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Survey of Scheduled Monument Owners in Northern Ireland

May 2025

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DfC Analytics Division

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

1.1.1. Strategic Investment Board 2020 report

The Strategic Investment Board (SIB) was engaged by the Historic Environment Division (HED) in 2020 to undertake a strategic review of the need for government intervention to support heritage in Northern Ireland, with a particular focus on the financial subvention provided by HED through the Historic Environment Fund (HEF). Detailing the findings of the review, SIB produced the report 'Strategic Review of State Subvention and Support for Heritage in Northern Ireland'.

The review found that while there is a wealth of evidence to demonstrate that heritage has a critical role to play for cultural, economic and social wellbeing, the historic environment in Northern Ireland is increasingly at risk of loss due to a lack of requisite protection works. SIB concluded that there is evidence that market failure in heritage exists in Northern Ireland, however, they could not find evidence regarding the precise nature and extent of this market failure and whether the private market does not sufficiently protect heritage because it is:

- Unaware of the importance of the historic environment; and/or
- Lacking suitably skilled conservation workers to undertake works; and/or
- Aware of the importance but unwilling to incur private financial loss for societal gain.

SIB recommended that a bank of pertinent evidence be gathered regarding the current historic landscape and challenges associated with the heritage sector in Northern Ireland.

1.1.2. Historic Environment Division

Department for Communities (DfC) has a statutory remit to compile and maintain a schedule of monuments and buildings which are deemed to be of special interest. Various pieces of legislation also ensure that consent is required before work can be undertaken to demolish, alter or extend scheduled monuments and listed buildings. In addition, councils must consult HED prior to determining an application for planning permission where the development proposal involves material alteration/demolition of a listed building, a historic monument or a historic park, garden or demesne, or impact to their setting.

SIB states that although HED has historically supported each category of intervention (education, advocacy, and capacity building; direct investment; transfer of assets; the 'carrot and stick' tools of financial and fiscal incentives, and regulation and enforcement), the primary focus of HED's resources has historically related to regulation, through maintenance of protected lists and schedules, and distribution of grant assistance, and to a lesser extent advice and enforcement.

SIB informs that the annual budget for HED is approximately £8m per annum, representing less than 0.1% of the total annual budget of DfC. They also report that statutory obligations which fall to HED can be in opposition, with the need to protect state care monuments potentially directly conflicting with the need to provide public access to those monuments.

1.1.3. Heritage in Northern Ireland

Heritage can be understood in a number of ways. The United Nations Scientific Organisation (UNESCO) identifies two categories, natural and cultural:

- Natural heritage refers to natural features, geological and physiographical formations and delineated areas that constitute the habitat of threatened species of animals and plants and natural sites of value from the point of view of science, conservation or natural beauty¹.
- Meanwhile, cultural heritage includes artefacts, monuments, buildings and sites that have a diversity of values including symbolic, historic, artistic, aesthetic, ethnological or anthropological, scientific and social significance. It includes both tangible heritage (movable, immobile and underwater) and intangible cultural heritage embedded into cultural, and natural heritage artefacts, sites or monuments².

While there may be intangible associations with historic buildings and places, the focus of HED is on Northern Ireland's fixed tangible cultural and natural heritage.

As of 31 March 2023, the Northern Ireland historic environment included the following statutorily designated heritage assets:

- 186 monuments in state care
- 2,035 scheduled historic monuments
- 9,072 listed buildings
- 60 conservation areas
- 4 protected wrecks

A number of assets were recorded as being at risk of loss. This included listed buildings and unlisted buildings of significance and scheduled historic monuments. On 31 March 2023, there were 1,037 buildings or monuments recorded on the Heritage at Risk register for Northern Ireland (HARNI).

SIB discloses that the number of structures at risk as recorded on the HARNI register has been steadily increasing, with condition surveys completed by HED showing a clear decline in condition of listed buildings between 2005 and 2013 despite the issuance of grant aid of £23.6m across the same period. Similarly, SIB state that a 2007 condition survey indicated an overall demise in the condition of historic monuments, with only a small proportion (6.9%) being in a 'complete' condition. The condition survey of listed buildings in 2013 estimated that 30.8% of all listed buildings in Northern Ireland were at some form of risk. An update to that research has been completed in parallel to this work.

1.1.4. Market Failure in Heritage

SIB (2020) notes that in economics, heritage can be seen as a cultural capital asset, which can give rise to both economic and cultural value simultaneously, contributing to the production of further cultural goods and services, job creation and wellbeing of local communities. Cultural value is multi-dimensional and can be reflected in a number of different dimensions including aesthetic, historic, symbolic, spiritual, social, authenticity and/or scientific values.

Linked to this, heritage delivers a range of tangible and intangible economic and social benefits beyond the market values derived by asset owners. There is evidence that the protection of the historic environment delivers a range of wider benefits including:

¹ [Natural heritage | UNESCO UIS](#)

² [Cultural heritage | UNESCO UIS](#)

- Promotion of tourism
- Regeneration and breathing new life into culturally important old buildings
- Valuing authenticity
- Creating cities, towns and villages with unique character to attract outside investment
- Social cohesion and volunteering opportunities
- Improving health and wellbeing, and
- Contributing to addressing shortages in the housing stock.

SIB concludes that it is evident that market failure exists with respect to the protection and preservation of the historic environment in Northern Ireland, as some owners or custodians of heritage assets do not conserve the historic environment to a level that is optimal to society. They explain that the private market (whether individuals or companies) will only invest in a project if the private returns outweigh the private costs. Therefore, since use values represent only a portion of the wider economic benefits derived from the historic environment, a market failure exists whereby heritage is undervalued by the private market.

1.2. Study on Market Failure in the Heritage Sector in Northern Ireland

In response to the recommendations in the SIB (2020) report ‘Strategic Review of State Subvention and Support for Heritage in Northern Ireland’, HED commissioned Analytics Division to undertake a study on market failure in the heritage sector in Northern Ireland. This study is comprised of four individual reports: a literature review, survey of listed building owners, survey of scheduled monument owners, and a market failure analysis of the heritage sector in Northern Ireland. All four reports are published on the DfC website.

1.3. Survey of Scheduled Monument Owners in Northern Ireland

To build the evidence base on market failure in the heritage sector in Northern Ireland, Analytics Division and HED carried out surveys of owners of listed buildings and scheduled monuments. The surveys gathered evidence of the nature and extent of market failures.

