Department for Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Easy Read

Our plan to look after historic places

Tell us what you think



Easy Read

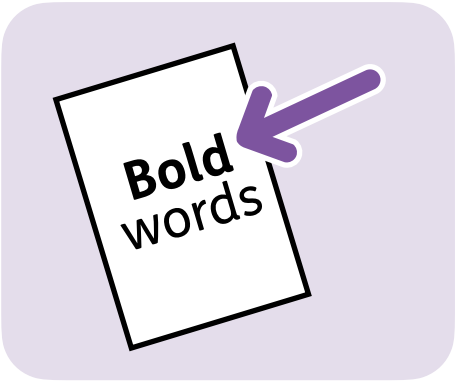


This is an Easy Read version of some information.

It uses easier words and pictures.



Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are **bold** to show they are important.



We explain bold words if they are hard to understand.

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About this booklet

This booklet is a **survey** from the Department for Communities in Northern Ireland.



A **survey** is a set of questions for you to answer.



We are making a new plan to look after **historic places** in Northern Ireland.



Historic places are places where there is proof of people being there in the past.



Please read and fill out this survey to say what you think of our plan.

About historic places

Historic places are places where there is proof of people being there in the past, like:



- Buildings and areas where people worked and lived in the past.



- Areas with plants that people planted or cared for in the past.



- Places where old things are buried.

About our plan



Lots of historic places in Northern Ireland are not being looked after properly.

This is because:



- There is not enough money or support to look after historic places.



- People do not understand why it is important to look after historic places.

It is important to look after historic places because they:



- Help people learn more about their **heritage** and feel proud of it.

  Your **heritage** is where you come from.



- Help people feel a part of their local community.



- Help get more people to visit and spend money in areas with historic places.

We have written 3 main **goals** that explain what we want to do with our plan:



1. Do more to look after historic places and keep them safe.



2. Help people feel connected to our historic places.



3. Find new ways to use and enjoy our historic places.

About this survey



You have until midnight on 23 October 2026 to fill in this survey and send us your answers.



We may share your answers with other people or organisations.

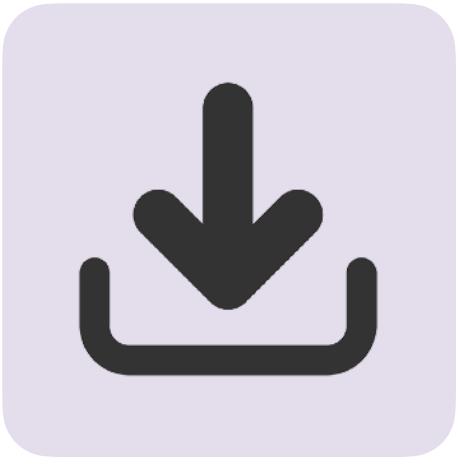


But they will not know that your answers came from you.



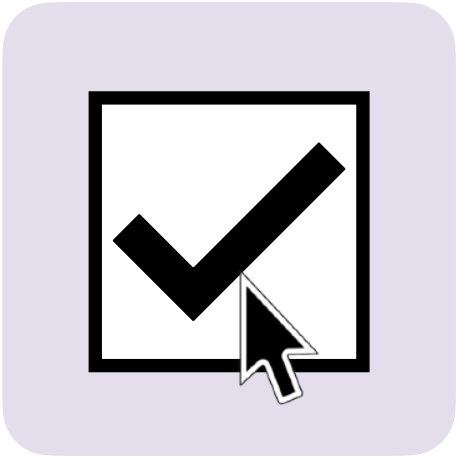
We will keep your personal information safe and private.

How to use this survey on a computer



You can complete this survey on your computer.

First you will need to download it.



Then open the survey on your computer.

You will be able to click or write in the boxes.



When you have finished the survey, save it to your computer.

Then email a copy to: hccpublicconsultation@communities-ni.gov.uk

Survey questions

About you



Question 1: Are you...

☐ Answering this survey for yourself?

☐ Answering this survey for an organisation?



Question 2: If you are answering for an organisation, please write the organisation's name here:



Question 3: Do you agree to let us share your survey answers?

We will not share any information about who you are, like your name or date of birth.

- [ ] Yes, I agree.
- [ ] No, I do not agree.

Our vision



Our **vision** is how we want things to be in 10 years.

In 10 years, we want to make sure that everyone:



- Can visit, enjoy and learn about our historic places.



- Knows why historic places are important and how they can make life better for everyone.



- Works together to look after historic places.



Question 4: How much do you agree or disagree with our **vision**?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 5: Please tell us if you have any other thoughts or ideas about our vision.

Our aims

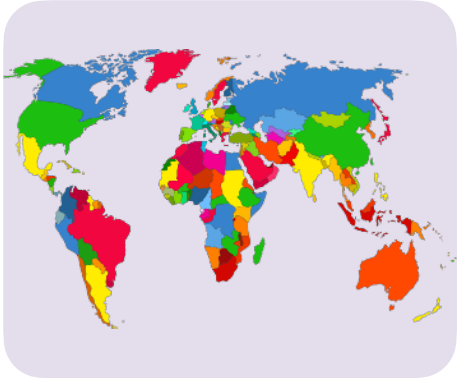


Our **aims** are smaller things we want to do to help us meet our goals.



