



Comhairle Ceantair
**an Iúir, Mhúrn
agus an Dúin**

**Newry, Mourne
and Down**
District Council

**Local Development Plan
Preparatory Studies**

Paper 6: Environmental Assets

January 2016

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Purpose: To provide members with an overview of the existing environmental assets in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area and how these are protected and utilised.

Content: The paper provides information on:-

- The regional policy context for the protection, conservation and enhancement of the built, natural and landscape heritage; and
- An overview of the built, natural and landscape heritage within our Council area

1.0 Introduction

1.1 This paper allows members to commence consideration of the diverse range of environmental assets that exist across Newry, Mourne and Down and develop and understanding of their importance and value, and contribution they make to the District. The paper aims to provide a foundation for future decision making which will need to be further developed and informed through the local development plan (LDP) process in the consideration, protection and utilisation of our environmental assets.

The paper sets out to inform members of:

- protected site obligations in relation to the natural and landscape heritage,
- obligations with regards to the protection, conservation and enhancement of the built heritage and archaeological resources, and
- further awareness of the link between built, natural and landscape heritage and the LDP function

1.2 The LDP process will play an important role in identifying key features and assets of the countryside and balancing the needs of rural areas/communities with protection of the environment. This is facilitated by the preparation of Countryside Assessments which will normally include the following interrelated strands:

- an Environmental Assets Appraisal;
- a Landscape Assessment;
- a Development Pressure Analysis; and
- a Strategic Settlement Appraisal.

1.3 This paper provides the first strand of the Countryside Assessment of the plan area incorporating an overview of nature conservation resources and historic, architectural and archaeological resources. It also provides a background to the environmental statutory and policy framework for preparing an LDP. The paper also provides an overview of the main landscape character areas of the council area and the variations between them are also identified based on the 'Northern Ireland Landscape Character Assessment 2000', and the draft 'Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment' (2015). This strand will be further explored in the Landscape Assessment paper.

Archaeological and built heritage assets such as ring forts, historic and vernacular buildings, planned parklands, buildings and features associated with industrial heritage, are all important sources of information about our past, and are often significant landmarks in the present townscape and countryside. This archaeological and built heritage constitutes an irreplaceable record which contributes to our understanding of both the present and the past and is an important economic resource. Their presence usually adds to the quality of our lives and promotes a sense of local distinctiveness which is an important aspect of the character and appearance of cities, towns, villages and the countryside.

The Newry, Mourne and Down District, like Northern Ireland as a whole, is an area of dramatic landscape contrasts and subtle transitions. The inherent diversity of the underlying rocks, landforms and soils has been augmented by centuries of settlement and land management, resulting in rich, varied and unique landscape patterns and features within the District. Our natural and cultural landscapes are an essential aspect of our sense of place and belonging and are part of our national and community identity.

The diversity of Northern Ireland's habitats, species, landscapes and earth science features (i.e. natural heritage) is an important and highly valued asset of our society. Our natural heritage provides a wide range of opportunities for enjoyment, recreation and sustainable economic activity. The conservation, enhancement and restoration of the abundance, quality, diversity, and distinctiveness of the region's natural heritage are also fundamental to the overall health and well-being of our society.

2.0 Regional Planning Context

2.1 The regional policy context is provided by the Regional Development Strategy 2035 (RDS), the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and regional planning policy statements. A summary of these documents as they pertain to plan making, archaeology and built heritage and natural heritage and nature conservation is provided.

(a) Regional Development Strategy 2035

2.2 The RDS aims to protect and enhance the environment, both the built and natural heritage, for current and future generations. It recognises that Northern Ireland's environment is one of its greatest assets which has benefits in terms of the economy and quality of life. The RDS sets out regional guidance to conserve, protect, and where possible, enhance our built heritage and our natural environment (RG11).

In respect of built heritage, the RDS recognises that Northern Ireland has a rich and diverse archaeological and built heritage which contributes to our sense of place and history. It also regards built heritage as a key marketing, tourism and recreational asset that, if managed in a sustainable way, can make a valuable contribution to the environment, economy and society. In this context it is important to:

- Identify, protect and conserve the built heritage, including archaeological sites and monuments and historic buildings;
- Identify, protect and conserve the character and built heritage assets within cities, towns and villages; and
- Maintain the integrity of built heritage assets, including historic landscapes.

2.3 In respect of the natural environment, the RDS recognises that effective care of the environment provides very real benefits in terms of improving health and well-being, promoting economic development and addressing social problems which result from a poor quality environment. The RDS also notes there has been a

substantial reduction in the total area of semi-natural habitats due to on-going land use intensification from agriculture and urbanisation. It is therefore important to:

- 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; and
- Consider the establishment of one or more National Parks.

(b) Strategic Planning Policy Statement

2.4 The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) was published in September 2015; this document consolidates twenty separate policy publications into one document and sets out strategic planning policy for a wide range of planning matters including archaeological and built heritage, and natural heritage. Fundamental to the achievement of sustainable development, when plan making, the Council as planning authority, must balance and integrate a variety of complex social, economic, environmental and other matters that are in the long term public interest. As part of this approach, one of the core planning principles of the reformed two tiered planning system is:

- Preserving and improving the Built and Natural Environment.

In respect of this core planning principle, it is recognised that the quality of our local environment is world renowned. Its exceptional quality provides an important contribution to our sense of place, history and cultural identity. 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.

Our environment must therefore be managed in a sustainable manner in accordance with the Executive's commitment to preserve and improve the built and natural environment and halt the loss of biodiversity. This requires an integrated approach to the management of the natural and cultural aspects of the landscape. Whilst all of us share a collective responsibility in this regard the planning system plays an important role in conserving, protecting and enhancing the environment whilst ensuring it remains responsive and adaptive to the everyday needs of society. This is a key aspect of the wider objective of furthering sustainable development which the

Council should take into account in the preparation of the LDP and carrying out of its development management functions.

It must also be recognised that the importance of the environment however goes far beyond the immediate benefits it can provide. Safeguarding our unique landscape (including heritage assets) and biological diversity also makes an important contribution to the protection of the wider global ecosystem. It is therefore critical that this vital asset is preserved and improved for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations.

Archaeology and Built Heritage

The planning system has a key role in the stewardship of our archaeological and built heritage. The aim of the SPPS in relation to Archaeology and Built Heritage is to manage change in positive ways so as to safeguard that which society regards as significant whilst facilitating development that will contribute to the ongoing preservation, conservation and enhancement of these assets.

The regional strategic objectives for archaeology and built heritage are to:

- secure the protection, conservation and, where possible, the enhancement of our built and archaeological heritage;
- promote sustainable development and environmental stewardship with regard to our built and archaeological heritage; and
- 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.