This report summarises the findings of the survey of scheduled monuments owners in Northern Ireland. A separate report provides the findings of the survey of listed building owners.

Please note that quoted figures in the report may not sum to the figures displayed in any corresponding charts due to rounding.

2. Survey Methodology

A survey to gather information on the issues faced by owners of scheduled monuments as they manage, maintain, or enhance their monuments was launched by the Department for Communities on the 19th of December 2022 and closed on the 14th of June 2023. The aim of this survey is to help the Department understand the overall issues that scheduled monument owners face and help develop and refine the support that is offered.

2.1. Questionnaire Development

The questionnaire was developed by representatives from Analytics Division and HED following review of the findings of a literature review in order to gather evidence of market failure in Northern Ireland.

2.2. Data Collection

The survey was published on the NI Direct consultations webpage ([NI Direct - Citizen Space](#)) and publicised via the Department's Twitter feed. Field Monument Wardens, who carry out regular inspections of scheduled monuments and provide maintenance advice to owners, visited owners during their site visits in order to gather their views and input their responses to the online questionnaire. Of the 2,035 scheduled monuments in Northern Ireland, 100 owners were asked to complete the survey resulting in a response rate of 5%. Selection of owners was based on the timetabled visits of Field Monument Wardens during the months of November 2022 to May 2023 across Northern Ireland. This report provides an overview of the responses provided.

The base numbers shown in the tables throughout the report may vary as all respondents did not provide a response to every question.

Note that one response to question 5 was adjusted in order to match the routing of related questions.

3. Your Ownership

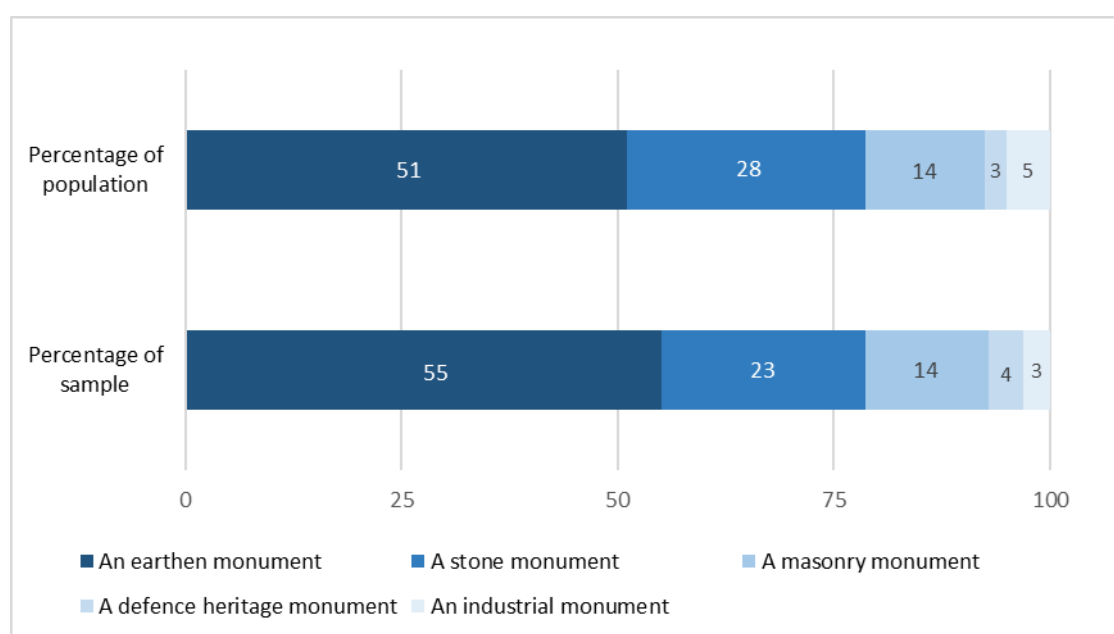
3.1. Type of monument

Earthen monuments were owned or leased by the majority of respondents to the survey (55%), whilst just under a quarter of respondents (23%) said they owned or leased a stone monument. Around one in every seven respondents (14%) owned or leased a masonry monument.

Nine in every ten respondents (90%) reported that they owned or leased the entire monument, whilst ten per cent of respondents owned or leased part of the monument.

The chart below provides a breakdown by type of the sample of scheduled monuments and also of all the scheduled monuments in Northern Ireland. The sample of scheduled monuments surveyed is broadly representative of the overall population.

Figure 1. Type of scheduled monument owned/leased



Sample base = 98
Population base = 2,035

3.2. Type of owner

Private owners made up the majority of respondents to the survey (86%), with almost three-fifths (59%) being private owners who worked the surrounding land agriculturally and just over a quarter (27%) being private owners who did not work the surrounding land agriculturally. The remaining owner types included public owners (8%), social enterprise, charity or non-governmental organisations (5%) and leaseholders (1%).

Table 1. Type of owner

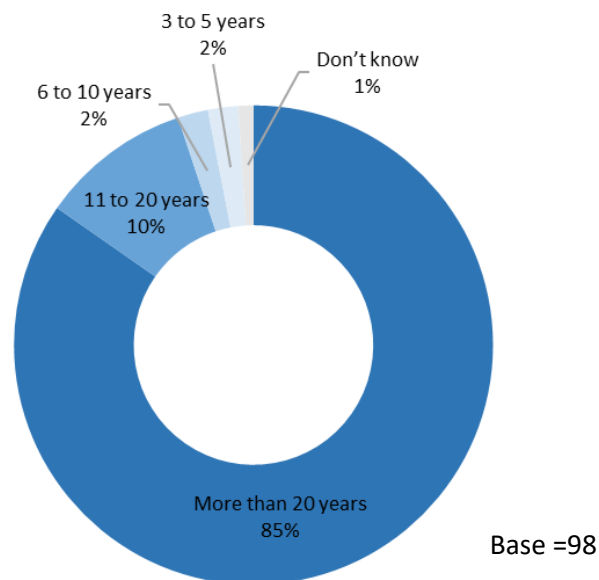
	%
Private Owner (working the surrounding land agriculturally)	59
Private owner (not working the surrounding land agriculturally)	27
Public Owner i.e. government, public authority or arm's length body	8
Social Enterprise, charity or Non-Governmental Organisation	5
Leaseholder	1
Developer	0

Base = 98

3.3. Length of time owned

The majority of respondents had owned or leased their scheduled monument for more than 20 years (85%), whilst one tenth (10%) had owned or leased the monument for between 11 to 20 years. Only four per cent of respondents said that they had owned or leased the monument for 10 years or less.

