

Armagh City, Banbridge &
Craigavon Borough Council

Local Development Plan 2035

Draft Plan Strategy

TECHNICAL SUPPLEMENT 10

Environmental Assets

September 2026



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Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon
Borough Council

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1.0 Introduction

Purpose of the Document

This Technical Supplement brings together the evidence base that has informed the preparation of the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Local Development Plan (LDP) 2035 draft Plan Strategy (dPS). It is one of a suite of topic based Technical Supplements that should be read alongside the dPS to understand the rationale and justification for the planning policies proposed within it.

The evidence base collected to inform the draft Plan Strategy also forms the basis for additional assessments and appraisals required as part of the LDP preparation process, most notably the Sustainability Appraisal (SA).

Furthermore, this paper forms part of the Council's Countryside Assessment which includes the four related strands:

- A Strategic Settlement Evaluation (within Technical Supplement 1)
- A Landscape Character Assessment (Technical Supplement 9)
- A Development Pressure Analysis (Technical supplement 8).

This Technical Supplement includes key updates relating to historic assets in the Borough, which have emerged since the publication of the Council's original evidence base Preparatory Paper. Preparatory Paper No. 8 'Environmental Assets' was one of 14 topic based Papers that were prepared and presented to the Council's Planning Committee during the period July 2014 to April 2017. These papers provided the baseline information that formed part of the evidence base for the Council's Preferred Options Paper (POP). The POP, published in March 2018, provided an overview of the Key Issues of strategic significance affecting the Borough and the Preferred Options to address them.

This Technical Supplement also seeks to provide an update on the Council's progress in its approach towards Environmental Assets in the Borough and the development of associated planning policies, since the publication of the POP.

In order to reflect the broad range of matters that were taken into account in the development of the Council's approach towards Environmental Assets and the formulation of associated dPS planning policies this Technical Supplement has been organised into the following sections:

- **Sections 2 & 3** provide a summary of the Legislative, Regional and Local Policy Context that is relevant to the LDP, with particular emphasis on this topic area;
- **Section 4** provides an overview of environmental assets within the Borough;
- **Section 5** outlines the relevant Key Issue and Preferred Approach as detailed in the Preferred Options Paper, alongside a summary of commitments and a summary of some of the responses that were received, with a focus on those offering suggestions in respect of policy development.
- **Section 6** provides an overview of the policy review, and the ongoing consultation and engagement that has been carried out in preparation of the dPS policies. Furthermore, it also details the approach of neighbouring councils to Environmental Assets, briefly outlining their position, followed by a brief consideration of any potential conflict.

- **Section 7** summarises how the dPS policies for Environmental Assets have been developed. It provides a rationale where amendments have been made to the existing planning policies to take account of regional direction, POP feedback, consultation and engagement, where it has been considered necessary and appropriate to do so.
- **Section 8** sets out how the dPS policies for Environmental Assets have been prepared in accordance with the tests for soundness set out in the Department for Infrastructure's (DfI) Development Plan Practice Note 6: Soundness (Version 2, May 2017).

The information and data presented in this Technical Supplement has been derived from a number of different sources however, where possible, the most recent datasets available have been utilised.

It is important to note that this Technical Supplement has been collated at a specific point in time and therefore it may be necessary for the Council to review and update its evidence base / approach as new or updated information / guidance is published, so to ensure that the LDP is founded on the principles of soundness. The Council will continue to work with neighbouring councils, relevant key stakeholders and the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to ensure that the sustainable use, protection and improvement of environmental assets is delivered in an appropriate and sustainable manner throughout and beyond the plan period of 2035.

Planning and Environmental Assets

Our local heritage is a vital part of what makes our community special. From historic buildings and landmarks to natural places, habitats, flora and fauna and diversity of landscapes, these all tell the story of who we are and where we've come from.

Our historic environment comprised both built heritage and archaeology is an irreplaceable record which contributes to our understanding of both our past and present. Historic environment assets include ring forts; tombs; historic, vernacular and listed buildings; industrial and defence heritage, as well as planned parklands. These assets are important sources of information about our past and can represent significant landmarks within our countryside and townscape, adding significantly to the quality of our lives, as well as contributing to a sense of local distinctiveness in our settlements and countryside.

The Borough is home to a wealth of natural heritage assets. From our diverse landscapes and earth science features to Lough Neagh and its shores, wetlands, woodlands, rivers, meadows and hedgerows, there is an abundance of natural assets to be protected, restored and enhanced to be enjoyed by our residents and visitors to the Borough. The value and importance of many of these natural heritage assets are recognised and afforded protection through international, national and local environmental designations.

Heritage assets, whether built, archaeological or natural can also represent an important economic resource which, if sustainably managed, can be key recreational and tourism assets.

2.0 Legislative Context

The key pieces of legislation relating to this subject area include the following:

The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (hereafter referred to as the 2011 Act) is the principal planning legislation in Northern Ireland, which underpins the reformed two-tier planning system that commenced on 1 April 2015. It introduced the plan-led system, where the LDP is the primary consideration for decision making on all new development schemes and proposals will be required to accord with its provisions unless, exceptionally other material considerations indicate otherwise.

Under the reformed Planning System introduced in 2015, the LDP will comprise of two documents, a Plan Strategy and a Local Policies Plan that will be prepared in sequence. The 2011 Act also requires the LDP to be subject to a Sustainability Appraisal.

Part 4 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 sets out the statutory requirements for Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas and Trees, Part 8 relates to further provisions as to Historic Buildings.

The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations set out the sequence in which the Council's LDP is to be prepared and provides detail on the content and procedure of each stage in the plan preparation process and independent examination.

The Planning (Local Development Plan) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Planning (Local Development Plan) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016 amend the transitional provisions in the Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 to include development plans prepared and adopted by the Department under the Planning (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 within the definition of a departmental development plan under the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

The Planning (Statement of Community Involvement) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015

These Regulations set out the sequence in which the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) is to be prepared and provides detail on the content and procedures required. The Council published its SCI in August 2017 the purpose of which is to define how the Council will engage with the community in the delivery of the LDP. It is set within the context of the Council's Corporate Plan and meets the requirements of the 2011 Act.

Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006

Section 25 of the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 requires all Northern Ireland Departments and Councils, in exercising their functions, to act in the way they consider best calculated to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Section 5 of the 2011 Act also requires those who exercise any function in relation to LDPs to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development.

Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 introduced a statutory link between Community Plan and the Council's LDP, and requests that the preparation of the LDP must take account of the Community Plan.

Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

The Council has a statutory duty under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 as a public authority, in carrying out its functions relating to Northern Ireland, to have due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity between the nine equality categories of persons of different religious belief, political opinion, racial group, age, marital status or sexual orientation; men and women generally; persons with a disability and persons without; and persons with dependants and persons without.

Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 provides a statutory duty on public authorities to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans, and when designing and delivering public services and came into effect for Councils in June 2017.

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004

It is a statutory requirement that all plans and programmes that are likely to have a significant environmental effect must be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The European Union Directive '2001/42/EC' states that an SEA is mandatory and was transposed into local legislation in the form of The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004 (the EAPP (NI) Regulations). The objective of the SEA directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the Council's LDP, with the view to promoting sustainable development.

The SEA is an ongoing process and must be carried out in conjunction with and integrated into the LDP process. Under the provisions of the SEA Directive and the Regulations, an environmental report is published with the LDP document.

The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995

The LDP is required to consider its impact on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites (these comprise Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and Ramsar Sites) and will be subject to a Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA). Similar to the SEA the HRA is an ongoing process, which will take place at key stages during the preparation of the LDP. The Regulations contribute to transposing the requirements of the EC Habitats and Birds Directives.

The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017

The role of the Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (NI) 2017 is to reinforce the quality of decision-making and improve the current levels of environmental protection.

Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995

Legislation relevant to archaeological sites, monuments and areas of potential archaeological interest is set out in the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995. Other relevant subordinate legislation, including Regulations and Directions, which must be taken into account include;

- The Planning (Listed Buildings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015
- The Planning (Conservation Areas) (Demolition) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015
- The Planning (Conservation Areas) (Consultation) Regulations 2015

Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (often referred to as the WANE Act) is legislation that places a statutory duty on public bodies in Northern Ireland to further the conservation of biodiversity. It significantly amends previous wildlife laws (the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985) and enforces strict protections for flora, fauna, and Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI's). In addition to the revised Biodiversity Strategy published in July 2015, DAERA has published 'The Biodiversity Duty' in May 2016 to assist public bodies in fulfilling their biodiversity duty.

3.0 Policy Context

International Policy Context

The World Heritage Convention, adopted by UNESCO in 1972, was ratified by the United Kingdom in 1984. It provides the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and natural sites of outstanding universal value and established a World Heritage List under the management of inter-governmental World Heritage Committee.

There are currently no World Heritage Sites (WHS) within the Borough however both Navan Fort and Armagh Observatory and Planetarium have both been added to the Irish Government's Tentative List, which represents the mandatory first step towards achieving World Heritage Status.

The Granada Convention (1985), Article 10 states the protection of architectural heritage as an essential town and country planning objective and ensures that this requirement is taken into account at all stages in the LDP process, as well as in the procedures for authorising work.

The Valletta Convention (1992), Article 5 seeks the integrated conservation of archaeological heritage through its consideration in the preparation of LDPs and the creation of planning policies designed to ensure well balanced strategies for the protection, conservation and enhancement of sites of Archaeological interest; and highlights the need to devise plans to avoid adverse impact.

The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992) is a milestone UN document containing 27 principles designed to sustainable development including the Precautionary Principle which states that "Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as reasons for postponing cost effective measures to prevent environmental degradation."

Regional Policy Context

The key pieces of regional policy relating to this subject area include the following:

Programme for Government (PfG) 2024-2027 'Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most' (2025, Northern Ireland Executive)

The PfG 'Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most' outlines the NI Executives priorities for making a real difference to the lives of everyone living and working in Northern Ireland. It sets out the following three long term Missions, underpinned by a cross-cutting commitment to Peace, through which improved wellbeing, long term sustainability, and a thriving economy will be delivered.

People: Working to support everyone at all stages of their life to ensure they have the chance to succeed by improving life opportunities.

Planet: Harnessing the potential of a green growth economy while ensuring we provide an equitable transition to a sustainable and affordable society as we take responsibility for decarbonising our economy and society.

Prosperity: Improving our economic productivity while making sure that we have an economy that works for everyone, and our story continues to be an inspiration to others.

The nine cross-cutting priorities aimed at delivering the PfG missions are as follows:

- Grow a Globally Competitive and Sustainable Economy

- Deliver More Affordable, Accessible, High-Quality Early Learning and Childcare
- Cut Health Waiting Times
- Ending Violence Against Women and Girls
- Better Support for Children and Young People with Special Educational Needs
- Provide More Social, Affordable and Sustainable Housing
- Safer Communities
- Protecting Lough Neagh and the Environment
- Reform and Transformation of Public Services

Within the PfG there are a wide range of actions aimed at addressing the above priorities and delivering the missions, including multi sector investment and reform, the delivery of a Sub-Regional Economic Action Plan, the development of Northern Ireland's Climate Action Plan, publication of the Third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme and the delivery of actions identified within the Lough Neagh Report and Action Plan.

Sustainable Development Strategy Northern Ireland (2010)

One of the key principles outlined in the 'Everyone's Involved' Sustainable Development Strategy (SDS), published by the NI Executive, relates to 'Living within Environmental Limits'. This promotes the need to protect and improve the environment with emphasis on the limits of the planet's environment, resources and biodiversity and to ensure that finite resources are protected for future generations. One of the key priority areas relates to 'striking an appropriate balance between the responsible use and protection of natural resources in support of a better quality of life and a better quality environment'. This promotes sustainable land and marine management, better planning and management of development in ways which are sustainable and which contribute to creating a better environment. The Strategy recognises natural and built heritage as key environmental assets and promotes their protection and enhancement as an integral part of sustainable development. It seeks to improve the management of landscapes and the historic environment, whilst protecting biodiversity and environmental quality for the benefit of present and future generations.

The Regional Development Strategy (RDS) (2035)

The RDS is a spatial strategy and provides an overarching strategic planning framework to facilitate and guide sustainable development. One of the aims of the RDS is to protect and enhance the environment for its own sake by acknowledging that the environment is one of our greatest assets, with stunning landscapes, an outstanding coastline, a complex variety of wildlife and a rich built and cultural heritage for the ecosystem services it provides, and its sense of place and history for all.

Within the RDS the region's heritage is considered a vital resource for tourism and recreation, while also enhancing the sense of place, historical identity, and economic vitality. Preserving and safeguarding built heritage—including archaeological sites, monuments, and historic buildings—is essential. Equally important is the identification, protection and conservation of historic assets found within cities, towns, and villages.

Historic/natural environment issues are acknowledged in the following regional guidance:

- Regional Guidance 4 seeks to - *Promote a sustainable approach to the provision of tourism infrastructure* – Promote a balanced approach that safeguards tourism infrastructure while benefitting society and the economy. The RDS recognises that tourism provides the opportunity to get maximum benefit from our wealth of environmental and heritage assets; our waterways, landscapes, coastline and built heritage.

- Regional Guidance 7 seeks to - *support urban and rural renaissance*. The RDS recognises that redevelopment can include the reuse of both Listed Buildings and of locally important buildings, particularly the reuse of vernacular buildings and industrial heritage buildings/structures. Part of the process of urban and rural renaissance requires even greater significance being given to the design and management of the public realm. It is important to promote recreational space within cities, towns and neighbourhoods, and new developments or plans should make provision for adequate green and blue infrastructure; and;

- Regional Guidance 11 seeks to - *conserve, protect and where possible, enhance our built heritage and our natural environment*. The RDS recognises that the environment, both in terms of the natural and built heritage is one of Northern Ireland's most important assets. The importance of the environment goes far beyond the immediate benefits it can provide. Northern Ireland's environment is a unique asset; sustaining its landscape and biological diversity also makes a small but significant contribution to protecting a much wider ecosystem. We therefore have a responsibility to protect and enhance this asset for the benefit of future generations. The RDS requires planning policy to;

- identify, protect and conserve the built heritage, including archaeological sites, monuments and historic buildings
- Identify, protect and conserve the character and built heritage assets within cities towns and villages
- maintain the integrity of built heritage assets including historic landscapes
- Sustain and enhance biodiversity
- Identify, establish, protect and manage ecological networks.
- Protect and encourage green and blue infrastructure within urban areas
- Protect and manage important geological and geomorphological features
- Protect enhance and manage the coast
- Protect, enhance and restore the quality of inland water bodies
- Recognise and promote the conservation of local identity and distinctive landscape character
- Conserve, protect and where possible enhance areas recognised for their landscape quality
- Protect designated areas of countryside from inappropriate development (either directly or indirectly) and continue to assess areas for designation.
- Consider the establishment of one or more National Parks

Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland - Planning for Sustainable Development 2025 (SPPS)

The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) has a number of core planning principles, one of which is, 'Preserving and Improving the Built and Natural Environment'. The SPPS states: 'Our region has a rich and diverse archaeological and built heritage as well as a distinctive and beautiful landscape. It also plays a critical role in supporting the local economy and must continue to do so through sustainable economic development activity. The quality of our local environment can also influence our health and well-being and help tackle social deprivation.'

The SPPS identifies that the built environment is a key aspect of the wider objective of furthering sustainable development, which Councils should take into account when preparing LDPs. As well as the core planning principles outlined above, the SPPS also includes the following regional strategic objectives:

- Secure the protection, conservation and, where possible, the enhancement of the built and archaeological heritage;
- Promote sustainable development and environmental stewardship with regard to the built and archaeological heritage;
- Deliver economic and community benefit through conservation that facilitates productive use of built heritage assets and opportunities for investment, whilst safeguarding their historic or architectural integrity.
- protect, conserve, enhance and restore the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the region's natural heritage;
- further sustainable development by ensuring that natural heritage and associated diversity is conserved and enhanced as an integral part of social, economic and environmental development;
- assist in meeting international (including European), national and local responsibilities and obligations in the protection and enhancement of the natural heritage
- contribute to rural renewal and urban regeneration by ensuring developments take account of the role and value of natural heritage in supporting economic diversification and contributing to a high-quality environment; and
- take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaptation to climate change.

SPPS – Historic Environment - Built Heritage & Archaeology

The SPPS also provides specific strategic policy directions in relation to built heritage which a Council must take into account in the preparation of its LDP. The SPPS states that LDPs should identify the main built and archaeological heritage features within the plan area and bring forward appropriate policies and proposals for their protection, conservation and enhancement. It should also take into account the implications of its other local policies and proposals on all features of the archaeological and built heritage and their settings. It lists the main built and archaeological heritages features as;

World Heritage Sites (WHS) – while presently there are none within the Borough, there are 2 candidate sites that are currently on Irelands Tentative list, Navan Fort, Armagh and the Armagh Observatory and Planetarium (AOP). The SPPS states that ‘Given their acknowledged international importance, it will be appropriate for a LDP, having a WHS within the plan area, to identify the site and its broader setting, and to include local policies or proposals to safeguard the Outstanding Universal Value of such sites and their settings from inappropriate development. Should a decision be made to designate the tentative sites in the future, specific policies and spatial extents will be provided in the local policy plan.

Archaeological sites and monuments – Includes monuments in state care and scheduled monuments and all other sites and monuments. The SPPS states that LDPs should designate Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAs). These designations will seek to identify particularly distinctive areas of the historic landscape and are likely to include a number of individual and related sites and monuments and may also be distinguished by their landscape character. Local policies and proposals for the protection of the overall character and integrity of these distinctive areas should be included in LDPs. LDPs should also highlight for developers those areas within settlement limits where on the basis of current knowledge, it is likely that archaeological remains will be encountered. These areas are called ‘areas of archaeological potential’.

Listed buildings – These are designated by the Department as being of ‘special architectural or historic interest’ under Section 80 of the Planning Act (NI) 2011. The SPPS acknowledges that it may be impractical for the LDP to identify all current listed buildings within the area, it

may be appropriate to highlight particular listed buildings and their settings which are integral to the character and inform broader heritage decisions. These could include within Areas of Townscape Character or LLPAs designations.

Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes – A Register of Parks, Gardens and Demesnes of special historic interest in Northern Ireland, based on a comprehensive inventory, is held by the Department of Communities. There are also a number of parks, gardens and demesnes which retain only some elements of their original form. These are included in an appendix to the main register as ‘supplementary’ sites. The SPPS states that LDPs should identify Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes having regard to the Register (and supplementary list) and bring forward local policies and proposals for the protection of the overall character and integrity of these distinctive areas, in consultation with the Department for Communities (DfC).

Conservation Areas – These are areas of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance. LDPs should identify existing Conservation Areas within the plan area and may include local policies or proposals for their protection and / or, enhancement. Proposed new Conservation Areas or alterations to existing designations may also be brought forward by the council or the Department, where appropriate. It should be noted that the existing Conservation Areas within the Borough were designated by the Department, any alteration or variation of existing Conservation Areas can only undertaken by the body responsible for its original designation.

Areas of Townscape or Village Character (ATC's/ AVC's) – Many areas within settlements do not have the distinctive character to warrant Conservation Area designation. However, because of their own unique identity, it may be appropriate to identify and define these as areas of townscape or village character. Local policies or proposals and guidance for such areas should also be included in the plan or where appropriate in supplementary planning guidance.

Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) - These consist of those features and areas within, and adjoining settlements considered to be of greatest amenity value, landscape quality or local significance and therefore worthy of protection from undesirable or damaging development. They may include:

- archaeological sites and monuments and their surroundings;
- listed and other locally important buildings and their surroundings;
- riverbanks and shorelines and associated public access;
- attractive vistas, localised hills and other areas of local amenity importance; and
- areas of local nature conservation interest, including areas of woodland and important tree groups.

Non-designated heritage assets - these are unlisted vernacular buildings or historic buildings of local interest which the Council deems important to its heritage due to their local architectural or historical importance. Whilst not a legislative requirement, Councils may wish to bring forward bespoke policies for such buildings. It is envisaged that LDPs are the vehicle for this and to give the identified buildings protection, the potential exists for Article 4 directions to be issued to remove permitted development rights from such buildings.

SPPS – Natural Heritage

The SPPS also provides specific strategic policy directions in relation to natural heritage which a Council must take into account in the preparation of its LDP. The SPPS states;

- In plan-making councils should take full account of the implications of proposed land use zonings of, locations for development and settlement limits on natural heritage features and landscape character within or adjoining the plan area.
- Natural heritage features and designated sites should be identified as part of the plan-making process.
- Where appropriate, policies should be brought forward for their protection and / or enhancement. LDPs should also identify and promote the design of ecological networks throughout the plan area which could help reduce the fragmentation and isolation of natural habitats through a strategic approach.
- LDPs should seek to protect and integrate certain features of the natural heritage when zoning sites for development through 'key site requirements'.
- LDPs should seek to identify and promote green and blue infrastructure where this will add value to the provision, enhancement and connection of open space and habitats in and around settlements.
- LDPs should also consider the natural and cultural components of the landscape and promote opportunities for the enhancement or restoration of degraded landscapes, particularly those affecting communities.
- Planning authorities should ensure that the potential effects on landscape and natural heritage, including the cumulative effect of development are considered.

The range of natural heritage designation which must be taken into account by the Council in the preparation is its LDP are as follows:

International Designations

International sites include Ramsar Sites, Special Protection Area (SPA), proposed Special Protection Area, Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), candidate Special Areas of Conservation. Ramsar Sites are wetlands listed under the Ramsar Convention.

Protected Species

Protected species are listed under Annex IV of the Habitats Directive while National Protected Species are listed under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, under Schedules (1), (5) & (8)

National Destinations

Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI) are sites of special scientific interest by reason of their flora, fauna, geological and/or physiographical features are designated under Part IV of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002. There is a legal duty to take reasonable steps to further the conservation and enhancement of the features by which the ASSI is of special scientific interest;

Nature Reserve (NR) or National Nature Reserves (NNRS) can be of national (and sometimes international) importance. They are usually managed by the Department or by agreement with another Department, a Council or a voluntary conservation body

Marine Conservation Zone (MCZ) are sea areas, including the inter tidal zone, designated by the DOE under Part 3 of the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013. They are established for the conservation of marine flora and fauna, habitats, and features of geological or geomorphological interest. There are no such sites within the Borough.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) are designated by the Department primarily for their high landscape quality, wildlife importance and rich cultural and architectural heritage under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (NI) Order 1985 (NCALO). Only a very small part of the Mourne AONB, which was designated in 1986, lies within the Borough.

Local Designations

Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and Wildlife Refuges (WR) can be established by Councils under the provisions of Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. The Department can also designate a Wildlife Refuge under the Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985

Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI)

Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI) are sites that support habitats, species or earth science features of local significance. As well as contributing to the local natural heritage, they contribute to overall biodiversity. These areas are identified through the LDP process with policies provided in the plan for their protection and /or enhancement

Landscape Wedges

The Armagh Area Plan 2004 identified a number of locally significant open space wedges were designated to protect them from undesirable development. Landscape wedges can provide a visual and physical break between urban or built up areas and can assist in maintaining local character of neighbourhoods and settlements.

Planning Policy Statements (PPSs)

Current operational planning policy, in relation to heritage assets are primarily included within the following Planning Policy Statements (PPSs):

- PPS 2 Natural Heritage
- PPS 6 Planning Archaeology and the Built Heritage and Addendum to PPS 6 Areas of Townscape Character;
- PPS 7 Quality Residential Environments;
- PPS 21 Sustainable Development in the Countryside; and
- PPS 23 Enabling Development for the Conservation of Significant Places

These PPSs, as well as the SPPS, have been taken into consideration in the formulation of the detailed development management policies, which are contained within the draft Plan Strategy document

Planning Policy Statement 2 (PPS 2) Natural Heritage

The objectives of PPS 2 precede but broadly reflect the objectives within the SPPS in relation to natural heritage. PPS 2 also sets out operational policies for the conservation, protection and enhancement of our natural heritage. It contains 6 policies covering European and Ramsar Sites – International (NH 1), Species protected by Law (NH 2), Sites of Nature Conservation Importance – National (NH 3), Sites of Nature Conservation Importance – Local (NH 4), Habitats, Species or Features of Natural Heritage Importance (NH 5) and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (NH 6).

Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS 6) Planning Archaeology and the Built Heritage (1999)

PPS 6 recognises the importance of archaeological and historical features. The policies aim to promote economic vitality and growth through the on-going regeneration of our built environment and seek to ensure that built heritage remains in continued use or active reuse as an integral part of the living and working community. The policies recognise that conservation can play a vital role in promoting economic prosperity and encouraging inward

investment. In return, economic prosperity can secure the vitality of historic areas and buildings. PPS 6 details 15 policies (BH 1 to BH 15), which deal with archaeology and monuments; World Heritage Sites; Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes; Listed Buildings; Conservation Areas and Non-Listed Vernacular Buildings.

Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS 6) (Addendum): Areas of Townscape Character

The PPS 6 (Addendum) provides additional planning policies (ATC 1 to ATC 3) which relate specifically to Areas of Townscape Character (ATC). The 3 policies cover the demolition of buildings, new development and control of advertisements within ATCs.

Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS 7): Quality Residential Environments

PPS 7 is used to promote high-quality, sustainable residential design across all settlements. It ensures new housing respects local character, protects residential amenity and provides adequate open space and access. The PPS ensures protection for existing heritage assets, built heritage, archaeology and natural heritage features within the design of new housing developments. The PPS has two policies QD1 Quality in New Residential Developments and QD2 Design Concept Statements, Concept Master Plans and Comprehensive Planning. Policy QD 2 requires a detailed appraisal of the characteristics of the site identifying features and demonstrating how these influence the design of the scheme. This appraisal should include landscape features, an analysis of existing flora and fauna and the location of any archaeological or built heritage features or sites of nature conservation importance.

Planning Policy Statement 7 (PPS 7) (Addendum): Safeguarding the Character of Established Residential Areas

PPS 7 (Addendum) is a second addendum to PPS 7 'Quality Residential Environments' and must be read in conjunction with the policies contained within this PPS and within the previous addendum – 'Residential Extensions and Alterations' (published in March 2008). The addendum provides additional planning policies on the protection of local character, environmental quality and residential amenity within established residential areas, villages and smaller settlements. It also sets out regional policy on the conversion of existing buildings to flats or apartments, promote greater use of permeable paving within new residential developments to reduce the risk of flooding from surface water runoff.

Planning Policy Statement 21 (PPS 21) Sustainable Development in the Countryside

PPS 21 sets out planning policies for development in the countryside in a manner which strikes a balance between the need to protect the countryside from unnecessary or inappropriate development, while supporting rural communities. Heritage assets are referred to in the wording of a number of the policies CTY 1 to CTY 16 and in the justification / amplification sections also. Policy CTY 4 The Conversion and Reuse of Existing Buildings deals with the sympathetic conversion and reuse of older buildings in the countryside which can include listed buildings, former schoolhouses, churches and older traditional barns and outbuildings

Other Policies include CTY11 Farm Diversification and CTY12 Agricultural and Forestry Development both do not allow development if it were to have an adverse impact on natural or built heritage.

Planning Policy Statement 23 (PPS 23) Enabling Development for the Conservation of Significant Places

PPS 23 sets out planning policy for assessing proposals for Enabling Development in support of the re-use, restoration and refurbishment of heritage assets such as scheduled monuments, archaeological remains, historic buildings (both statutorily listed or of more significance) together with any historically related content, industrial heritage, conservation areas or a historic park, garden or demesne. The objective of the PPS is to provide the flexibility to accommodate unforeseen imaginative proposals for the maintenance, major repair or conversion to the viable use of a significant place where this is greater than its value to its owner or market value. Applicant must justify proposals by the submission of a Statement of Justification demonstrating that criteria (a) to (j) of Policy ED 1 have been addressed. The granting of planning condition subject to conditions or conditions and a planning agreement will be used to secure the benefits to be derived from the conservation of the significant place.

