

Historic Environment Division

The Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland

June 2019



Historic Environment Division's Aim

“Helping communities to enjoy and realise the value of our historic environment”

We do this by:

- Recording, protecting, conserving, advising, promoting and enhancing its value
- Utilising and growing our specialist knowledge and expertise in collaboration with a wide range of groups and individuals
- Contributing to the Executive's objectives as laid out in the Programme for Government

Our historic environment provides authentic and attractive places which increase our pride, character and identity, lead to improved wellbeing and community engagement, and to prosperity through tourism, investment, skills, regeneration and creativity. It is a precious and finite resource available to present generations, and with appropriate management, to future generations.

This document provides information on the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland (HERoNI). It identifies the contents of the Record, and its purpose and uses. It also details the legislation and regional policies relating to the requirement to maintain a record of the historic environment of Northern Ireland, and the responsibilities of the

Department for Communities (DfC) with regard to its upkeep and access to the information it contains.

Further information can be obtained from the Department for Communities website: www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Contents

1. Introduction	4
2. What is the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland	5
3. The History of the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland	6
4. Collections in the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland.....	8
5. The Role of the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland	12
6. Responsibilities of the Department of Communities	13
7. Uses of the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland	14
8. Maintaining the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland.....	19
9. Keeping the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland up to date.....	20
10. Planning for the future of the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland	22
11. Accessing the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland	23

Cover Image:

Monea Castle, Co. Fermanagh
Built in 1618 by Malcolm Hamilton

This edition published by DfC Historic Environment Division June 2019
All images © Crown Copyright, unless otherwise stated.

1. Introduction

Our historic environment is the product of our past generations and each part of it contributes to our story. Northern Ireland's archaeological sites, monuments and historic buildings, all of which form our historic environment, are an integral part of our shared heritage, contributing to our understanding of both past and present. They create a distinctive landscape character, provide a sense of place and contribute to our prosperity, well-being and quality of life.

Our historic environment is also a precious and finite resource which needs to be carefully managed. This requires comprehensive, accurate and up to date information on which to base decisions. In Northern Ireland this information is held in the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland (HERoNI) (formerly the Monuments and Buildings Record of Northern Ireland), maintained by the Historic Environment Division (HED) within the Department for Communities (DfC).

This document sets out the composition and role of the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland and provides information on how it can be used.

The following terms are used in this document:

Historic Environment: All aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time, including all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried or submerged, and landscaped and planted or managed flora.

Heritage Asset: archaeological sites, monuments, historic landscapes and historic buildings are collectively referred to as heritage assets. Some of these assets have statutory protection as listed buildings, State Care or scheduled monuments, or protected wrecks.

2. What is the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland?

The Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland (HERoNI) holds significant records and collections of national importance relating to all aspects of the historic environment. This includes all surviving physical remains of past human activity, whether visible, buried, submerged or landscaped. It is an evolving resource and information is constantly maintained and updated and is made available to everyone to enable the management and protection of heritage assets for the public benefit.

HERoNI includes records on:

- archaeological sites and monuments
- historic buildings
- industrial heritage
- agricultural and recreation/ sporting heritage
- historic parks, gardens and designed landscapes
- maritime and marine heritage
- defence heritage
- battlefield sites

These records consist

- Extensive **written records** including field reports and site / building descriptions
- **Maps**, from the 1830s Ordnance Survey first editions onwards
- **Photographic collections**, including both those taken by HED staff over decades of survey and other photographic collections of national significance
- **Drawing collections**, including those completed by HED staff as part of the Archaeological Survey, but also

incorporating other extensive architectural collections of significance for Northern Ireland

- **Research papers**, including thematic studies on topics such as water pumps or thatched buildings
- **Digital records** including scans, photographs and LiDAR data
- **Site investigation and management records** for heritage assets, such as archaeological excavations and conservation schemes
- **Related correspondence.**

The information has been generated by over seventy years of work, which is still ongoing. HERoNI is a dynamic resource, which requires continuous maintenance and enhancement as new information is uncovered. As such, HERoNI needs to be continually managed and curated by appropriately qualified and dedicated staff.



Water (Double Wheel Rotary) pump, Stewartstown, Co. Tyrone (c.1890, Winnington & Co, Engineering, Belfast)

3. The History of the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland

In 1908 Royal Commissions on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of England, Scotland and Wales were established for the purposes of surveying and recording the historic environment, compiling and maintaining the public record of the archaeological, architectural and historical environment, and promoting an understanding of this information. The creation of the Commissions was based on a realisation that it is impossible to appropriately select those buildings or monuments which should be protected for posterity without first having an understanding of the full range of historic sites which exist. The collections created by these Commissions became the National Monuments Record for each country.