Figure 2. Length of time owned or leased



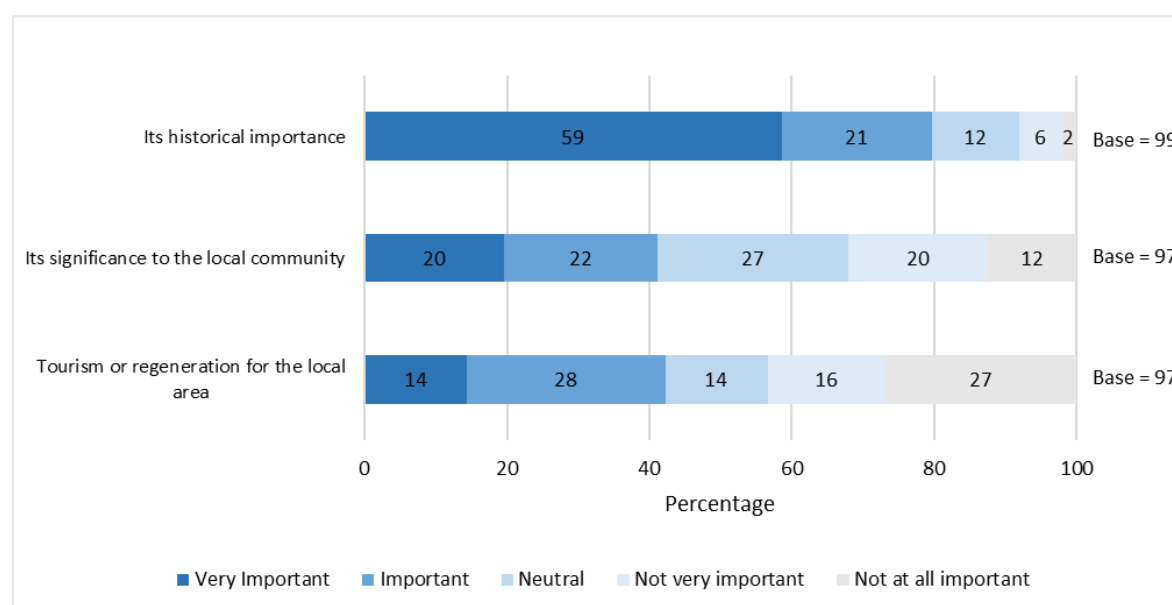
4. Attitudes to historic assets

4.1. Importance of your monument

Four-fifths of scheduled monument owners (80%) felt their property was either very important or important in terms of its historical importance, with nearly three-fifths stating it was very important (59%). In comparison, around two-fifths of respondents thought that their monument was either very important or important with regards to tourism or regeneration for the local area (42%) and in terms of its significance to the local community (41%).

Less than one in every ten respondents (8%) thought that their monument was either not very important or not at all important in terms of historical importance whilst higher proportions of respondents thought their monument was either not very important or not at all important in terms of its significance to the local community (32%) or tourism or regeneration for the local area (43%).

Figure 3. Importance of your monument



4.2. Importance of maintaining your monument

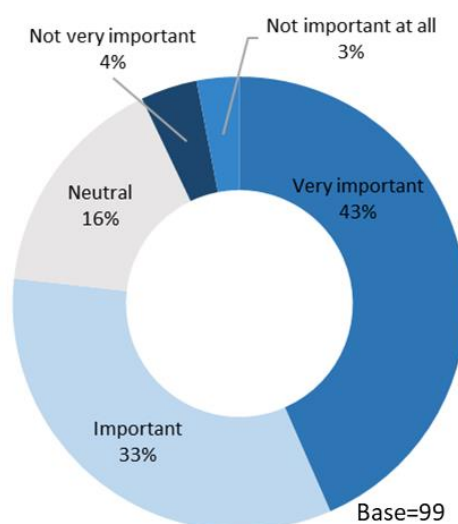
Over three-quarters of respondents (77%) considered it very important or important to maintain the scheduled monument they owned or were responsible for whilst less than one in every ten (7%) considered it not very important or not important at all.

All public owners (8 respondents) and leaseholders (1 respondent) considered it important or very important to maintain their scheduled monument whilst four-fifths of private owners working the surrounding land agriculturally (46 respondents) and social enterprises, charities or non-governmental organisations (4 respondents) thought that this was the case. In comparison around two-thirds of private owners (17 respondents) not working the surrounding land agriculturally held the same view.

All respondents who owned an industrial (3 respondents) and defence heritage monument (4 respondents) considered it important or very important to maintain their scheduled monument. Regarding other types of monuments, around nine-tenths thought it was important or very

important to maintain their stone monument (20 respondents) whilst around three-quarters of those owning an earthen monument (40 respondents) and two-thirds of those owning a masonry monument (9 respondents) thought that was the case.

Figure 4. Importance of maintaining monument



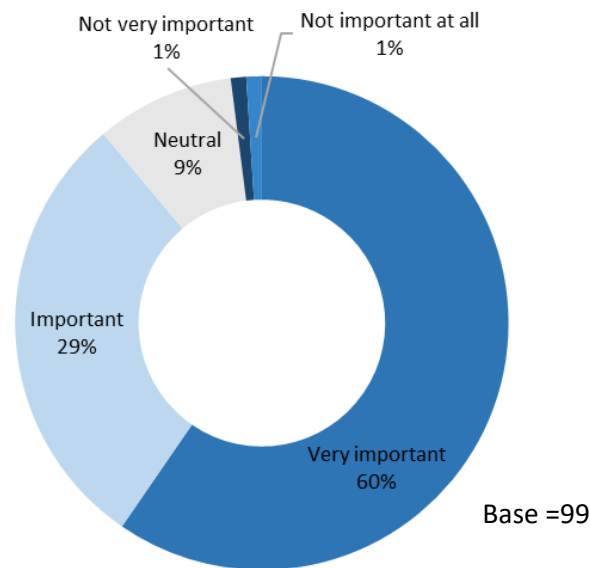
4.3. Importance of heritage sites

When asked about the importance of heritage sites in general, three-fifths of respondents (60%) said they considered heritage sites to be very important, whilst around three in every ten (29%) considered them to be important. Only two per cent of respondents considered heritage sites to be either not very important or not important at all.