A best practice guide has been developed to accompany the PPS entitled 'Assessing Enabling Development for the Conservation of Significant Place'. This guidance must be taken into account in the consideration of proposals. This guidance is discussed below in the supplementary planning guidance section of the Technical Supplement.

Under PPS 23 proposals for Enabling Development can be permitted even when there is divergence from other planning policies, provided it is demonstrated that they are necessary to secure the long-term future of a significant place in the public interest. Whilst the policy allows for enabling developments that are contrary to established planning policy, it contains the safeguards that the enabling development does not harm the heritage values of the significant place or its setting and that it does not result in detrimental fragmentation of the management of the significant place.

Supplementary Planning Guidance

The LDP has been prepared taking account of Departmental policy and guidance, in particular, **Development Plan Practice Note 7 'The Plan Strategy'** published in 2015, which guides officers and users through the key requirements for the preparation of the Plan Strategy and deals with relevant procedures as well as good practice.

The supplementary planning Guidance '**Best Practice Guidance to PPS23 'Assessing Enabling Development for the Conservation of Significant Place'** (2019) offers best practice guidance based on the English Heritage publication 'Enabling Development and the Conservation of Significant Places; Policy Guidance'. The document focuses on enabling development associated with the conservation of 'significant places' as defined in Policy ED1 of PPS 23.

The supplementary planning guidance '**Creating Places - Achieving Quality in Residential Development'** (2000) has been the principal guide for use by prospective developers in the design of all new housing areas. It identifies built heritage and landscape features as a key consideration and the characteristics of the site should be analysed to ensure that the development will respect the history of the site and appropriately protect and integrate features of the archaeological and built heritage/ natural heritage and landscape.

The supplementary planning guidance '**Living Places: An Urban Stewardship and Design Guide for Northern Ireland'** (September 2014) is a key reference point for formulating LDPs and recognises the importance of integrating existing built heritage and natural heritage assets into the design process. It states: 'The built heritage of our places is a precious asset to be understood and integrated where possible. Buildings, structures or landscapes of cultural or architectural importance may be afforded official protection through the listing process. However, others may not have such protection but still be of immense value to the underlying character and culture of a place. Harnessing such assets can contribute greatly to the unique identity and character of a particular place', and 'An area of established native planting is likely

to sustain an ecosystem of insects, birds and mammals. Preserving and enhancing such wildlife habitat is a core action in maintaining biodiversity, whilst also adding to the richness and interest of our urban places'

The supplementary planning guidance '*Building on Tradition – A Sustainable Design Guide for the Northern Ireland Countryside*' (April 2012) states 'Older buildings are not only part of our heritage, but considerable energy is also embodied in the building material used in their construction. The energy requirement for their reuse and refurbishment is considerably less than that for replacement. So, the sustainability principle of reduce, reuse, recycle applies to our building stock just as much as it does to every other aspect of resource consumption. Throughout Northern Ireland, there is considerable potential to convert and re-use former schools, churches, mills, and farm buildings bringing new life to many beautiful and outstanding historic buildings that presently lie empty. This is a key aspect of the sustainability strategy for the countryside - nurturing our built heritage, bringing empty and redundant buildings into use and conserving the best of our traditional buildings.'

For the five Conservation Areas within the Borough (Armagh City, Richhill, Loughgall, Lurgan and Dromore) each has its own supplementary planning guidance in the form of 'Conservation Area Design Guides'. These Design Guides generally provides information on the planning context, historical development of the area, a description or character appraisal as well as detailed advice for new development proposal and the restoration of existing buildings.

DfC, Historic Environment Division (HED) also publishes important guidance documents in relation to the historic environment. A key document in the consideration of planning applications is '*Guidance on Setting and the Historic Environment*' (2018). The document sets out guidance on how DfC's Historic Environment Division (HED) develops advice to local councils, heritage consultants, and others on planning applications. It also covers land-use change that may have an impact upon the settings of heritage assets, and related designations such as Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI), Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes. The guidance includes a definition of 'setting', identifies those key aspects of setting which can contribute to the significance of a heritage asset, and outlines a three-stage process for assessing the impacts of change upon setting. While DAERA provides standing advice for the protection of natural heritage assets.

DfC (HED) publish (in two parts) the document '*Conservation Principles*' (2023) which sets out a best practice conservation framework for all aspects of decision making affecting the historic environment. Part 1 'Conservation Principles' sets out the six key guiding conservation principles and explains how significance is central to conservation, how to assess it, and use it as a tool to manage change. Part 2 'Applying the Conservation Principles' sets out the different types of changes impacting a heritage asset. It explains how the conservation principles can guide decision making for each change, to achieve best conservation outcomes.

Local Policy Context

Existing Area Plans

The existing 4 statutory Area Plans covering the Borough provide the policy framework against which development proposals are considered.

- The Armagh Area Plan (AAP) 2004
- The Armagh Area Plan Alteration No 1: Countryside Proposals
- The Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan (BNMAP) 2015
- The Craigavon Area Plan (CAP) 2010
- The Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan (DSTAP) 2010

Following the reform of Local Government in 2015, 3 settlements were transferred from Dungannon District to Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Area. The three settlements were Clonmore, Derrylee and Tamnamore (County Armagh element) as designated through the Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan (DSTAP) 2010. Tamnamore is split by the Blackwater River with the western part of the settlement lies within Mid Ulster Council Area (Co. Tyrone) and the eastern part within Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council Area (Co. Armagh). A number of settlements in the former Banbridge District Council area transferred to Newry / Mourne and Down Council area on 1 April 2015, including Leitrim, Finnis, Dechomet, Ballyward and 2 nodes of Glen.

Due to the varying ages of the extant Area Plans, there are inconsistencies in approach with regards to a number of planning issues as well as the degree of emphasis in respect of the principles of sustainable development. However, the existing Plans are an important consideration in the LDP process, and as such have been considered in the development of the draft Plan Strategy. Policies within the respective Development Plans that are related to Heritage assets are set out below;

The Armagh Area Plan (AAP) 2004

- 6.0 Nature Conservation
- 7.0 Archaeological Sites and Monuments
- 8.0 Conservation Areas
- 9.0 Listed Buildings
- 38.0 Conservation
- 41.0 Archaeological Implications
- 62.6 Conservation Area (Richhill)
- 83.0 Navan

Armagh Area Plan 2004 Alteration No 1: Countryside Proposals

- Policy LLPA 1 Policy Landscape Policy Areas.
- Policy SLNC 1 Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance.
- Policy HP 1 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes.

The Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan (BNMAP) 2015

- Policy CVN 1 Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance
- Policy CVN 2 Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest
- Policy CVN 3 Local Landscape Policy Areas

The Craigavon Area Plan (CAP) 2010

- Policy CON 1 Site of Local Nature Conservation Importance
- Policy CON 2 Local Landscape Policy Areas
- Policy CON 3 Development Affecting Local Landscape Policy Areas
- Policy CON 4 Areas of Townscape Character

Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan (DSTAP) 2010

- Policy CON 1 Site of Nature Conservation Importance
- Policy CON 2 Local Landscape Policy Areas
- Policy CON 3 Areas of Archaeological Potential
- Policy CON 4 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes
- Policy CON 5 Areas of Townscape Character
- Policy CON 6 Historic Waterways
- Policy CON 7 The Protection of Trees

The SPSS's transitional arrangements provide for continuity until such times as a new LDP for the whole of the council area is adopted to ensure continuity in planning policy for taking

planning decisions. All of the extant Plans will be superseded following the adoption of the new Local Development Plan.

Other Strategies and Documents

NI Heritage Delivers 2026

This report, published in January 2026, is a collaborative publication by the NI heritage sector and DfC Historic Environment Division. The report highlights case studies and statistics showing how tangible heritage shapes the region across four core pillars:

- Economy and Society - heritage acts as a powerful driver for regional tourism and sustainable community regeneration;
- The Road to Net Zero - the adaptive reuse of historic buildings supports environmental sustainability and reduces carbon footprints
- Health and Wellbeing - engaging with the historic environment significantly improves community mental health and fosters local identity and:
- Education and Skills - the heritage sector is a massive hub for training, bringing continuous value through localized programs like the All-Ireland Heritage Skills Programme.

DfC Historic Environment Division (HED): Various Guidance Documents

The Historic Environment Division (HED) have released a range of guidance documents in relation to the historic environment. These documents include:

- Guidance on Archaeological Works in the Planning Process
- Guidance on Marine Licensing and the Historic Environment
- Guidance on Setting and the Historic Environment
- Guidance on Making Changes to Listed Buildings
- Making a Better Application for Listed Building Consent
- Guidance on Scheduled Monument Consent
- Guidance for Local Development Plans (including Guidance on SA & SEA for the Historic Environment and Environmental Evidence and Information).

A Sense of Loss: The Survival of Rural Tradition Buildings in Northern Ireland DoE (1996)

A Sense of Loss was a report commissioned by the DOE in 1996 to examine the survival of traditional rural buildings dated before 1919. Whilst the report is outdated, it still provides an important study of the historic buildings at the time, as well as a definition of vernacular.

BS 7913:2013 Guide to the Conservation of Historic Buildings

Published by the BSI Standards Publication this BS describes best practice in the management and treatment of historic buildings with statutory protection as well as the appropriate repairs and handling of our traditionally constructed buildings with no statutory protection. It is not applicable to below ground archaeology or any other type of heritage asset such as movable objects.

This British Standard is intended to be used by building owners, managers, archaeologists, architects, engineers, surveyors, contractors, conservators, planners, conservation officers and local authority building control officers. The standard covers general background information on the principles of the conservation of protected buildings and sites, the assessment of significance and the setting conservation policies and procedures. It also considers appropriate works when undertaking maintenance, repair or adaptation, and for general management of a site.

Our Passion, Our Place – NIEA Strategic Priorities 2012 – 2022 (2012, DoE)

This document sets out DAERA's (NIEA) strategic priorities which are detailed as;
Healthy Natural Environment – ensuring Northern Ireland's living and working places are green, clean and protected. We will act to ensure that the quality of our air, land and water continues to improve, and our diverse landscapes, rich biodiversity and ecosystems are sustained through a network of protected areas.

People & Places – promoting health and well-being and influencing how we all behave towards the environment. We will encourage access to and understanding of our environment and work with our partners to actively involve communities and businesses in protecting our natural and historic places for the enjoyment and benefit of everyone.

Sustainable Economic Growth – creating a green economy that reflects the value of the environment and builds prosperity. We will invest in our natural and built heritage to realise its full potential. We will make sure planning decisions and business practices are guided by sound environmental principles and apply a risk based approach to our regulatory activities.

Using Our Resources Well – making efficient and effective use of our people and data resources to best serve our customers. We will lead by example and ensure decisions affecting the environment are underpinned by sound evidence.

The Biodiversity Duty (DAERA 2016)

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) published the above guidance document to assist public bodies in fulfilling their biodiversity duty as set out in the WANE Act 2011. The document helps public bodies to understand their statutory obligations to conserve and enhance biodiversity in their daily operations and decision-making. The document includes sections on the biodiversity duty; the importance of biodiversity; halting biodiversity loss; the implementing of the biodiversity duty as well as offering some best practice case study examples. The guidance includes best practice example which are grouped into four main themes: procurement and funding, building and construction, landscape management and public engagement and education.

State of Nature (Northern Ireland) Report 2023

Published by the 'State of Nature Partnership' the above report stated that Northern Ireland, like most other regions worldwide, has experienced a significant loss of biodiversity. The trends in nature presented here cover, at most, 50 years, but these follow on from major changes to Northern Ireland's nature over previous centuries. As a result, Northern Ireland is now one of the most nature-depleted countries on Earth.

The EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 (May 2020)

In May 2020, the European Union released its new Biodiversity Strategy, to address the biodiversity crisis both within and beyond the territories of member states. The new strategy involves: Protecting and effectively managing at least 30% of Europe's land and sea; Improving the conservation status or trend of at least 30% of EU protected habitats and species that currently have a non-favourable status; Planting at least 3 billion trees, following ecological principles – a Forest Strategy will be proposed in 2021; Managing at least 25% of agricultural land under organic farming; Eliminating bycatch of protected species; Enabling transformational change, such as with a Biodiversity Knowledge Centre and Biodiversity Partnership to support biodiversity research and stimulating tax systems to reflect real environmental costs, integrating biodiversity into public and business decision-making and;

Advocating for global protection of biodiversity, and preventing displacement of environmental degradation outside of the EU.

NI Biodiversity Strategy 2002 (July 2015)

The strategy sets out the framework for biodiversity action and describes the main features of biodiversity in NI, identifies the main factors affecting it and proposes a number of measures to support biodiversity conservation up to 2016.

(Draft) Nature Recovery Strategy for Northern Ireland to 2032: A Proposed Strategy for Halting and Reversing the Loss of Biodiversity (DAERA) Draft Document Published April 2026

The public consultation on the above Draft document ended on 18th March 2026. DAERA has a legal duty to publish a 'Biodiversity Strategy' to further the conservation of biodiversity in Northern Ireland. This draft Nature Recovery Strategy (which is the Biodiversity Strategy required by legislation under the WANE Act) sets out how DAERA intend to meet international and national ambitions in Northern Ireland. The lifespan of this proposed strategy is to 2032 to allow later versions to align with the third Climate Action Plan for 2033 - 2037.

The UK is committed to meeting the 4 goals and 23 targets of the Global Biodiversity Framework, and Northern Ireland will contribute to this, as set out in the UK National Biodiversity and Action Plan (NBSAP). The Draft Nature Recovery Strategy aims to: bring together in one place, actions already agreed or in development in other strategies, as requested by stakeholders and to identify additional actions or targets to further promote nature restoration.

The draft Strategy collates actions or targets to halt and reverse biodiversity loss under five Strategic Objectives. These actions will fall to DAERA to take the lead, unless otherwise stated. In many cases, other departments and stakeholder input will be required to help ensure a successful outcome.

The five strategic objectives are as follows: well protected nature and accelerated restoration; reduction of the pressures on biodiversity; sustainable use of biodiversity through nature-friendly policies and practice; nature valued and mainstreamed across all of government and society and finally building strong, integrated evidence and knowledge to enable action and reporting for nature.

There is currently no date for the publication of the final strategy.

Council Documents and Strategies

Council's Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) of the Borough

Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) (Technical Supplement 9) forms part of the evidence base informing the Local Development Plan (LDP). It provides an updated understanding of the Borough's landscapes, building on the Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment (2000). The assessment identifies and evaluates the key characteristics, condition, value, vulnerability and sensitivity of landscape character areas located wholly or partly within the Borough, and considers the extent to which they have been influenced by development pressures, land use change, renewable and low-carbon energy development, agricultural practices, recreation, infrastructure provision, and wider social and environmental trends.

The LCA provides an objective and evidence-based understanding of landscape character and its contribution to local distinctiveness, sense of place, cultural heritage, visual amenity and the well-being of residents and visitors.

The findings of the LCA have informed the preparation of landscape related planning policies, including the identification of the most valued, vulnerable and sensitive landscapes within the Borough. In doing so, the assessment helps ensure that the LDP promotes sustainable development, protects and enhances important landscape assets, and provides clear guidance for future decision-making so that landscape change is positively managed for current and future generations.

‘Our People, Our Place, Our Future’- The Councils Corporate Plan 2023 – 2027

The Corporate Plan 2023-27 sets out the vision, values and priorities of the Council and represents its aspirations and dedication to continuous improvement. It is the roadmap for delivering Council’s Community Plan 2017 – 2030 and sets out the Councils commitment to uphold the highest standards of service delivery, facilities, projects, and programmes for the benefit of our people, our place and our future.

The Vision of the Corporate Plan is to create *“a happy, healthy and connected community, a vibrant and sustainable economy and appealing places for living, working and learning”* aligning with the aspirations of the Community Plan.

The priority of the Corporate Plan is to improve economic, social and environmental well-being through place shaping in order to attract visitors, investors, and to encourage people to be active, with a focus on promoting health and wellbeing. The Council aims to improve participation in arts and culture and strengthen the Borough as a visitor destination as well as supporting the growth of our local economy, by securing investment in infrastructure and connectivity, and providing opportunities in skills development.

The Corporate Plan proposes five priorities, each with three commitments outlining what the Council are going to do alongside actions aimed at achieving the commitments. The priorities for the Council in the Corporate Plan are as follows:

Priority 1 ‘Environment and Place’ Commitments:

- Actively respond to the climate crisis and support others to do likewise
- Seek investment to preserve the uniqueness of our heritage and places
- Shape our places to be attractive, accessible, healthy, safe, and clean.

Actions for Priority 1 include the development of a Climate Action Plan and the creation of a community and business climate tool kit and associated green initiatives.

Priority 2 ‘Community Wellbeing’ Commitments:

- Encourage participation in arts and culture
- Provide opportunities which improve quality of life and wellbeing for our communities and staff
- Support and empower communities

Actions for Priority 2 include working with the community and voluntary sector to develop sustainable initiatives which support people to improve their quality of life.

Priority 3 ‘Economic Growth’ Commitments:

- Maximise the potential of our MSW Growth Deal and Regional Economic Strategy
- Provide opportunities for growth, investment, and skills development in our local economy

- Seek investment in infrastructure and connectivity

Actions for Priority 3 include the development of an Inclusive Growth Strategy and Plan by 2025, increasing the value of the Borough's tourism economy by 10% annually, developing an Infrastructure Strategy to evidence the need, priority, and deliverability of critical infrastructure across the Borough and facilitating the delivery of schemes that will increase access to sustainable and active transport, providing links to key local amenities and improving connections between settlements.

Priority 4 'Service Delivery' Commitments:

- Continuously review to improve our services
- Monitor and communicate our performance
- Seek and use regular customer engagement and feedback

The Actions for Priority 4 include ensuring all new or updated strategies and policies adhere to our standards for public consultation.

Priority 5 'Staff, Leadership and Resources' Commitments:

- Value staff and be civic leaders
- Communicate and engage with staff, communities, and others
- Strengthen our governance and review efficiency of our resources and assets

The Actions for Priority 5 include developing a People and Culture Strategy by 2027.

The Corporate Plan acknowledges that the environment plays a critical role in sustainably planning for the future, underpinning the wellbeing of societies, economies, and ecosystems. It also highlights the Councils commitment to addressing climate change and supporting efforts to reduce carbon emissions, generate and use energy more cleanly so that the Borough remains a progressive and vibrant place to live, work and visit.

The Corporate Plan identifies that the unique tapestry and diversity of our city, towns, villages, nature reserves, waterways, rural hinterlands, parks, and open spaces is not just important to our local flora and fauna but is also important to our local people and visitors. Furthermore, it recognises the value and character of our heritage buildings, monuments and spaces within the Borough and acknowledges that place shaping makes an important contribution towards our social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing.

In respect of the economy, the Corporate Plan highlights the Boroughs vibrant and wide ranging employment / industrial sector, including advanced manufacturing businesses, Agri-Food, Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing, and Health and Life Sciences. It also identifies that tourism, alongside small to medium sized businesses continue to provide the backbone of the economy. With regards to future growth the Corporate Plan recognises that sustainability, productivity, and connectivity must be the cornerstone of economic growth.

The Corporate Plan also acknowledges the LDP as the spatial outworking of the Corporate Plan in recognition that the implementation of the LDP is one way which the Councils ambitions can be achieved.

Connected a Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough 2017-2030 Update 2025

Councils across Northern Ireland have a statutory responsibility to participate and lead in Community Planning. The Local Government (Northern Ireland) Act 2014 and the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 create a statutory link between the Community Plan and the LDP. It outlines that the LDP will provide 'the spatial expression of the Community Plan.'

The Council's Community Plan is an overarching strategy for the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. 'Connected' was launched on 4th May 2017. It provides a strategic framework for collaborative working, helping to integrate other local and regional strategies and the delivery of positive change for communities. The Community Plan will be taken into account throughout the preparation of the LDP, which will provide the spatial reflection of the Community Plan.

The Community Plan 2030 Vision is 'We have a happy, healthy and connected community, a vibrant and sustainable economy and appealing places for living, working and learning.' The Community Plan aims to achieve the vision through three strategic themes of Community, Economy and Place and nine shared outcomes, as follows:

1. Community: Connected | Healthy | Welcoming
2. Economy: Enterprising | Inclusive | Skilled
3. Place: Creative | Revitalised | Sustainable

The three cross-cutting themes at the centre of the Community Plan are: *Connectivity*, *Equality* and *Sustainability*. These form the foundation of and underpin the Plan. The Community Plan identifies strong strategic alignment, including with the Programme for Government.

Due to the close relationship between the two plans, the LDP Vision will be based on the Community Plan Vision; citizen focused and aspiring to improve the quality of life for everyone. However, within the LDP, emphasis will be placed on land use and the creation of quality places.

The Community Plan mentions both historic and natural heritage assets. Historic assets are mentioned on P22-23 under the 'Creative Place' which states theme and the long-term outcome Our Borough is an inspirational and creative place offering quality, inclusive arts and cultural and heritage experiences. It also mentions natural heritage P26-27 under the 'Sustainable Place' theme and the long-term outcome we value and protect our climate, biodiversity and natural assets. People understand the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change, and our Borough is on track to become net zero by 2050.

Having an effective and informed policy approach to both the historic and natural environment in the Draft Plan is in keeping with long term outcomes of a 'Creative' and 'Sustainable' Place as set out in the Council's Community Plan and will ensure that our heritage assets and in turn our distinct and vibrant urban and rural areas are protected.

The Council's Regeneration and Development Strategy (R&DS) 2015-2020

The R&DS acknowledges that regeneration and development of the Borough is the Council's number one priority. The Strategy recognises the importance of establishing a clear, strategic direction for the Borough in supporting and developing the local economy and is driven by the ambition of the new Council to be the foremost local authority with respect to economic regeneration, business creation and development.

The document contains a number of strategic aims that will help the council to "play an ambitious and dynamic role in reversing the effects of recent economic decline and equipping the area for the future", including:

- Supporting new and existing businesses to grow, invest and offer employment
- Developing to the full the distinctive character of the Borough by investing in its city, towns, villages, and rural areas to make them "places of choice"

- Investing in the people of the Borough and the communities they live in to make them inclusive and sustainable
- Positioning the area as a dynamic place in which to live, work, invest or visit in the eyes of Northern Ireland, national and international markets

The Regeneration and Development Strategy acknowledges that the important regeneration opportunities exist within the Borough and that many of these are centred on Heritage Assets, and specifically mentions, in Portadown and Lurgan, for example, along the River Bann and adjoining lands and at Brownlow House / Lurgan Park respectively. The proximity to Lough Neagh and its associated tourism potential along with Armagh's unique heritage which could stimulate development and regeneration initiatives including those relating to the significant tourism, ecclesiastical and heritage potential of the city.

The Council's Heritage Strategy 2026-2036 (June 2026)

The Heritage Strategy for the Borough sets out ten objectives set under three overarching themes that guide the strategic direction to be taken in response to built, natural and cultural heritage within the Borough over the next 10 years. The three overarching themes are to establish and advocate, protect and invest and to engage and support. Alongside these themes, ten objectives have been identified to guide our strategic direction over the next decade. These are to:

- Establish collaborative governance, leadership and partnership structures to embed heritage as a priority across the Borough.
- Enhance the sustainability of local heritage by celebrating new and existing contributions and providing recognition and networks.
- Advocate and prioritise heritage across local, regional and national bodies.
- Promote the Borough's identity to support heritage-led regeneration and attract investment.
- Build strong evidence base by auditing and mapping our heritage, giving us the tools to make informed decisions and unlock investment.
- Champion collaborative action to ensure our built, natural and cultural heritage is revitalised and resilient for the future.
- Identify, protect and enhance opportunities for growth and development of key designated sites within the Borough.
- Create opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to engage with our heritage.
- Increase participation by encouraging more volunteers and enhancing formal and informal learning opportunities.
- Help and support communities to access the resources they need to explore their heritage.

Informed by the objectives above the Council has produced a 'Heritage Action Plan' which set of eighteen actions, ten of which will be delivered in the first four years. The Action Plan has been developed to respond directly to our communities' priorities, i.e. stronger leadership, visible investment in places and more inclusive participation. A mid-point review in 2030 will track progress, refresh evidence and shape the next phase of delivery through to 2036. By 2036, it is hoped that success will mean joined-up leadership across the Borough, with communities, partners and the Council working together.

Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) (Feb 2014)

LBAP is a joint plan prepared by the three former district councils pre RPA. The LBAP aim to conserve biodiversity through local partnerships by take into account both national and local priorities and involving local people and local organisations through the practical delivery of biodiversity conservation. The LBAPs highlight a number of significant threats to biodiversity. These include new infrastructure development, insensitive land management, nutrient

enrichment, environmental crime and vandalism, climate change and the introduction of non-native species. These have caused the loss and fragmentation of habitat and species within the Borough.

‘Transform’ – A Tourism Strategy for Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough 2017- 22

Tourism is identified as one of the key sectors which can drive economic growth in Northern Ireland. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council shares this growth ambition and targets a 10% annual growth in the Borough’s tourism economy. The strategy has a 3 tiered approach to tourism strategic priorities. Armagh City is highlighted as the centrepiece tourism destination within our Borough. Tier 1 specifically contains reference to the following built heritage and archaeological assets:

- re-development of the former Armagh Gaol;
- reposition Navan Fort Centre; and
- pursue a heritage-led regeneration approach.
- Support proposals at the Observatory / Planetarium.
- Actively pursue appropriate accommodation development opportunities within the private sector including boutique accommodation in buildings of historic significance.

With regards to natural heritage, Tier 3 includes Lough Neagh with issues such as ownership, management, navigation and water quality required to be considered.

Recovery & Growth Framework

The ABC Recovery and Growth Framework was launched in February 2021 and focuses on how the Council can create the right social and economic conditions to help the borough recover from the covid pandemic and drive sustainable long-term growth for the region. It sets out a series of aims which will meet the needs of companies within the borough, such as boosting tourism and footfall in towns, and delivering support to business of all sizes, as well as longer-term interventions which will boost efficiency and competitiveness.

The Framework emphasises the regional focus on driving economic investment for Northern Ireland around key sectors such as; agri-food, health and life sciences and advanced manufacturing, where the borough already excels and which, with support to improve skills, connectivity, and productivity, can become global exemplars.

It addresses the need for a specific focus on the case for investment in sustainable roads and rail infrastructure, for urban regeneration and rural development; for education and training to upskill the talent pool; for support of technological developments including Industry and investment in manufacturing research & development; and a commitment to driving regional competitiveness through the development of a start-up and innovative business ecosystem. These targeted actions are aimed at accelerating the borough’s recovery and set it on a path of renewed inclusive growth and prosperity.

Craigavon Integrated Development Framework (CIDF) (DSD, 2010)

The Craigavon Integrated Development Framework was published in 2010. Its purpose is to guide how the town centres of Central Craigavon, Portadown and Lurgan will develop and thrive over the next 20 years. The CIDF offers guidance on:

- Establishing the rationale and evidence base for public intervention in the three centres

- The promotion, implementation and timing of regeneration and development, including the sequencing of public sector land disposal
- A planned approach to retail, leisure, business, housing and community development

The CIDF focuses on achieving an integrated vision for the 3 centres as the complete package- where they will be three complementary and successful centres all with a unique offer, each having a distinct role and identity and each benefiting from a greatly enhanced environment and range of facilities. The CIDF aims to project this vision through scores of individual actions, projects and development schemes that will strengthen each individual centre and contribute to the overall regeneration of Craigavon.

The Council's 'Place Plans'

'Place Plans' have been launched by The Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Community Planning Partnership, and are the first community planning led Place Shaping Plans in Northern Ireland.

Place shaping improves the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of the place, ensuring aspirations of the community are being realised.

The Place Plans have been developed to help users understand and align key messages from policies such as Council's Connected – A Community Plan, and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland 2015 which identifies 'supporting good design and positive place making' as one of its five core planning principles.