A similar Commission was not set up in Ireland at the time, but in 1937 the Ancient Monuments Advisory Council in Northern Ireland actively promoted undertaking county archaeological surveys. This culminated in the publication of the Preliminary Survey of Ancient Monuments in Northern Ireland in 1940 and ten years later with the establishment of the professionally staffed Archaeological Survey to undertake similar work to that of the Commissions in Britain. Over the next two decades the role of the survey expanded to meet the ever increasing demands of recording, conservation and protection. Escalating development pressures, coupled with new legislation, notably the Historic Monuments (NI) Act of 1971, led to the establishment of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) in the early 1970s.



Slidderyford Portal Tomb, Co. Down



Boa Island carved figure, Caldragh Graveyard, Co. Fermanagh (Early Christian Period, probably 9th century)

The Venice Charter (1964) stressed the need to understand what is important about each protected building before considering how to conserve or alter it. This means that an accurate architectural and historic record is essential. In Northern Ireland the first survey of historic buildings commenced in the 1970s, conducted by the Listed Buildings section of Works Service.

With the merger of the Archaeological Survey and Listed Buildings Section within the Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch of the Department of the Environment, the publically accessible Monuments and Buildings Record

was established in 1992. Since then it has continued to evolve with existing records augmented through ongoing survey work and new collections added. Over the years the remit of the record has extended to incorporate additional aspects of the historic environment, such as marine, defence and industrial heritage, as our understanding of the historic environment has evolved to acknowledge a more comprehensive range of heritage assets. Today HERoNI is a key asset within Department for Communities (DfC), and continues to add to its records, and to make the information available to the public.



Crookedstown, Ballyarnott Road, Crumlin, Co. Antrim (Thatched house c.1860)

4. Collections in the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland

Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)

The SMR holds information on 17,000 archaeological sites and historic monuments, including Ordnance Survey memoir descriptions from the 1830s, field inspection reports, drawings, photographs, excavation reports and extracts from articles that relate to the sites. Information on those sites which are statutorily protected as Scheduled monuments, or monuments in State Care is also available through the SMR.

The Historic Buildings Record

The Historic Buildings Record holds information on over 9,000 historic buildings and structures, the majority of which are Listed, and also includes targeted thematic surveys such as thatched buildings, historic pumps and Belfast roof-trusses. The Record also contains the Built Heritage At Risk NI (BHARNI) register, established in partnership with the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society, which identifies buildings at risk, usually from redundancy or collapse. Inclusion on the register aims to target resources towards these structures, to help secure their long-term, sustainable future.



Copney stone circle, cairn and alignment complex, Carrickmore, Co. Tyrone (Early Bronze Age. c.1600 BC)

The Industrial Heritage Record

The industrial revolution in Northern Ireland left a legacy of sites, from mills to mines, canals and railways. Many of our industries were important, not only locally, but also on the world stage, such as the shipbuilding at Harland and Wolff. The Industrial Heritage Record currently holds limited information on over 16,000 industrial sites, with the aspiration to increase this information through future survey work. Also available is the extensive McCutcheon Industrial Heritage Collection collated by WA McCutcheon during his comprehensive survey of the remains of 18th and 19th century industry and communications existing in Northern Ireland in the 1960s.

The Defence Heritage Record

The Record collects information on Northern Ireland's 20th-century defence structures. This includes sites relating to the World Wars, such as trenches, gun and searchlight emplacements, pillboxes,

airfields, naval and flying boat bases and air raid shelters. The record also incorporates sites spanning the Cold War era.

The Northern Ireland Heritage Gardens Record

The Northern Ireland Heritage Gardens Record contains detailed records for almost 700 historic parks, gardens and demesnes, with information gathered through site inspection, map and documentary research.

The Maritime Heritage Record

Our coast has always been an important area for settlement, defence, economic exploitation and trade. The Maritime Heritage Record holds details on the historic sites found on the coastline, foreshore and underwater. Records include details of sites such as kelp kilns, ice houses, fish traps, salt pans and ports or harbours. A shipwrecks database has also been established to record shipwreck incidents noted in historical sources.