All public owners (8 respondents) and leaseholders (1 respondent) considered heritage sites important or very important whilst just under nine in every ten private owners (74 respondents) considered this to be the case. In comparison four-fifths of social enterprises, charities or non-governmental organisations (4 respondents) considered heritage sites important or very important.

All respondents who owned an industrial (3 respondents), defence heritage (4 respondents) or masonry monument (14 respondents) considered heritage sites important or very important. Regarding other types of monuments, around nine-tenths of owners of stone monuments (21 respondents) thought heritage sites were important or very important whilst over four-fifths of those owning an earthen monument (46 respondents) held this view.

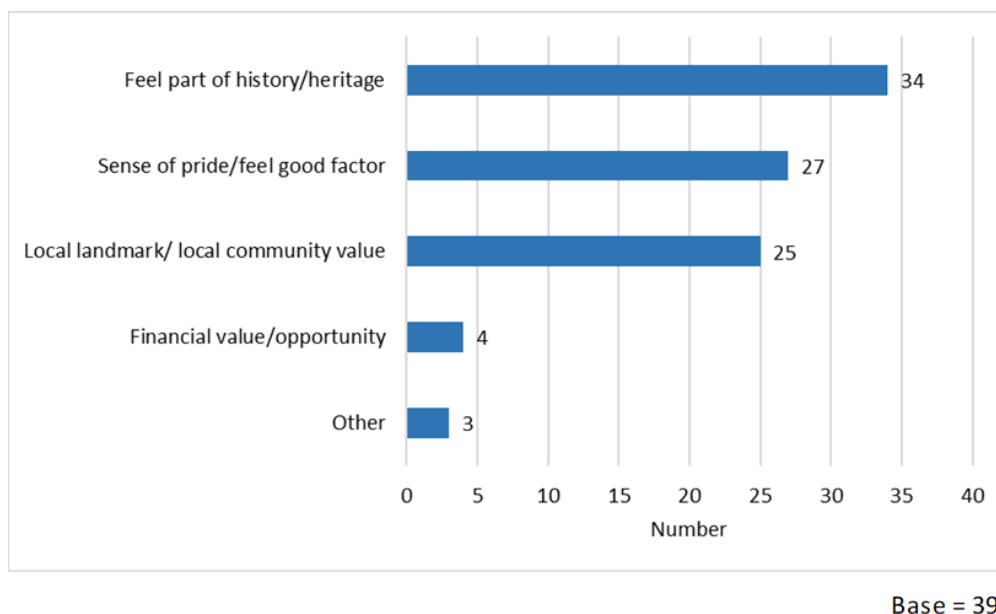
Figure 5. Importance of heritage sites



4.4. Advantages of owning a scheduled monument

Only two-fifths of respondents (40%) said there were advantages in owning or leasing a scheduled monument. Of these respondents, just under nine in every ten reported that feeling part of history or heritage was one advantage, whilst over three-fifths said that advantages included a sense of pride/feel good factor or the scheduled monument provided a local landmark/local community value. Just over one in every ten respondents reported that financial value was an advantage to owning a historic monument.

Figure 6. Advantages to owning a scheduled monument

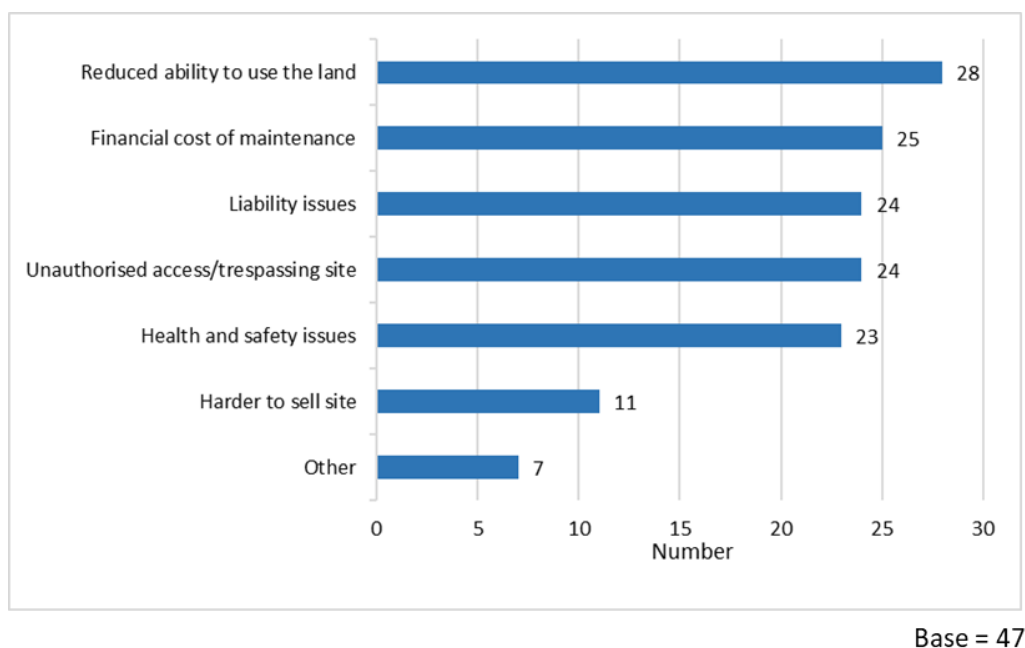


4.5. Disadvantages of owning a scheduled monument

Just under half of respondents (47%) thought that there were disadvantages to owning or leasing a scheduled monument. Of these respondents, three-fifths reported that the reduced ability to use the land was one disadvantage, whilst around a half reported disadvantages including the financial cost of maintenance, liability issues, unauthorised access/trespassing site and health and safety issues. Just under a quarter thought that it was harder to sell the site.

Other disadvantages noted in respondents' comments included a lack of knowledge and support about how to maintain their scheduled monument, interference and poor communication from the Department, NIE power line posts near the area and the monument being used by youths as a playpark. One respondent noted that a minor disadvantage was looking after maintenance in restrictive conditions in an area in which they were not an expert.

Figure 7. Disadvantages to owning a scheduled monument



5. Repair and Maintenance

5.1. Condition of monument

Respondents were asked to rate the condition of their monument using the four options below:

- Good: Structurally sound, and with no significant repairs needed.
- Fair: Structurally sound but in need of repair (e.g. some loose stones or mortar needing addressed or animal barriers in need of work).
- Poor: Fabric generally deteriorating (e.g. widening cracks, deteriorating masonry, banks eroding or damaged by animals, loss of carved detail).
- Very Poor: severe damage. Structurally unstable: foundations shifting, walls bulging, collapsed banks, significant danger from erosion.