Place Plans have been developed to help bridge the gap between spatial and community planning. Instead of taking the traditional approach of focusing on physical sites and changes first, the outcomes and ideas from the community have been central to the plans development, creating suggestions for spaces and places in where change could happen.

The Armagh Place Plan (March 2022)

The Armagh Place Plan details the aspirations for the city that will be taken forward as a shared agenda for Armagh through collaborative partnership working. The outworking's of the plan align to local strategies and seek to deliver upon key aims within the regional Community Plan. These carefully considered outcomes provide a guiding framework for organisations and individuals in Armagh to improve the spaces and places in the city. The four key themes for development focus on making Armagh; a connected city, a greener city, an engaged city and a healthy city. Collectively the plan developed seven typologies and thirty actions which will be delivered collaboratively across the partners to embrace the vision of the outcomes.

The Place plan identifies '7 Spatial Typologies', those that include or impact Heritage Assets include icons and anchors and open spaces.

Th typologies acknowledge that there are distinctive buildings across Armagh such as the iconic Armagh Gaol, the Armagh Observatory and Planetarium, and the Navan Centre and Fort. Many of these could enhance their potential to act as anchors within the city, through diversified uses, and could be the string of pearls across Armagh that help create a unique and memorable place. In terms of open space within Armagh, the Place Plan acknowledges that open space can be in many forms and provides examples such as the mall, parks, gardens, squares and sports pitches, and that these are outdoor spaces of public value. While it highlights that people in Armagh recognise these as spaces with health and recreation benefits, it suggests that encouraging mixed uses, bringing Armagh cultural activities beyond the institutional buildings, and fostering new ways of learning could serve to enhance these spaces. Many of these spaces are also Heritage Assets.

The Banbridge Place Plan (March 2024)

The Banbridge Place Plan is designed around 5 outcomes; Bridging Banbridge, Green Banbridge, Healthy Banbridge, Creative Banbridge, and Growing Banbridge. The plan identifies 56 actions to bring about positive change in Banbridge. These actions include physical and non-physical interventions which have been captured under the following themes:

- Arts, Heritage and Leisure - actions include pursuing heritage funding opportunities to restore and repair historic built fabric and find sustainable uses in the Areas of Townscape Character and the creation of a community theatre space for Banbridge.
- Green Innovation - actions include the implementation of smart street furniture, smart car parks and connectivity in public places and research into initiatives such as zero waste, rewilding, tree planting, carbon neutral, sustainable travel, employment support and social value procurement.
- Spaces, Places and Natural Environment- actions include the development of new bridges and footpaths, enhancement of public amenities and improved public access to civic building grounds and green space.
- Living Here - includes actions such as the provision of new mixed tenure housing, enhancement of cycling infrastructure and the maintenance and improvement of existing play spaces.
- High Street and Investing - includes actions such as the creation of a digital innovation hub, investment in the public realm and adaption / reuse of vacant properties.

Whilst the Banbridge Place Plan is a non-statutory document, it acknowledges that it has the potential to set a framework of tangible projects and proposals for future development, to enable different stakeholders to work together to their mutual benefit and for the betterment of Banbridge.

Dromore Place Plan (May 2025)

The Dromore place plan sets out the essential qualities of Dromore, including the local landscape, culture and heritage. It also highlights that the town has adaptable buildings and spaces and acknowledges that many of these are located within the Conservation area. The Place Plan describes Dromore as having a myriad of heritage assets, including the Motte and Bailey, Dromore Castle, the iconic Viaduct and two areas of Townscape character. In terms of natural heritage assets, the River Lagan winds its way through Dromore from its source in Slieve Croob, and Dromore Park.

The Dromore Place Plan identifies 5 outcomes which are;

1. Historic Dromore – A thriving heritage town: Dromore is a unique historic market town with a wealth of heritage assets both in terms of built and natural environment. The heritage aspect is relatively untapped and could be harnessed in a way for multifaceted benefits for all sections of the community and potential visitors.
2. Stocked Dromore – A vibrant town stocked with new businesses, economic growth, assets and life: Dromore has the highest vacancy rates in the Borough. This outcome relates to how the buildings and gap sites will be sustainably redeveloped, reused, and brought back to life and therefore relates to the filling up or restocking of the town.
3. Active Dromore – An energetic town with a wealth of activity opportunities. Dromore has good provision for activity, sport, amenity and leisure and the related assets have seen a substantial level of investment in recent years, these assets require to be reviewed to ensure they meet the needs of the community for the years ahead.
4. Discovered Dromore – A charming town with an abundance to explore.

Dromore is a unique town with a diversity of attributes that are either untapped or should be further harnessed for the benefit of the town.

5. Connected Dromore – A sustainable town with physical and community linkages.
The connectivity of Dromore not only relates to physical linkages across the town but also to community interconnectivity and cohesion. The physical and community fabric of the town is interwoven with opportunities to do more to ensure that Dromore celebrates its features and collaborates better to instil and further develop a sense of pride in the area.

4.0 Borough Profile

Historic Environment Profile

Introduction

Department of Communities (DfC), Historic Environment Division (HED) records, protects, conserves and promotes Northern Ireland's historic environment and has gathered a wealth of information for present and future generations to use and enjoy. This information is publicly accessible through The Historic Environment Record of Northern Ireland (HERoNI). The information held in HERoNI is stored in a number of formats, including books, databases, drawings, written records, maps, photographs, and digital records. This wide-ranging body of material has been grouped into a number of individual records, each focusing on a particular aspect of heritage. These include:

- The Historic Buildings Record - The Historic Buildings Record includes an online database with information for over 11,000 historic buildings and structures throughout Northern Ireland.
- The Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record - NISMR has details for each archaeological site or historic monument recorded in Northern Ireland. There are over 16,000 records, from prehistoric tombs to post-medieval settlements.
- The Industrial Heritage Record - The Industrial Heritage Record lists more than 16,000 industrial sites.
- The Historic Parks Gardens and Demesnes Record - The Northern Ireland Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes Record has a detailed record of over 700 historic parks, gardens and demesnes.

In addition, HED holds records on defence heritage, maritime records and excavation records. Along with the Ulster Architectural Heritage, HED have created a register of buildings that are under threat from neglect or future development, known as The Heritage at Risk Northern Ireland (HARNI). This details all Heritage Assets at Risk within NI and currently includes over 1100 buildings and monuments of architectural and historic interest.

HED also provide a map viewer which is available to view at <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/services/historic-environment-map-viewer> which provides an up to date record of heritage within Northern Ireland.

With regards to built heritage and archaeological designations the Borough contains:

- 15 State Care Monuments
- 185 Scheduled Monuments
- 1292 Unscheduled Monuments
- 1 Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest (Navan)
- 21 Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAP)
- 1266 Listed Buildings
- 32 Registered Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes (1no grade A*, 14no grade A and 17no Grade B).
- 5 Conservation Areas
- 16 Areas of Townscape / Village Character (ATC / AVC)
- 101 Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs)

World Heritage Sites

The World Heritage Convention, adopted by UNESCO in 1972, was ratified by the United Kingdom in 1984. It provides the identification, protection, conservation and presentation of cultural and natural sites of outstanding universal value and established a World Heritage List under the management of inter-governmental World Heritage Committee. Individual governments are responsible for nomination of sites and their subsequent protection and monitoring if selected.

While currently the Borough does not have any designated World Heritage Sites, both Navan Fort and Armagh Observatory and Planetarium are on Irelands tentative list for potential World Heritage Site nomination.

Archaeological Sites and Monuments

The Department for Communities (DfC) has a statutory responsibility for sites and monuments which are protected under Article 3 of the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995. It is an offence to damage or alter a state care or a scheduled site or monument in any way. No works should be planned or undertaken without first consulting DfC.

In NI, sites and monuments are referred to as a scheduled historic monument (for those in private ownership) or a monument in state care (for those in public ownership). There are also unscheduled sites, which although they have not yet received statutory protection, does not necessarily diminish its archaeological importance or its significance as an element in the historic landscape.

State Care Sites and Monuments

Sites and Monuments in State care sites and monuments are protected and managed as a public asset by the DfC (NI). All are presented for public access, education and enjoyment. Some sites have staffed visitor facilities and may have entrance charges. There are a total of 15no state care sites and monuments within the Borough – see list is Appendix A. Notable examples include Navan Fort, Castledillon Obelisk and Armagh Franciscan Friary.

Archaeological Sites and Monuments (Scheduled)

The Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (Northern Ireland) Order 1995 provides protection for archaeological sites and monuments. There are a total of 185no scheduled archaeological sites and monuments within the Borough – see list is Appendix B. Notable examples include the Newry to Portadown Canal, The Danes Cast (a linear earthwork) south of Scarva and Katesbridge Mound (Motte).

Archaeological Sites and Monuments (Unscheduled)

There are a total of 1292 recorded archaeological sites and monuments within the Borough which are currently unscheduled within the Borough.

The Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record is held and updated by DfC and contains full details of state care, scheduled and unscheduled site and monuments. This record is available to the public via the HED Mapviewer (see link). [Historic Environment Map Viewer NI](#)

Navan Area of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI)

There is currently one existing Area of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI) within the Borough. This is located at the at the Navan Complex just to the west of the City of Armagh. The extent of the ASAI, which was designated in the Armagh Area Plan 2004, is illustrated in the map contained within Appendix C. Navan Fort (Eamhain Mhacha) is the focus of a group

of monuments which together form one of the most important areas of historic landscapes in Ireland. The main monuments presently known in the Navan Complex are Navan Fort, Loughnashade, Haughey's Fort, The King's Stables and a group of megalithic tombs. Navan Fort itself is a state care monument however the visitor complex is owned and managed by the Council. As previously indicated the wider Navan Fort is on the tentative list for UNESCO World Heritage Site and is one of the six sites comprising the Royal Sites of Ireland bid. The draft plan strategy proposes to retain this existing ASAI designation in its current form. Specific bespoke policies to address the particular characteristics of Navan and the two proposed new candidate ASAs will be brought forward in the LPP.

Lisnagade & Knock Iveagh Candidate Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI)

There are two proposed candidate ASAI included within the draft plan strategy. These are located at Lisnagade east of Scarva and Knock Iveagh north of Rathfriland. The main monuments presently known at Lisnagade are Lisnagade Fort and the Danes Cast. The main monuments presently known at Knock Iveagh are a Neolithic round cairn and a Ring ditch and barrow.

Maps of the two proposed new candidate ASAs together with detailed Statements of Significance prepared by DfC Historic Environment Division justifying the new designations are contained within Appendix D and E.

Areas of Archaeological Potential

The SPSS states that LDPs should highlight, for the information of prospective developers, those areas within settlement limits, where, on the basis of current knowledge, it is likely that archaeological remains will be encountered in the course of continuing development and change. These will be referred to as Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAPs).

Currently there are 21no AAPs within the Borough – see list in Appendix F. A total of 4no are located within the former Craigavon Borough and 17no within the former Banbridge District. It is likely that with the publication of the LPP that a significant number of additional AAPs will be identified within the Borough particularly within the former Armagh District Council Area.

Listed Buildings

Section 80 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires the Department of Communities to compile a list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest, important for their value and contribution to the character and quality of settlements and the countryside. The listing and review process operates on a continuous basis.

As of December 2025, there were a total of 1266 listed buildings / structures within the Borough. This figure includes a total of 33no Grade A listed buildings - see full detail in Appendix G. Notable example of Grade A listed buildings within the Borough include Brownlow House in Lurgan, Armagh (C of I) Cathedral, Armagh Observatory and Richhill Castle. The term 'building' is defined broadly and can include, for example, walls and bridges as well as structures falling in the more usual understanding of the term. Protection also extends to the interior of listed buildings and to most buildings/structures within the curtilage of the listed structure.

Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes

Our historic parks, gardens and demesnes make a unique contribution to our environment. Each garden is an example of a unique interaction between people and their landscape, how

they viewed the natural features and topography, and, in many cases of how existing archaeological or monumental features were utilised to alter the way in which that place and space was experienced. Historic parks, gardens and demesnes preserve the diversity of styles, designs and layouts that characterise our distinctive horticultural and arboricultural heritage. They are a precious, finite resource, embodying social, cultural and aesthetic choices and values, as well as a record of change across time.

The Department of Communities Historic Environment Division maintains a register of parks, gardens and demesnes of special historic interest in Northern Ireland. Inclusion in the register is based upon a clear set of criteria that aligns with the Florence Charter. Sites are graded as A*, A and B and around 252 sites in NI have been selected on the main Register. All the sites recorded have been mapped onto the HED map viewer, including the registered boundary maps. The grading system used in the current Register differs from that of previous versions, where the best surviving examples were included in the Register, while those sites that retained only part of their original form were classed as Supplementary and listed in an appendix. The Supplementary sites have now been incorporated into the Register and categorised as Grade B.

There are currently 32 historic parks, gardens and demesnes within the Borough. In addition to these, there are 3 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes which have a small portion within the Borough but mainly fall within an adjoining council area (Mid Ulster: Benburb and Caledon and Newry, Mourne and Down: Drumbanagher). Of the 32 registered site within the Borough 1no is grade A*, 14no are grade A and 17no are grade B. A detailed list of all the registered sites within the Borough is contained within Appendix H. The full register of historic parks, gardens and demesnes, including specific detail of the 32 registered sites within the Borough, can be viewed at [Register-of-Parks-Gardens-and-Demesnes-of-Special-Historic-Interest-in-Northern-Ireland-2025.pdf](#)

Industrial Heritage

The Borough contains a wealth of remains of industrial heritage, all of which are reminders of economic development of the area. This includes former mills, factories, bridges and railway fixtures. Records of Industrial Heritage are maintained by Department of Communities and are shown on the Historic Environment Map viewer referred to above.

Defence Heritage

Northern Irelands defence heritage represents a significant cultural legacy. There are many 20th century defence heritage structures dotted around our costs and countryside. The Borough contains a wide range of defence heritage structures including observation posts, pillboxes, army camps, airstrips, searchlight batteries anti-tank obstacles and reinforced bridges.

Across the Borough, and more specifically adjacent to the villages of Scarva, Moyallan and Bleary, are the remain of a number of WW2 pillboxes. These pillboxes were located along inland defensive lines known as 'stop-lines' and were built in the 1940's as a system of defences for Northern Ireland. The Scarva, Moyalland and Bleary defences were part of the Lough Neagh to Carlingford Lough stop-line which used the River Bann and the Newry Canal as the main obstacle, with strategically placed pillboxes being used to cover the main crossing points.

Records of Defence Heritage are maintained by Department of Communities and are shown on the Historic Environment map viewer referred to above.

Heritage Assets at Risk

The Ulster Architecture Heritage (UAH) in conjunction with the Department for Communities, compiles a list of buildings considered to be at risk in Northern Ireland (the BHARNI register). Although the vast majority of heritage assets are well looked after, a small proportion (around 5% of listed buildings in Northern Ireland) are considered to be at risk. The majority of assets on this register are listed buildings however some unlisted historic buildings of local interest and some historic monuments are also included.

As of March 2025 (latest figures from UAH) there were a total of 1148no heritage assets at risk in NI. Of this total 193no (16.8%) fall within the Borough. This figure of 193no includes 3no sites on the Scheduled Monument Register, 149no listed buildings and 41no unlisted buildings. Heritage assets at risk within the Borough include the family wing at Brownlow House in Lurgan, The Castle Richhill and Armagh Gaol.

Conservation Areas

The Planning Act (NI) 2011 (Section 104) provides the Council with the power to designate an area of special architectural or historic interest as a Conservation Area. Within the Borough there are 5 designated Conservation Areas as follows:

- Armagh City
- Dromore
- Loughgall
- Lurgan
- Richhill

Boundary maps are included in Appendix I and townscape design advice is contained in the relevant designation booklets for the above Conservation Areas which are available on the website of the Department for Infrastructure at the following link <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/articles/conservation-area-guides-z-list>

Areas of Townscape or Village Character (ATC's / AVC's)

Areas of Townscape or Village Character are designated by the Council through the local development plan with accompanying local policies for the management of development within these areas. There are currently 16no Areas of Townscape (ATC's) within the Borough – see list in Appendix J. Individual maps for each of the 16no ATC designation are contained within the map libraries of the Banbridge Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 and the Craigavon Area Plan 2010 which can be viewed at the link below.

[Development Plans: A-Z Index | Planning Portal](#)

There are currently no designated Areas of Village Character (AVC's). A review of Areas of ATC's / AVC's designations will be undertaken to inform the Local Policies Plan.

Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPA's)

In accordance with the SPPS and PPS6, LLPAs are designated to help protect the environmental assets within or adjoining settlements. LLPAs consist of those features and areas considered to be of greatest amenity value, landscape quality or local significance and therefore worthy of protection from undesirable or damaging development. They may include;

- archaeological sites and monuments and their surroundings;
- listed and other locally important buildings and their surroundings;
- riverbanks and shorelines and associated public access;

- attractive vistas, localised hills and other areas of local amenity importance; and
- areas of local nature conservation interest, including areas of woodland and important tree groups.

LDPs should, where appropriate, designate LLPAs and bring forward local policies and guidance to maintain the intrinsic environmental value and character of such areas.

There are currently 101 LLPAs within the Borough. A detailed list of all LLPAs is contained within Appendix K. Of the 101 LLPAs 9 are contained in the Armagh Area Plan 2005 Alteration No 1, 65 are contained within the Banbridge / Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 and 27 are located within the Craigavon Area Plan 2010. A review of the Local Landscape Policy Areas will be undertaken to inform the Local Policies Plan. Map for each of the 101 individual LLPAs can be found in the map libraries of the Banbridge Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 and the Craigavon Area Plan 2010 and Armagh Area Plan 2004 Alteration No. 1 (see link above).

Historic Environment Overview

The map contained within Appendix L shows the location of some of the main Historic Environment Assets within the Borough. These include the existing and candidate Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest, Conservation Areas, Historic Parks Gardens & Demesnes as well as Scheduled Sites and Monuments and Sites and Monuments in State Care.

Natural Heritage Profile

Introduction

All elements of our natural environment provide services that provide direct and indirect benefits to human well-being and survival. They are the unseen networks and natural processes of a healthy natural environment that maintain all life. Council are committed to maintaining and protecting ecosystem services by conserving biodiversity, protection from pollution and promotion of sustainable development throughout the Borough.

The Borough contains the following natural heritage designations:

International Designations

- 1 Ramsar sites (Lough Neagh and Lough Beg)
- 2 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs: Peatlands Park and Montiaghs Moss)
- 1 Special Protected Areas (SPAs: Lough Neagh)

National Designations

- 21 Areas of Special Scientific interest (ASSI's)
- 1 National Nature Reserve (Lough Neagh)
- 4 Nature Reserves

Local Designations

- 3 Local Nature Reserves
- 75 Sites of Local Conservation Importance (SLNCI)
- 7 Open Space Wedges designated within Armagh City

Further details including maps of the above international and national nature conservation designations can be found in Appendix O – Natural Heritage Overview. Additional information on all current environmental designations are available on the DAERA Natural Environment Map Viewer <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/services/natural-environment-map-viewer>

International Nature Conservation Designations

Within the Borough there are a number of international nature conservation designation. These including one Ramsar site, two Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and one Special Protected Area (SPA).

Ramsar Site

A Ramsar Site is a wetland area of international importance designated under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, an intergovernmental treaty focused on the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands. These sites are chosen for meeting specific criteria, such as being representative of rare wetland types or being crucial for biodiversity.

There is one designated Ramsar Sites that partly falls within the Borough. This is the Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar which is one of twenty such sites within Northern Ireland.

Lough Neagh is situated in the centre of Northern Ireland. It is the largest freshwater lake in the United Kingdom covering an area of 383 km² with a length of 30.5 km at its longest point and a width of 12.1 km at its narrowest point, across the middle. The lake is very shallow for its size with a mean depth of 8.9 metres. At its deepest point it extends down to 34 metres. The 125 km shoreline is mostly exposed with wave-beaten rocks and stones but there are also some sheltered, sandy bays with better developed marginal vegetation including some reedbeds. This site also contains a smaller lake, Lough Beg (1,125 ha) to the north (within Mid-Ulster Council district) and a small satellite lake, Portmore Lough (286 ha) which is situated to the east of Lough Neagh (a portion of which falls within ABC).

Rivers flowing into Lough Neagh drain about 43% of Northern Ireland, plus part of County Monaghan in the Republic of Ireland.

The Lough Neagh and Lough Beg Ramsar site qualifies under the following criterion of the Ramsar convention (further details contained within Appendix 2):

Criterion 1 of Ramsar, by being the largest freshwater lake in the United Kingdom.

Criterion 2 of Ramsar, supports over forty rare or local vascular plants which have been recorded for the site since 1970.

Criterion 3 of Ramsar as this site regularly supports substantial numbers of individuals from particular groups of waterfowl which are indicative of wetland values, productivity and diversity.

Criterion 4 for supporting an important assemblage of breeding birds.

Criterion 5 by regularly supporting over 20,000 waterfowl in winter.

Criterion 6 as it regularly supports internationally important numbers of wintering Bewick's and whooper swans and by regularly supporting nationally important numbers of breeding common tern.

Criterion 7 by supporting a population of pollan, a salmonid fish which is common in Lough Neagh and one of the few locations in Ireland and one of the two known locations in the UK (the other is Lower Lough Erne).

Special Areas of Conservation

Special Area of Conservation (SAC) in Northern Ireland are protected sites designated under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (NI) 1995 to protect threatened habitats

and species of national and European importance. Active raised bogs, blanket bogs and European dry heaths are examples of priority habitats, while *Lutra* (otter) and *Salmo salar* (Atlantic Salmon) are examples of priority species. Further detailed information of the priority habitats and species listed below are available on DAERA Natural Environment Map Viewer referred to above.

There are two designated Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) within the Borough as follows: Montiaghs Moss which supports active raised bogs and Peatlands Park which supports active raised bogs

Special Protection Area

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) are designated under The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1985 (as amended). These legally designated sites protect habitats for rare, threatened or vulnerable wild birds, as well as regularly occurring migratory species under the EU Birds Directive.

There is one designated Special Protection Areas within the Armagh Banbridge Craigavon Borough Council which is Lough Neagh.

Lough Neagh SPA

Situated in the centre of Northern Ireland, Lough Neagh is the largest freshwater lake in Britain and Ireland. The Special Protection Area includes three eutrophic water bodies, Lough Neagh and two related loughs, Lough Beg and Portmore Lough, together with surrounding swamp, fen, wet grassland and swampy woodland. It qualifies as a SPA by regularly supporting internationally important numbers of wintering Bewick's and whooper swans and nationally important numbers of breeding common tern. Also, under Article 4.2 of the Directive it qualifies as a wetland of international importance by regularly supporting over 20,000 of a variety of species of waterfowl in winter.

National Nature Conservation Designations

Within the Borough there are a number of National Nature Conservation Designations including 21no Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs), 1no National Nature Reserve (NNR) and 4no Nature Reserves (NRs).

Areas of Special Scientific Interest

Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) are protected areas that represent the best of our wildlife and geological sites that make a considerable contribution to the conservation of our most valuable natural places. ASSI's are designated by DAERA under The Environmental Order (Northern Ireland) 2002, Part IV. Lands can only be designated as an ASSI if it is of special scientific interest because of the flora or fauna that is found on it, or because of geological features.

There are a total of 21no designated Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSIs) within the Borough. These are as follows:

Annacramph Meadows (ASSI): A 2.5 hectare site in Co. Armagh, is unimproved dry grassland comprised of two small hay-meadows. The fields are notable for the presence of a number of scarce species, generally confined to unimproved grassland.

Aughnavallog (ASSI): This site is a special place because of its earth science interest. The area provides access to exposures of a granite-like rock called granodiorite that together with a number of other sites describe the Newry Igneous Complex

Benburb–Milltown (ASSI): (either side of Blackwater River: both ACDC & DBC)

The Benburb–Milltown area is a special place because of its earth science interest. The area provides access to a sequence of sedimentary rocks exposed within the River Blackwater valley.

Brackagh Bog (ASSI): The area is of special scientific interest (ASSI) because of its wetland flora and fauna. Brackagh Bog lies in a small tributary valley of the River Bann just 3 km southeast of Portadown.

Caledon and Tynan (ASSI): Caledon and Tynan is a special place because of its parkland and fen habitats. Historic parklands are generally characterised by old, open grown trees and shrubs which have significant amounts of dead wood. These old open-grown trees provide a very specialist habitat for certain species of invertebrates, lichens and fungi, many of which are rare. A wide variety of parkland trees and shrubs are present on the site which support high quality invertebrate fauna, a variety of fungi. The lake at Tynan is surrounded by fen, with swamp and wet woodland. Fens are an important wetland habitat.

Crossbane Lough (ASSI): Crossbane Lough is of special scientific interest because of its wetland and fauna. It is a large, diverse site with a variety of plant communities. There is a gradual transition from the open waters of the lough, through a range of fen communities, to heath. Scrub, acid grassland and small pools derived from past peat cutting provide additional habitat diversity, while the open waters of the lough hold a range of aquatic plants.

Derryvore (ASSI): Derryvore is of special scientific interest for its wetland flora and fauna. The area is a diverse herb-rich wetland, with a number of unusual fen communities and several notable species. Unlike many of the other fens in Down and Armagh which tend to be found in inter-drumlin hollows, Derryvore occurs within the flood-plain of the River Bann and consists of a complex mosaic of fen and swamp communities on cutover peat.

Drumarg (ASSI): The disused quarry and lands at Drumarg are of importance because of their geology and the presence of an associated cave system. In particular the former quarry exposes limestone forming part of the Armagh Group of Carboniferous age. The development of the cave system here is notable given that nearly all of Northern Ireland's cave series are found in the Carboniferous limestones of Co. Fermanagh.

Drumcarn (ASSI): Drumcarn is a large site with a wide range of habitats and vegetation communities. It has developed in a series of old peat cuttings between heath covered rocky outcrops. The diversity provided by open water, swamp and fen provides valuable habitat for wetland invertebrates, and several rare species of plants and animals have been recorded. Wet grassland, heath and scrub add further diversity to the site.

Kiltubbrid Loughs (ASSI): This site comprises a large basin containing two loughs surrounded by a variety of wetland habitats. The main component is Phragmites swamp but there is a large and complex area of interesting fen in the north-east, which is partly grazed. Transition to the adjacent improved pasture is usually fairly abrupt though in places there is a narrow margin of rush pasture.

Lackan Bog (ASSI): This site is the largest single block of lowland peat in County Down. An extensive cutover wetland with a complex mosaic of vegetation communities including poor fen, species-rich areas, pools in old cuttings and scrubby woodland with remnant bog vegetation.

Lough Gullion (ASSI): Lough Gullion is located on Charlestown Road, Derrytrasna and is of special scientific interest for its wetland flora and fauna. Good quality fen, swamp and freshwater communities occur, and additional diversity is provided by wet grasslands, cut-over bog, scrub and wet woodland.

Lough Neagh (ASSI): (part within ABC) Lough Neagh, the largest freshwater lake in the United Kingdom, is a relatively shallow body of water supporting beds of submerged aquatic vegetation fringed by associated species-rich damp grassland, reedbeds, islands, fens, marginal swampy woodland and pasture. Other interesting vegetation types include those associated with pockets of cut-over bog, basalt rock outcrops and boulders, and the mobile sandy shore. Over forty rare or local vascular plants have been recorded for the site since 1970. The Lough and its margin are also home to a large number of rare or local invertebrates. Three notable fish also occur in the Lough, the river Lamprey, the Pollan and the eel. Additionally, internationally important numbers of waterfowl regularly winter on the Lough and in the summer the Lough supports internationally important numbers of breeding birds.

Montiaghs Moss (ASSI): Largely cutover lowland raised bog within the Lough Neagh basin consisting of an intricate mosaic of peat ramparts, trenches, pools, drains, interspersed with small hay fields, alder and willow carr and tall hedgerows. The diversity of habitats support a wide range of plant, insect and animal communities associated with both acid bog conditions and rich fen and swamp. Montiaghs Moss is particularly important as a site for rare plants.