WWII pillbox at Loughnas, Co. Down

The HERoNI Library

A key component of HERoNI is the library which holds an extensive collection of over 10,000 books and many journals. It incorporates a number of gifted collections, such as the significant Ann Hamlin bequest, and is considered by professional librarians to be the best specialist publication collection of its type in Ireland. Assembled over the years to facilitate and inform the work of the Division's staff, HERoNI library is also accessible for the public to consult and provides access to many books and articles on the entire range of the historic environment which are not easily available elsewhere.

The Photographic Record

The Record holds almost half a million images, mostly generated over decades of work by staff in the Division. There are photographs of monuments, archaeological sites, historic buildings and structures,

industrial and maritime features, historic parks and gardens and defence heritage structures as well as aerial photographs. HERoNI also holds a number of significant photographic collections, which are often important because they record many sites or buildings which no longer exist. These include material deposited by Professor James Curl, the architectural historian Sir Charles Brett, the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society (UAHS), and the pioneering architect GP Bell. Substantial reference collections by RJ Welch (1870- 1939) and WA Green (1870 – 1958) are a major source of visual information on monuments, buildings and the way of life in Northern Ireland in the early 20th century. The J Seeds survey of Georgian architecture in Northern Ireland from 1934 – 1942 contains images of buildings, many of which have since been demolished. The McCutcheon Collection consists over 27,000 black and white photographs, taken as part of a survey of industrial heritage sites in



Machinery in Mullybritt Wollen Factory, Lisbellaw, Co. Fermanagh from the McCutcheon photograph collection

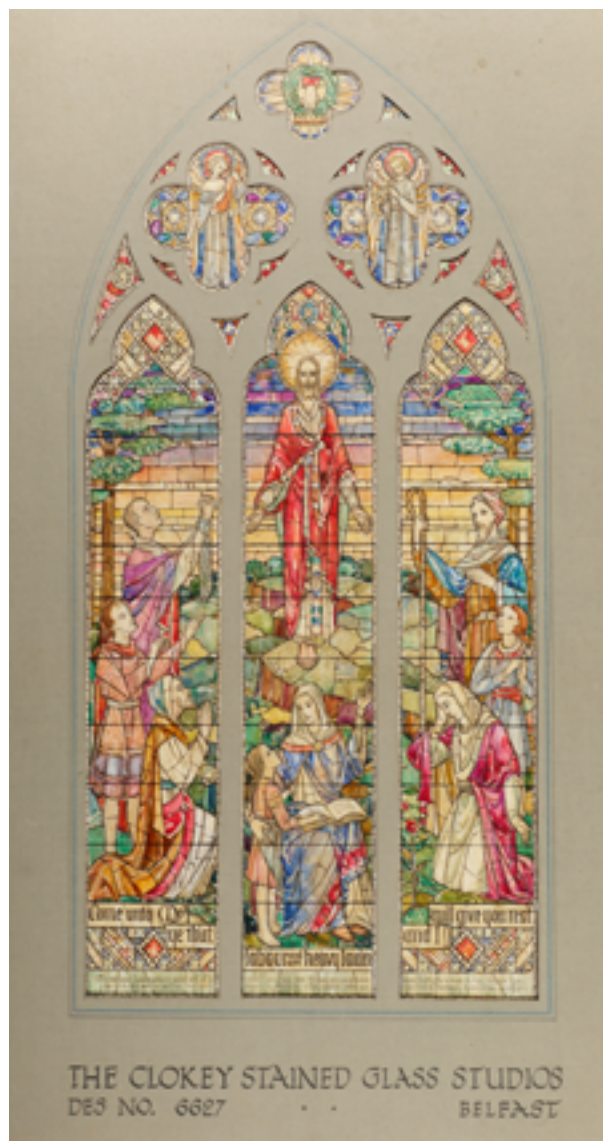
Northern Ireland during the 1960s. The Record also holds a selection of almost 1000 University of Cambridge aerial photographs taken by JKS St. Joseph between 1951-1955 and 1963-1973.

Drawings Collections

HERoNI holds an extensive drawings archive, many of which relate to protected and significant monuments or buildings. These drawings can provide an invaluable record to inform works to these heritage assets. The **Archaeological Drawings Collection** holds approximately 8,000 drawings of monuments recorded as part of Sites and Monuments Record survey work. This collection is regularly added to as the work of HED continues. The **Architectural Drawings Collection** includes thousands of drawings from key architectural firms who have worked on some of the most significant buildings in Northern Ireland, such as **John McGeagh** (Whitla Hall, St Anne's Cathedral), **Robert McKinstry** (Grand Opera House, St. Anne's Cathedral and the Crown Liquor Saloon) and **Philip Bell** (pioneer of the modern movement in Ulster). Perhaps particularly spectacular is the **Clokey stained glass collection** - 1200 original illustrations by The Clokey Stained Glass Studios of Belfast, dating from c.1895 to c.1970.