The potential for loss or damage to archaeological sites and the built heritage as a result of unsympathetic development is a material consideration in the determination of planning applications and the outworking of this through the development management system will be the primary mechanism for the implementation of the regional strategic policy. However, an essential prerequisite for this, particularly in the context of a plan-led system, will be the LDP.

The LDP, should identify the main built and archaeological heritage features, where they exist within the plan area (as detailed below), and bring forward appropriate policies or 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.

- World Heritage Sites
- Archaeological Sites and Monuments
- Listed Buildings
- Conservation Areas
- Areas of Townscape or Village Character
- Local Landscape Policy Areas

Natural Heritage

Sustaining and enhancing biodiversity is fundamental to furthering sustainable development. The Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy and EU Biodiversity Strategy seek to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystems services by 2020. Furthermore, the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 places a statutory duty on every public body to further the conservation of biodiversity. However, all of us share the collective responsibility to preserve and improve the natural environment and halt the loss of biodiversity for the benefit of future generations.

The regional strategic objectives for natural heritage are to:

- 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.

In the preparation of the LDP, and in the determination of planning applications, the Council should apply the precautionary principle when considering the impacts of a proposed development on national or international significant landscape or natural heritage resources.

Appropriate weight must be given to designated sites of international, national and local importance; protected species; priority habitats and priority species; and to other biodiversity and geological interests within the wider environment.

The Council should take full account of the implications of proposed land use zonings, 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. The LDP 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.

The LDP should seek to protect and integrate certain features of the natural heritage when zoning sites for development through 'key site requirements'. In addition 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.

The LDP 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.

Councils are also required to ensure that potential effects on landscape and natural heritage, including the cumulative effect of development are considered when preparing the LDP. With careful planning and design the potential for conflict can be minimised and enhancement of features brought about.

(c) Regional Planning Policy Statements

2.5 Planning Policy Statement 2 (PPS 2) – Natural Heritage, Planning Policy Statement 6 (PPS 6) - Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage, and Planning Policy Statement 6 Addendum - Areas of Townscape Character (ATCs) set out the current regional policy for the protection of conservation interests. Planning Policy Statement 21 (PPS 21) - Sustainable Development in the Countryside, and the Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (PSRNI) contain current regional policies in relation to the environment including protection of rural landscapes and the coast. These policy documents will continue to apply until the Plan Strategy of the LDP is adopted.

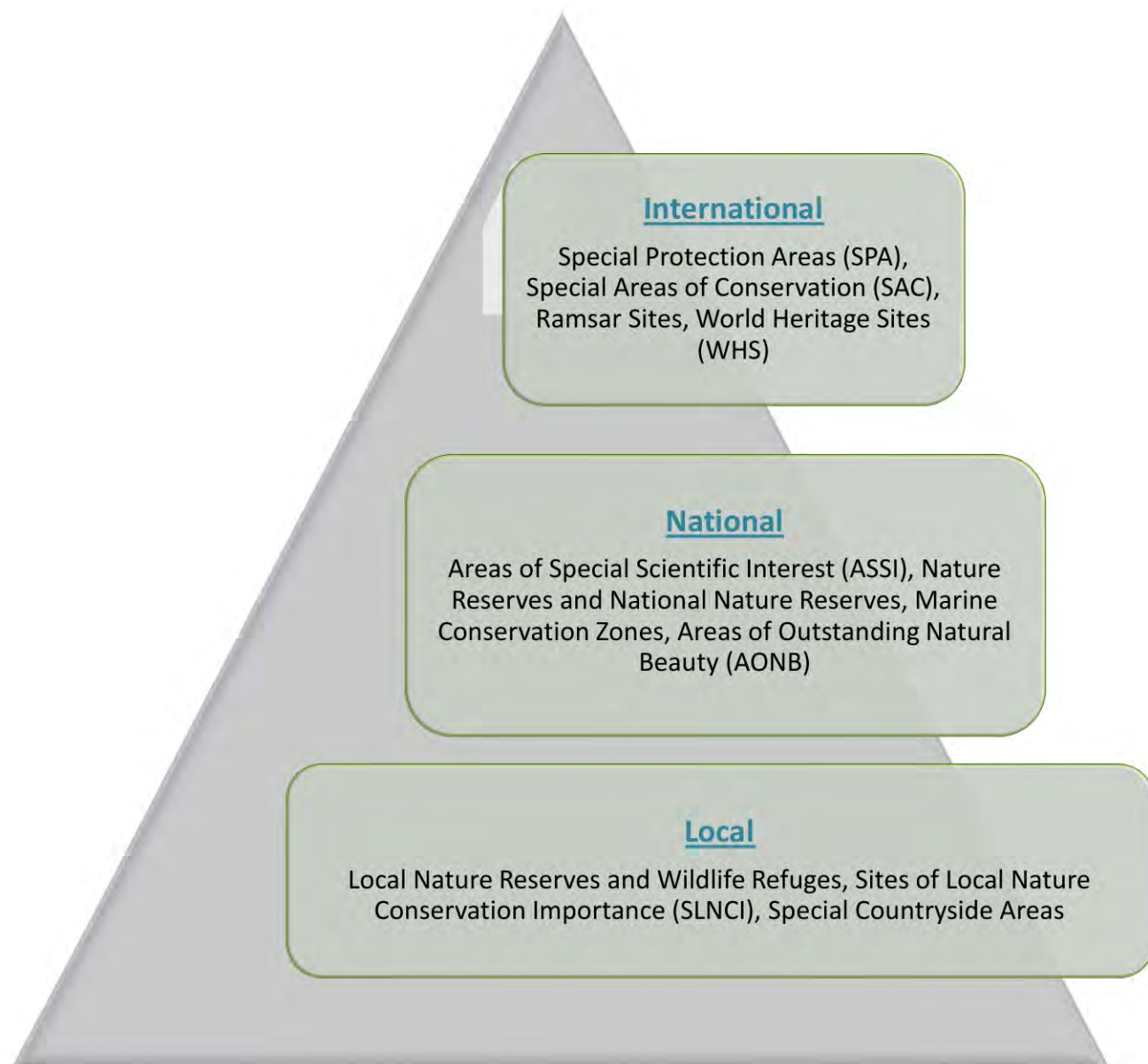
Planning Policy Statement 2 – Natural Heritage

2.6 PPS 2 advises that the policy objectives for natural heritage are to:

- seek to further the conservation, enhancement and restoration of the abundance, quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the region's natural heritage;
- further sustainable development by ensuring that biological and geological diversity are 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 biodiversity in supporting economic diversification and contributing to a high quality environment;
- protect and enhance biodiversity, geo-diversity and the environment; and
- take actions to reduce our carbon footprint and facilitate adaptation to climate change.