Moyrourkan Lough (ASSI): Moyrourkan Lough is a large wetland with a diverse range of communities ranging from open water to swamp and fen. Marginal grasslands and carr woodland provide additional habit diversity. The open waters of the two small lakes support an extensive growth of floating broad-leaved pondweed, with localised yellow waterlily along the margins. A wide range of fen communities surround the lakes.

Peatlands Park (ASSI): Peatlands Park is of special scientific interest because of its woodlands, lowland raised bog and the fen and open waters of Derryadd Lough.

Portmore Lough (ASSI): (part within ABC)
is of special scientific interest because of its well developed transition from open water, through emergent swamp and fen, to carr woodland or fen meadow. It also has a considerable wintering wildfowl population. This range of habitats supports a rich flora and fauna, including a number of rare species. The area represents one of the largest blocks of semi-natural woodland in Northern Ireland. The peatland interest incorporates a large area of intact lowland raised bog at Mullenakill. The bog is actively growing and is covered by typical raised bog vegetation. The rich flora and fauna associated with this extensive and highly diverse area supports a large number of rare and notable species.

Selshion (ASSI): Isolated remnant of the once extensive wetland previously found to the south of Lough Neagh before the water level of the lough was lowered during a series of drainage schemes. Selshion Bog lies off the Moy Road in Portadown in an inter-drumlin hollow where impeded drainage results in permanent wet conditions. The cut over peat surface, due to the depth of past excavation and current water table varies in wetness. The deeper flooded cuttings display successional stages of vegetative infilling ranging from open water to those that are grown over by mossy fen carpet. Where the peat surface lies at or close to the water table, a secondary bog vegetation has developed while under dryer conditions Molinia heathland occurs. This rich variation of community types is reflected in the high diversity of wetland plants present, a number of which are locally notable. In addition to its botanical importance, the site is one of the most important wetlands in the east of the province for invertebrates

Shannaghan Hill (ASSI): This site is a special place because of its earth science interest. The area provides access to exposures of a granite-like rock called granodiorite and Silurian sedimentary rocks that together with a number of other sites describe the Newry Igneous Complex.

Straghans Lough (ASSI): Straghans Lough is a large, diverse site covering a substantial area of semi-natural vegetation. Many wetland plant communities occur, with transitions from the open waters of the three loughs, through swamp, to a variety of fen types and wet grasslands. The presence of other habitats including acid grasslands, dry heath and scrub, enhance the scientific interest of the area. Size, diversity and the relatively undisturbed nature of the site is reflected in the richness and variation of invertebrate communities recorded.

Tullybrick Lough (ASSI): Lying in a small inter-drumlin wetland the lough appears to be fed mainly by calcareous springs. As result it has the typical characteristics of a marl lough, with very clear water and extensive growths of stonewort. Around the edge the lough is fringed by stands of great fen-sedge along with other commoner swamp types. Behind the swamp fringe the marginal vegetation varies between swamp woodland, tall herb fen and most notably to the east by tall sedge-rich fen of a calcareous nature.

Further details of designated ASSI sites can be found on the DAERA website <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/topics/protected-areas>

National Nature Reserves and Nature Reserves

Nature reserves represent 'core areas' of high biodiversity value – reservoirs for native wildlife managed primarily for nature conservation. Among them, National Nature Reserves (NNRs) contain examples of many of the most important natural and semi-natural terrestrial and coastal ecosystems in the UK. They are managed to conserve their habitats and/or to provide opportunities for scientific study of the habitats communities and species present in them. They provide ideal places for long term research on natural processes.

As well as protecting nature, nature reserves represent an important 'natural capital' resource, providing people with the opportunity to learn about and study our natural heritage and biodiversity in a managed environment and to engage with nature. They are thus an important element in the conservation of biodiversity in the wider countryside. They also may be managed to provide public recreation to the extent that this is compatible with their natural heritage interests.

Nature Reserves (NRs) and National Nature Reserves (NNRs) are collectively referred to as 'statutory' nature reserves and in Northern Ireland are designated by DAERA, while Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are designated by local Councils.

National Nature Reserves (NNRs)

There is only 1 No. NNR located within the Borough, Oxford Island National Nature Reserve. The Oxford Island NNR is a peninsula on the south-east shore of Lough Neagh. The nature reserve supports a wide range of habitats including wet meadows, reedbeds, woodlands and shoreline scrub, all of which are typical of the lake shore. Sheltered bays provide a refuge for large numbers of wintering wildfowl. Five miles of footpath pass through these grasslands and also take you to woodlands, ponds and the lough shore, while the natural grasslands of Kinnegoe meadows are alive with the colour of flowers and butterflies. The Lough Neagh Discovery Centre which is owned by ACBCBC Council tells the story of the lough's history and wildlife through audio-visual presentations, displays and interactive games.

Nature Reserves (NRs)

There are 4no Nature Reserves (NR) within the Borough. These are as follows:

Annagariff (NR) (within Peatlands Park): Annagariff Wood lies at the heart of this reserve, having survived as a hunting preserve for over 200 years. Although felled on occasion, it has never been farmed, and most native tree species are present. Oak and birch predominate but rarities such as yew, aspen and alder buckthorn may be seen. Jays frequenting the canopy often scold resident sparrowhawk and long-eared owls, while on the forest floor, flowers compete for the spring light, and badgers find digging easy in the gravelly soils. Wood Ants abound in Annagariff which is the only Irish site for this species. Extensive fens and relict uncut raised bogs fringe the woods, home to many rare species of butterflies and moths. Six species of summering warblers fill the glades with birdsong, while in winter solitary peregrine falcons or hen harriers hunt for wood pigeon and duck. Plant life is also varied with several rare and interesting bog species present, including four carnivorous species which trap and eat insects to supplement the meagre nutrients available in this harsh environment. It is owned and managed by NIEA.

Brackagh (NR): Originally a raised bog, over 300 years of turf cutting, have left Brackagh Moss a maze of pools, drainage channels and peat ramparts. Most of the reddish acid bog peat was removed, exposing older, black, base-rich fen peat underneath. This variety in soils has resulted in an extremely varied flora. It is owned by NIEA.

Lough Neagh Islands (NR): About 80 of the islands in Lough Neagh are managed as part of the Lough Neagh National Nature Reserve. Populations of breeding birds are monitored every year. Tolans point at Derrymore in ABC is owned by NIEA.

Mullenakill (NR): (within Peatlands Park): Mullenakill is an 8000 year old raised bog, within whose waterlogged 9m deep core lies the remains of past surface vegetation. Fed only by rainfall, the acidic bog supports a group of highly specialised plants. Moths and butterflies frequent the bog expanse, the rare large heath being a speciality to this site. Look out for the common lizards, they might be trying to spot a butterfly too, but not for the same reasons. Numerous snipe spend winter on the site and woodcock frequent the bog margins. It is owned and managed by NIEA.

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs)

Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) are those established by District Councils under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. There are a total of 3no Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) located within the Borough. These are as follows:

Craigavon North Lake and Tannaghmore Gardens (LNR)

Site located in the northern section of Craigavon and consists of the north lake and associated vegetation; it is part of a 332 hectare city park feature with provision for boating and other forms of water recreation. It is accessible by a surfaced path connecting with pedestrian and cycle paths. Tannaghmore Gardens is associated with Fairview House, a listed Georgian Farmhouse dating from the late 18th Century. The gardens include an animal farm with many animals traditionally found on farms in Ulster 100 years ago, many of these breeds are now rare and close to extinction; they include Irish Moiled Cattle, Dexter Cattle, Galway Sheep, Saddleback Pigs and a wide range of Poultry.

Portmore Lough

Located in the north of the Borough and part of the Lough Neagh SPA and ASSI. Partially within the Borough (shared with LCCC). The site consists of a mosaic of wetland habitats and is home to an RSPB reserve which boasts stunning open views across the Lough.

Slantry Wood (LNR)

Site located on Charlestown Road, Craigavon adjacent to M12 consists of planted mature woodland, wet woodland and several species rich and rushy meadows. Owned and managed by council, accessible to the public with surfaced paths, information boards and car parking.

Sites of Local Nature Conservation Interest (SLNCI)

The most common form of conserving biodiversity is to designate, protect and manage the best sites of nature conservation importance. While areas of international and national nature conservation importance are already protected from development through other statutory designations, conservation of biodiversity is enhanced in the Plan through the designation of Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs).

In accordance with PPS 2 - Planning and Nature Conservation, SLNCIs are sites designated on the basis of their flora, fauna or earth science interest through local development plans.

A list of 75no SLNCIs within the Borough is contained in the table in Appendix M.

Further information regarding the rationale for extant SLNCI designations and their boundaries are contained within the existing Area Plans (Technical Supplements).

Woodland

Trees are an important landscape resource throughout urban and rural Northern Ireland. They provide oxygen, improve air quality, stabilise soil, provide habitat, support flora and fauna and ultimately contribute to the health and well-being. Trees also provide both aesthetic and amenity values which contribute to the character of a place, provide screening and privacy, provide cooling and shade, add colour and seasonal interest and provide attractive green vistas. Trees can also act as important landmark features creating a sense of place and contributing to the character of both urban settlements and rural areas.

As of March 2025 only 8.6% of Northern Ireland's land area is wooded. This compared to 19% in Scotland, 15% in Wales, 11% in the Republic of Ireland, and 10% in England (source: NI Tree Planting Action Plan 2026-2032).

Approximately 1401 Ha of woodland in Armagh Banbridge & Craigavon is managed by the Forest Service, leaving approximately 3950 Ha of woodland unmanaged. The total woodland recorded in the Borough is 5351 Ha (source: NI Woodland Register 2022).

Ancient and Long-Established Woodland

Ancient woodland is one of Northern Ireland's rarest and most diverse habitats which makes up just 0.04% of the land area (source: State of Nature Report NI, 2023). Ancient woodlands are areas that have been continuously wooded since at least 1600. Very little woodland remains in Northern Ireland that can definitively be proven as ancient. Long-established woodland is woodland that has been continuously present since the first accurate, comprehensive mapping of the province by the Ordnance Survey in the 1830s. The Woodland Trust has created an inventory of ancient and long-established woodland in Northern Ireland which can be found at the following link.

[Northern Ireland Ancient Woodland](#)

Tree Preservation Orders

Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) protect selected trees or woodland if their removal is likely to have a significant impact on the local environment and its enjoyment by the public. Priority is given to the protection of those trees deemed to be at immediate risk from active felling or damage from development on site.

There are 83no TPOs in total located within the Borough.

Section 122 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 gives local Council's the power to impose a TPO where it appears to a council that it is expedient in the interests of amenity to make provision for the preservation of trees or woodlands in its district. Section 121 states that Local Council have a duty to ensure that planning permission includes provision for trees, this is usually done via the imposition of planning conditions.

Landscape Character within the Borough

The Borough comprises a diverse mix of landscapes including the southern shores of the Lough Neagh Basin, the orchard area concentrated around Loughgall, the Upper Bann Valley between Portadown and Katesbridge through Banbridge and the southern edges of the Borough containing the Carrigatuke Hills and Iveagh Slopes.

Recognition to landscapes of national importance is given through the designation of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). The purpose of this designation is to protect and conserve the scenic qualities of the area and promote their enjoyment. The majority of the Slieve Croob portion of the Mourne AONB which was formerly within Banbridge District Council area has transferred to Newry, Mourne & Down District however there is a minor portion remaining within the Borough which measures approximately 0.56 km² in area (of a total 570 km²) and is located along the Council's south-eastern boundary, north of Rathfriland and Moneyslane.

All of the NI landscape has been classified by the Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 2000. This uses an accepted systematic method of landscape character assessment. The NI landscape has been subdivided into 130 different landscape character areas, each with a distinctive character and number as detailed below. The borough comprises twenty-three distinct Landscape Character Areas (LCAs), some of which overlap with neighbouring legacy district council areas.

The Northern Ireland Character Assessment 2000 (NILCA) also identifies Areas of Scenic Quality. They represent a second tier (below AONBs) in the hierarchy of landscape classifications which can be designated within Local Development Plans as Areas of High Scenic Value. Within the NILCA documents, within the Borough there are two such Areas of Scenic Quality as follows:

- Blackwater Valley; and
- the Lough Neagh Shores.

A review of these Landscape Character Areas is detailed in the Landscape Character Assessment (Technical Supplement 9).

Natural Heritage Overview

A map contained within Appendix O show some of the main Natural Heritage Assets within the Borough. These include the Ramsar, SAC, SPA, ASSI, NNR, NR and AONB designations.

5.0 Preferred Options Paper

The Council published its Preferred Options Paper (POP) in March 2018. The main purpose of the POP was to promote focused debate on key issues of strategic significance likely to influence the direction of future development within the Borough, so to inform the next stage in the LDP process, the Plan Strategy.

The POP outlined the vision and strategic objectives of the Plan, along with 38 Key Issues and the possible options available to address them, including the Council's Preferred Option. The Key Issues emerged from our evidence base; from engagement with Elected Members and Section 75 Groups; and from formal and informal consultation with Statutory Consultation Bodies. In order to inform the POP, a preliminary review of operational planning policy was also carried out, with a commitment to complete a more detailed policy review in advance of the Plan Strategy.

The POP did not cover every issue, policy and proposal that has been included in the LDP. Instead, the POP focused upon the main planning issues that had been identified through the work undertaken in developing the evidence base for the LDP, including consultation with statutory consultees and council officials, workshops with Elected Members and through the Community Plan process.

A total of 201 responses, from members of the public and statutory consultees, were received during the 9 week public consultation period, these included a wide range of comments in relation to the POP, supporting documents and the POP consultation process.

Key Issues

The Key Issues of relevance to Heritage Assets were as follows:

- ENV 1- Protecting, conserving and enhancing built heritage and archaeological assets
- ENV 2- Protecting international, national and local nature consideration designations (that are designated outside the LDP Process)
- ENV 3- Identifying and protecting local nature conservation designations
- ENV 4- Identifying and protecting Sensitive Landscapes
- ENV 5- Identifying and protecting Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs)
- ENV 6- Identifying and protecting Urban / Rural Landscape Wedges

These Key Issues and the preferred options to address them are discussed in further detail below.

Preferred Options

The preferred option on how best to approach this key issue ENV 1 within the LDP was option ENV 1A, 'An approach in line with existing policy with regards to protecting, conserving and enhancing built heritage and archaeological assets within the Borough; and review existing areas / designations and identify new areas / designations as appropriate'.

The preferred option on how best to approach this key issue ENV2 within the LDP was option ENV2A, 'An approach in line with existing policy with regards to protecting and enhancing international, national and local nature conservation sites that are not LDP designations'.

The preferred option on how best to approach this key issue ENV3 within the LDP was option ENV 3A, 'An approach in line with the existing policy with regards to protecting and enhancing local nature conservation designations; and review existing and identify new LDP designations as appropriate'.

The preferred option on how best to approach key issue ENV 4 within the LDP was option ENV 4A 'Consider area of sensitive landscapes for designation as Areas of High Scenic Value (AoHSV) or Special Countryside Areas (SCA)'. This option is evaluated further in the Landscape Character Assessment, Technical Supplement 9

The preferred option on how best to approach key issue ENV 5 within the LDP was option ENV 5A 'Evaluate and, as appropriate, retain existing Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) designated in the extant Area Plans; consider the identification of new LLPAs; and introduce a consistent LLPA policy'.

The preferred option on how best to approach key issue ENV 6 within the LDP was option ENV 6A 'Review existing open space wedges and policy zones as potential Urban Landscape Wedges; and identify both new Urban and Rural Landscape Wedges with associated policy'.

Summary of POP Commitments

The POP identified that the preferred approach for built heritage and archaeology (protecting, conserving and enhancing built heritage and archaeological assets) ENV 1A would ensure that all existing built heritage and archaeological assets designated within the Area Plans would be retained and afforded appropriate protection, conservation and enhancement through the LDP policies and proposals. These include LDP designations such as ATC's, LLPA's and ASAI's. Other non LDP designations such as Conservation Areas, HPG&D and Listed Buildings would also be given appropriate protection, conservation and enhancement. The preferred approach ENV 1A also allows for a comprehensive review of all existing built heritage and archaeological areas / designations and provides an opportunity to identify new areas / designations. This approach is in line with the RDS, SPPS, PPS 6 (including its Addendum) and PPS 23. The preferred approach also recognises that the regeneration of built heritage and archaeological assets can promote economic growth and vitality particularly in sectors such as tourism and plays a vital role in supporting good design and positive placemaking (Key Issue SOC 3).

The POP identified that the preferred approach for to natural heritage (the protection of international, national and local nature conservation designations that are designated outside the LDP process) ENV 2A would ensure that all international, national and local sites of nature conservation importance designated outside the LDP process would be afforded adequate protection against development proposals. These include sites of International Importance (Ramsar, SACs and SPAs), sites of National Importance (AONB, NNR, ASSIs and NRs) as well as sites of Local Importance (LNRs and Wildlife Refuges). The preferred approach ENV 2A covers all of the above designations. The preferred approach will enable continued safeguarding of the Borough's natural heritage assets. Existing Policy NH 6 of PPS 2 (AONBs) will also be brought forward as a small area on the Mourne AONB lies within the Borough. The preferred approach ENV 2A will ensure that habitats, species and features (both protected by law and of natural heritage importance) will not be harmed or adversely impacted by

development proposals. This approach is in line with regional policy direction in the RDS, SPPS and PPS 2.

The POP identified that the preferred approach for natural heritage (identifying and protecting local nature conservation designations) ENV 3A would allow for the review of all SLNCI designations within existing Area Plans and the designation of new SLNCIs in the LDP. The review of existing SLNCIs would allow any inconsistencies in approach across the existing Area Plans, in terms of the level of protection, to be addressed. The preferred approach ENV 3A would also allow appropriate policies to protect the intrinsic value of SLNCIs (as reviewed) against inappropriate development to be included in the LDP. This approach is in line with regional policy direction in the RDS, SPPS and PPS 2.

The POP identified that the preferred approach ENV 5 would allow for the LLPAs designated in the extant Plans (AAP 2004 - Alteration No 1: Countryside Proposals, BNMAP 2015 and CAP 2010) to be reviewed and as appropriate, retained. This option would also evaluate existing LLPAs and associated designated text / key features in order introduce a more consistent approach across the Borough. This option would also consider new areas for LLPA designation and ensure policy is consistent across the Borough in line with regional planning policy. These designations can help to ensure that new development does not dominate distinctive landscapes and the character of settlements. Furthermore, these designations can act as buffer zones between different uses and can help to safeguard the setting of settlements. The protection of these areas can help to protect and/or enhance biodiversity, ecological networks and the attractiveness of our settlements. This option will also assist in the promotion of green infrastructure through the LDP and can help mitigate against the impacts of air and noise pollution.

LLPAs do not preclude development. Rather these designations enable development which respects the LLPA Key Features by ensuring that development is appropriately sited and sensitively designed to maintain landscape, environmental value and character.

The POP identified that the preferred approach to ENV 5 allows for Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs) designated within the extant plans (AAP 2004 Alteration No.1: Countryside Proposals, BNMAP 2015 and CAP 2010) to be reviewed and, where appropriate, retained. The option also permits a review of existing LLPAs, together with their policy wording and key features, to establish a more consistent approach across the Borough. In addition, the option would provide an opportunity to identify and assess new areas that may merit LLPA designation, ensuring that policy aligns with regional planning policy and is applied consistently throughout the Borough. The preferred approach would ensure that development may proceed while safeguarding the qualities that make these landscapes distinctive and valuable.

The POP identified that the preferred approach to ENV 6 allows for the Urban and Rural Landscape Wedges function to maintain and protect the character and identity of individual settlements and localities and their visual separation, as well as to respect landscape features within settlements. This option allows for the introduction of a consistent approach to landscape wedge designation and Plan policy. This would replace the existing designations and policy for open space wedges and policy zones in the Armagh Area Plan 2004. The setting, landscape features and character of our settlements should be protected from inappropriate forms of development which would adversely impact on their form, relationship and character.

POP Representations

ENV 1 Protecting, conserving and enhancing built heritage and archaeological assets

Of the total 201 responses received in respect of the POP, 29 of which made reference to Key Issue ENV 1. There was significant support for the preferred approach, with 21no (72%) of the responses categorised as being generally supportive, 7no (24%) of the responses categorised as unsupportive and the remaining 1no (4%) considered to be non-committal or unclear.

Although 21no (72%) of representations were in support of the preferred option for many representations did raise the following issues: -

- Lack of maintenance of some Scheduled Monuments.
- The Council should establish, maintain and regularly review a Local List of buildings, including consideration of the Built Heritage at Risk Register.
- There is a shortage of protective heritage designations in some areas, including for non-designated heritage assets.
- The quarrying industry should take measures to mitigate the loss of archaeological heritage.
- Conservation Areas should be reviewed through the Local Development Plan (LDP) process, supported by appropriate design guidance.
- Policies relating to Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAs) should be site-specific.
- Historic graveyards require a careful and sensitive policy approach.
- Opportunities exist to:
 - Develop bespoke policies for thatched structures.
 - Introduce specific policies for new agricultural sheds.
 - Increase housing provision within Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Character (ATCs) where appropriate.
- Local policies and proposals should safeguard Navan and its setting, particularly in light of its Royal Sites of Ireland World Heritage Site (WHS) bid, with clear and proactive policy support for the bid.
- Policies for the maintenance, adaptation and reuse of historic and listed buildings should be sufficiently flexible to support tourism, commercial activity and regeneration.
- The withdrawal of permitted development rights for non-designated heritage assets within Conservation Areas and other historic areas should be considered.
- Future policies should prevent the loss of heritage buildings, promote regeneration and apply a precautionary approach in the most sensitive heritage locations.
- Protecting heritage assets helps maintain local character, strengthen sense of place and support tourism.
- Consider introducing a new ATC/AVC policy to limit the weight given to precedent as a material consideration within these areas.
- Historic environment datasets maintained by HED should be updated.

Of the 7no (24%) of representations which were unsupportive of the preferred option comment was made to the following:

- A more thorough assessment of the available information is required before policy decisions are progressed.
- Effective, meaningful and accessible community consultation is essential, with engagement processes widely advertised and inclusive of all sections of the community, including older people.
- The proposals in the Preferred Options Paper (POP) are insufficiently specific to facilitate informed public engagement and meaningful consultation.

- Greater consideration should be given to the protection and enhancement of the biodiversity value associated with historic buildings and places.
- Knock Iveagh should be designated as an Area of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI).
- Existing PPS 6 policies are considered poorly balanced, resulting in the protection of too many buildings of limited heritage value. A more proportionate approach should focus on assets of genuine historic, architectural or cultural significance.
- The stewardship, management and protection of the historic environment should be reviewed in partnership with local communities.

Only 1no (4%) of the representations was non-committal. This representation suggested former industrial premises could be sympathetically restored to provide new office or workspace provision.

ENV 2 Protecting international, national and local nature consideration designations (that are designated outside the LDP Process)

Of the total 201 responses received in respect of the POP, 28 of which made reference to Key Issue ENV 2. There was significant support for the preferred approach, with 20no (71%) of the responses categorised as being generally supportive, 2no (7%) of the responses categorised as unsupportive and the remaining 6no (22%) considered to be non-committal or unclear.

Although 20no (71%) of representations were in support of the preferred option many of the representations did raise issues as follows:

- A robust and consistent policy approach should be adopted for the protection of international, national and locally designated sites.
- The minerals and aggregates sector has a strong record of delivering high-quality quarry restoration, including the creation of nationally important wildlife habitats. The Council should engage with QPANI to maximise the environmental and biodiversity benefits associated with quarry restoration.
- Robust evidence should underpin policy development and decision-making.
- Natural heritage and the historic environment are closely interconnected and should be considered together within the planning process.
- Field, townland and parish boundaries are important heritage features and merit protection.
- Designed landscapes and demesnes represent the interaction of human planning, natural heritage and the historic environment and should be appropriately recognised.
- Concern was expressed regarding the ongoing protection of sites designated under EU legislation, particularly in the context of post-Brexit arrangements.
- A precautionary approach should be applied to the most sensitive heritage and environmental sites to safeguard their important features.

Of the 2no (7%) of representations which were unsupportive of the preferred option reference was made to the following issues; wildlife at Craigavon Lakes has already been disrupted and one protected species has not been investigated.

A total of 6no (22%) of the representations were non-committal with the following issues being raised:-

- Nature conservation interests should be protected from inappropriate development.
- Any review of PPS 2 policies, particularly NH 2 and NH 5, should maintain or strengthen existing protections and avoid changes that could inadvertently weaken policy safeguards.
- There is potential to secure biodiversity net gain if the Council chooses to adopt a stronger approach to biodiversity than that set out in the SPPS.

- The relevance of ENV 2 was questioned, as the protection of international, national and local nature conservation sites is considered a legal requirement rather than a policy choice.
- The precautionary principle should underpin plan-making, zoning decisions and the protection of sensitive environmental assets.
- The LDP should promote the creation and enhancement of ecological networks, including recognition of linkages between protected sites such as hydrological connections.
- Natural heritage policies should support not only protection but also the restoration and enhancement of biodiversity, informed by the five Lawton Principles.
- The Council's responsibilities under the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 should be reflected in the LDP.
- An integrated, cross-boundary approach with neighbouring councils is required to address transboundary environmental issues.
- Concern was expressed that the POP does not adequately address the implications of Brexit for environmental protection.
- Buffer zones should be provided around designated sites to allow habitats and species space to expand and adapt.
- Consideration should be given to protecting and enhancing biodiversity and the natural environment beyond designated sites.

ENV 3 Identifying and protecting local nature conservation designations

Of the total 201 responses received in respect of the POP, 28 of which made reference to Key Issue ENV 3. There was significant support for the preferred approach, with 24no (86%) of the responses categorised as being generally supportive, 0no (0%) of the responses categorised as unsupportive and the remaining 4no (14%) considered to be non-committal or unclear.

Although 24no (86%) of representations were in support of the preferred option many of the representations did raise issues as follows:

- The Council should engage with QPANI to maximise the environmental and biodiversity benefits of quarry restoration. The quarrying industry can support a diverse range of habitats and substrates, and the minerals and aggregates sector has a strong track record of creating high quality habitats through the restoration of former quarries. Approximately 700 ASSIs in the UK are located within former quarry sites, demonstrating the biodiversity value that restoration can achieve. The Council should engage with QPANI to maximise the environmental and biodiversity benefits of quarry restoration.
- Natural heritage and the historic environment are closely interconnected and often face similar development pressures. Many historic landscape features also contribute to habitats and biodiversity.
- Evidence of how the historic environment has been considered alongside the natural environment should form a key part of policy assessment and decision-making.
- Field, parish and townland boundaries are important heritage and ecological assets and should be protected.
- The approach to Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs), as set out in the SPPS, is welcomed. However, the identification of spatial options or areas would have provided greater clarity.
- The LDP should provide robust protection for locally designated nature conservation sites.
- While a review of local nature conservation designations is supported, the timing, methodology and duration of the review process should be clearly set out.
- Any proposal to remove or amend SLNCI designations should be based on comprehensive and scientifically robust evidence.
- Where a site has declined in quality, the reasons for that decline should be examined and measures included within the LDP to support its recovery, rather than defaulting to de-designation.

- Land that remains important for local nature conservation should not be de-listed.
- Many landscapes perceived as "natural", including designed landscapes and demesnes, are the product of historic human planning and management and should be recognised as such.
- As the LDP progresses, it should provide clear policy direction on how the relationship between natural heritage and the historic environment has been considered and integrated.