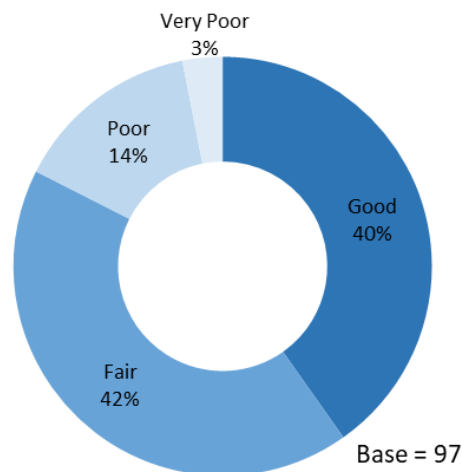
Around eight in every ten respondents said their monument was either in good (40%) or fair condition (42%). Only three per cent of respondents reported that their monument was in a very poor condition.

Field Monument Wardens routinely inspect every scheduled monument site in a cycle every 3 to 4 years and score each site on the basis of current and future risk and present condition. This scoring is used to inform an ongoing strategic risk-based inspection regime, targeting resources where the need is greatest to achieve compliance. There are established descriptors of each of the five grades of condition and risk which wardens assign to monuments ranging from excellent to critical. Although this grading is not strictly the same as that used in the survey, it is notable that in 2022/23 wardens rated a similar proportion of monuments as poor (generally unsatisfactory condition with major localised problems) compared to respondents who rated the condition of their monument as very poor (3%), both categories aligning broadly to reflect a similar condition and risk state.

All social enterprises, charities or non-governmental organisations (5 respondents) and leaseholders (1 respondent) said their monument was either in good or fair condition, whilst over four-fifths of public owners (7 respondents) and private owners working the surrounding land agriculturally (48 respondents) considered this to be the case. In comparison around seven in every ten private owners not working the surrounding land agriculturally (18 respondents) considered their monument in good or fair condition.

All respondents who owned an industrial (3 respondents) or defence heritage monument (4 respondents) considered their monument to be either in good or fair condition. Regarding other types of monuments, over four-fifths of owners of stone (19 respondents) or earthen monuments (46 respondents) thought their monument was in good or fair condition whilst less than three-fifths of those owning a masonry monument (8 respondents) held this view.

Figure 8. Condition of monument



5.2. Frequency of repair and maintenance

A third of respondents (33%) said they had considered carrying out or organising repairs to their monument.

With regards to caring for their monument, three-quarters of respondents reported that they carried out regular monitoring of the site every 1-2 years whilst around a half of respondents said that they looked after their monument by removing vegetation, preventing animals from accessing the site, responding promptly to minor damage, or carrying out timely repairs every 1-2 years.

Around one in every six respondents talk to the Department about concerns or seek professional conservation advice every 1-2 years. However, seven in every ten respondents reported that they have never sought professional conservation advice whilst over half said they have never talked to the Department about their concerns.

Around two-fifths of respondents had also never prevented animals from accessing the site, responded promptly about minor damage or carried out timely repairs.

Other maintenance noted in respondents' comments included ongoing grass cutting, cleaning the monument, following recommendations in the warden's report, and trying to restrict access to the site.

Table 2. Frequency of repairs and maintenance

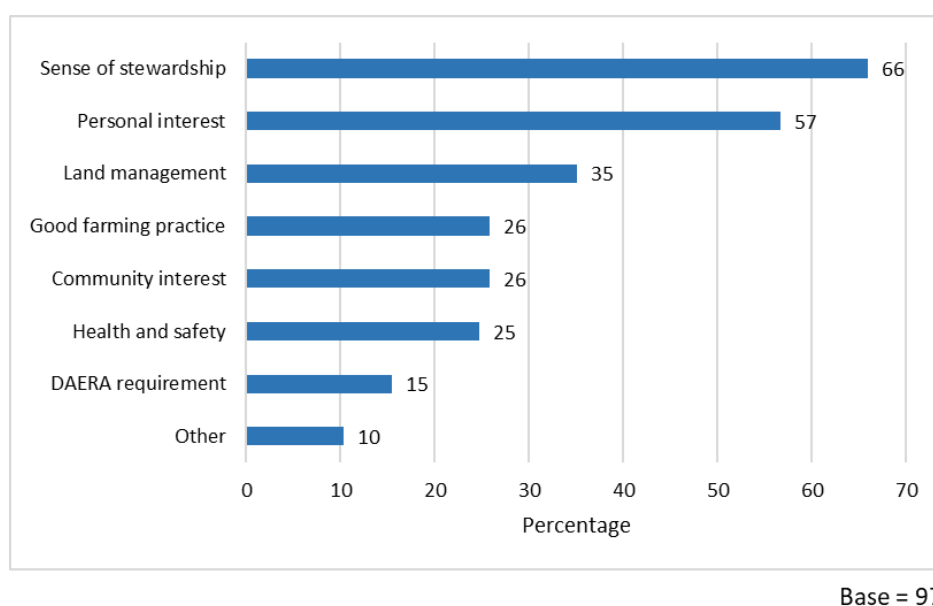
	Number					Base
	Every 1-2 years	2-5 years	5-10 years	10 years +	Never	
Remove vegetation	45	9	6	3	25	88
Prevent animals from accessing site	40	4	2	3	37	86
Regular monitoring of site	68	3	4	1	15	91
Talk to Department about concerns	15	18	5	1	46	85
Respond promptly to minor damage	42	4	2	0	37	85
Seek professional conservation advice	12	7	2	4	58	83
Carrying out timely repairs	38	5	3	4	32	82
Other	9	1	1	1	7	19

5.3. Reasons for maintaining monument

Two-thirds of respondents (66%) said they maintained their monument due to a sense of stewardship, whilst over half (57%) maintained it out of personal interest. Just under one in every seven respondents (15%) said that they maintained their monument because of a DAERA requirement.

Other reasons for maintenance noted in respondents' comments included enhancing the site as a visitor attraction, heritage, maintaining it for future generations and it is a legal requirement to do so.