The Ministry of Finance collection

This substantial archive consists drawings, photographs and manuscript material



Clokey Stained Glass Design (Clokey Studio, c.1930)

from the Board of Works files of the Ministry of Finance (Northern Ireland), and includes material dating from 1882 to 1952. Drawings include National Schools, Post Offices, RUC Stations, Prisons, Technical Schools, Hospitals, Employment Exchanges and other buildings where Ministry architects were involved.

5. The Role of the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland

HERoNI provides a comprehensive, up to date, and accessible source of information on all aspects of Northern Ireland's historic environment.

By maintaining and augmenting the Record and making it available we:

- i. Provide an essential evidence base to enable informed decision-making about the sustainable development and change of heritage assets and the wider historic environment, for example informing decisions on planning applications and Local Development Plans
- ii. Inform appropriate management and conservation of heritage assets
- iii. Provide the basis for the identification and selection of monuments and buildings for statutory protection such as scheduling of historic monuments and listing of buildings
- iv. Support heritage led-regeneration and tourism, contributing to prosperity
- v. Advance knowledge and understanding of the historic environment and provide an education resource which can contribute to social cohesion
- vi. Use the specialist knowledge and expertise of staff to provide a high quality service which adds value to the information resource
- vii. Enable communities to enjoy and realise the potential of our historic environment, contributing to our well-being and sense of pride
- viii. Encourage and facilitate the promotion of the historic environment to ensure its value is realised and the greatest benefits can be achieved.



Whiteabbey Bay, Co. Antrim, wooden hull of ship wreck (probably 19th century)

6. Responsibilities of the Department for Communities

The Department for Communities (DfC) maintains HERoNI and makes it accessible to the public, and this fulfils a number of statutory and regulatory requirements.

The **Access to Environmental Information Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993** provides for public access to environmental information held by the Department. The **Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995** (Article 26) enables the Department for Communities (DfC) to disseminate knowledge about the protection and enhancement of historic monuments and provide mapping and information services relating to them. Section 80 of

the **Planning Act (NI) 2011** obliges the Department to make the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest available to the public.

Significantly, HERoNI is underpinned by a number of European Conventions (Council of Europe) to which the UK is a signatory:

The Protection of the Architectural Heritage, Granada (1985) (Article 14) requires measures for the identification, protection, restoration, maintenance, management and promotion of the architectural heritage and the supply of information between the State, the regional and local authorities, cultural institutions and associations, and the public;



Windsor Garden, Castle Ward, Co. Down (flower parterre originally created c.1840 and re-created 2018)

The Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (revised) Valetta (1992), Article 2 requires the maintenance of an inventory of archaeological heritage and Article 7 requires signatories to make or bring up to date surveys, inventories and maps of archaeological sites in the areas within its jurisdiction;

The Florence Charter 1981 (International Council on Monuments and Sites) also requires responsible authorities to adopt appropriate measures for the identification, listing and protection of historic gardens.

Also relevant is **The Namur Declaration (2015)** (Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe) which states that:

‘Cultural heritage is a key component of the European identity; it is of general public interest and its transmission to future generations is a shared responsibility; it is a unique resource, fragile, non-renewable and non-relocatable, contributing to the attractiveness and the development of Europe and, crucially, to the creation of a more peaceful, just and cohesive society’.

7. Uses of the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland

HERoNI has a wide range of uses, including a number relating to statutory or regional policy requirements which necessitate the use of HERoNI as a key evidence base.

Local Development Plans

The Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland (SPPS) (6.29) notes that Local Development Plans (LDPs) should identify the main built and archaeological heritage features within the plan area and bring forward appropriate policies or proposals for their protection, conservation and enhancement, including the designation of Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest in LDPs.

Regional Development Strategy 2035

The Regional Development Strategy 2035 provides an overarching strategic planning framework for Northern Ireland

and is material to decisions on individual planning applications and appeals. It notes the need to Identify, protect and conserve the built heritage of Northern Ireland.

Northern Ireland’s archaeological sites and monuments provide a tangible link to the distant past, as well as more modern remains...New discoveries are made every year that contribute to our understanding of the past and its place in the future landscape. Continuing work to identify these built heritage assets, on land, along the coast and within coastal waters helps inform future decisions about development and land-use change.