2.7 A hierarchy of designations is available under European and local legislation and designation is primarily the responsibility of NIEA. Generally sites are selected for their rarity value or for the diversity of species and habitats they contain, or as a representative example of their habitat type on a local, national or international scale. Some designations are brought forward under the LDP process. The range of nature conservation designations are outlined in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Hierarchy of Nature Conservation Designations



International

- **Special Protection Areas (SPA)** – designated under the European Commission Directive on the conservation of wild birds.
- **Special Areas of Conservation (SACs)** – designated under the European Commission's Habitats Directive.
- **Ramsar Sites** – are those areas covered by the Convention on Wetlands which seeks the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. This recognises wetlands as ecosystems that are extremely important for biodiversity conservation in general and for the well-being of human communities.
- **World Heritage Site (WHS)** – designated under the UNESCO World Heritage Convention of 1972 which links the concepts of nature conservation and the preservation of cultural properties. (The Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast World Heritage Site is the only WHS designated in Northern Ireland).

National

- **Areas of Special Scientific Interest (ASSI)** - represent the very best examples of Northern Ireland's impressive natural heritage, and within them may be found our most important, rare or threatened habitats and species or geological features. They are designated under the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 (as amended).
- **Nature Reserves and National Nature Reserves** – Nature reserves are chosen from among the very best examples of our wildlife, habitats and geology. They are designated under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.
- **Marine Conservation Zones*** – designated by the DOE under the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013 to protect, conserve and manage its priority marine features (habitats, species, natural features)
- **Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB)** – these are designated under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 primarily for their high landscape quality, wildlife importance and rich cultural and architectural heritage.

Local

- **Local Nature Reserves (LNR) and Wildlife Refuges** – LNRs can be provided by District Councils for nature conservation under powers conferred to them under the Nature Conservation and Amenity Lands (Northern Ireland) Order 1985. They are particularly appropriate for educational, recreational or public information services. The Department can also provide a Wildlife Refuge under the Wildlife Order.

* Marine Conservation Zones replaced Marine Nature Reserves following the introduction of the Marine Act (Northern Ireland) 2013

- **Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCI)** – identified through the LDP process with policies provided in the plan for their protection and /or enhancement.
- **Special Countryside Areas** – identified through the LDP process with local policies to protect their unique qualities

Planning Policy Statement 6 - Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage and Planning Policy Statement 6 – Addendum, Areas of Townscape Character

2.8 The policy objectives of PPS 6 are to:

- secure the protection, conservation and, where possible, the enhancement of our built and archaeological heritage;
- promote sustainable development and environmental stewardship with regard to our built and archaeological heritage; and
- encourage the link between conservation and economic prosperity.

2.9 In preparing LDPs, councils should take into account the implications of local policies and proposals on all features of the archaeological and built heritage and their settings, and the implications of proposed land use zonings, locations for development and settlement limits on natural heritage features within or adjoining the plan area. LDPs should identify the range of built and archaeological heritage features within the plan area and bring forward policies or proposals for their protection, conservation and enhancement. These include the following:

- **Archaeological Sites and Monuments** (State Care, scheduled and other);
- **Areas of Archaeological Potential/Significant Archaeological Interest** – areas within settlements where archaeological remains are likely to be encountered during development;
- **Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes** – a register of parks, gardens and demesnes of special historic interest is held by NIEA;
- **Listed Buildings** – buildings designated as being of 'special architectural or historic interest' (NIEA responsibility);
- **Conservation Areas** – Areas of special architectural or historic interest;
- **Areas of Townscape Character or Areas of Village Character** – areas of unique identity within settlements (designated through the LDP process);and
- **Local Landscape Policy Areas (LLPAs)** – features or areas within and adjoining settlements considered to be of greatest amenity value, landscape quality or local significance (designated through the LDP process).

2.10 The Addendum to PPS 6 provides additional planning policies relating to Areas of Townscape Character/Areas of Village Character, for demolition of buildings, new development and the control of advertisements, this must be read in conjunction with the policies contained within PPS 6.

Planning Policy Statement 21 – Sustainable Development in the Countryside

2.11 The aim of PPS 21 is to manage 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.

2.12 The objectives of PPS 21 are to:

- manage growth in the countryside to achieve appropriate and sustainable patterns of development that meet the essential needs of a vibrant rural community;
- conserve the landscape and natural resources of the rural area and to protect it from excessive, inappropriate or obtrusive development and from the actual or potential effects of pollution;
- facilitate development necessary to achieve a sustainable rural economy; including appropriate farm diversification and other economic activity; and
- promote high standards in the design, siting and landscaping of development in the countryside.

(d) A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland

2.13 The majority of the policies within A Planning Strategy for Rural Northern Ireland (PSRNI) have been superseded by Planning Policy Statements. The Strategy does however outline the regional policies to protect and to guide development in the coastal zone.

(e) Other Relevant Strategies

2.14 The EU Biodiversity Strategy seeks to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystems services by 2020 and this is reflected in both Priority 3 of the Programme for Government (PfG) and the RDS. Furthermore, the Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 places a statutory duty on every public body to further the conservation of biodiversity. The Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy 2002 sets the framework for biodiversity action. The Biodiversity Strategy describes the main features of biodiversity in Northern Ireland, identifies the main factors affecting it and proposes a number of measures to support biodiversity conservation up to 2016. A new biodiversity strategy is being prepared to help halt the loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystems up to 2020.

2.15 Biodiversity is the total variety of all living things – of wildlife habitats, wild plants and animals. At the larger scale, biodiversity relates to the variation in landscapes and habitats and at the smallest scale to genetic differences in plants and animals. Biodiversity is vital to the health of the planet and to quality of life. The enhancement of biodiversity will be one of the most powerful indicators of progress towards sustainability.

2.16 It is important to recognise the biodiversity significance of Northern Ireland's habitats in the British Isles and beyond. As one of the most westerly outliers of

Europe, many of our communities of plants and animals represent extreme oceanic (mild and wet) examples.

2.17 The Biodiversity Strategy initially identified 40 habitat types as priorities for conservation action in Northern Ireland. This was later revised to 51 in April 2010. Northern Ireland Priority Species (NIPS) requiring conservation action are also identified and the list now stands at 481 species, an increase of 271 on the 'old' list when the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy was being prepared.

2.18 The range of priority habitats and species listed through the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy will be protected from development and proposals that could harm their integrity, continuity, links or ecological relationships.