Of the 4no (14%) of representations which were non-committal in terms of the preferred option, the following issues were raised:

- Natural heritage assets require strong protection from inappropriate development.
- Concern was expressed that the preferred option does not clearly indicate whether the proposed review of nature conservation designations is intended to remove existing protections, identify new areas for protection, or both.
- There is a lack of clarity regarding the overall purpose, scope and intended outcomes of the proposed review.
- Any review of nature conservation designations should be undertaken carefully, transparently and on the basis of robust evidence.
- Suggested amendments were made to the Key Issues text to improve clarity and strengthen policy intent.
- Particular attention should be given to policy wording, as seemingly minor changes could weaken existing protections for biodiversity and nature conservation interests.
- Any changes arising from the review should be comprehensively assessed to ensure they do not result in unintended negative impacts on protected sites or species.
- The Council has the opportunity to secure net biodiversity gain through the LDP if it chooses to go beyond the minimum requirements of the SPPS in relation to biodiversity protection and enhancement.

ENV 5 Identifying and protecting Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs)

Of the total 201 responses received in respect of the POP, 28 of which made reference to Key Issue ENV 5. There was significant support for the preferred approach, with 25no (89%) of the responses categorised as being generally supportive, 2no (7%) of the responses categorised as unsupportive and the remaining 1no (4%) considered to be non-committal or unclear.

In support of the preferred approach the following issues and comments were raised: -

- Broad support for the preferred approach, with many respondents welcoming the review of existing LLPAs and the potential identification of additional areas worthy of protection.
- Need for a robust evidence base, particularly through the preparation of an up-to-date Landscape Character Assessment (LCA). Respondents considered that an LCA would provide a recognised and objective methodology for reviewing existing LLPAs, identifying new designations and informing policy decisions.
- Recognition of the contribution of LLPAs to landscape character, biodiversity, heritage, cultural interest, visual amenity and green infrastructure, including woodland, river corridors and ecological networks.
- Importance of heritage considerations, highlighting the need to demonstrate how historic environment evidence and heritage assets are incorporated into the evaluation and designation of LLPAs. Guidance produced by NIEA and HED was identified as a useful part of the evidence base.
- Support for retaining policy protection while allowing appropriate development, with some respondents welcoming the recognition that LLPAs do not necessarily preclude development and to accommodate sensitive forms of development, particularly tourism-related proposals which utilise and enhance landscape assets.

- Calls for consistency and transparency in the designation process, including consistent application of LLPAs across settlements and clear criteria for determining which areas should be designated.
- Balancing environmental protection with economic and social objectives, particularly regarding mineral resources. Several respondents stressed that robust assessments should be undertaken before any designation is applied and that consultation with the Geological Survey is necessary to avoid sterilising valuable mineral and aggregate reserves.
- Requests for stronger environmental safeguards, including the application of the precautionary principle in the most sensitive areas and resistance to inappropriate development that could harm important landscape assets.
- Importance of community engagement and consultation, with respondents calling for meaningful, proactive and accessible engagement with local communities, government bodies and other stakeholders to inform the identification of LLPAs.

Issues raised by the small number of unsupportive responses included: -

- LLPAs should only be designated where there is clear and demonstrable value and expressing concern that previous approaches had been overly restrictive.
- Need for greater flexibility to accommodate high-quality development proposals.
- Concern regarding insufficient public engagement had taken place and emphasised the need for greater consultation with local communities.

ENV 6 Identifying and protecting Urban / Rural Landscape Wedges

Of the total 201 responses received in respect of the POP, 27 of which made reference to Key Issue ENV 6. There was significant support for the preferred approach, with 26no (96%) of the responses categorised as being generally supportive and just 1no (4%) of the responses categorised as unsupportive.

Overall, respondents were strongly supportive of the preferred approach to reviewing existing and introducing new urban and rural landscape wedges. Many recognised their importance in protecting landscape character, maintaining settlement identity, supporting biodiversity and providing valuable open space within urban and rural environments. Issues and comments raised included:

- Recognition of the environmental and community benefits of landscape wedges, including their contribution to visual amenity, settlement character, quality of life, tourism, ecological networks and wildlife corridors. Respondents also highlighted the role of woodland, green infrastructure and open spaces in creating healthier and more attractive places to live.
- Need for a robust evidence base, particularly through an up-to-date Landscape Character Assessment (LCA). Respondents considered that an LCA would provide the necessary information to identify, assess and monitor landscape wedges and support designation decisions.
- Importance of heritage considerations, with several respondents highlighting the need to demonstrate how historic environment evidence has informed designations. Suggestions included recognising the role of heritage assets, historic routeways, graveyards and other underutilised spaces in defining and enhancing landscape wedges.
- Support for environmental protection and precautionary planning, including protecting sensitive areas from inappropriate development, safeguarding areas that contribute to local distinctiveness and resisting development that would adversely impact important landscape assets.

- Calls for a balanced approach, particularly regarding economic development and mineral resources. Respondents emphasised the need for proper assessments and consultation with the Geological Survey to avoid sterilising important mineral and aggregate reserves.
- Requests for greater transparency and detail, including clearer information on where potential landscape wedges may be identified, the criteria for designation.
- Importance of community engagement with several respondents stressing that meaningful consultation and a credible planning process are essential to ensuring landscape wedge policies are effective and publicly supported.
- Support for the link between landscape wedges and biodiversity, with respondents noting their role in creating ecological networks, connecting habitats and providing opportunities for nature recovery at a landscape scale.

Of the small number of unsupportive responses concerns were raised in relation to the approach of identifying sites primarily due to perceived shortcomings in public consultation and trust in the planning process, it was requested that local communities should have a greater role in identifying and protecting valued landscapes and wildlife areas.

Consideration of Preferred Options

Having considered the representations received during consultation, including those from statutory consultees, the Council has sought to bring forward an approach that is broadly consistent with the POP preferred option. However, where the draft policy approach is not fully in accordance with the POP, this reflects the need to take account of all relevant and up to date regional policy direction, the most recent evidence base, consultee engagement and the requirement to ensure that the draft Plan Strategy is robust, effective and sound.

For further detail on the POP responses, and the Council's consideration, refer to the POP Public Consultation Report, available on the Council's website:

6.0 Stakeholder Engagement

Internal Stakeholders

Planning Officers in Development Management and Enforcement Sections

Consultation was carried out with planning officers in the Planning Department's Development Management and Enforcement Sections as part of the policy review process; to establish any difficulties they experienced in the application of existing planning policies and to provide an opportunity to critique the draft policies. Officers' views were taken into consideration in finalising draft policies prior to being presented at Council Members workshops.

Other Council Departments

Representatives from relevant Council departments have been engaged to ensure that due account has been taken of Council's Community Plan, as well as other Council strategies and initiatives.

This engagement was undertaken by way of individual meetings with council departments, in particular the Community Plan Team to ensure account was taken of the Council's Community Plan.

A meeting also took place with a 'Project Management Team.' The Project Management Team was comprised of Officers from a range of council departments, including Community Plan, Tourism, Economic Development, Environmental Health and Environmental Services.

Elected Members

Section 8 (7a) of Part 2 (Local Development Plans) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires the Plan Strategy to be adopted by resolution of the Council. As such, Elected Members have been engaged throughout the LDP process, including the preparation of the draft dPS policies.

Engagement with the Elected Members has been facilitated through a series of workshops held between 2019 and 2026. That engagement included the draft Historic Environment and Natural Heritage Policies set out below:

Historic Environment

- Policy SGS 12 Heritage Strategy
- Policy HE 1 The Preservation of Archaeological Remains of Regional Importance and their Settings
- HE 2 The Protection of Archaeological Remains of Local Importance and their Settings
- HE 3 Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation
- HE 4 Archaeological Mitigation
- HE 5 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes of Special Historic Interest
- HE 6 Listed Buildings - Change of Use and/or Extension or Alteration of a Listed Building
- HE 7 Demolition of a Listed Building
- HE 8 Development Affecting the Setting of a Listed Building
- HE 9 New Development in a Conservation Area
- HE 10 Demolition in a Conservation Area
- HE 11 Demolition in Areas of Townscape or Village Character

- HE 12 New Development in Areas of Townscape or Village Character
- HE 13 Enabling Development
- HE 14 Conversion and Re-Use of Non-Designated Heritage Assets

Natural Environment

- NH 1 Protection of European and Ramsar Sites (International)
- NH 2 Species Protected by Law
- NH 3 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (National)
- NH 4 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (Local)
- NH 5 Habitats, Species, Biodiversity or Features of Natural Heritage Importance
- NH 6 Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs)
- NH 7 Landscape Wedges
- NH 8 Area(s) of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- NH 9 Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs)

At the workshops, Elected Members were in general agreement with the policy wording for all draft Historic Environment and Natural Heritage policies. There were no comments on the proposed new candidate ASAI designations at Lisnagade and Knock Iveagh.

External Stakeholders

Government Departments and Agencies

Section 8 (5) of Part 2 (Local Development Plans) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires the Plan Strategy to take account of the RDS, any policy and guidance issued by the Department and other relevant government strategies and plans. As such the Council has engaged key consultees representing relevant central government departments and agencies in the preparation of the draft Plan Strategy policies, including DfC Historic Environment Division and DERA Natural Heritage (NIEA).

Cross Boundary Context and Consideration of Neighbouring Council Approaches

In developing draft-planning policies for heritage assets (Historic Environment and Natural Environment) consideration has also been given to the approaches of adjoining Councils.

The Borough adjoins the boundary of five neighbouring Council areas, 4 of which are in Northern Ireland and one of which is in the Republic of Ireland:

- Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (by Lough Neagh);
- Newry Mourne and Down District Council;
- Mid Ulster District Council;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council; and
- Monaghan County Council, in the Republic of Ireland.

The Preferred Options Papers (POPs), supporting evidence base and draft Plan Strategies (where published) of adjoining Councils have been taken account of, in addition to regional guidance, in order to identify any cross-boundary issues / conflicts.

Table 1, below, outlines the position of adjoining councils in regard to heritage assets.

Adjoining Council	Position

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council ANBC-Strategy-Plan-web.pdf.aspx	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council (ANBC) published its Local Development Plan- draft Plan Strategy on 28 June 2019. On 3 July 2025 the Council formally adopted the Local Development Plan 2030 Plan Strategy, in accordance with Section 12 of The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and Regulation 24 of The Planning (Local Development Plan) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. The provisions of the Plan Strategy became effective on the date of adoption Historic Environment Policies which address the historic environment are contained in Chapter 10 of the Plan Strategy as follows: Strategic Policy 7 Historic Environment, Policy DM 30 Archaeology, DM 31 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes, DM 32 Listed Buildings, Policy DM 33 Conservation Areas, Policy DM 34 Areas of Townscape Character, Policy DM 35 Enabling Development and Policy DM 36 Vernacular and Locally Important Buildings The approach taken is in line with the RDS, SPPS and PPS 6 and Addendum and PPS 23. Natural Environment Policies which address the natural environment are contained in Chapter 11 of the Plan Strategy and are as follows: Strategic Policy 8 Natural Heritage, Policy DM 37 Designated Sites of Nature Conservation Importance, Policy DM 38 Protected Species, Policy DM 39 Habitats, Species & Features of Natural Heritage Importance, Policy DM 40 Landscape Protection, Policy DM 41 Coastal Protection, Policy DM 42 Trees and Development. The approach taken is in line with the RDS, SPPS and PPS 2.
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council nmd_local_development_plan_(ldp)_v11_(24324)_final.pdf	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council published its draft Plan Strategy on 27 June 2025. The public consultation on the draft Plan Strategy took place from 27 June 2025 to 22 September 2025. The extended 12-week period for consultation was provided to ensure respondents had adequate time to make informed representations. Historic Environment

	The Strategic Policy which addresses the historic environment is contained in Chapter 5 of the Plan Strategy as follows: Strategic Policy ENVS1 Protecting, Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment Chapter 6 of the draft Plan Strategy contains the following operational policies: HE1 The Preservation of Archaeological Remains of Regional Importance and Their Settings, HE2 The Protection of Archaeological Remains of Local Importance and Their Settings, HE3 Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation, HE4 Archaeological Mitigation, HE5 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes, HE6 Change of Use of a Listed Building, HE7 Extension or Alteration of a Listed Building, HE8 Advertisements on a Listed Building, HE9 Demolition of a Listed Building, HE10 Development Affecting the Setting of a Listed Building, HE11 New Development in a Conservation Area or Area of Townscape Character, HE12 Advertisements in a Conservation Area or Area of Townscape Character, HE13 Demolition in a Conservation Area or Area of Townscape Character, HE14 The Re-Use of Non-Listed Vernacular and Locally Important Buildings, HE15 Enabling Development. The approach taken is in line with the RDS, SPPS and PPS 6 and Addendum and PPS 23. Natural Environment The Strategic Policy which addresses the natural environment is contained in Chapter 5 of the Draft Plan Strategy as follows: Strategic Policy ENVS2 Protecting, Conserving, Enhancing and Restoring Natural Heritage and our Valued Landscapes Chapter 6 of the draft Plan Strategy contains the following operational policies: NH1 European and Ramsar Sites – International, NH2 Species Protected by Law, NH3 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance – National, NH4 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance – Local, NH5 Habitats, Species or Features of Natural Heritage Importance, NH6 Protection of Main River Corridors and Open Water Bodies, NH7 Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs). The approach taken is in line with the RDS, SPPS and PPS 2.
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Mid Ulster District Council MUDC101 - Draft Plan Strategy 2030	Mid Ulster District Council published its Local Development Plan 2030 – Draft Plan Strategy on 22nd February 2019, the Council re-consulted on its Draft Plan Strategy, which closed at 5pm on 24th September 2020. The draft Plan Strategy has now been submitted to the Department for Infrastructure on 28th May 2021. Historic Environment Draft Policies which address the historic environment are contained in Chapter 17 of the Draft Plan Strategy. Policy HE 1-3 ASAls (three bespoke policies), HE 4-7 Archaeology, HE 8 HPG&D, HE 9-11 Listed Buildings, HE12 Conservation Areas, HE 13 Non-Listed Buildings, HE 14 ATCs, HE 15 Industrial Heritage, HE16 LLPAs. The approach taken is in line with the RDS, SPPS and PPS 6 and Addendum. Natural Environment Draft Policies which address the natural environment are contained in Chapter 18 of the Draft Plan Strategy. Policy SCA 1 SCAs, NH N1 International Designations, NH 2 Protected Species, NH 3 National Designations, NH4 Local Designations, NH 5 Other habitats, species or features of natural importance, NH 6 AONB. The approach taken is in line with the RDS, SPPS and PPS 2.
Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council local development plan 2032 - part 1 plan strategy local development plan 2032 - part 2 operational policies	The draft Plan Strategy was published for formal consultation on Friday 8th November 2019, and it was submitted to the Department for Infrastructure on 22nd March 2021. Independent examination of the dPS began on 28th March 2022. The Department for Infrastructure (DfI) issued a Direction on 28 June 2023 under Section 12 (1) (b) of the Act directing Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council to adopt the draft Plan Strategy with the modifications specified in the Direction. Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council has adopted its Local Development Plan 2032, Plan Strategy on the 26th of September 2023 following resolution by full council. Historic Environment The Strategic Policy which addresses the historic environment is contained in Part 1 Chapter 4 Strategic Policy 18 Protecting and Enhancing the Historic Environment and Archaeological Remains.

	Operational Policies on the historic environment are contained in Part 2 Chapter 9 as follows: HE1 The Preservation of Archaeological Remains of Regional Importance and their Settings, HE2 The Preservation of Archaeological Remains of Local Importance and their Settings, HE3 Archaeological Assessment and Evaluation, HE4 Archaeological Mitigation, HE5 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes of Special Historic Interest, HE6 Change of Use and/or Extensions or Alterations to a Listed Building, HE7 Control of Advertisements on a Listed Building, HE8 Demolition or Partial Demolition of a Listed Building, HE9 Development affecting the Setting of a Listed Building, HE10 New Development in a Conservation Area or Area of Townscape Character/Area of Village Character, HE11 The Control of Advertisements in a Conservation Area or Area of Townscape Character/Area of Village Character, HE12 Demolition or Partial Demolition in a Conservation Area or Area of Townscape Character/Area of Village Character, HE13 The Conversion and Reuse of Non-Listed Buildings, HE14 Enabling Development. The approach taken is in line with the RDS, SPPS and PPS 6 and Addendum and PPS 23. Natural Environment The Strategic Policy which addresses the natural environment is contained in Part 1 Chapter 4 Plan Strategic Policy 19 Protecting and Enhancing Natural Heritage. Operational Policies on the natural environment are contained in Part 2 Chapter 10 as follows: NH1 European and Ramsar Sites – International, NH2 Species Protected by Law, NH3 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance – National, NH4 Sites of Nature Conservation Importance – Local, NH5 Habitats, Species or Features of Natural Heritage Importance, NH6 Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty.
Monaghan County Council Layout 1	Monaghan County Council adopted its County Development Plan 2025 - 2031 on 26 May 2025. Historic Environment The Monaghan County Development Plan Chapter 6 <i>Heritage, Conservation and Landscape</i> contains objectives and policies in relation to architectural

	heritage and architectural conservation areas (ACAs), archaeological heritage and historic houses and designed landscapes. Natural Environment The Monaghan County Development Plan Chapter 6 <i>Heritage, Conservation and Landscape</i> contains objectives and policies in relation to habitat designation and protection, Natura 2000 sites and appropriate assessments, areas of amenity, geological sites, green infrastructure, wetlands, trees, hedgerows and woodlands and invasive species.
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Table 1- Position of Adjoining Councils with regards to Heritage Assets

The Council has responded to neighbouring council's Preferred Options Papers and Draft Plan Strategies, as they have been published.

Although there are some differences in the policy wording and various approaches neighbouring councils have adopted towards Heritage Assets (both the historic environment and natural environment), it is not considered that there are any significant conflicts with the draft PS for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council.

7.0 Draft Plan Strategy Policy Approach

As analysed above, the Council's heritage assets policies and relevant draft policy provisions within the suite of General Policies and Design and Placemaking Policies have evolved from a review of extant regional planning policies, other key policy and guidance documents, the POP, responses to the POP and a series of engagements with key stakeholders, including the following:

- DfC Historic Environment Division.
- DAERA Natural Heritage (NIEA).
- Elected Members of the Council.
- Officers from the Development Management and Enforcement section of the planning department; and
- Officers from other relevant departments of the Council.

In preparing the draft policies, the Council has taken account of a range of relevant matters, including the following:

- The RDS (in particular RG11) and SPPS 2025 (in particular paragraphs 6.1-6.30 archaeology and built heritage and paragraphs 6.168-6.198 natural heritage).
- PPS 2 Natural Heritage, PPS 6 Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage, PPS 6 (Addendum) Areas of Townscape Character, PPS 21 Sustainable Development in the Countryside, PPS 23 Enabling Development along with extant development plans within Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough.
- The Council's Community Plan (especially in terms of the Plan's commitment to deliver a 'creative' and 'sustainable' place and to protect climate, biodiversity and natural assets - see page 22-23 and 26-27), ongoing council initiatives and the neighbouring council context.
- The adopted /draft Plan Strategies of neighbouring councils – the policies of which are not considered to conflict with any of those.

Part 1 of the draft Plan Strategy sets out several strategic policies and Spatial Growth Strategies. These, in turn, link to the operational policies contained within Part 2.

Part 1 contains a Heritage Strategy which aims to encourage the sustainable management and adaptive reuse of historic assets in addition to promoting the restoration, the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of natural heritage within the Borough.

Part 2 of the draft Plan Strategy sets out the operational planning policies relating to all aspects of heritage. A total of 23 operational policies have been brought forward (NH1-9 & BH 1-14). These policies are largely updated from PPS2 and PPS 6 (including PPS6 addendum) and with some clarification and changes to reflect the wording of the SPPS. The preferred options from the POP have generally been brought forward.

Regarding Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs), Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs), and Landscape Wedges, the extant policies contained within the legacy development plans have been reviewed, amended as appropriate, and incorporated into the draft Plan Strategy (dPS). The review of existing designations and the identification of any additional sites will be carried out as part of the Local Policies Plan.

In preparing the draft Plan Strategy (dPS), a range of general planning considerations, including design, integration and amenity, are now incorporated into the General Policies or

Design and Place-making Policies of the draft Plan Strategy¹. This approach consolidates and streamlines requirements that were previously repeated across multiple Planning Policy Statements and subject policy areas within the Strategic Planning Policy Statement. It improves the structure, clarity and usability of the Plan while maintaining the existing policy objectives and regional policy direction.

The draft policies of the dPS have been subject to a Sustainability Appraisal (SA), the findings of which are set out in the accompanying SA Environmental Report.

In conclusion, the draft policies are founded on a robust evidence base which includes baseline information contained in this Technical Supplement, the POP, responses to the POP and subsequent engagement with consultees, including DfC Historic Environment Division and DAERA Natural Heritage (NIEA).

¹ Exceptions to the General Policies and Design and Place-making Policies are set out in the dPS.

8.0 Consideration of Soundness

The LDP has been prepared in accordance with the tests of soundness set out in the DfI's Development Plan Practice Note 6: Soundness (Version 2, May 2017). The draft Plan Strategy, insofar as it relates to heritage assets (both the historic environment and natural heritage), is considered to be sound, as it satisfies the relevant tests of soundness, as summarised in Tables 2 & 3 below:

Table 2: Consideration of Soundness (Historic Environment)

Procedural Tests	
P2	The Historic Environment Strategy SG 12 and Historic Environment Policies HE 1 to 14 have evolved from the POP and have taken account of responses to the POP, the POP Consultation Report and Consultees, Development Management and Councillor engagement as described in earlier sections of this document.
P3	The Historic Environment Strategy SG 12 and Historic Environment Policies HE 1 to 14 have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal, including a Strategic Environmental Assessment. Further details are included in the Sustainability Appraisal Report.
Consistency Tests	
C1	The Historic Environment Strategy SG 12 and Historic Environment Policies HE 1 to 14 have taken account of the RDS and in particular Policy RG 11.
C2	The Historic Environment Strategy SG 12 and Historic Environment Policies HE 1 to 14 community have taken account of the Council's Community Plan, particularly in terms of the Plan's commitment to deliver a creative place offering quality, inclusive arts and cultural and heritage experiences - see pages 22 - 23.
C3	The Historic Environment Strategy SG 12 and Historic Environment Policies HE 1 to 14 have taken account of existing planning policies as contained within the SPPS (2 nd Edition), in particular paragraphs 6.1 - 6.30, along with PPS 6 Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage, Addendum to PPS 6 Areas of Townscape Character, PPS 21 Sustainable Development in the Countryside and PPS 23 Enabling Development for the Conservation of Significant Places and the supplementary planning Guidance <i>'Best Practice Guidance to PPS23 'Assessing Enabling Development for the Conservation of Significant Place' (2019)</i> .
C4	The Historic Environment Strategy SG 12 and Historic Environment Policies HE1 to 14 have taken account of the existing development plans within Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, ongoing Council initiatives and the neighbouring council context, including the Republic of Ireland.
Coherence and Effectiveness Tests	
CE1	The Historic Environment Strategy SG 12 and Historic Environment Policies HE1 to 14 have taken account of the emerging LDPs of our neighbouring Councils in Northern Ireland and neighbouring council in the Republic of Ireland (Monaghan County Council) and are not considered to be in conflict with them.
CE2	The Historic Environment Strategy SG 12 and Historic Environment Policies HE1 to 14 are founded on a robust evidence base which includes the baseline information contained in this technical supplement, the POP and responses to it and subsequent consultation with consultees, including DfC Historic Environment Division.

CE3	The Council has prepared a detailed Monitoring and Review Framework in Part 4 of the Draft Plan Strategy. Monitoring findings will inform the future review of the Plan and any necessary policy intervention. In relation to strategic objective 24 indicators are as follows: demolition of listed buildings; demolitions in ATC/ AVCs; new development within ASAls (existing and candidate); conversion and re-use of non-designated heritage assets and change of use of listed buildings In relation to listed buildings no more than one application for demolition should be approved contrary to policy in any one year. In conservation areas and areas of townscape / village character the target is to ensure that there are no more than 10% of applications approved for demolition contrary to policy within 5 years. With regards to the new candidate ASAls at Lisnagade and Knock Iveagh and the existing ASAI at Navan, the target is that no inappropriate developments are approved within ASAls, contrary to policy provisions and consultation replies from HED. One or more approvals in any given year will trigger a review of the policy approach.
CE4	The Historic Environment Strategy SG 12 and Historic Environment Policies HE1 to 14 will be reviewed at Plan Review stage. Where appropriate, the need for flexibility has been built into the strategic approach and draft policies to allow for changing circumstances. Local Policies Plan stage will provide further opportunity to review existing and introduce new local policies, provided this is underpinned by robust evidence base and is consistent with the adopted Plan Strategy.

Table 3: Consideration of Soundness (Natural Environment)

Procedural Tests	
P2	The Natural Environment Policies NH1 to 9 have evolved from the Preferred Options Paper (POP) and have taken account of responses received following public consultation, the POP Consultation Report and Consultees, Development Management, Enforcement and Councillor engagement as described in earlier sections of this document.
P3	The Natural Environment Policies NH 1 to 9 have been subject to Sustainability Appraisal, including a Strategic Environmental Assessment. Further details are included in the Sustainability Appraisal Report.
Consistency Tests	
C1	The Natural Environment Policies NH 1 to 9 have taken account of the RDS and in particular Policy RG 11.
C2	The Natural Environment Policies NH 1 to 9 have taken account of the Council's Community Plan, particularly in terms of the Plan's commitment to deliver a sustainable place which value and protect our climate, biodiversity and natural assets - see pages 26 - 27.
C3	The Natural Environment Policies NH 1 to 9 have taken account of existing planning policies as contained within the SPPS (2 nd Edition), in particular paragraphs 6.168 - 6.198, along with PPS 2 Natural Heritage. Regard has been had to other Central Government documents, such as, the Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Strategy and the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy.
C4	The Natural Environment Policies NH1 to 9 have taken account of the existing development plans within Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, ongoing

	Council initiatives and the neighbouring council context, including the Republic of Ireland.
Coherence and Effectiveness Tests	
CE1	The Natural Environment Policies NH1 to 9 have taken account of the emerging LDPs of our neighbouring Councils in Northern Ireland and neighbouring council in the Republic of Ireland (Monaghan County Council) and are not considered to be in conflict with them.
CE2	The Natural Environment Policies NH1 to 9 are founded on a robust evidence base which includes the baseline information contained in this technical supplement, the POP and responses to it and subsequent consultation with consultees, including DAERA Natural Heritage (NIEA).
CE3	The Council has prepared a detailed Monitoring and Review Framework in Part 4 of the Draft Plan Strategy. Monitoring findings will inform the future review of the Plan and any necessary policy intervention. In relation to Strategic Objective 24, indicators are as follows: New development within designated sites of nature conservation importance (International / European, National and Local); new development impacting upon habitats, species or features of natural heritage importance. The following triggers will prompt a review of policy approach: For internationally designated sites, more than 1 application approved under exceptional circumstances in any one year (all sites). For National and Local sites – more than 2 applications approved in any one year (all sites) One or more application approved in any year for development likely to result in unacceptable adverse impact on or damage to known habitats, species, biodiversity or features of natural heritage importance. In relation to Strategic Objective 21, the indicator is the number of permissions in Landscape Wedges, LLPAs SLPAs and AONB. A review of policy approach will be triggered if there is a loss or damage to sensitive landscapes, environmental quality or visual amenity.
CE4	The Natural Environment Policies NH1 to 9 will be reviewed at Plan Review stage. Where appropriate, the need for flexibility has been built into the strategic approach and draft policies to allow for changing circumstances. Local Policies Plan stage will provide further opportunity to review existing and introduce new local policies, provided this is underpinned by robust evidence base and is consistent with the adopted Plan Strategy.

Appendices

Appendix A - State Care Sites and Monuments

Appendix B - Scheduled Sites and Monuments

Appendix C - Navan Area of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI) Map.

Appendix D - Knock Iveagh Candidate Area of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI) Map and Statement of Significance.

Appendix E - Lisnagade Candidate Area of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI) Map and Statement of Significance.

Appendix F - Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAP)

Appendix G - Grade A Listed Buildings

Appendix H - Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes (HPG&D)

Appendix I – Conservation Areas

Appendix J – Areas of Townscape or Village Character (ATC's / AVC's)

Appendix K - Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPA's) – 101no

Appendix L - Historic Environment Overview.