Development Management

The SPPS, Section 6 on Archaeology and Built Heritage, notes that ‘The planning system has a key role in the stewardship of our archaeological and built



Excavation at a crannog at Drumclay, Co. Fermanagh in advance of building the Cherrymount Link Road

heritage'. It details the need for planning authorities to ensure that all necessary information is available to allow well-informed planning judgements and that where changes are proposed they should be based on a clear understanding of the importance of the heritage asset.

Schedule 3 of the General Development Procedure Order (NI) 2105 sets out the need for consultation where a planning application is likely to affect the site or setting of any historic monument or an area which contains archaeological remains or the setting of a listed building or historic park, garden or demesne. In the Planning (General Permitted Development) Order (NI) 2015 'site of archaeological interest' is defined as including land which is within a site registered in the Department's Sites and

Monuments Record (SMR) - a key record within HERoNI. There is therefore an obligation to ensure that all these relevant heritage assets are recorded in HERoNI, and that this record is maintained and updated. Sustainability Appraisal (SA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) The Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) is implemented in Northern Ireland through the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (NI) 2004. Cultural heritage, including archaeological and architectural heritage is one of the themes it identifies to be considered when undertaking an SEA.

A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) of every Local Development plan is required under the Planning Act (NI) 2011. Sustainability appraisal should be a comprehensive assessment of the likely effects of an emerging plan

by examining potential impacts on social, economic and environmental outcomes, and therefore requires an assessment of the likely outcomes on the historic environment.

HERoNI provides the key evidence base on the historic environment for SEA and SA. These statutory processes can only be completed by making full and detailed use of the information available in HERoNI and it is therefore essential that the record is up to date to reliably inform these processes which are helping to shape our landscapes of the future.

Marine Spatial Planning

The Marine and Coastal Access Act (MCAA) 2009 and Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 provide the legal basis for a new system of marine planning in Northern Ireland that requires public authorities and proposers to consider and address any

impact of proposals on heritage assets. The NMBR includes records of heritage assets in the marine area inclusive of historic wrecks, coastal and intertidal archaeology and drowned terrestrial archaeological sites and landscapes. The NMBR is the principal decision-making tool for Historic Environment Division when advising other government departments in respect of the marine historic environment, as well as local authorities on general planning matters and DAERA with regard to marine and aquaculture Licensing.

Identification and selection of monuments and buildings for statutory protection

Monuments, buildings and wrecks can only be selected for appropriate protection when they have first been identified and recorded. The record provides information and statistics which enable this process to take monuments into State Care, or to designate



Coagh Presbyterian Church, near Cookstown, Co. Tyrone (18th century)



Crumlin Road Gaol, Belfast. A listed building and successful tourist attraction

Scheduled historic monuments (Historic Monuments and Archaeological Object (NI) Order 1995), Listed Buildings (Planning Act (NI) 2011) or Protected Wrecks (Protection of Wrecks Act 1973) to take place in a consistent way, based on sound evidence.

Conservation and management planning

Before undertaking conservation work to any heritage asset, or proposing changes to management which may impact on the historic fabric, the information held in HERoNI should be used as a key source of evidence which informs choices and decisions. The Record must also be updated to include information on the conservation work completed, so that it remains an authoritative source to inform future decisions.

Heritage led-regeneration

Heritage led regeneration is a successful way in which to ensure that heritage assets

have a new life, so they can be used and enjoyed by future generations. As with conservation and management planning, it is essential that the information held in HERoNI is consulted and used to inform proposed works from the earliest stages.

Tourism

Alongside some of our most famous heritage sites, such as Dunluce Castle, there are many other monuments and buildings which also offer opportunities for the development of local heritage trails and experiences. HERoNI provides an excellent source of information which can inspire and inform tourism initiatives, and help identify sites and buildings which can encourage a wider dispersal of visitors across the region, and encourage longer dwell-time with the associated economic benefits which that entails.

Conservation work, involving community volunteers, at Slieve Gullion passage tomb, County Armagh