2.19 The most common form of conserving biodiversity is designation, protection and management of 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 through the Plan by designating Sites of Local Nature Conservation Importance (SLNCIs), 187 of which are currently designated in the District.

2.20 In addition to the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy, LDPs should also have regard to the 3 existing Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) within the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area, these documents were produced by the 3 former Councils i.e. Newry and Mourne District Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2009, Down District Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2012 and Banbridge District Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2007. No Biodiversity Action Plan has yet been prepared for the new Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area.

2.21 LBAPs, as prepared by individual councils, aim to conserve biodiversity through local partnerships, taking into account both national and local priorities by involving local people and local organisations through practical delivery of biodiversity conservation.

Newry and Mourne District Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2009

2.22 The Newry and Mourne District Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2009 states that the District supports 24 of the 42 Northern Ireland priority habitats and sustains approximately 164 of 457 Northern Ireland Species of Conservation Concern (SoCC) and 78 of 272 Northern Ireland Priority Species.

Down District Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2012

2.23 The Down District Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2012 states that of the 51 Northern Ireland Priority Habitats at least 39 occur in the District and of the 481 Northern Ireland Priority Species, 185 have been recorded in the District.

Banbridge District Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2007

2.24 The Banbridge District Local Biodiversity Action Plan 2007 does not appear to provide figures in respect of the numbers of priority habitats and priority species within the area.

2.25 It should be noted that the figures included within this paper regarding biodiversity are representative of the data sources currently available and it is recognised that these sources may not be comparable and figures may since have been revised.

(f) Key Legislative Requirements during LDP Preparation Process in relation to Environmental Assets

2.26 Combined with the comprehensive coverage of European Directives, it is a legal requirement on any planning authority to ensure that plans, programmes and projects likely to have significant effects on the environment are made subject to an environmental assessment, prior to their approval or authorisation. Consultation with the public is a key feature of environmental assessment procedures. The level of environmental assessment is proportionate to the scale of the plan, programme or project proposed.

2.27 The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 now places a statutory duty on those planning authorities producing an LDP to undertake a **Sustainability Appraisal (SA)**. This incorporates the principles of sustainable development when preparing such plans and assesses not just the potential environmental impacts of the plan but any economic and social impacts too.

2.28 To assess the environmental implications, the SA will incorporate a **Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)**. European Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment', commonly referred to as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive, is transposed into Northern Ireland law by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (NI) 2004 (EAPP (NI) 2004). The objective of SEA is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental consideration into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.

2.29 An SEA must be carried out in conjunction with, and parallel to, the development of any plan and integrated with the plan process. Under the provisions of the SEA Directive and the Regulations, an Environmental Report is published with the draft plan and must be taken into account before the adoption of the LDP.

2.30 Under the provisions of the **Habitats Regulations**, plan-making authorities are required to undertake an **Appropriate Assessment** for any development plan (or development proposal) which either individually, or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to significantly affect a European Site such as a SPA or SAC.

2.31 The purpose of an Appropriate Assessment is to assess the impacts of a land-use plan against the conservation objectives of a European site and to ascertain whether the plan is likely to adversely affect site integrity. Where significant negative effects are identified, alternative options should be examined to avoid any potentially damaging effects.

2.32 The Shared Environmental Service (Mid & East Antrim Borough Council) will provide advice to the Council to support the preparation of LDPs and will carry out Habitats Regulations Assessments of these plans. However, the undertaking of an SA incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment will be the responsibility of the Council.

3.0 The Environmental Assets of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

3.1 Our Council area is one which is rich in built, natural and landscape heritage. Development at whatever scale has the potential to adversely impact on our environment. There is therefore a significant responsibility on all involved in the planning process to ensure that any potential environmental impacts are identified in order to allow the effects to be considered, avoided or mitigated.

3.2 As the planning authority, we must pursue our economic and social priorities whilst simultaneously being aware of our legislative obligations in relation to our environmental assets.

3.3 Within this Paper the environmental assets of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have been classified into two categories: (a) archaeological and built heritage and (b) natural heritage and nature conservation. The format of this Paper follows that sequence.

3.4 The boundary of the newly formed Newry, Mourne and Down District Council encompasses the former Newry and Mourne District Council, Down District Council and the Ballyward Ward which was formerly within Banbridge District Council.

3.5 This Paper therefore includes references to the Area Plans for each of these areas i.e. Banbridge/Newry and Mourne Area Plan 2015 and Ards and Down Area Plan 2015. Within this Paper the environmental designations within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council are, on occasion, subdivided into geographical lists for each of the former Council areas i.e. former Newry and Mourne Council area, former Down Council area and Ballyward Ward from the former Banbridge Council area.

3.6 The figures quoted throughout this Paper were taken from the most accurate sources available at the time of publication. It should be noted that these figures are subject to continual review and updates.

4.0 Archaeological and Built Heritage Features within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Area

Within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council there are:

- 2016 Archaeological Sites and Monuments
- 643 Listed Buildings
- 35 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes
- 924 Industrial Heritage Sites
- 33 Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest/ Areas of Archaeological Potential
- 10 Conservation Areas
- 27 Areas of Townscape Character
- 216 Local Landscape Policy Areas

Each of these designations are detailed below, for ease of reference and where relevant, the designations within each category have been identified within each of the legacy council areas.

Archaeological Sites and Monuments

4.1 Historic Monuments in State Care

Archaeological sites and monuments are taken into the guardianship of the Department of the Environment (DOE) under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995. State care sites and monuments represent all periods of human settlement in Ireland from around 7,000BC to the 20th century, include some of the premier examples of monument types in Northern Ireland, and within the District these including pre-historic Ballynoe Stone Circle, the Neolithic King's Ring and Court Tomb in Clontygora, late medieval Narrow Water Castle in Warrenpoint and 14th Century Ringhaddy Church.

Monuments in State Care have many values, they are a tangible link to our past and hold information on how our predecessors lived, and for this reason they are fascinating places to visit. They are also located in both rural and urban environments, so that State Care Monuments often provide important habitats for wildlife that may not survive in the surrounding area. State care sites are also used as an important educational tool as some facilitate educational programmes and events.

There are currently 42 Historic Monuments in State Care within the District.

4.2 Scheduled Monuments

Under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995 the DOE has a duty to compile and maintain a schedule of monuments. Monuments on the

schedule have statutory protection and inclusion is at the DOE's discretion. In practice most proposals for scheduling originate within NIEA and consultation is required with the Historic Monuments Council before a monument is added to or removed from the schedule. They include sites dating from 7000 BC to the 20th century such as prehistoric tombs, earthworks of all kinds, castles, churches, maritime sites, canals and World War 2 defences.