Figure 9. Reasons for maintaining monument



5.4. Obstacles and assistance

When identifying obstacles that prevent owners from looking after their monument around two-fifths said that they cannot afford to maintain their monument (41%) or there was no financial benefit to maintaining it (40%).

Around three in every ten respondents said that the effort and cost is not justified (34%), they had a lack of time to carry out maintenance work in a timely fashion (32%) and they had a lack of knowledge of what maintenance work should consist of (27%).

Other obstacles noted in respondents' comments included a lack of positive support from the government, not being able to look after the monument due to old age or disability and wildlife issues.

Just under three in every ten respondents (28%) said there were no obstacles preventing them from looking after their monument.

Table 3. Obstacles to maintaining monument

	%
Cannot afford to maintain	41
No financial benefit	40
Effort and cost is not justified	34
Lack of time to carry out maintenance work in a timely fashion	32
No obstacles	28
Lack of knowledge of what maintenance work should consist of	27
The standards required by the Department to maintain monuments are prohibitive	17
Lack of availability of contractors with suitable skills	9
Other	7

Base = 96

The majority of respondents (70%) said grant funding would assist them in managing and carrying out repairs to their monument. A further two-fifths of respondents (41%) said clearer guidance on managing their monument was needed and a quarter (25%) reported more regular visits from Field Monument Wardens would assist them in carrying out repairs. Just under a quarter of respondents (24%) said that no additional help was required to carry out repairs to their monument.

Other assistance noted in comments provided by respondents included volunteer wardens for tasks including litter picking and monitoring anti-social behaviour, introduction of a scheme where back to work or apprentice groundsmen travel around local private monuments to maintain them and a Departmental maintenance person.

Table 4. Assistance to manage repairs

	%
Grant funding	70
Clearer guidance on managing your monument	41
More regular visits from Field Monument Warden	25
No additional help required	24
Less regulation	23
Assistance with sourcing contractor quotations	22
Other	6

Base = 96

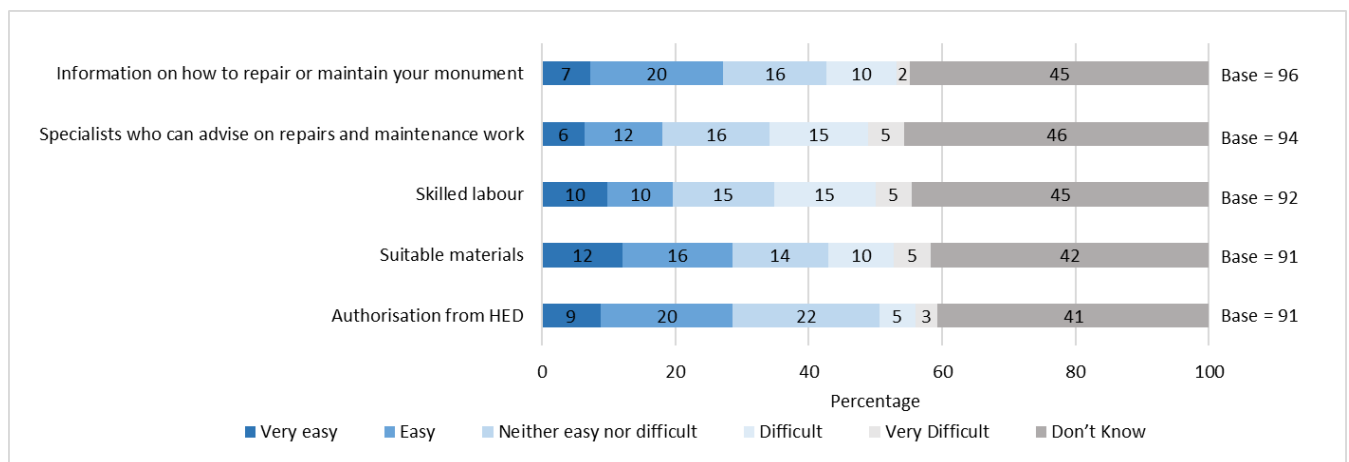
5.5. Finding professional advice, contractors, and materials

Almost a third of respondents thought it was either very easy or easy to find or obtain suitable materials (29%), authorisation from HED (29%) or information on how to repair or maintain their monument (27%).

Around one-fifth of respondents thought it was very easy or easy to find skilled labour (20%) or specialists who can advise on repairs and maintenance work (18%) whilst similar proportions of respondents found it difficult or very difficult to find skilled labour (21%) or specialists (20%).

More than two-fifths of respondents didn't know how easy or difficult it was to source each of the categories listed.

Figure 10. Ease of finding professional advice, contractors, and materials

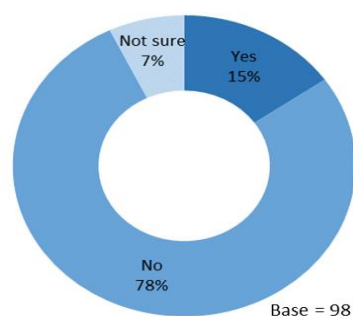


5.6. Funding

Just under one in every seven respondents (15%) said they had received financial support from the Department (or predecessors) for their scheduled monument to repair or maintain the structure, whilst over three-quarters (78%) reported that they had not received any financial support.

Of those respondents who had received funding, four-fifths said that they had received financial support over 5 years ago. Two respondents said they had received financial support between 1 to 2 years ago and one respondent had received support between 3 to 4 years ago.

Figure 11. Received funding from the Department

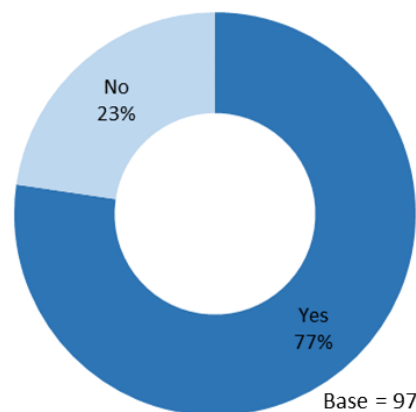


6. Changes to your scheduled monument

6.1. Scheduled monument changes

The majority of respondents (77%) were aware that all work to a scheduled historic monument legally requires Scheduled Monument Consent from the Department.

Figure 12. Aware of Scheduled Monument Consent



6.2. Applying for Scheduled Monument Consent

Just under one in every ten respondents (9 respondents) said they had applied for Scheduled Monument Consent in the past 5 years.