Appendix M – Sites of Local Nature Conservation Interest (SLNCI).

Appendix N – Landscape Character Areas.

Appendix O – Natural Heritage Overview

Appendix A – State Care Sites and Monuments

There are 15 state care sites and monuments within the Borough. These are as follows:

- Bivallate Rath, Lisnamintry
- Castle Dillon Obelisk, Turcarra
- Crosses (2) in Multiperiod Church & Graveyard, Eglish
- Dromore high Cross, Ballymaganlis
- North Meridian marker for Armagh Observatory, Tullyard
- South Meridian marker for Armagh Observatory, Ballyheridan
- Armagh Franciscan Friary, Demesne
- Dromore Mound: Motte and Bailey, Ballyvicknacally
- Haugheys Fort Multivallate Hilltop Enclosure, Tray
- Lisnavaragh Fort:Multvallate Rath and Univallate Annexe, Lisnagade
- Lisnavaragh Fort:Multvallate Rath, Lisnagade
- Navan Fort Large Circular Enclosure, Mound etc, Navan
- School Cross, Drumadonnell, Katesbridge (moved from original site and now located at Castlewellan Forest Park, NM&D)
- The Kings Stables Earthwork: Ritual Pool, Tray
- Tynan Village Cross, Tynan

Appendix B – Scheduled Sites and Monuments.

There are 185 Scheduled Sites and Monuments within the Borough. These are as follows:

Sched. Mon. No.	Townland	General Type	Council Area
020:054	BALLYNARIS	Mound: Phil's Fort	ACBCBC
020:061	GREENAN	Mound: Dumb Fort	ACBCBC
020:101	COOLSALLAGH	Multi-ditched enclosure	ACBCBC
021:029	LAPPOGES	Court tomb: Giant's Graves	ACBCBC
021:036	BALLYSALLAGH	Large circular enclosure	ACBCBC
021:040	DRUMBONETH	Rath	ACBCBC
021:049	BALLYMAGANLIS	Rath	ACBCBC
021:051	DROMORE	Tower House: Dromore Castle	ACBCBC
021:055	DRUMBRONETH	Enclosure	ACBCBC
027:060	TULLYHINAN	Rath	ACBCBC
027:068	KILPIKE	Rath	ACBCBC
028:003	DRUMAGHADONE	Rath	ACBCBC
028:019	SKEAGH	Rath: Cromie's Fort	ACBCBC
028:043	GRANSHA	Large hilltop enclosure	ACBCBC
028:044	CARNEW	Rectangular enclosure: Carnew Fort	ACBCBC
028:049	BALLOOLY	Standing Stone	ACBCBC
033:001	GLENLOUGHAN	Standing stone: Cloghmore	ACBCBC
033:012	LISNAGADE	Rath	ACBCBC
033:014	SCARVA	Bivallate Rath	ACBCBC
033:019	COOLNACRAN	Rath	ACBCBC
033:021	LISNAGADE	Linear earthwork visible at several points	ACBCBC
033:027	GREENAN	Standing Stones (3): Three Sisters	ACBCBC
033:033	DRUMSALLAGH	Rath	ACBCBC
033:040	MEENAN	Counterscarp Rath	ACBCBC
034:002	BALLYVALLY	Rath: Rough Fort	ACBCBC
034:004	TULLYEAR	Rath	ACBCBC
034:009	BALLEEVY	Rath	ACBCBC
034:010	BALLEEVY	Rath	ACBCBC
034:021	COUNTERSCARP RATH	Caskum	ACBCBC
034:032	DROMOREBRAGUE	Large Enclosure	ACBCBC
034:075	BRICKLAND	Ring Barrow: Waterhill Fort	ACBCBC
034:076	DRUMNAHARE	Standing Stone	ACBCBC
034:078	DRUMNAHARE	Crannog in Lough Brickland	ACBCBC
035:031	BALLYRONEY	Motte and baileys	ACBCBC

040:016	BALLYMACARATTY BEG	Rath	ACBCBC
041:002	LISNATIERNY	Counterscarp Rath	ACBCBC
041:013	IMDEL	Rath	ACBCBC
041:020	LISNACROPPAN	Mound and enclosure: barrow	ACBCBC
041:022	EDENAGARRY	Round Cairn	ACBCBC
041:051	ROSSCONOR	Tower House	ACBCBC
042:005	SEAFIN	Rath	ACBCBC
021:048	BALLYVICKNACALLY	Motte and bailey: Dromore mound (are adjoining the state care monument)	ACBCBC
003:001	CLANROLLA	Mound	ACBCBC
010:003	LISNAMINTRY	Bivallate Rath (area surrounding the state care monument)	ACBCBC
020:005	BALLYMACATEER	Rath	ACBCBC
020:088	ANNAGHANOON	Rath	ACBCBC
020:091	MAGHERANA	Rath	ACBCBC
002:002	CONEY ISLAND	Prehistoric settlement, motte and tower: Coney Keep	ACBCBC
002:001	MAGHERY (DERRYWARRAGH ISLAND)	Tower and enclosure: the O'Connor Stronghold	ACBCBC
021:011	LISDRUMCHOR LOWER	Rath	ACBCBC
021:001	MOUNTNORRIS	Rath and artillery fort	ACBCBC
019:007	FERGORT	Rath	ACBCBC
019:004	RAWES	Rath: Rawes Fort	ACBCBC
019:002	CRANN	Rath	ACBCBC
017:020	RATHCONVIL	Rath	ACBCBC
016:001	LIBANOE	Large Enclosure	ACBCBC
015:023	TULLYGLUSH	Rath	ACBCBC
015:022	LISSLANLY	Rath	ACBCBC
021:004	BOLTON	Mound	ACBCBC
020:004	TULLYGLUSH	Bivallate rath: Devlin's Fort	ACBCBC
020:002	CORRAN	Standing stone: the Grey Stone	ACBCBC
020:001	DUNDRUM	Multivallate rath: Gordon's Fort	ACBCBC
019:001	DRUMMOND	Rath	ACBCBC
018:030	BALLENAN	Rath	ACBCBC
018:020	TANNYOKY	Rath	ACBCBC
017:033	GOSFORD DEMESNE	Rath: Greer's Fort	ACBCBC
016:039	CASHEL	Cashel: the relig	ACBCBC
016:030	KILCREEVY OTRA	Rath	ACBCBC
016:010	DRUMCONWELL	Rath	ACBCBC
016:009	DRUMCONWELL	Rath	ACBCBC
016:008	ENNISCLARE	Rath	ACBCBC

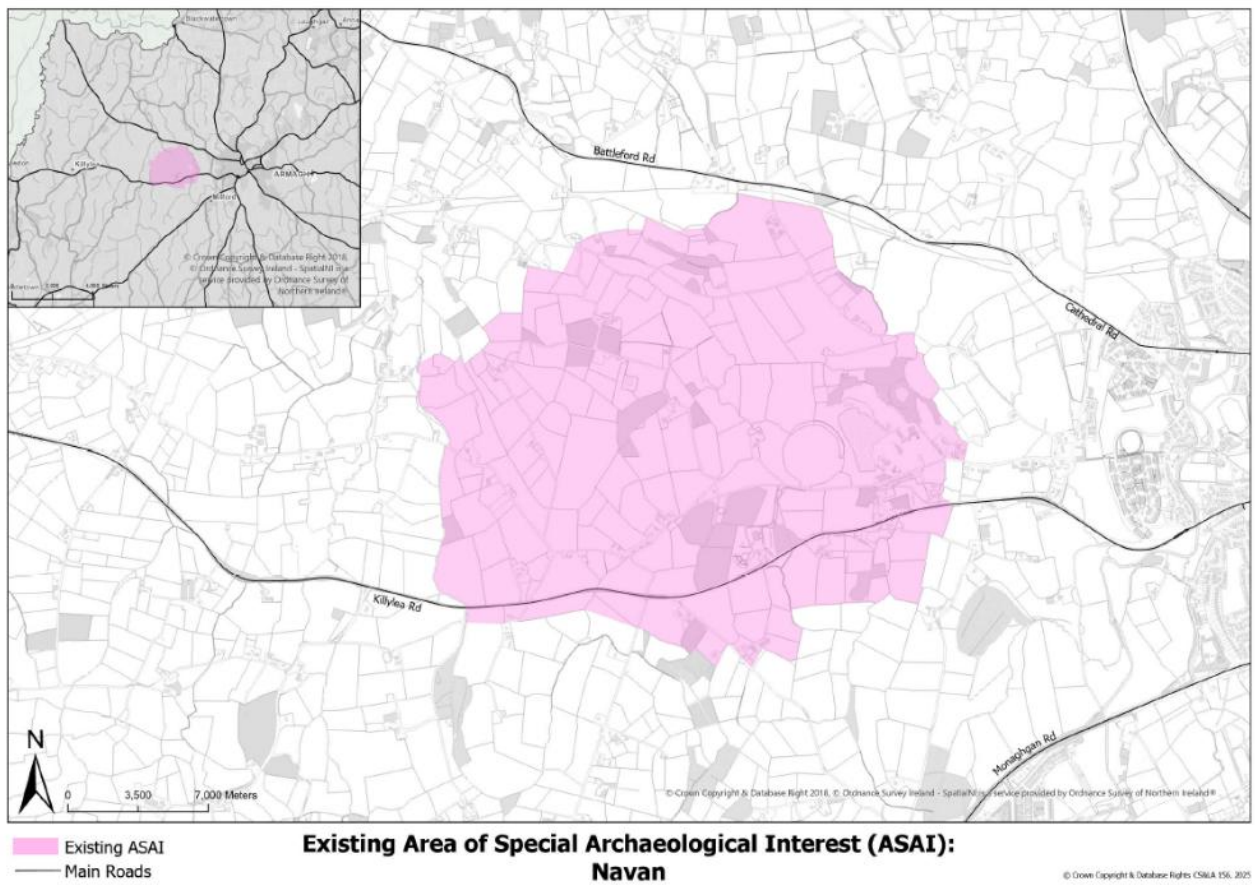
015:034	DRUMACANVER	Megalithic tomb	ACBCBC
015:026	CREEVEKEERAN	Castle	ACBCBC
016:007	BALLYARDS	Enclosure	ACBCBC
015:020	RATHTRIILICK	Multivaallate Rath	ACBCBC
015:019	LISGLYNN	Rath: Lisglynn	ACBCBC
015:017	DOOGARY; PORTNELLIGAN	Crannog	ACBCBC
014:002	BALLYMORE	Rath: Forthill	ACBCBC
012:500	CORPORATION (ARMAGH)	Windmill Stump	ACBCBC
013:002	LISKYBOROUGH	Rath	ACBCBC
013:009	ROCKMACREENY	Rath: Thorny Fort	ACBCBC
012:059	CORPORATION (ARMAGH)	Medieval dry-built masonry well	ACBCBC
012:040	RATHDRUMGAN	Rath	ACBCBC
012:035	DRUMNASOO	Rath	ACBCBC
012:006	LONGSTONE	Standing stone: the Longstone	ACBCBC
011:012	KENNEDIES	Circular Enclosure	ACBCBC
011:008	MANOONEY	Mound	ACBCBC
008:025	BALLYTYRONE	Crannog in Lough Gall	ACBCBC
008:011	KILMORE	Platform rath	ACBCBC
021:015	LISDRUMCHOR UPPER	Rath	ACBCBC
024:002	AUGHNAGURGAN	Portal tomb	ACBCBC
024:001	AUGHNAGURGAN	Megalithic tomb	ACBCBC
021:010	CRUNAGH	Rath	ACBCBC
018:010	LISRAW	Rath: Lisraw Fort	ACBCBC
016:028	CARNAVANAGHAN	Passage tomb: Vicar's Cairn	ACBCBC
014:008	LISBANE	Multivallate Rath: Lisbane	ACBCBC
012:002	TULLYARD	Mound	ACBCBC
011:025	BALLYDOO	Enclosure	ACBCBC
012:027	TULLYMORE	Cairn or barrow: Niall's or O'Neill's Mound	ACBCBC
015:003	LISLOONY	Bivallate Rath	ACBCBC
012:013	TRAY	Large hilltop Enclosure: Haughey's Fort	ACBCBC
008:013	BALLYTYRONE	Rath	ACBCBC
008:009	LEVALLEGLISH	Church: Loughgall	ACBCBC
008:001	CORRAND DUNAVALLY	Rath and Artillery Basation	ACBCBC
012:094	TRAY	Ring Ditches	ACBCBC
034:112	DRUMNAHARE	Mound	ACBCBC
027:055	TULLYHINAN	Rath	ACBCBC
020:073	BALLYGUNAGHAN	Bivallate rath	ACBCBC
033:026	DRUMSALLAGH	Monastic site	ACBCBC
015:035	TULLYBRICK (HAMILTON)	Barrow	ACBCBC
015:018	TAMLAGHT	Burial Mound	ACBCBC

015:004	TYNAN	Barrow	ACBCBC
033:036	KILLYSAVAN (THE DANES CAST)	Linear earthwork visible at several points	ACBCBC
033:036	KILLYSAVAN (THE DANES CAST)	Linear earthwork visible at several points	ACBCBC
009:004	CASTLERAW	Castle and enclosure	ACBCBC
016:027	THE DANES CAST (NORTH) - KILLYCAPPLE	Linear earthwork visible at several points	ACBCBC
016:067	LISNADILL; KILLYFADDY	The Danes Cast (north) - Linear earthwork visible at several points	ACBCBC
016:067	LISNADILL; KILLYFADDY	The Danes Cast (North) - Linear earthwork visible at several points	ACBCBC
016:026	LATMACOLLUM; LISTNADILL	The Danes Cast (North) - Linear earthwork visible at several points	ACBCBC
016:025	KILLYFADDY	The Danes Cast (North) - Linear earthwork visible at several points	ACBCBC
015:002	CORFEHAN	Tynan Island Cross	ACBCBC
011:013	FAIRVIEW MUCKLAGH OR	Tynan Well Cross	ACBCBC
015:001	FAIRVIEW MUCKLAGH OR	Tynan Terrace Cross	ACBCBC
017:024	MAGHERAVERY	Rath	ACBCBC
015:010	BALTEAGH	Large Hilltop Enclosure	ACBCBC
013:039	KILMORE	Multi-ditched Enclosure	ACBCBC
012:022	BALLYHERIDAN	Heniform Enclosure	ACBCBC
033:005	GLENLOUGHAN	Rath with annex	ACBCBC
035:032	SEAFIN	Castle	ACBCBC
012:084	TIRGARRIFF	Mound	ACBCBC
012:034	BALLYBROLLY; DRUMCOOTE; NAVAN; TULLYARGLE; TYROSS	Votive site and find spot of four Iron Age horns. 'Loughnashade'	ACBCBC
033:008	LISNAGRADE	Rath: Linaweelan	ACBCBC
027:079	BALLYDOWN; LISNAREE	Rath	ACBCBC
027:066	BALLYMONEY	Rath	ACBCBC
020:070	TULLYCARN	Rath	ACBCBC
012:102	CREEVEROE	Crop-mark (parallel linear ditches)	ACBCBC
012:014	TRAY	Earthwork: the King's Stables	ACBCBC
033:029	LISNABRAGUE	The Danes Cast - linear earthwork visible at several points	ACBCBC
033:046	LOUGHADIAN	The Danes Cast - Linear earthwork visible at several points	ACBCBC

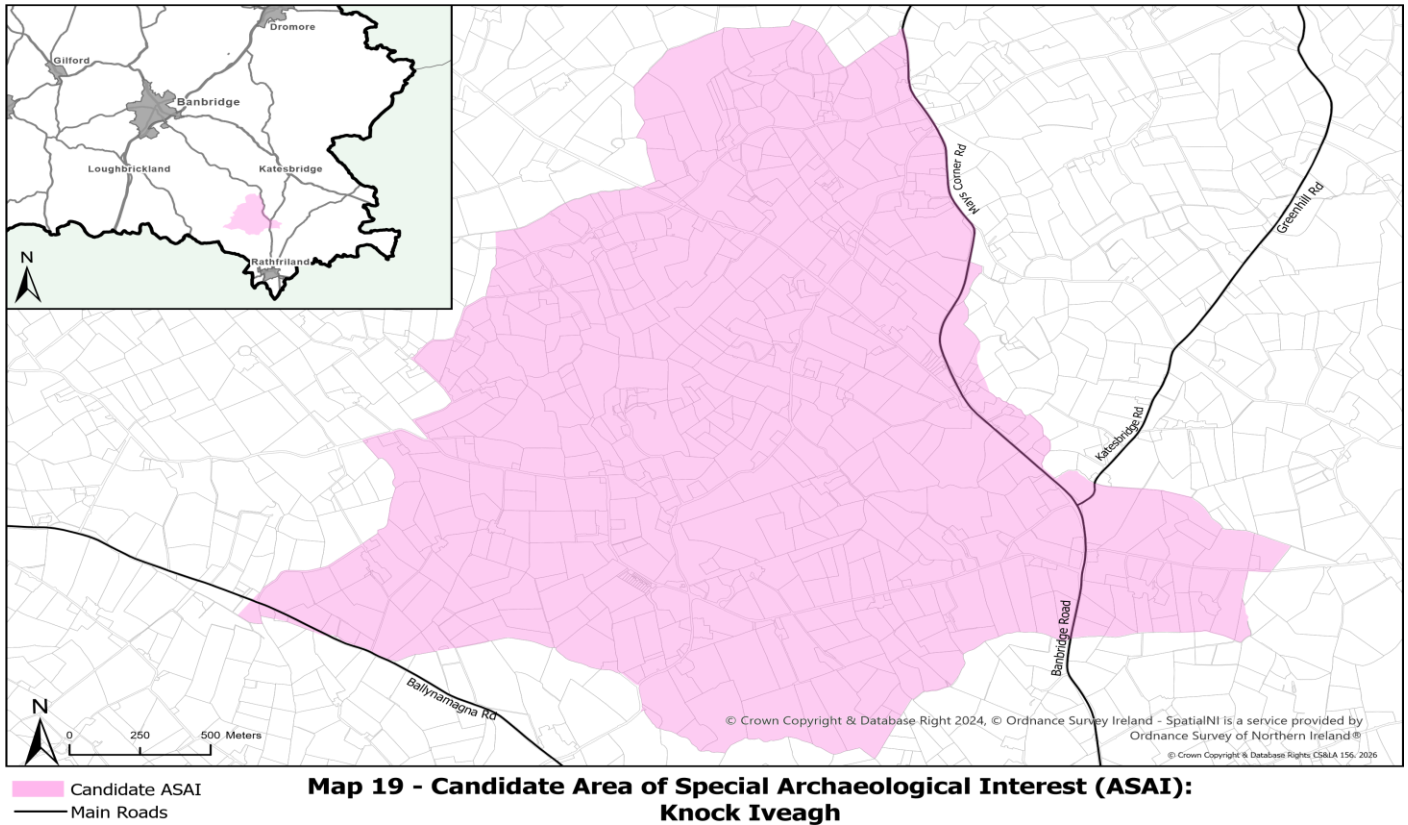
033:020	SCARVA	The Danes Cast - Linear earthwork visible at several points	ACBCBC
013:008	ROCKMACREENY	Rath- Rockmacreeny Fort	ACBCBC
066:001	DERRYNASEER	Large enclosure	ACBCBC
062:054	BALLINDERRY	Crannog	ACBCBC
019:009	CLARE	Crannog	ACBCBC
029:500	BRACKAGH	The Newry Canal REACH 14	ACBCBC
046:500/029:500	VARIOUS	NEWRY CANAL REACH 13	ACBCBC
029:500	TERRYHOOGAN	Newry Canal REACH 12	ACBCBC
029:500/46:500	VARIOUS	NEWRY CANAL REACH 11	ACBCBC
029:500/046:500	VARIOUS	NEWRY CANAL REACH 10	ACBCBC
029:500	AUGHANTARAGHAN; DEMOAN	NEWRY CANAL REACH 9	ACBCBC
034:025	COOLNACRAN	Counterscarp Raised Rath	ACBCBC
004:001	CHARLEMONT/MOY	Charlemont Fort	ACBCBC
033:053	SCARVA	WWII PILLBOX	ACBCBC
033:055	SCARVA	WWII PILLBOX	ACBCBC
033:054	DRUMMILLAR	WWII PILLBOX	ACBCBC
033:056	GLENLOUGHAN	WWII PILLBOX	ACBCBC
019:010	BALLYDUGAN	WWII PILLBOX	ACBCBC
019:011	BALLYDUGAN	WWII PILLBOX	ACBCBC
010:021	KNOCK	WWII PILLBOX	ACBCBC
009:033	EDENDERRY	WWII PILLBOX	ACBCBC
010:023	BALLYDONAGHY	WWII PILLBOX	ACBCBC
010:022	HACKNAHAY	WWII PILLBOX	ACBCBC
009:032	ANNAGH	WWII PILLBOX	ACBCBC
026:029	LOUGHANS	WWII PILLBOX	ACBCBC
026:028	LOUGHANS	WWII PILLBOX	ACBCBC
034:093	BALLINTAGGART	STANDING STONE	ACBCBC
035:050	BALLYRONEY	STANDING STONE	ACBCBC
035:035	MONEYSLANE	TWO STANDING STONES	ACBCBC
033:030	LISNABRAGUE	STANDING STONE	ACBCBC
027:500	EDENDERRY	CHIMNEY	ACBCBC
034:125	BALLEEVY	STANDING STONE	ACBCBC
067:501	AGHAGALLON; BALLYCAIRN	Lagan Canal, Reach 16 (IHR 02680)	ACBCBC
067:501	BALLYCAIRN; DRUMALEET	Lagan Canal, Reach 17 (IHR 02680)	ACBCBC
067:501	AGHAGALLON; DERRYNASEER; DRUMALEET	Lagan Canal, Reach 18 (IHR 02680)	ACBCBC
067:501	DERRYHIRK; DERRYNASEER; DRUMALEET; TISCALLEN	Lagan Canal, Reach 20 - Section 1(IHR 02680)	ACBCBC
067:501/009:500	DERRYHIRK; KILMORE; TISCALLEN	Lagan Canal, Reach 20 - Section 2 (IHR 02680)	ACBCBC

009:500	KILMORE	Lagan Canal, Reach 20 - Section 3 (IHR 02680)	ACBCBC
009:500	KILMORE	Lagan canal, Reach 21 (IHR 02680)	ACBCBC
067:501	AGHAGALLON; BALLYCAIRN	Lagan Canal, Reach 14 (IHR 02680)	ACBCBC
067:501	AGHAGALLON; BALLYCAIRN	Lagan Canal, Reach 15 (IHR 02680)	ACBCBC
067:501	AGHAGALLON; DERRYNASEER; DRUMALEET	Lagan Canal, Reach 19 (IHR 02680)	ACBCBC
033:009	LISNAGADE	Lisnagade Fort	ACBCBC
033:006	LISNAGADE	Lisnavaragh Fort	ACBCBC
042:006	Ballyroney	Crannog	ACBCBC
035:036	Shannaghan	Motte: ""Katesbridge Mound""	ACBCBC

Appendix C – Navan Area of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI) Map.



Appendix D – Knock Iveagh Candidate Area of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI) Map and Statement of Significance.



KNOCK IVEAGH CANDIDATE AREA OF SIGNIFICANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST



Prepared by DfC Historic Environment
Division Heritage Records and
Designations Branch

Contents

1. Preamble
2. Statement of Significance
3. Map
4. Selected imagery
6. Lists of Heritage Assets which lie inside the candidate ASAI

Preamble

On 31st July 2018 the Department consulted its statutory advisory body, the Historic Monuments Council, on the identification of an Area of Significant Archaeological Interest at Knock Iveagh. This ASAI was identified following desktop research and field survey carried out by Historic Environment Division. In addition to this statement it is advisable to read the Iveagh Slopes Landscape Character Assessment (Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 2000, LCA 77)



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Statement of Significance Knock

Iveagh

An Area of Significant Archaeological interest has been identified around Knock Iveagh, which recognises the distinctive character of the landform and its functionality as a special place of ritual activity in the prehistoric period.

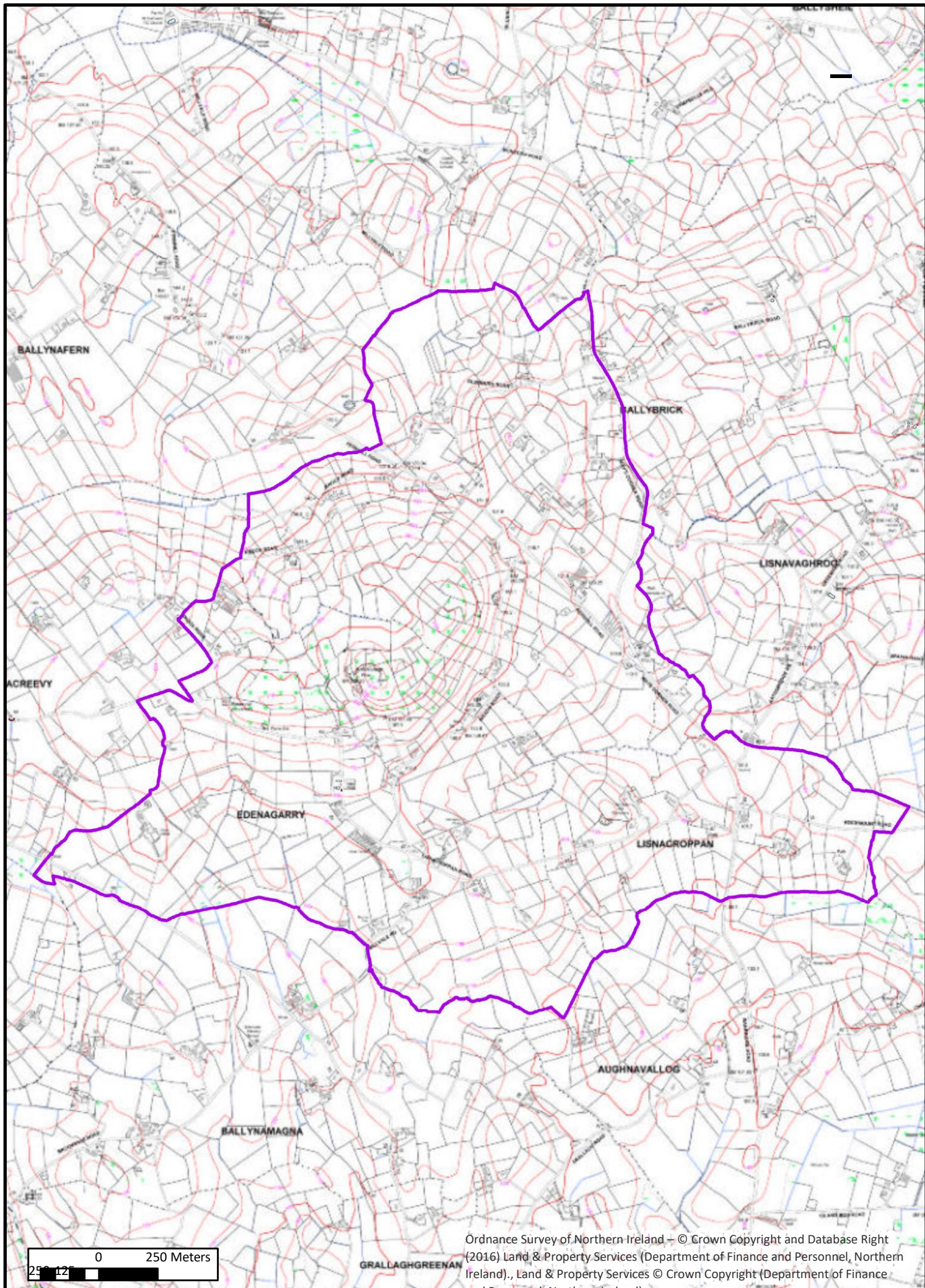
A substantial Neolithic round cairn, designated as a scheduled monument, is located on the summit of Knock Iveagh. Its builders utilised this prominent natural topographic visual feature in the landscape, capitalising on the dominant height of the landmark to emphasise the significance of the burial monument for a wider area. At the time of its construction the monument would have been intended to impress and have meaning to those living, working in, and moving through the landscape. Excavations of the cairn in 1954 demonstrated that the cairn had a continuing significance for burial and ritual long after its initial construction. The site is inter-visible with other ancient summit burial cairns on Slieve Croob and adjacent hills, and offers extensive views to horizons which include the Mourne, Slieve Gullion and the Sperrins.