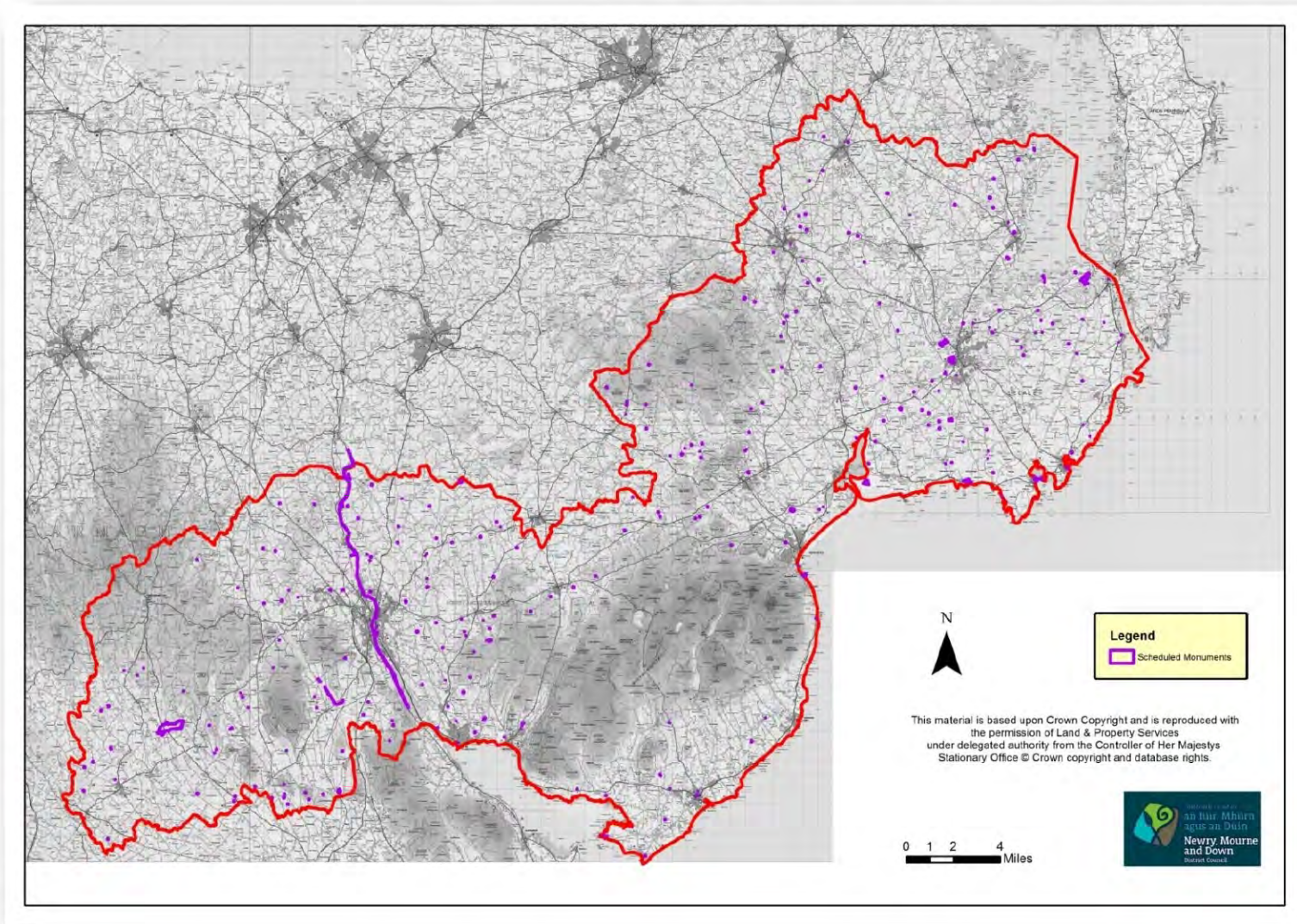
There are currently 286 Scheduled Monuments within the District; these are illustrated in Figure 2.

4.3 Unscheduled Monuments

Large numbers of known archaeological sites are likely to remain unscheduled and whether or not they are preserved will depend on the value of the remains, the commitment of the owners and the public and the policies of public agencies.

There are currently 1688 Unscheduled Monuments within the District.

Figure 2: Scheduled Monuments
Source: NIEA



4.4 Listed Buildings

Article 80 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 requires the DOE to compile a list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest. Such buildings are important for their intrinsic value and for their contribution to the character and quality of settlements and the open countryside of Northern Ireland.

The list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest records the best of our architectural heritage. It includes every type of building, ranging from grand mansions and cathedrals to warehouses and vernacular architecture. As well as conventional buildings, the list may include man made objects or structures not normally considered as buildings, for example tombstones, telephone kiosks, post-boxes, gates, war memorials, bridges, docks and other industrial structures.

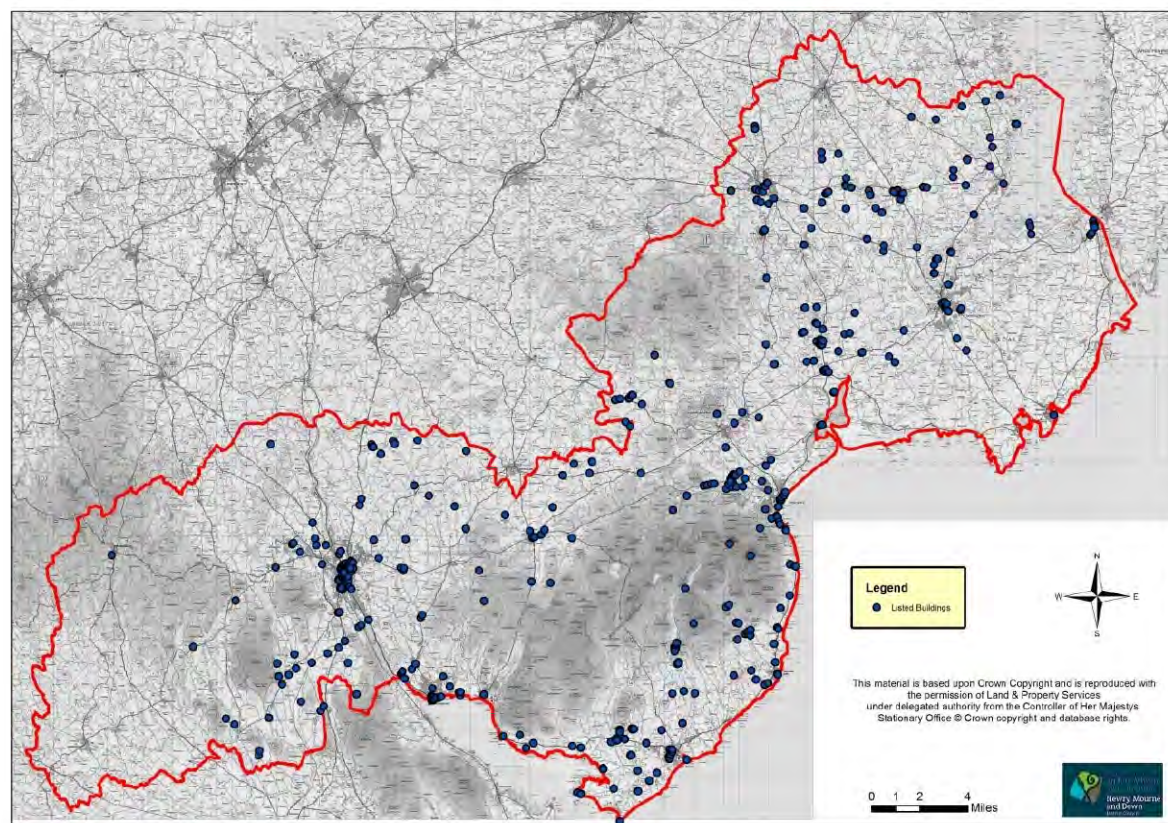
There are approximately 643 Listed Buildings within the District; these are illustrated in Figure 3.