Of those who had applied for consent, four respondents had applied to have repair work for their monument, whilst two respondents had applied for fencing work or conservation of the historic fabric to be carried out. One respondent had applied for access/signage work or alteration/addition work to their monument. Other types of works that respondents had applied for included tree maintenance and removal, erection of a marquee and installation of lighting beside a pedestrian footway.

The pre-consent advice provided by the Historic Environment Division was rated as very good by six respondents, whilst two respondents rated the advice as good and one rated it as acceptable. Two respondents had employed a professional to submit their application for Scheduled Monument Consent on their behalf. One respondent employed an architect and one respondent employed a tree surgeon.

Table 5. Type of works applied for Scheduled Monument Consent

	Number
Repair	4
Fencing	2
Conservation of historic fabric	2
Access or signage	1
Alteration or addition	1
Ploughing	0
Flooding or tipping operations	0
Other	4

Base = 9

7. Engagement with the Department

7.1. Field Monument Wardens

The majority of respondents (89%) said that engagement with the Field Monument Wardens was helpful in managing their monument and just over a third (34%) said that they would like more regular visits from the Wardens.

Reasons for more visits from Field Monument Wardens included:

- To receive more information and professional advice about their monument (16 comments)
- Being able to discuss in person the condition of the monument and raise any issues or concerns they have (5 comments)
- Wardens could provide regular observation of their monument (3 comments)
- Discuss financial assistance with wardens (2 comments)
- To generate interest within the Department (1 comment)
- Encourages conservation (1 comments)
- It would be a shared learning experience for both the owner and the warden (1 comment)

7.2. Support from the Department

Over half of the respondents (56%) felt that the Department had not supported them in managing their monument.

Suggestions of further support that the Department should provide included:

- Financial support (36 comments)
- More information and advice about their scheduled monument (8 comments)
 - Annual newsletter to owners (2 comments)
 - Open days with owners and the Department (1 comment)
- More regular visits and increased contact from the Department (5 comments)
- No further support required or doesn't apply (3 comments)

7.3. Information and owner's forum

Two thirds of respondents (66%) said they were not aware of the information that the Department publishes on its website about scheduled monuments. Almost two-fifths (39%) said they would be interested in attending a yearly forum with other owners to discuss issues around managing their monument.

8. Summary

Your ownership

Private owners made up the majority of respondents to the survey (86%), with almost three-fifths (59%) being private owners who worked the surrounding land agriculturally and just over a quarter (27%) being private owners who did not work the surrounding land agriculturally. The majority of respondents (85%) said that they had owned or leased the scheduled monument for more than 20 years.

Attitudes to historic assets

The majority of scheduled monument owners (80%) thought their monument was important or very important in terms of its historical importance, whilst around two-fifths thought their monument was important or very important with regards to tourism or regeneration for the local area (42%) and in terms of its significance to the local community (41%).

Over three-quarters (77%) considered it important or very important to maintain their scheduled monument whilst less than one in every ten (7%) considered it not very important or not important at all. Just under nine in every ten respondents (89%) said they considered heritage sites to be important or very important.

Two-fifths of respondents (40%) thought that there were advantages in owning or leasing a scheduled monument, however, just under half (47%) thought that there were disadvantages. The most frequently cited advantage was feeling part of history or heritage, while the most frequently cited disadvantage was the reduced ability to use the land.

Repair and maintenance

In relation to the condition of their monument around eight in every ten respondents said their monument was either in good (40%) or fair condition (42%). Only three per cent of respondents reported that their monument was in a very poor condition.

A third of respondents (33%) said they had considered carrying out or organising repairs to their monument. Two-thirds of respondents (66%) reported that they maintain their monument due to a sense of stewardship, whilst over half (57%) maintained it out of personal interest.

When identifying obstacles that prevent them from looking after their monument around two-fifths of respondents said that they cannot afford to maintain their monument (41%) or there was no financial benefit to maintaining it (40%). Around three in every ten respondents said that the effort and cost is not justified (34%), they had a lack of time to carry out maintenance work in a timely fashion (32%) and they had a lack of knowledge of what maintenance work should consist of (27%). Just under three in every ten respondents (28%) said there were no obstacles preventing them from looking after their monument.

In terms of managing or carrying out repairs, seven in every ten respondents (70%) said grant funding would assist them whilst two-fifths (41%) said clearer guidance on managing their monument was needed. A quarter of respondents (25%) reported more regular visits from Field Monument Wardens would assist them in carrying out repairs whilst just under a quarter (24%) said that no additional help was required.

Almost a third of respondents thought it was either very easy or easy to find or obtain suitable materials (29%), authorisation from HED (29%) or information on how to repair or maintain their monument (27%). Around one-fifth of respondents thought it was difficult or very difficult

to find skilled labour (21%) or specialists who can advise on repairs and maintenance work (20%).

Just under one in every seven respondents (15%) said they had received financial support from the Department (or predecessors) for their scheduled monument to repair or maintain the structure whilst over three quarters (78%) reported that they had not received any financial support.

Changes to your scheduled monument

Over three quarters of respondents (77%) said they are aware that all work to a scheduled historic monument legally requires Scheduled Monument Consent from the Department. Just under one in every ten respondents (9%) said they had applied for Scheduled Monument Consent in the past 5 years.

Engagement with the Department

The majority of respondents (89%) said that engagement with the Field Monument Wardens was helpful in managing their monument and just over a third of respondents (34%) said that they would like more regular visits from the wardens. Reasons for more visits included receiving more information and professional advice about their monument and discussing in person the condition of the monument and raising any issues or concerns.

Over half of the respondents (56%) felt that the Department had not supported them in managing their monument. Suggestions of further support that could be provided included financial support and more information and advice about their scheduled monument.

Two thirds of respondents (66%) said they are not aware of the information that the Department publishes on its website about scheduled monuments and just under two-fifths of respondents (39%) said they would be interested in attending a yearly forum with other owners to discuss issues around managing their scheduled monument.

Appendix A

Scheduled Historic Monuments Questionnaire

Overview

Dear owner, we would like to know a little more about the issues that you are facing as you manage, maintain or enhance the scheduled monument on your land. This will help us to understand the overall issues that owners face and help us develop and refine the support we offer.