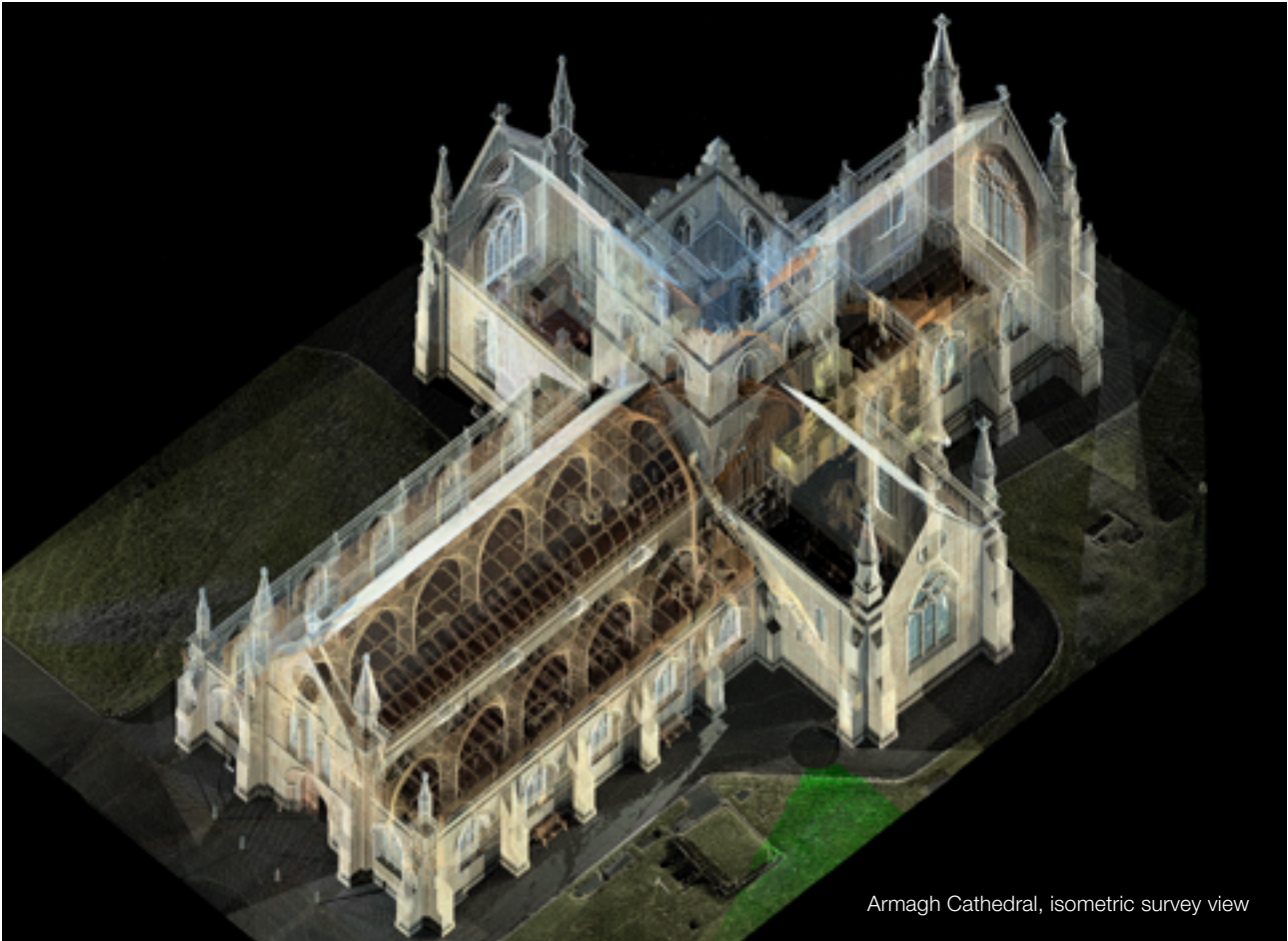


Community engagement, public participation and social cohesion

The records in HERoNI detail our shared heritage and provides a unique way in which to engage with local communities and offers opportunities to foster greater understanding and encourage social cohesion. The records in HERoNI can support community engagement projects, and offer vital information for local heritage projects, which often provide benefits for the community groups and also for the heritage assets themselves.

Advancing knowledge and understanding of the historic environment

HERoNI forms the central information resource for the historic environment across Northern Ireland. By maintaining an up to date, accurate and accessible record HERoNI facilitates further research and encourages the development and dispersal of knowledge, creating a virtuous circle of learning and understanding which informs decision –making processes going forward.



Armagh Cathedral, isometric survey view

8. Maintaining the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland

Given the unique and irreplaceable nature of the information and collections held within HERoNI it is essential that the Record is well-maintained, and housed in appropriate storage conditions. Management, maintenance and storage of the Record should comply with a number of British Standards:

BS EN 16893:2018 Conservation of Cultural Heritage: Specifications for location, construction and modification of buildings or rooms intended for the storage or use of heritage collections

BS4971:2017 Conservation and care of archive and library collections

PAS 197:2009 Code of practice for cultural collections management.