Aim 1 is to get better at finding and looking after historic places.

For aim 1, we could do things like:



- Look at how other countries look after historic places.



- Teach people how to look after historic places.



Question 6a: How much do you agree or disagree with aim 1?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 6b: Please tell us any other thoughts you have about aim 1:



Aim 2 is to help people become experts in looking after historic places.

For aim 2, we could do things like:



- Give people training on how to look after historic places.



- Help owners and experts work together to look after historic buildings.



Question 7a: How much do you agree or disagree with aim 2?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 7b: Please tell us any other thoughts you have about aim 2:



Aim 3 is to help local people look after historic places in their local area.

For aim 3, we could do things like:



- Help people use historic places in their local area more.



- Include people in decisions that will affect their local area.



Question 8a: How much do you agree or disagree with aim 3?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 8b: Please tell us any other thoughts you have about aim 3:



Aim 4 is to help people make historic places in their local area better.

For aim 4, we could do things like:



- Help raise more money for projects that make historic places better.



- Help people use historic buildings that are not used very much.



Question 9a: How much do you agree or disagree with aim 4?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 9b: Please tell us any other thoughts you have about aim 4:



Aim 5 is to use historic places to help the government in Northern Ireland with other plans.

For aim 5, we could do things like:



- Include historic places when the government writes new plans.



- Use historic places to help people and businesses earn more money.



Question 10a: How much do you agree or disagree with aim 5?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 10b: Please tell us any other thoughts you have about aim 5.



Aim 6 is to keep historic places safe when there are problems with the **environment** and the weather.



The **environment** is where we live.

It includes the land, the sea, the air and everything that lives in and on it.

For aim 6, we could do things like:



- Stop historic places from getting damaged by bad weather.



- Help historic places use less energy, like electricity.



Question 11a: How much do you agree or disagree with aim 6?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 11b: Please tell us any other thoughts you have about aim 6:



Aim 7 is to make sure that lots of different people can enjoy historic places.

For aim 7, we could do things like:



- Make it easier for disabled people to visit historic places.



- Run events and activities about heritage to help children enjoy and learn about historic places.



Question 12a: How much do you agree or disagree with aim 7?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 12b: Please tell us any other thoughts you have about aim 7:



Aim 8 is to look into how historic places could make people's lives better.

For aim 8, we could do things like:



- Work with health services to learn how historic places and events about heritage can help you feel happier and healthier.



- Run events and activities at historic places to help people with their mental health.



Question 13a: How much do you agree or disagree with aim 8?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 13b: Please tell us any other thoughts you have about aim 8:



Aim 9 is to look after nature and wildlife in historic places.

For aim 9, we could do things like:



- Help farmers and other landowners to look after historic places.



- Look after things like old canals, old parks and old piers in a way that helps nature and wildlife.

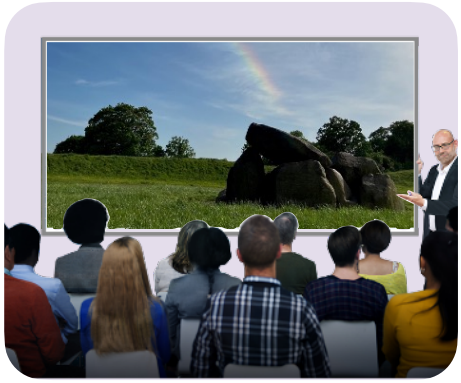


Question 14a: How much do you agree or disagree with aim 9?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 14b: Please tell us any other thoughts you have about aim 9:



Aim 10 is to tell more people about all the great historic places in Northern Ireland.



For aim 10, we could do things like:

- Share lots of information about historic places to get more people to visit.



- Get local areas to spend more money on historic places.



Question 15a: How much do you agree or disagree with aim 10?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 15b: Please tell us any other thoughts you have about aim 10:



Aim 11 is to work with other countries to help look after historic places.



For aim 11, we could do things like:

- Build stronger relationships with governments and organisations from other countries.



- Tell people in other countries about historic places in Northern Ireland and why they are important.



Question 16a: How much do you agree or disagree with aim 11?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 16b: Please tell us any other thoughts you have about aim 11:



Aim 12 is to use historic places in a creative way.

For example, by sharing art, music or stories.

For aim 12, we could do things like:



- Use art to teach people about the past.



- Get **HCC organisations** to work together.



HCC stands for
heritage, culture and creativity.

HCC organisations work to share things like history and art.



Question 17a: How much do you agree or disagree with aim 12?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 17b: Please tell us any other thoughts you have about aim 12:



Aim 13 is helping people take part in events and activities about history to learn about the past.

For aim 13, we could do things like:



- Help pay for events, festivals and local activities that help people learn about their heritage.