Your ownership

1 What type of owner are you?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Private Owner (working the surrounding land agriculturally)
- ☐ Private owner (not working the surrounding land agriculturally)
- ☐ Leaseholder
- ☐ Developer
- ☐ Public Owner i.e. government, public authority or arm's length body
- ☐ Social Enterprise, charity or Non-Governmental Organisation

2 How long have you/your organisation owned/leased this scheduled monument?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Less than 2 years
- ☐ 3 to 5 years
- ☐ 6 to 10 years
- ☐ 11 to 20 years
- ☐ More than 20 years
- ☐ Don't know

3 What type of scheduled monument do you own/lease?

Please select only one item

- ☐ A stone monument (cairn, Giant's Grave, dolmen, standing stone, burial, cross, etc.)
- ☐ An earthen monument (rath, barrow, crannog, linear earthwork banks, motte etc.)
- ☐ A masonry monument (castle, church, bawn, tower house, house, ice house etc.)
- ☐ An industrial monument (canal, mill, windmill etc.)
- ☐ A defence heritage monument (brick/concrete building(s), aircraft hangar, pillbox etc.)

4 Do you own/lease the entire monument or part of it?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Entire monument
- ☐ Part of the monument

Opinion of your monument

5 Do you think that there are any advantages in owning/leasing a scheduled monument?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

5a If yes, what do you think the advantages are?

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Feel part of history/heritage
- ☐ Local landmark/local community value
- ☐ Sense of pride/feel good factor
- ☐ Financial value/opportunity
- ☐ Other

If Other, please specify:

6 Do you think that there are any disadvantages in owning/leasing a scheduled monument?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

6a If yes, what do you think the disadvantages are?

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Reduced ability to use the land
- ☐ Financial cost of maintenance
- ☐ Harder to sell site
- ☐ Unauthorised access/trespassing site
- ☐ Liability issues
- ☐ Health and safety issues
- ☐ Other

If Other, please specify:

Opinion of your monument cont'd

7 How important do you think your monument is in terms of the following:

	Very Important	Important	Neutral	Not very important	Not at all important
Its historical importance <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Its significance to the local community <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tourism or regeneration for the local area <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8 To what extent do you consider it important for you to maintain the scheduled monument you own/are responsible for?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Very Important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Not very important
- ☐ Not important at all

9 To what extent do you consider heritage sites important?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Very Important
- ☐ Important
- ☐ Neutral
- ☐ Not very important
- ☐ Not important at all

Condition of your monument

10 What condition would you say that your monument is in?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Good: Structurally sound, and with no significant repairs needed
- ☐ Fair: Structurally sound but in need of repair (e.g. some loose stones or mortar needing addressed or animal barriers in need of work)
- ☐ Poor: Fabric generally deteriorating (e.g. widening cracks, deteriorating masonry, banks eroding or damaged by animals, loss of carved detail)

☐ Very Poor: severe damage. Structurally unstable: foundations shifting, walls bulging, collapsed banks, significant danger from erosion

11 Are there any obstacles preventing you from doing more to look after your monument?

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Lack of time to carry out maintenance work in a timely fashion
- ☐ Lack of knowledge of what maintenance work should consist of
- ☐ Lack of availability of contractors with suitable skills
- ☐ Cannot afford to maintain
- ☐ The standards required by the Department to maintain monuments are prohibitive
- ☐ Effort and cost is not justified
- ☐ No financial benefit
- ☐ No obstacles
- ☐ Other

If Other, please specify:

12 Why do you maintain your monument?

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Sense of stewardship
- ☐ Personal interest
- ☐ Community interest
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Land management
- ☐ Good farming practice
- ☐ DAERA requirement
- ☐ Other

If Other, please specify:

13 What would assist you in managing or carrying out repairs to your monument?

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Clearer guidance on managing your monument
- ☐ Assistance with sourcing contractor quotations
- ☐ More regular visits from Field Monument Warden
- ☐ Grant funding
- ☐ Less regulation
- ☐ No additional help required
- ☐ Other

If Other, please specify:

14 How do you care for your monument?

	Every 1-2 years	2-5 years	5-10 years	10+ years
Remove vegetation <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prevent animals from accessing site <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Regular monitoring of site <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Talk to Department about concerns <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Respond promptly to minor damage <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Seek professional conservation advice <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carrying out timely repairs <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If Other, please specify:

Condition of your monument cont'd

15 Have you considered carrying out or organising repairs to your monument?

Please select only one item

☐ Yes

☐ No

16 How easy/difficult do you think it is to find/obtain:

	Very Easy	Easy	Neither easy nor difficult	Difficult	Very difficult	Don't Know
Information on how to repair or maintain your monument <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specialists who can advise on repairs and maintenance work <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Skilled labour <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Suitable materials <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Authorisation from HED <i>Please select only one item</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

17 Has your scheduled monument ever received financial support from the Department (or our predecessors DoE, NIEA) to repair or maintain the structure?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure

17a If yes, how long ago was this? If multiple times, please select all that apply.

Please select all that apply

- ☐ 1-2 years
- ☐ 3-4 years
- ☐ 5+ years

18 Are you aware that all work to a scheduled historic monument or scheduled area legally requires Scheduled Monument Consent from the Department?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

19 In the past 5 years have you applied for Scheduled Monument Consent?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Don't know

If yes to Question 19

19a What types of work were you applying for?

Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Repair
- ☐ Ploughing
- ☐ Fencing
- ☐ Conservation of historic fabric
- ☐ Access or signage
- ☐ Alteration or addition
- ☐ Flooding or tipping operations
- ☐ Other

If Other, please specify:

If yes to Question 19

19b How would you rate the pre Consent advice given by the Historic Environment Division?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Very good
- ☐ Good
- ☐ Acceptable
- ☐ Poor
- ☐ Very poor
- ☐ Not received/not applicable

If yes to Question 19

19c Did you employ a professional to submit the application on your behalf?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If yes to Question 19c

19d If yes, what was their specialism?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Archaeologist
- ☐ Architect
- ☐ Surveyor
- ☐ Engineer
- ☐ Other

If Other, please specify:

Engagement with the Department

20 Do you find engagement with the Field Monument Wardens helpful to you in managing your monument?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

21 Would you like more regular visits from the Field Monument Wardens?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

21a If yes, why would you like more visits?

22 Do you feel that the Department supports you in managing your monument?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

22a If no, what further support do you think the Department should provide?

23 Are you aware of the information that the Department publishes on its website about scheduled monuments?

Please select only one item

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

24 Would you be interested in attending a yearly forum with other owners to discuss issues around managing scheduled monuments?

Please select only one item

☐ Yes

☐ No