Downslope to the south-east, the presence of ring ditch features and a large barrow at Lisnacroppan, are examples of sites that emphasise the enduring importance of the location in the prehistoric period. These ancient aspects of the landscape had a continuing significance right through to the medieval and post medieval periods, with Knock Iveagh featuring on early 17th-century maps and the Lisnacroppan barrow utilised as the inauguration site for the Magennis clan.

The ASAI encapsulates the particular distinctive historic landscape character of Knock Iveagh itself, which provides an important aspect of the setting of for these prehistoric monuments, and which retained significance throughout human occupation of the landscape. Its morphology and dominant appearance continue to set it apart from the surrounding terrain of rolling drumlin countryside.

The heritage assets within the ASAI have both discrete and overlapping settings and their significance is enhanced by their relationships with each other and also with the natural environment. The topography and the views to and from the monuments, contribute to their significance in the way that they are understood, appreciated and experienced. The place names of the area have been influenced by both the natural landscape characteristics and the historic environment. Knock Iveagh retains a contextual and reciprocal relationship with the wider surrounding landscape.

The integrity of this landscape would be compromised by development which would impact its distinctive qualities. Large scale development, quarrying, high structures such as wind turbines or mast/pylon infrastructure, or the cumulative effect of one off housing or other development which interrupts inter-visibility between monuments and views to them from along the surrounding roads, would adversely impact the distinct character of the landscape and the contribution it makes to the enjoyment of the heritage assets that lie inside it.



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Figure 1 The hill of Knock Iveagh viewed from south-east. The hill is a highly visible landmark and its height and appearance have been important qualities since prehistoric times



Figure 2 The summit offers far reaching views over the surrounding Drumlin landscape to distant horizons including the Mourne, Slieve Gullion and the Sperrins

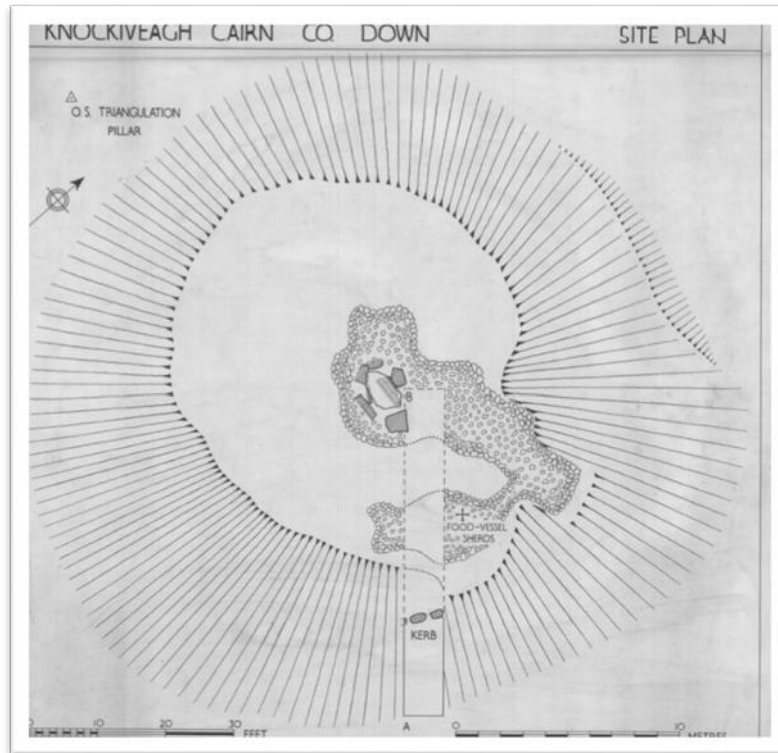


Figure 3 The Neolithic Round Cairn on the summit of Knock Iveagh was the subject of investigative excavations by Pat Collins in 1954. Evidence of secondary burial confirmed a continuing significance for burial and ritual long after it was built

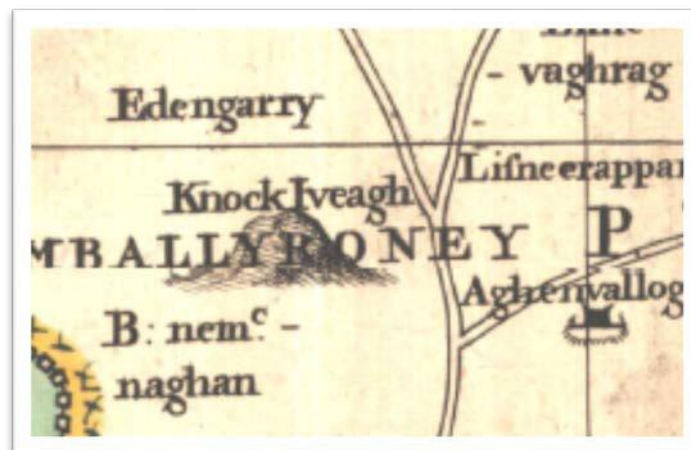


Figure 4 Extract from John Kennedy's Map of the County Down, dated 1755. Its illustration on this and, also on historical maps from the early 1600s reflect the significance of Knock Iveagh in the landscape.

(Knock Iveagh and Lisnacroppan were also illustrated by Richard Bartlett in 1603)



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Sites and Monuments Records within Knock Iveagh ASAI 21st December 2018

NISMR	TYPE	PROTECTION	TOWNLANDS	GRID REFERENCE
DOW041:015	LARGE ENCLOSURE		BALLYBRICK	J1796038620
DOW041:019	ENCLOSURE		LISNACROPPAN	J1972037140
DOW041:020	MOUND & ENCLOSURE: BARROW	Scheduled	LISNACROPPAN	J1924037210
DOW041:021	ENCLOSURE		EDENAGARRY	J1861037590
DOW041:022	ROUND CAIRN: KNOCKIVEAGH	Scheduled	EDENAGARRY	J1825037790
DOW041:023	ENCLOSURE		EDENAGARRY	J1736037530
DOW041:078	A.P. SITE - 2 RING DITCHES		EDENAGARRY (Possible);	J1886337143
DOW041:085	ENCLOSURE - rath?		BALLYBRICK	J1784038270
DOW042:007	PLATFORM RATH		LISNACROPPAN	J2022037020

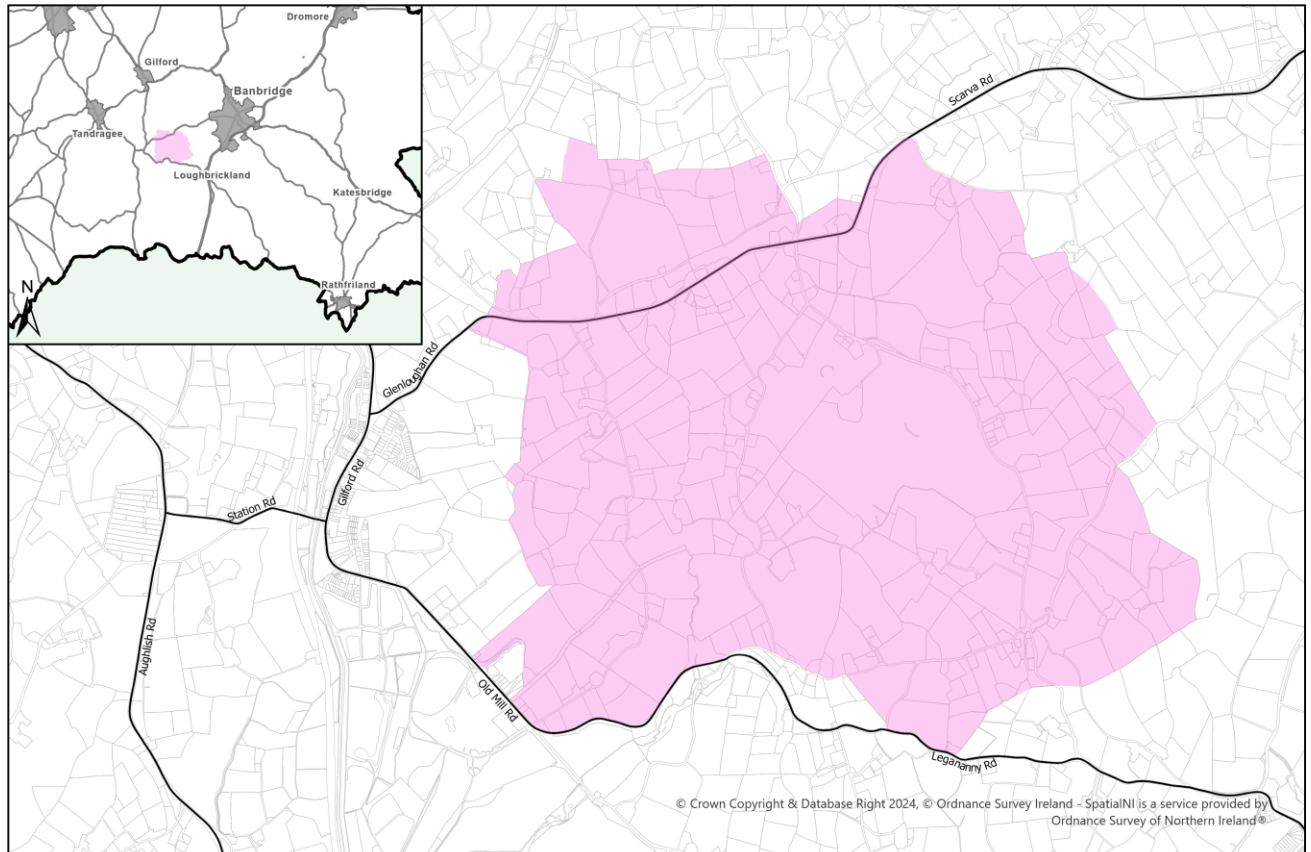
Industrial Heritage Records within Knock Iveagh ASAI 21st December 2018

IHR	Type	TD	GRIDREF
03380:000:00	Flax mill	Edenagarry	J18023716

Listed Buildings Records within Knock Iveagh ASAI 21st December 2018

HB REF	EXTENT OF LISTING	GRADE	GRIDREF
HB17/08/014/B	Outbuildings	B1	J1807 3734
HB17/08/014A	Knock House	B2	J1809 3734

Appendix E – Lisnagade Candidate Area of Significant Archaeological Interest (ASAI) Map and Statement of Significance.



Candidate ASAI
Main Roads

Map 20 - Candidate Area of Special Archaeological Interest (ASAI):

Lisnagade

LISNAGADE CANDIDATE AREA OF SIGNIFICANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST



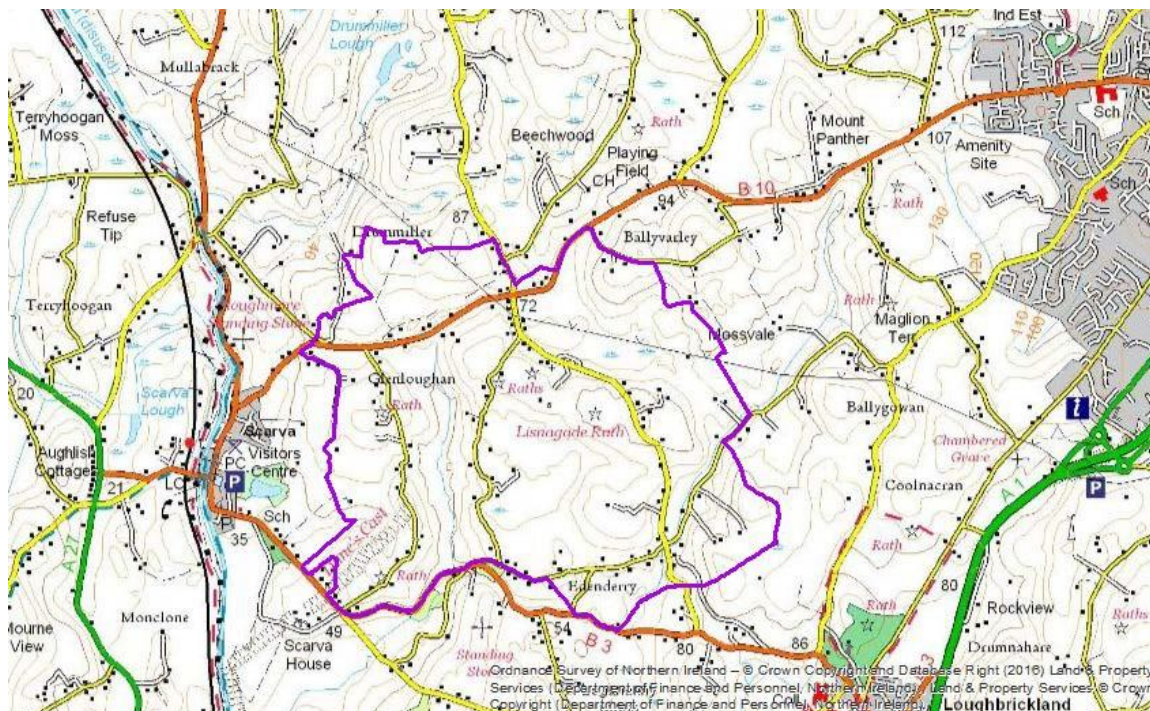
Prepared by DfC Historic Environment
Division Heritage Records and
Designations Branch

Contents

1. Preamble
2. Statement of Significance
3. Map
4. Selected imagery
- 7 Lists of Heritage Assets which lie inside the candidate ASAI

Preamble

On 25th July 2017 Department consulted its statutory advisory body, the Historic Monuments Council on the identification of an Area of Significant Archaeological Interest at Lisnagade. This ASAI was identified following desktop research and field survey carried out by Historic Environment Division.



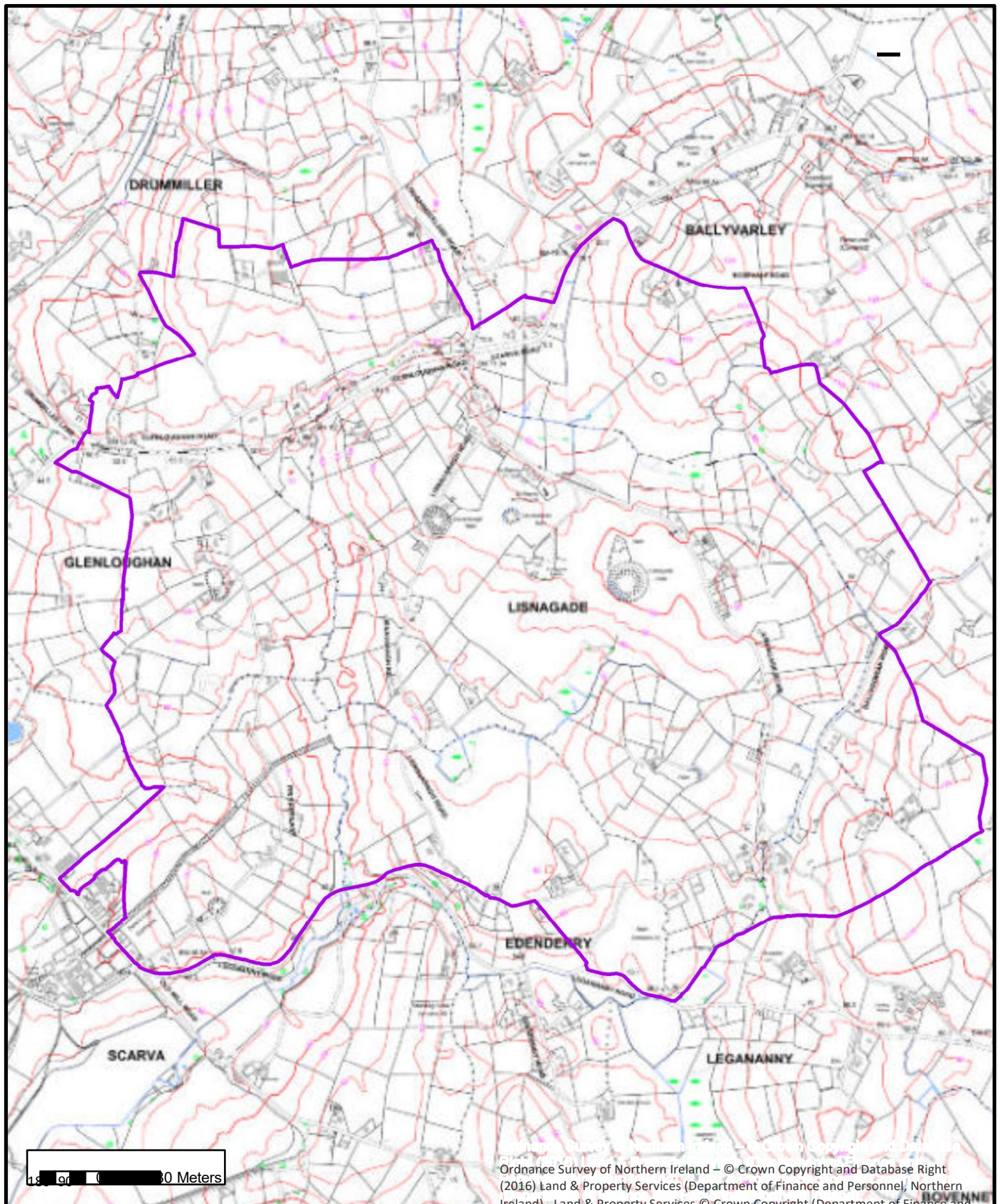
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Statement of Significance Lisnagade

An Area of Significant Archaeological interest has been identified around Lisnagade Fort, a monument in State Care managed by the Department for Communities, as is Lisnavaragh Fort nearby to the northwest. There are a number of other raths within the area. Lisnagade is one of Northern Ireland's most impressive examples of an Early Medieval rath and is enclosed by three sets of large ditches and banks. The monument overlooks the Danes' Cast, an extensive Iron Age linear earthwork of national importance, whose visible remains can be traced from an area just south of Lisnagade to Slieve Gullion. Although this feature almost certainly predates the State Care monuments, it would have been a significant landscape feature when Lisnagade Fort was constructed, and remains so to this day, its continuation west and then southward forming part of the wider setting of the ASAI. The group of early medieval monuments in this landscape have long been an important and defining characteristic and, due to their prominence, many have seen use and reuse throughout history. This is demonstrated by the planting of many of these monuments in the 19th century with trees to create designed landscape features.

The landscape, with its ridgelines, hedgerows and rolling countryside, provides the functional setting for these monuments which were located on hill tops to take advantage of its topography and natural features, ensuring that inter-visibility between monuments and over the adjacent landscape was maximised. The heritage assets within the ASAI have both discrete and overlapping settings and their significance is enhanced by their relationships with each other and also with the natural environment. The topography and the views to and from the monuments, which have a remarkable clarity in the landscape, contribute to their significance in the way that they are understood, appreciated and experienced. The place names of the area have been influenced by both the natural landscape characteristics and the historic environment.

The landscape is sensitive to changes that would adversely impact these distinctive qualities. Large scale development, quarrying, high structures such as wind turbines or mast/pylon infrastructure, or the cumulative effect of one off housing or other development which interrupts inter-visibility between monuments and views to them from along the surrounding roads, would adversely impact the distinct character of the landscape and the contribution it makes to the enjoyment of the heritage assets that lie inside it.



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1 Aerial view of Lisnagade fort with its annex at north, and the vestiges of historic linear planting running across to Lisnagade House adjacent. The Dane's Cast is visible as a thick linear area of planting at the top right of the image.



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2. Aerial view showing Lisnagade in relation to some extant remains of other ancient enclosures in the landscape. These were planted in more recent centuries as designed landscape features. Lisnavaragh fort and another enclosure are visible as planted areas at the top right of the image. These and the wider group of medieval monuments in this landscape have long been an important and defining characteristic



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3 View from vicinity of scheduled rath with annex in Glenloughan townland looking eastward toward Lisnavaragh Fort, on left, and Lisnagade Fort, in centre. The intervisibility between monuments is an important characteristic of this landscape.



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Sites and Monuments Records within Lisnagade ASAI 20th June 2018

NISMR	TYPE	PROTECTION	TOWNLANDS	GRIDREF
DOW026:014	ENCLOSURE		BALLYVARLEY	J0886044910
DOW026:018	NON-ANTIQUITY		BALLYVARLEY	J0828044790
DOW026:019	ENCLOSURE		DRUMMILLER	J0789044920
DOW026:020	ENCLOSURE		DRUMMILLER	J0747044980
DOW033:002	ENCLOSURE		DRUMMILLER	J0740044640
DOW033:003	RATH		BALLYVARLEY	J0876044650
DOW033:004	RATH		BALLYVARLEY	J0934044470
DOW033:005	RATH	Scheduled	GLENLOUGHAN	J0743044040
DOW033:006	RATH	State Care and Scheduled	LISNAGADE	J0809044240
DOW033:007	RATH		LISNAGADE	J0812044100
DOW033:008	RATH	Scheduled	LISNAGADE	J0833044260
DOW033:009	RATH	State Care and Scheduled	LISNAGADE	J0867044050
DOW033:010	RATH		LISNAGADE	J0921043930
DOW033:011	RATH		SCARVA	J0765043410
DOW033:012	RATH	Scheduled	LISNAGADE	J0888043470
DOW033:013	RATH		BALLYGOWAN	J0960043520
DOW033:014	RATH	Scheduled	SCARVA	J0743043070
DOW033:016	RATH		EDENDERRY	J0852043100
DOW033:017	ENCLOSURE		EDENDERRY	J0876042990
DOW033:051	A.P. SITE		LISNAGADE	J0807044600
DOW033:052	A.P. SITE		LISNAGADE	J0840043830
DOW033:056	PILLBOX	Scheduled	GLENLOUGHAN	J0737244365
DOW033:020	LINEAR EARTHWORK	Scheduled	SCARVA	J0712842996
DOW033:021	LINEAR EARTHWORK	Scheduled	LISNAGADE	J0865743882

Defence Heritage Project Records within Lisnagade ASAI 20th June 2018

DHP No.	TYPE	CONDITION	TOWNLAND	GRIDREF
38	Pillbox	Good	Glenloughan	J07364436



Industrial Heritage Records within Lisnagade ASAI 20th June 2018

IHR	Type	TD	GRIDREF
03270:000:00	Bridge	Legananny / Lisnagade	J09124326
03271:000:00	Scutch Mill	Legananny	J09124322

Listed Buildings Records within Lisnagade ASAI 20TH June 2018

HB REF	EXTENT OF LISTING	GRADE	GRIDREF
HB17/03/017	Lisnagade House – House and Gate Piers	B+	J08404410

Appendix F – Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAP).

There are 21 Areas of Archaeological Potential (AAP) within the Borough as identified (for information only) in the extant are plans. These are as follows:

- Annaclone (i) - Annaclone node
- Annaclone (ii) - Monteith node
- Ardtanagh
- Banbridge
- Corbet
- Dromore
- Gamblestown (i)
- Gamblestown (ii)
- Gilford
- Glasker
- Katesbridge
- Lawrencetown
- Lenaderg
- Loughbrickland
- Moneyslane
- Poyntzpass
- Rathfriland
- Scarva
- Scotch Street
- The Birches
- Tullylish

Appendix G – Grade A Listed Buildings.

HB Reference	Extent	Grade	Current Use
HB14/06/001	Waringstown House Magherana Waringstown Craigavon Co. Armagh	A	House
HB14/23/066	Post Box to front of Mechanics Institute Market St Lurgan	A	Post Box
HB14/24/018	Brownlow House Windsor Avenue Lurgan Co. Armagh	A	House
HB15/02/048	Ardress House Ardress East Loughgall Co. Armagh	A	House
HB15/07/001	Gosford Castle Gosford Demesne Markethill Co. Armagh	A	House
HB15/11/001	Tynan Abbey Armagh Co. Armagh	A	House
HB15/13/001	The Castle (aka Richhill House) Richhill Co. Armagh	A	House
HB15/16/001	Court House The Mall Armagh	A	Court House
HB15/16/003	Armagh Observatory College Hill Armagh	A	Observatory
HB15/17/010A	1 Charlemont Place The Mall East Armagh	A	House
HB15/17/010B	2 Charlemont Place The Mall East Armagh	A	House
HB15/17/010C	3 Charlemont Place The Mall East Armagh	A	House
HB15/17/010D	4 Charlemont Place The Mall East Armagh	A	House
HB15/17/010E	5 Charlemont Place The Mall East Armagh	A	House
HB15/17/011	Portico Front of County Museum The Mall East Armagh	A	Gallery / Museum
HB15/18/003	Bank of Ireland 36 Scotch Street Armagh Co. Armagh	A	Bank
HB15/18/016	The Bishops Palace Armagh	A	House
HB15/18/017	Primate's Chapel Armagh Co. Armagh	A	Church
HB15/20/001	Cathedral (C of I) Church od St. Patrick Armagh	A	Church
HB15/20/005A	1 Vicar's Hill Armagh	A	House - Terrace
HB15/20/005B	2 Vicar's Hill Armagh	A	House - Terrace
HB15/20/005C	3 Vicar's Hill Armagh	A	House - Terrace
HB15/20/005D	4 Vicar's Hill Armagh	A	House - Terrace
HB15/20/005E	5 Vicar's Hill Armagh	A	House - Terrace
HB15/20/005F	6 Vicar's Hill Armagh	A	House - Terrace
HB15/20/005G	7 Vicar's Hill Armagh	A	House - Terrace
HB15/20/005H	8 Vicar's Hill Armagh	A	House - Terrace
HB15/20/005I	9 Vicar's Hill Armagh	A	House - Terrace
HB15/20/005J	10 Vicar's Hill Armagh	A	House - Terrace
HB15/20/005K	11 Vicar's Hill Armagh	A	House - Terrace
HB15/20/008	Public Library Abbey Street Armagh	A	Library
HB15/20/020	St. Patrick's RC Cathedral Cathedral Road Armagh	A	Church
HB17/06/003	Non-Subscribing Church Downshire Road Banbridge Co. Down	A	Church
		TOTAL	33no.

CMcC 26/01/2026

Appendix H – Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes (HPG&D).