There are approximately 379 Listed Buildings within the former Newry and Mourne Council area (HB 16).

There are approximately 249 Listed Buildings within the former Down Council area (HB 18).

There are approximately 15 Listed Buildings within the Ballyward Ward (HB17) which was part of the former Banbridge Council area.

Figure 3: Listed Buildings
Source: NIEA



4.5 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes

The character and appearance of the modern landscape of Northern Ireland owes much to ornamental parks and gardens associated with our country houses, institutions and public parks. For over three centuries they have been an important feature of the countryside. Many are distinguished by their carefully composed design of trees, meadow and water, perhaps as a setting for a building; some boast a valuable collection of trees, shrubs or plants; others may provide a significant historic record, either of a particular era or showing how the design has changed over the centuries. Aside from their contribution to the quality and character of our local landscape, those that are open to the public provide an important recreational resource. However, it is a fragile heritage, for unlike other works of art, these gardens and designed landscapes are living, growing and evolving. As such they need careful management. NIEA has prepared a register of parks, gardens and demesnes of special historic interest in Northern Ireland, there are 35 within the District, these are listed below.

There are 14 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes within the former Newry and Mourne Council area:

1. Ballyedmond
2. Derrymore House and The Woodhouse
3. Dromantine House
4. Drumbanagher
5. Green Park
6. Hawthorne Hill
7. Killevy Castle
8. Mourne Park
9. Narrow Water Castle
10. Warrenpoint Park
11. Rostrevor House

Supplementary Sites

12. Ballymoyer
13. Fairy Hill
14. Forkhill House

There are 20 Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes within the former Down Council area:

1. Ballytrim
2. Castleward
3. Castlewellan Castle
4. Crossgar House (Tobar Mhuire)
5. Delamont
6. Finnebrogue House
7. Killyleagh Castle
8. Monalto House
9. Mount Panther
10. Myra Castle
11. Ringdufferin
12. Rademon
13. Rowallane
14. Saintfield House
15. Seaforde House
16. Tollymore Park
17. Tyrella House

Supplementary Sites

18. Ballee House
19. Ballydugan House
20. Church Hill

There is 1 Historic Park, Garden and Demesne within the Ballyward Ward which was formerly in the Banbridge Council area:

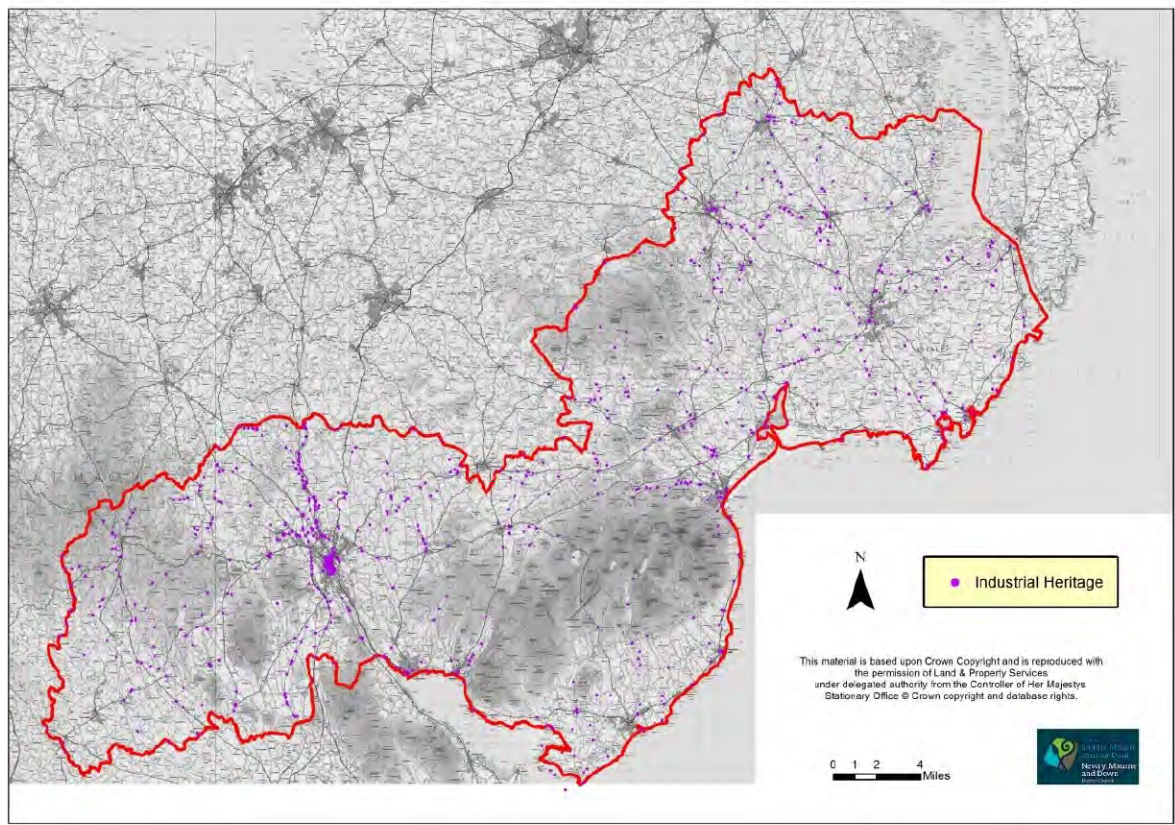
1. Ballyward Lodge

4.6 Industrial Heritage

The Newry, Mourne and Down District Council area contains a wealth of remains of industrial heritage, all of which are reminders of the economic development of the area. The NIEA holds and updates a record of industrial heritage sites, including features such as former railway structures, viaducts and mill buildings. Some of these may have been lost or only retain a few elements of their original form. The most important sites are afforded statutory protection as archaeological sites or listed buildings.