HERoNI aspires to the Accredited Archive Service standard, which recognises good practice for archive services across the UK and validates it against a nationally agreed standard. It is recognised that significant work will be required over coming years to achieve this standard.

In order to ensure that HERoNI is appropriately maintained a suite of policy and procedure documents are in place and regularly updated.

9. Keeping the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland up to date

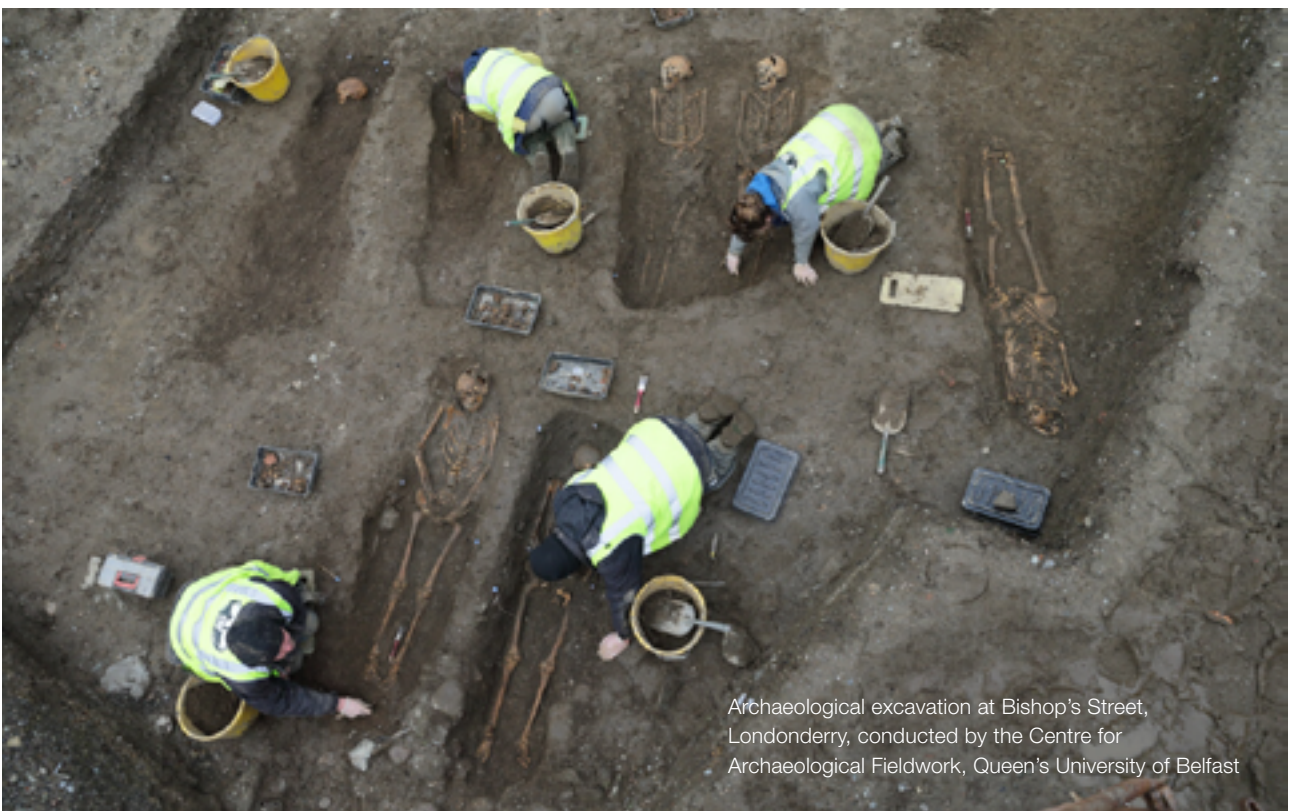
HERoNI requires constant updating to reflect new discoveries and new information generated about our historic environment, to ensure that it is both current and accurate.

Regular amendments include:

- New discoveries, particularly through field survey, aerial imagery including LiDAR, archaeological excavation and historic building survey
- New and amended statutory designations of both scheduled monuments and listed buildings
- Records and outcomes of investigations conducted as part of conservation schemes
- Changes to the condition or interpretation of heritage assets already recorded

Such information is generated in a variety of ways: systematic or thematic survey programmes commissioned or conducted by the Department; the development management process; archaeological excavation; survey by local community, voluntary or Landscape Partnership groups, university-based or individual research.