There are a total of 32no HPG&D located within the Borough

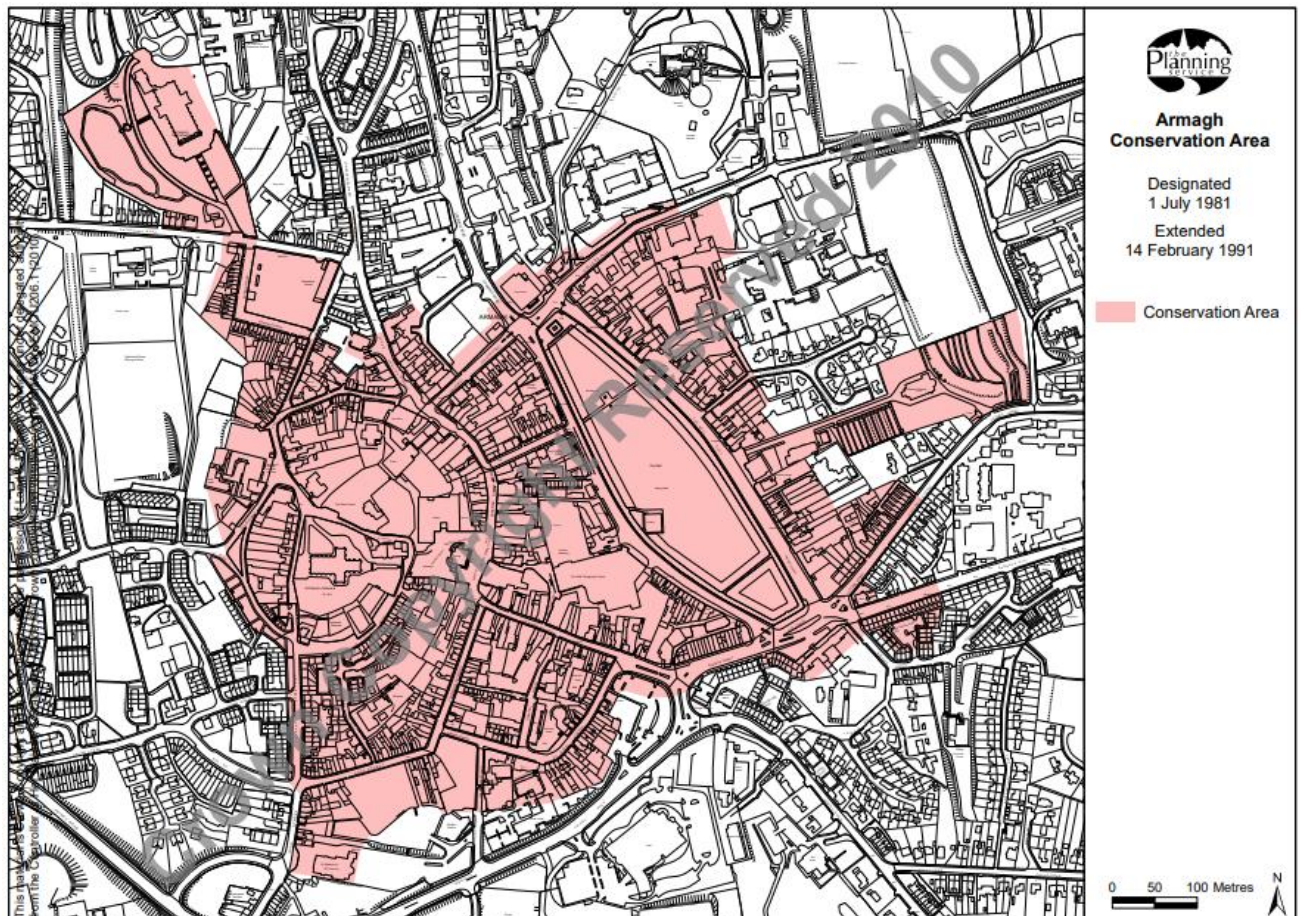
Grade A*	▪ Caledon* ▪ Tynan Abbey		
Grade A	▪ Ardross ▪ Benburb Manor House* ▪ Brownlow House (Lurgan Park) ▪ Coney Island ▪ Drumbanagher*	▪ Elmfield ▪ Gilford Castle ▪ Gosford Castle ▪ Hockley Lodge ▪ Manor House (Loughgall)	▪ Moyallon House ▪ Summer Island ▪ The Argory ▪ The Mall ▪ The Palace ▪ Waringstown House
Grade B	▪ Brookfield House ▪ Castle Dillon ▪ Darton Hall ▪ Deans Hill ▪ Eden Villa	▪ Fairview House – Tannaghmore Gardens ▪ Fellows Hall ▪ Gill Hall ▪ Lawrencetown House ▪ Loughbrickland House ▪ Raughlan (Rocklands)	▪ Scarva House ▪ Straw Hill ▪ Tandragee Castle ▪ The Observatory ▪ Umgola ▪ Wood Bank

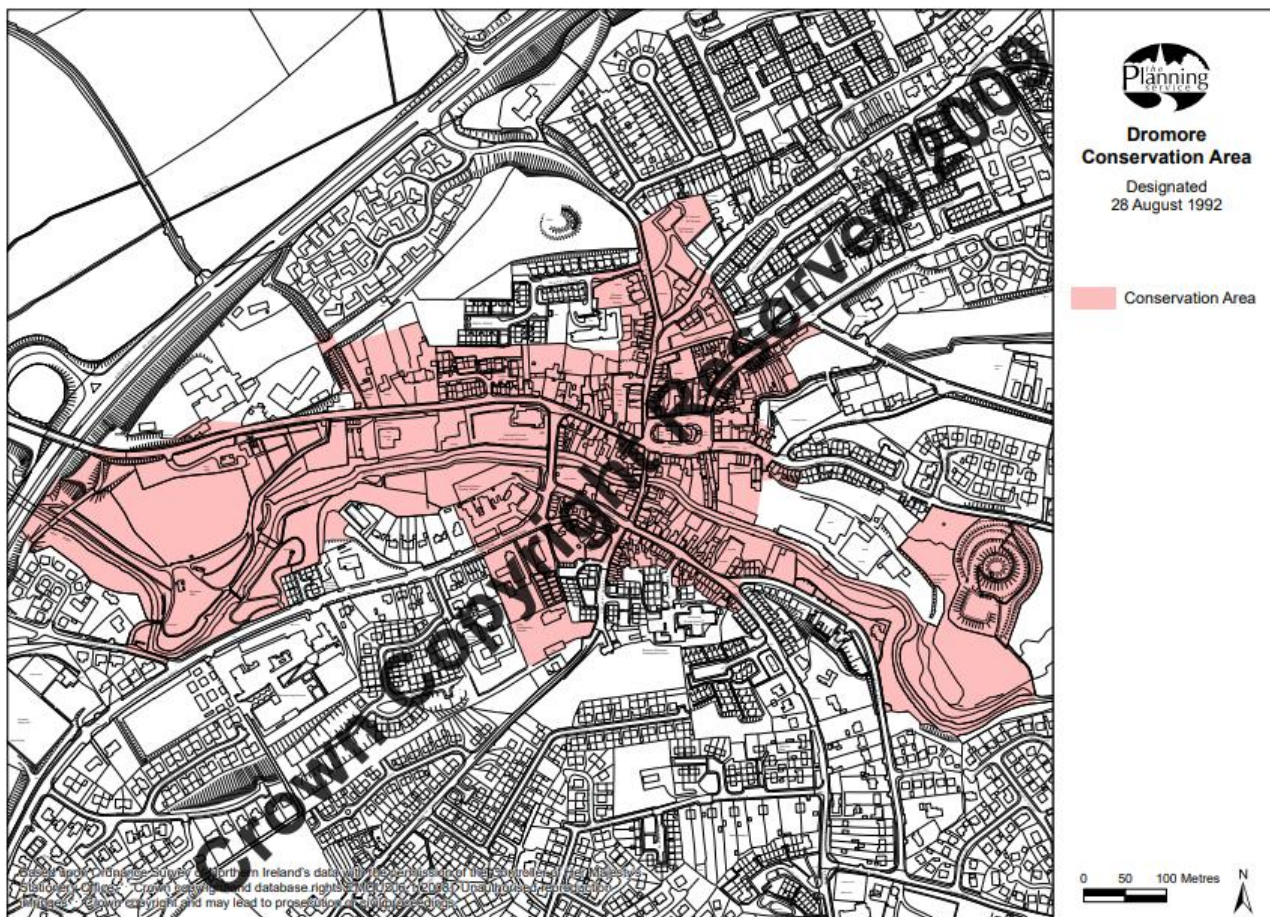
Source: Department for Communities Historic Environment Digital Datasets (Date published: 4th December 2025)

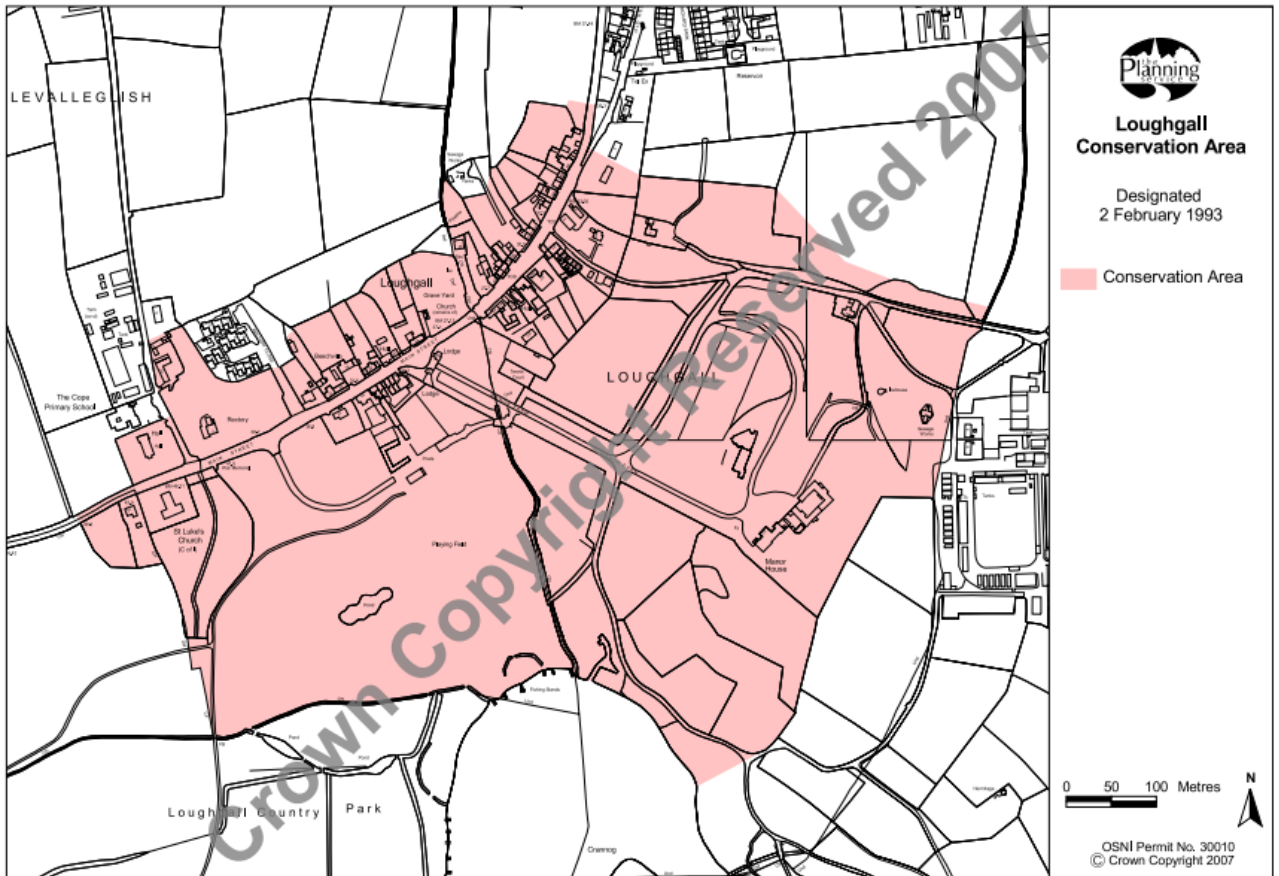
*These Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes have a small portion within the ACBCBC Plan Area, but mainly fall within an adjoining Council area.

Appendix I – Conservation Areas.

There are 5no. Conservation Areas within the Borough: Armagh, Dromore, Loughgall, Lurgan and Richhill (see Maps Below)









Appendix J – Areas of Townscape or Village Character (ATC's / AVC's).

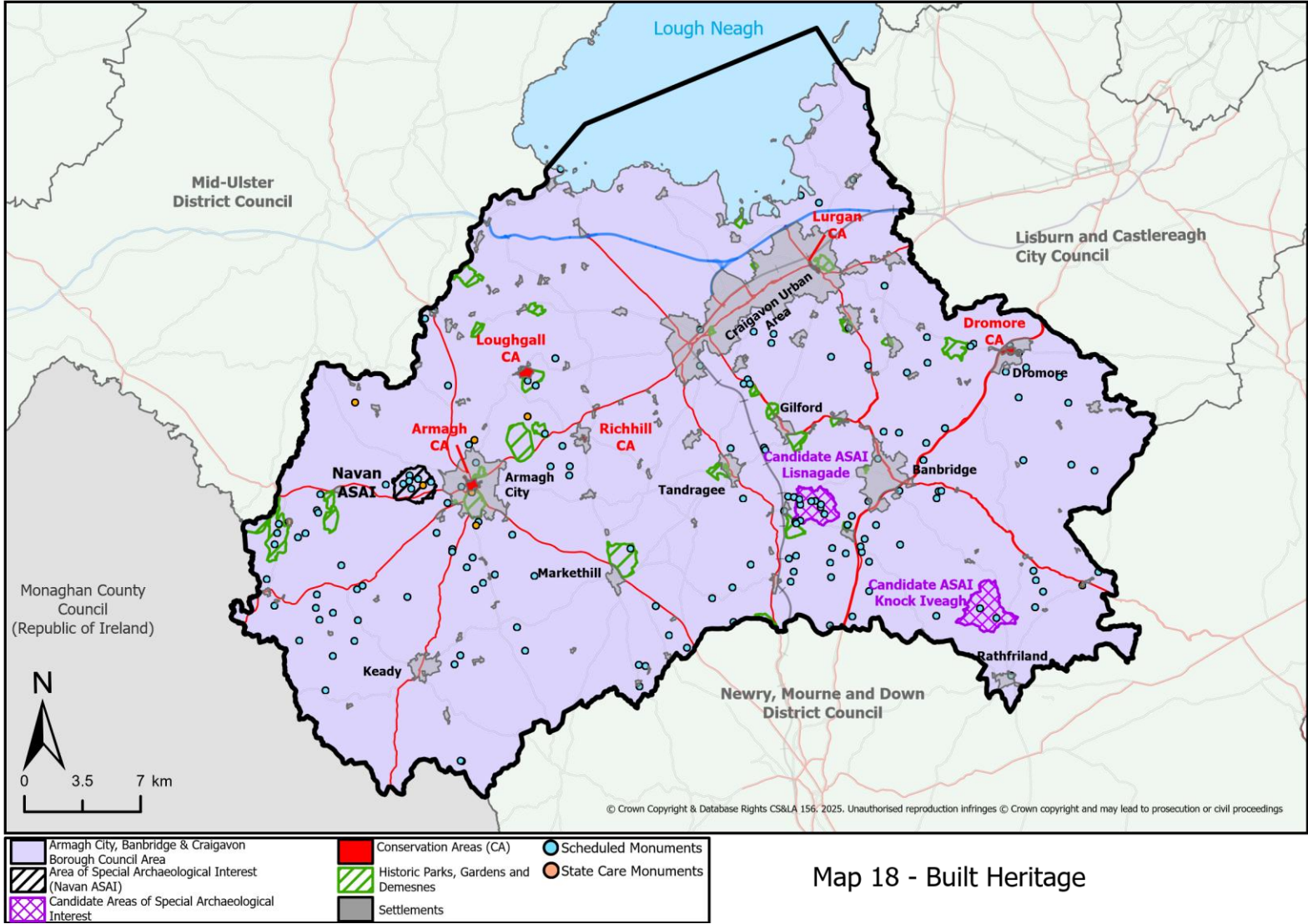
There are a total of 16no ATC's within the Borough located within the following settlements:

- Annaclone (1)
- Banbridge Town: (3)
- Charlestown (1)
- Donaghcloney (1)
- Dromore: (2)
- Gilford: (2)
- Loughbrickland (1)
- Lurgan: (1)
- Portadown: (1)
- Rathfriland: (1)
- Scarva: (1)
- Tullylish: (1)

Appendix K - Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPA's) – 101no

- Aghacommon
- Aghagallon
- Annaclone (2 areas)
- Ardtanagh
- Artasooley (2 areas)
- Ashfield / Gowdystown
- Ballynabragget
- Ballyroney
- Banbridge (20 areas)
- Central Craigavon
- Clare
- Closkelt
- Corbet
- Dollingstown
- Donaghcloney (2 areas)
- Dromara
- Dromore (7 areas)
- Drumnacanvy (2 areas)
- Gibson's Hill
- Gilford (6 areas)
- Glasker
- Glen
- Glenanne
- Katesbridge (2 areas)
- Kilkinamurry
- Kilmore
- Kinallen (2 areas)
- Lawrencetown (3 areas)
- Lenaderg (3 areas)
- Loughbrickland (2 areas)
- Lurgan (5 areas)
- Magheralin (2 areas)
- Milltown (Aghory)
- Milltown (Co. Armagh)
- Moneyslane (2 areas)
- Portadown (6 areas)
- Poyntzpass
- Rathfriland (2 areas)
- Salters Grange
- Scarva (3 areas)
- St. Marys Terrace
- Tartaraghan
- Tassagh
- Tullylish
- Waringstown (2 areas)

Appendix L - Historic Environment Overview.



Appendix M – Sites of Local Nature Conservation Interest (SLNCI).

Armagh Area Plan 2004	
1	Annacramph Lane & Carganamuck Quarry
2	Argory Moss
3	Aughnagurgan Lough
4	Carnagh Forest & Lakes
5	Carrigatuke Fen
6	Carryhugh Fen
7	Castle Dillon Lough
8	Clare Glen Woodland
9	Clay Lake
10	Darkley Reservoir
11	Drumarg Cliff & Karst
12	Gentle Owens Lake
13	Gosford Forest Park
14	Knockbane Bog
15	Loughgall Lake & Woodlands
16	Loughnashade
17	Marladoo Lake
18	Milford Cutting
19	Milltown Benburb
20	Mowillin South
21	Mowillin South West
22	Navan Fort
23	Outlack Bog
24	Tullybrick Lough
25	Tullynawood Lake
26	Tynan Abbey

Banbridge, Newry and Mourne Area Plan	
1	Annahunshigo
2	Ballymaganlis Wood
3	Ballyrone Lake
4	Ballysallagh Fen
5	Beechwood
6	Black Bog
7	Blue Bog Road
8	Chinauley Woods
9	Corbet Fen
10	Corbet Lough
11	Danes Cast Fen
12	Drumaran Lake
13	Drumbroneth Fen
14	Drumiller
15	Edenderry Woodland
16	Gall Bog
17	Gargarry Fen
18	Gibson's Hill Woods and Fen
19	Glass Moss
20	Hunshigo Lake
21	Huntly Plantation and Havelock Woods

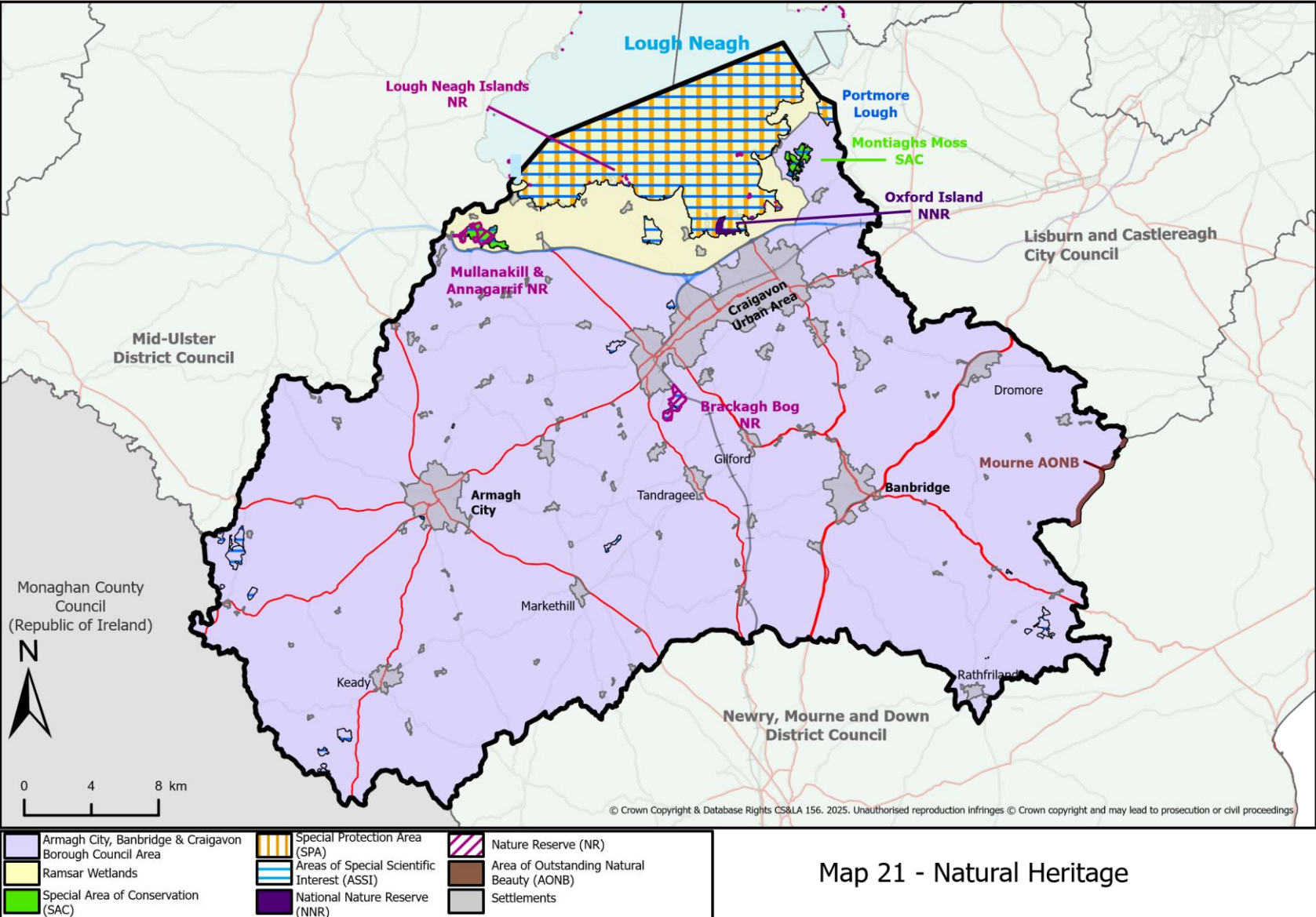
22	Islandderry Lough
23	Katesbridge Wetland
24	Kernan Lake
25	Knocknagore Fen
26	Lisnisk
27	Lough Brickland
28	Lough Moss
29	Lough Shark
30	Loughbrickland House
31	Mullabrack Fen
32	Park Bog
33	Rathfriland
34	Rowantree Moss
35	Scarva Pond
36	Shannaghan Hill
37	Skillyscolban Lake and Big Bog

Craigavon Area Plan 2010	
1	Clare Bog
2	Craigavon Lake North
3	Derrykeeran
4	Derryvane North
5	Derryvane South
6	Derryvore
7	Foy More
8	Knocknagore Fen
9	Lurgan Park Lake
10	Selshion Bog
Dungannon and South Tyrone Area Plan 2010	
1	Derryhubbert/Derrydry
2	Derryore

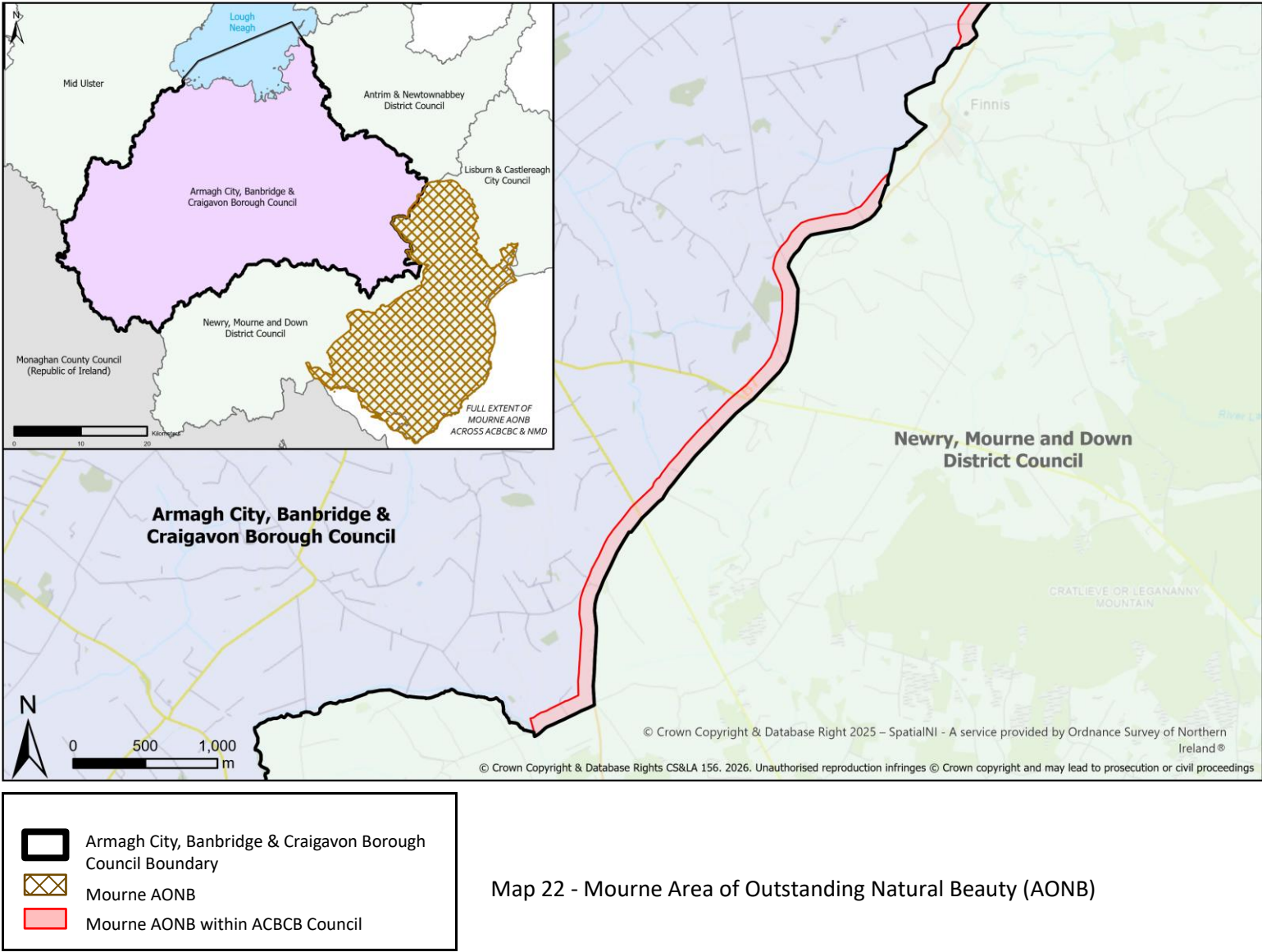
Appendix N – Landscape Character Areas.

- 46 – Blackwater Valley
- 47 – Loughgall Orchard Belt.
- 62 - East Lough Neagh Points
- 63 – Portmore Lough Fringe
- 64 – Lough Neagh Peatlands
- 65 – Upper Bann Floodplain
- 66 - Armagh Drumlins
- 67 – Armagh / Banbridge Hills
- 68 – Carrigatuke Hills
- 69 – Newry Basin
- 76 – Ballyroney Basin
- 77 – Iveagh Slopes
- 78 – North Banbridge Hills
- 79 – Craigavon Plateau
- 80 – Donaghcloney Valley
- 81 – Kilwarlin Plateau
- 82 – Dromore Lowlands
- 83 – Lower Slieve Croob Foothills (portion still in ABC)
- 84 – Mourne Foothills (portion still in ABC)
- 87 - Slieve Croob Summits (portion still in ABC)
- 88 – Craggy Dromara Uplands
- 89 – Hillsborough Slopes
- 100 – Upper Ballinderry Plateau

Appendix O – Natural Heritage Overview



Appendix P – Mourne AONB



INTERESTED IN DEVELOPMENT

in the Armagh City,
Banbridge and
Craigavon Borough

Please contact

ABC Planning Department - Local Development Plan Team
at Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council

☎ 0300 0300 900

✉ ldp@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

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