- Get young people to take part and volunteer in events and activities about history.



Question 18a: How much do you agree or disagree with aim 13?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 18b: Please tell us any other thoughts you have about aim 13:



Aim 14 is to find, collect and share information about history in Northern Ireland.

For aim 14, we could do things like:



- Make information about history more **accessible**.

  Accessible means it is easy to find and use, and suitable for people with different needs.



- Get local people to take part in projects to learn more about history.



Question 19a: How much do you agree or disagree with aim 14?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 19b: Please tell us any other thoughts you have about aim 14:



Aim 15 is to show that historic places help us to understand and get along with other people.

For aim 15, we could do things like:



- Ask people to share their own stories about the past.



- Get people with different ideas about history to listen to each other.



Question 20a: How much do you agree or disagree with aim 15?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 20b: Please tell us any other thoughts you have about aim 15:



Aim 16 is to work with other people to show why we should spend money on historic places.

For aim 16, we could do things like:



- Collect and share information about why we should spend money on historic places.



- Share how spending money on historic places could help people earn more money.



Question 21a: How much do you agree or disagree with aim 16?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 21b: Please tell us any other thoughts you have about aim 16:



Aim 17 is to try out new ideas to help people look after and enjoy historic places.



For aim 17, we could do things like:

- Use new technology to help people look after historic places.



- Make it easier for more people to find information about history online.



- Teach people how to use technology to record and share local history and stories.



Question 22a: How much do you agree or disagree with aim 17?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 22b: Please tell us any other thoughts you have about aim 17:

Questions about HCC organisations



Remember, **HCC organisations** work to share history and art.

They run places like historic places, museums and libraries.



We have 5 ideas about how to help HCC organisations look after historic places.



Please answer these questions to tell us what you think of our ideas.

Idea 1 is to:



- Find out how much money HCC organisations will need to look after historic places.



- Make a plan for how to help raise this money.



Question 23: How much do you agree or disagree with **idea 1**?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Idea 2 is to look into how HCC organisations can:



- Help people and businesses earn more money.



- Help the government with other plans.



Question 24: How much do you agree or disagree with **idea 2**?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Idea 3 is to:

- Look into what skills people need to look after historic places properly.



- Make a plan to make sure HCC organisations and owners of historic places have the right skills.



Question 25: How much do you agree or disagree with **idea 3**?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Idea 4 is to get HCC organisations to work together to think of new and exciting projects.



Question 26: How much do you agree or disagree with **idea 4**?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Idea 5 is to help HCC organisations find new ways to raise money.



Question 27: How much do you agree or disagree with **idea 5**?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 28: Please tell us any other thoughts you have about our ideas for HCC organisations.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

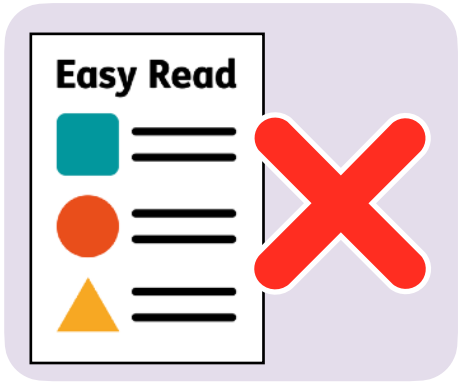


The **Strategic Environmental Assessment** is a report about how our plan might affect the environment.



You can read the report here:

www.communities-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/2026-08/dfc-historic-environment-policy-sea.pdf



The report is very long, and it is not in Easy Read.



These questions will ask you what you think about the report.



You do not need to answer these questions if you do not want to.



But if you want to answer the questions, you must read the report first.

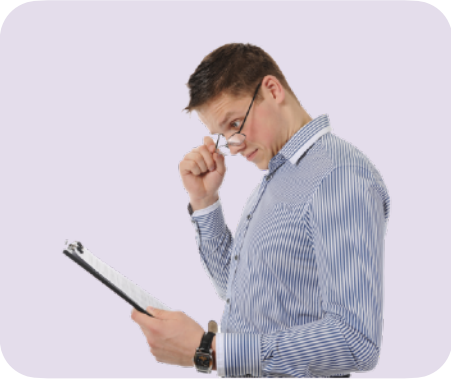


Question 29: How much do you agree or disagree that the report explains how our plan could affect the environment?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 30 Please tell us any other thoughts you have about how our plan could affect the environment:



Question 31: The report explains how we should check if our plan is working well.



How much do you agree or disagree with what the report says about checking this?

Agree a lot	Agree	Disagree	Disagree a lot	Not sure
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Question 32: Please tell us more about why you gave your answer to question 31.

Thank you



Thank you for filling out this survey.

You can contact us by:



- Post:

  Department for Communities
  Culture Division
  7th Floor
  Causeway Exchange
  1-7 Bedford Street
  Belfast
  BT2 7EG



- Email:

  hccpublicconsultation@communities-ni.gov.uk



What do you think about this Easy Read booklet?

Please fill in this survey to tell us what you think:

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