Archaeological excavation, particularly as a result of the development management process since 1999 (i.e. required as a condition of planning consent), has generated, and continues to generate, large volumes of new information, much of which relates to previously unknown sites. Such information is added to HERoNI, but forms an integral part of the wider excavation archive, which includes the archaeological finds. HERoNI is unable to



Archaeological excavation at Bishop's Street, Londonderry, conducted by the Centre for Archaeological Fieldwork, Queen's University of Belfast

accept the full excavation archive relating to archaeological sites at this time, but the Department is actively exploring potential ways delivering a holistic approach to these archives in future.

The Department ensures that online databases and mapping are also maintained and updated with all new information relating to heritage assets, to make it as accessible as possible to the public. The data is also made freely available through OpenDataNI, as part of the Open Data Strategy for Northern Ireland.

There is a significant backlog of material within HERoNI which remains to be catalogued and added to the Records and this is a task which the Department is undertaking and has dedicated resource towards.

The compilation and updating of HERoNI is a two-way process. The information held within the record is used for a wide variety of purposes, many of which will generate new information that should itself be incorporated into the record, or corrections to existing data. This means that HERoNI is an ever-evolving resource.

HERoNI is also augmented by the acquisition or donation of new collections which enhance our knowledge about historic buildings, sites, monuments and landscapes. There is ongoing, significant investment in new collections which are an invaluable source of information and each addition to the record provides new insights and understanding about our historic environment.



Survey work being undertaken by a member of the HERoNI team



Temple of the Winds, Mount Stewart, Co. Down (1783, architect James [Athenian] Stuart)

10. Planning for the future of the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland

As noted in the introduction, Northern Ireland's archaeological sites, monuments, landscapes and historic buildings all contribute to our understanding of the past and present, provide a sense of place and contribute to our prosperity, well-being and quality of life. In order to ensure careful management of this precious and finite resource, and to meet the roles and requirements discussed above, it is essential that HERoNI is maintained, updated and enhanced to deliver accurate and up to date information on which to base decisions. This requires appropriate forward planning and resourcing for the delivery of HERoNI into the future.

Policies on acquisition, retention and disposal are in place and are delivered through the implementation of an

operational plan. Collections which are in-line with the remit of HERoNI to record and protect Northern Ireland's historic environment are actively identified and acquired and donations of appropriate collections are also very much welcomed. Future accommodation needs of HERoNI and proposals for digital transformation are actively being pursued, which will enable HERoNI to more effectively deliver its valuable public service.

The Department is committed to enabling HERoNI to fulfil its role in surveying and recording heritage assets, compiling and maintaining the public record of the archaeological, architectural and historic environment, and promoting an understanding of this information.



St. Patrick's Church, Ballyclog, Co. Antrim. Built 1865

11. Accessing the Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland

Accessing HERoNI

HERoNI is staffed by professional archaeologists and architectural historians who can help with advice and the interpretation and understanding of specialist information within the record. These staff bring knowledge and expertise about the historic environment and the Record itself, which ensures users have access to the fullest range of relevant information.

Access to the information is available free of charge, but small charges may be applied for certain activities, such as providing copies of material. Information on this is available from the HERoNI team.

Visit HERoNI

HERoNI can be accessed in person at the address below. It is usually best to contact us in advance to make an appointment:

**Klondyke Building
Cromac Avenue
Gasworks Business Park
Malone Lower
Belfast
BT7 2JA**

Requests for information can also be submitted by email or telephone:

Tel: 028 9056 9701

Email: HERoNI@communities-ni.gov.uk

Online

HERoNI team are working to provide as much information as possible online, and this is an ongoing process with regular updates provided.

Much of the HERoNI material is available through the Historic Environment Map Viewer:



Gate into the Sundial Garden, the Argory, Co. Armagh

www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/historic-environment-map-viewer

Further information held by HERoNI can also be accessed online at

www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/historic-environment-record-northern-ireland-heroni

www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/historic-environment/find-out-more-about-historic-environment

GIS datasets are also made available for download through OpenData at www.opendatani.gov.uk/organization/department-for-communities-historic-environment-division

A digital transformation process, currently underway, will deliver more efficient access to HERoNI information, and will help to ensure that the value of the information the Record holds is fully realised.



“Helping communities to enjoy and realise the value of our historic environment”

Historic Environment Division

Ground Floor
9 Lanyon Place
Town Parks
Belfast
BT1 3LP

Tel: 028 9081 9226 / 028 9081 9212

Email: historicenvironmentenquiries@communities-ni.gov.uk

Web: www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/historic-environment