	Number of EHOD volunteers	DfC HED records
3.5	Number of licensed events at State Care Monuments	DfC HED records
3.8	Number of educational visits to State Care Sites	DfC HED records
3.8	Number of talks and lectures provided by HED staff	DfC HED records
3.9	Number of heritage organisations identified in NI	DfC HED records

Additional Ad-hoc data

The data listed below which are included in this report have been sourced from a variety of organisations. The quality assurance processes associated with the recording and processing of the data have not been formally defined.

Section	Data	Source
1.1	Number of Areas of Townscape/Village Character	ATC's are recorded in the 26 Area Plans published by the former Department of the Environment.
1.1	Number of Local Landscape Policy Areas	LLPA's are recorded in the 26 Area Plans published by the former Department of the Environment
2.2.1	National Lottery Heritage Fund Investment in heritage assets and conservation areas	National Lottery Heritage Fund NI
2.2.1	National Trust Investment in heritage assets	National Trust NI
2.2.1	Architectural Heritage Fund Investment in heritage assets	Architectural Heritage Fund
2.2.1	Heritage Trust Network Investment in heritage assets	Heritage Trust Network NI
3.1	National Trust Investment	National Trust NI
3.1	Investment in Hillsborough Castle	Historic Royal Palaces
3.1	Investment in Titanic Hotel	National Lottery Heritage Fund NI
3.1	Investment in Landscape Partnerships	National Lottery Heritage Fund NI
3.4	National Trust Membership	National Trust
3.4	Ulster Architectural Heritage Membership	Ulster Architectural Heritage Society
3.4	Heritage Trust Membership	Heritage Trust Network NI
3.4	Historical Society Membership	Ulster Federation of Local Studies website on 31 March 2019.
3.4	Historic Houses Association Membership	HHA records.
3.4	Number of National Trust volunteers	National Trust
3.4	Number of Hillsborough Castle volunteers	Historic Royal Palaces
3.4	Number of Building Preservation Trust volunteers	Heritage Trust Network NI
3.4	Number of Friends organisation volunteers	Friends of the Derry Walls and Friends of Grey Abbey
3.5	400 th anniversary of the Derry Walls – grant scheme and activities	Derry City and Strabane District Council
3.5	Number of events at National Trust properties	National Trust
3.7	Number of Townscape Heritage Initiatives schemes in Northern Ireland	National Lottery Heritage Fund NI
3.7	Number of Great Place projects in NI	National Lottery Heritage Fund NI

3.7	Number of Landscape Partnership Schemes	National Lottery Heritage Fund NI
3.7	Conservation Officer data	Minute of September 2019 Conservation Officer Forum meeting
3.7	Heritage Officer data	HED note of SOLACE 11 council group on historic environment January 2019.