There are approximately 924 Industrial Heritage sites within the District; these are illustrated in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Industrial Heritage
Source: NIEA



4.7 Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest and Areas of Archaeological Potential

Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest identify particularly distinctive areas of the historic landscape in Northern Ireland. Development Plans in consultation with NIEA will, where appropriate, designate these areas. They are likely to include a number of individual and related sites and monuments and may also be distinguished by their landscape, character and topography. Development plans will also highlight, for the information of prospective developers, those areas within the historic cores of towns and villages, 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. Within the District there are 3 designated Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest and 30 designated Areas of Archaeological Potential; these are listed below and are illustrated in Figure 5.

There is 1 Area of Significant Archaeological Interest within the former Newry and Mourne Council area; this is located within the following settlement:

1. The Dorsey

There are 18 Areas of Archaeological Potential within the former Newry and Mourne Council area; these are located within the following settlements:

1. Newry
2. Crossmaglen
3. Kilkeel
4. Newtownhamilton
5. Annalong
6. Attical
7. Camlough
8. Cullyhanna
9. Forkhill
10. Hilltown
11. Mayobridge
12. Rostrevor
13. Belleek
14. Creggan
15. Cullaville
16. Greencastle
17. Jerretspass
18. Killowen

There are 2 Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest within the former Down Council area; these are located within the following settlements:

1. Downpatrick
2. Dundrum

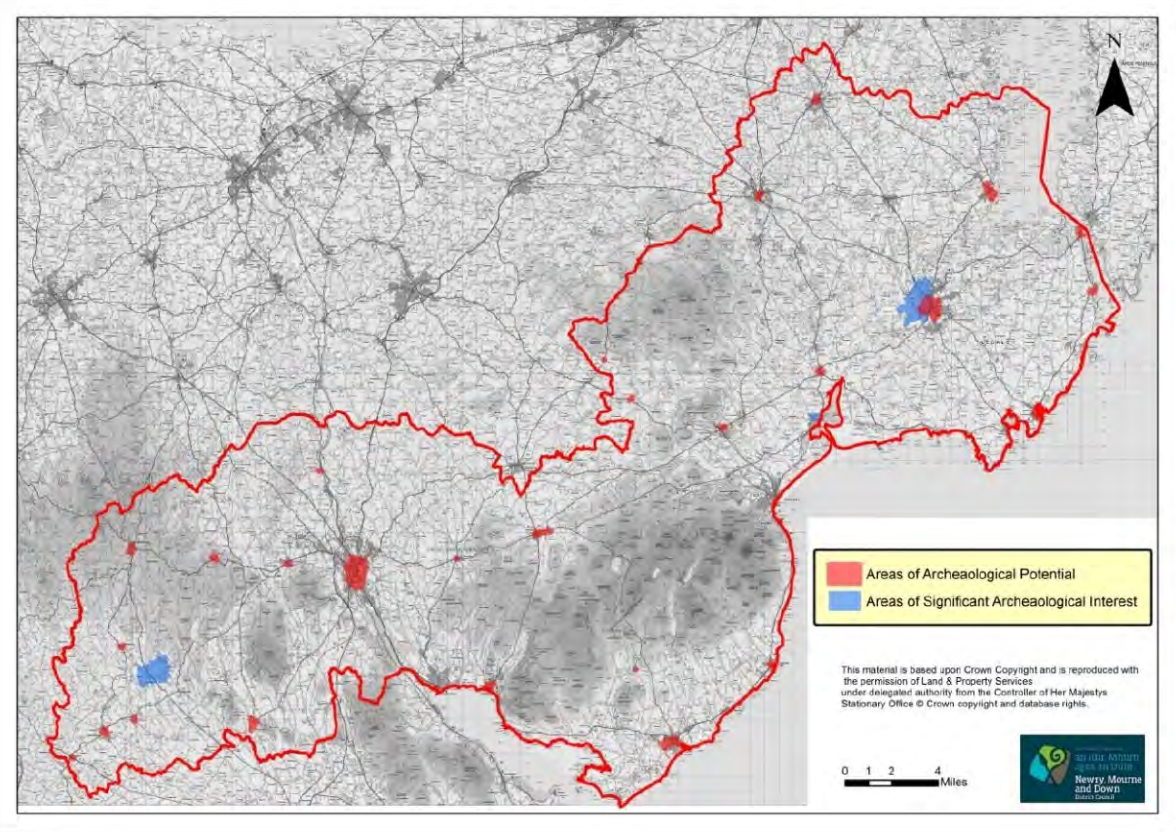
There are 10 Areas of Archaeological Potential within the former Down Council area; these are located within the following settlements:

1. Downpatrick
2. Ballynahinch
3. Newcastle
4. Ardglass
5. Castlewellan
6. Clough
7. Killyleagh
8. Saintfield
9. Strangford
10. Kilclief

There are 2 Areas of Archaeological Potential within the Ballyward Ward which was formerly in the Banbridge Council area; these are located within the following settlements:

1. Ballyward
2. Dechomet

Figure 5: Areas of Archaeological Potential and Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest
 Source: NIEA



4.8 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. There are 10 Conservation Areas within the District, these are listed below and are illustrated in Figure 6. Details of each designated Conservation Area are specified within the relevant Development Plan and specific townscape and design advice can be found in the relevant designation booklets.

Conservation areas within the former Newry and Mourne Council area:

1. Bessbrook – designated October 1983
2. Newry – designated May 1983
3. Rostrevor – designated February 1979

Conservation areas within the former Down Council area:

1. Ardglass – designated June 1996
2. Castlewellan – designated December 1992
3. Downpatrick – designated March 1985
4. Killough – designated March 1981
5. Killyleagh – designated March 1993
6. Saintfield – designated February 1997
7. Strangford – designated September 1985

There are no Conservation Areas within the Ballyward Ward which was formerly in the Banbridge Council area.

4.9 Areas of Townscape Character

Many cities, towns and villages contain areas which exhibit a distinct character and intrinsic qualities, often based on their historic built form or layout. Some of these have merited statutory designation as Conservation Areas by virtue of their special architectural or historic interest. For others, recognition as Areas of Townscape Character (ATCs) has been judged to be more appropriate.

There are 27 Areas of Townscape Character designated within settlements in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, these are listed below and are illustrated in Figure 6. Details of each designated ATC are specified within the relevant Development Plan.

Areas of Townscape Character within the former Newry and Mourne Council area:

- 1 in Annalong
- 2 in Bessbrook
- 1 in Crossmaglen
- 1 in Forkhill

- 1 in Hilltown
- 1 in Jerrettspass
- 1 in Kilkeel
- 10 in Newry City
- 2 in Rostrevor
- 2 in Warrenpoint/Burren

Areas of Townscape Character within the former Down Council area:

- 1 in Newcastle
- 1 in Dundrum
- 1 in Bryansford
- 1 in Seaforde

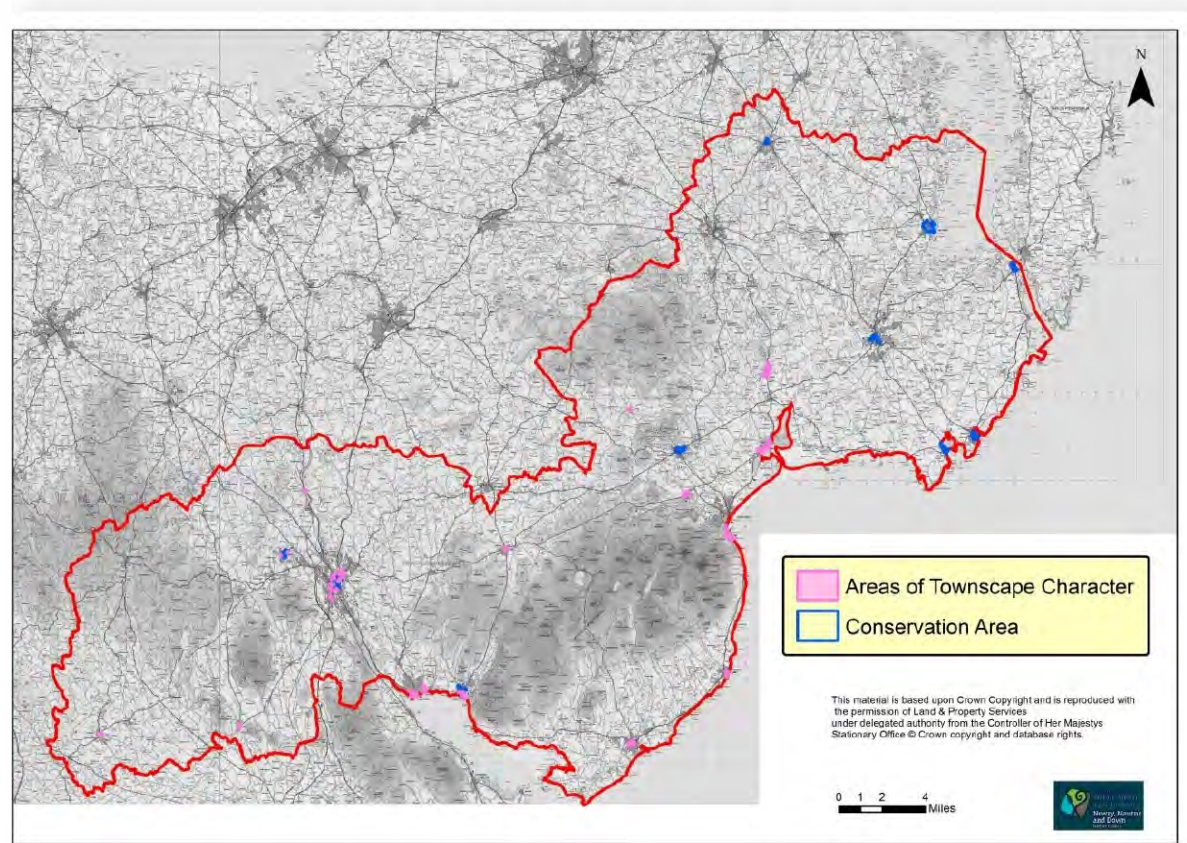
Areas of Townscape Character in the Ballyward Ward which was formerly in the Banbridge Council area:

- 1 in Leitrim

There are no Areas of Village Character within Newry, Mourne and Down Council.

As part of the LDP preparation process, all existing ATC designations will be reviewed and any additional ATCs or Areas of Village Character will be identified.

Figure 6: Conservation Areas and Areas of Townscape Character
Source: NIEA



4.10 Local Landscape Policy Areas

In accordance with PPS 6 environmental assets, identified as part of the process of the Countryside Assessment, will normally form the basis for the designation of 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;
- river banks and shore lines 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.

There are 216 LLPAs within the District, these are listed below and are illustrated in Figure 7. Details of each designated LLPA are specified within the relevant Development Plan.

There are 112 LLPAs in the former Newry and Mourne Council area:

23 in Newry
 2 in Crossmaglen
 10 in Kilkeel
 3 in Newtownhamilton
 10 in Warrenpoint/Burren
 4 in Annalong
 1 in Attical
 2 in Ballymartin
 3 in Bessbrook
 4 in Camlough
 2 in Cullyhanna
 1 in Forkhill
 3 in Hilltown
 2 in Jonesborough
 2 in Mayobridge
 4 in Meigh
 1 in Mullaghbane
 1 in Rostrevor
 3 in Altnamackan/Cortamlet
 2 in Barnmeen
 4 in Belleek
 1 in Creggan
 1 in Drumintee

2 in Dunaval/Ballyardle
1 in Glasdrumman
3 in Glasdrumman/Mullartown
1 in Glen
2 in Greencastle
1 in Jerrettspass
1 in Killowen
2 in Lislea
1 in Longstone
1 in Lurganare
2 in Mullaghglass
2 in Sheeptown
1 in Silverbridge
1 in Tullyherron
2 in Whitecross

There are 98 LLPAs in the former Down Council area:

6 in Downpatrick
13 in Ballynahinch
7 in Newcastle
4 in Annsborough
3 in Ardglass
6 in Castlewellan
1 in Clough
2 in Crossgar
3 in Drumaness
2 in Dundrum
3 in Killough
9 in Killyleagh
9 in Saintfield
3 in Shrigley
2 in Strangford
9 in The Spa
1 in Annacloy
2 in Bryansford
1 in Carricknab
1 in Drumaghlis
1 in Kilclief
1 in Kilcoo
1 in Kilmore
1 in Loughlinisland
1 in Maghera
2 in Raholp
1 in Saul
3 in Seaforde