



National
Trust

'Engaging with cultural and heritage organisations in a Covid world'

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National Trust

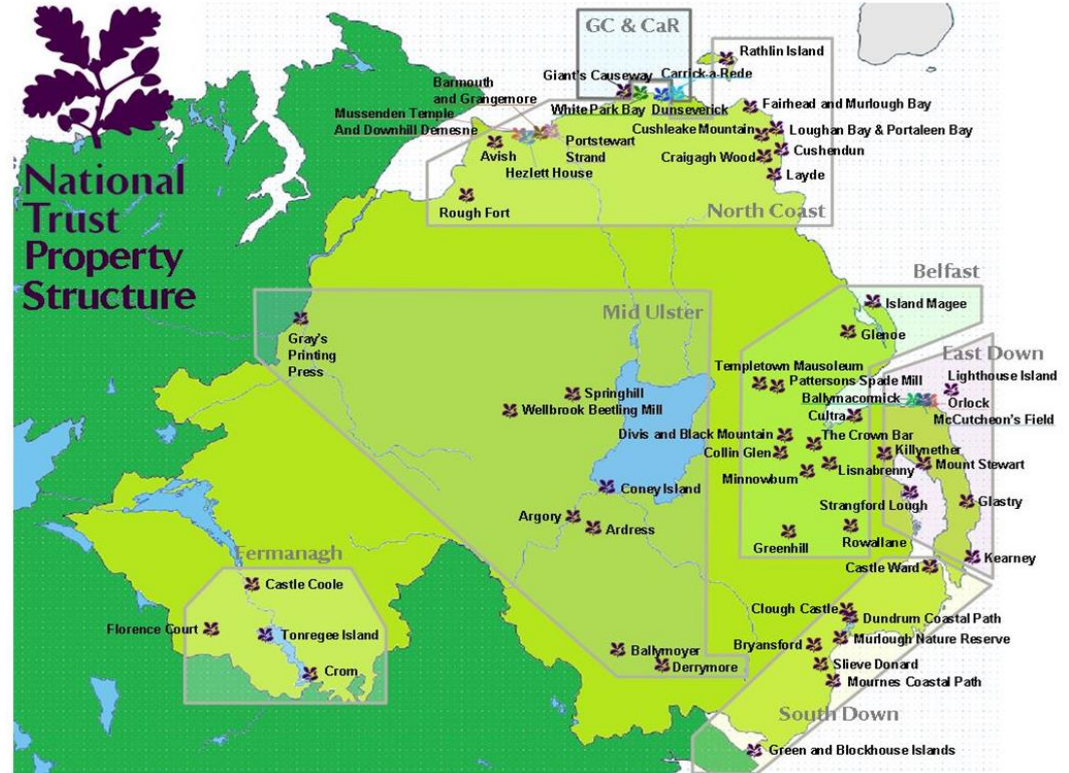
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National Trust in NI

Our primary purpose: to look after and provide access to significant aspects of Northern Ireland's natural, built and cultural heritage for the long term.

- We look after **46 sq. miles of countryside**
- We manage **108 miles (22%) of coastline**
- We spent **£17.6 million on conservation in 2019**
- We have **c100,000 members in NI**



Impact of the pandemic on the National Trust

- Lockdowns and restrictions
- Almost every aspect of income was affected
- Cost-saving measures



Impact on research:

- Greater focus on our strategic needs
- Embrace the opportunities for participation in externally funded projects and research
- Fewer staff and less time: potentially limited resource to supervise on site



Covid Learnings:

- To highlight our core purpose & keep members engaged
- Nature and beauty
- Treasures and gardens

Strategic focus:

- NT Research Strategy currently being up-dated
- IRO status gives us opportunity to work collaboratively and to lead, rather than react to external initiatives
- Learnings and feedback from the Legacies of Slavery & Colonialism report: emphasised the value of well-researched historical information as a fundamental part of our mission and our core purpose.

Hilary McGrady, Director's Blog, NT Website, March 2021

Having lived all of my life in Northern Ireland I know only too well the impact of allowing cultural identity to become a source of division. I want the Trust to be dedicated to finding ways of making the arts, culture and heritage a vehicle for bringing people together, for shared acknowledgement, respect and understanding.

The National Trust must continue to take a wide-ranging and evidence-based approach to history. ...We are here for all of history – for everyone, for ever.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/blogs/directors-blog/responding-to-the-charity-commissions-statement>

Addressing urgent challenges

AHRC funded *Landscape Futures*, with Exeter University & Historic England: to give NT decision makers confidence in managing cultural landscapes undergoing change (e.g. climate change), and to work with the regulator to develop a new decision support framework.



How research is helping to deliver our strategy

Art Fund award to build an LGBTQ+ heritage network to shape practice across the sector was written as a PhD placement. It won the award for Best Partnership at the 2021 Museums+ Heritage Awards.

Connecting expertise



The Irish Research Council & UKRI-funded *3D Craft* is testing methods to widen access to heritage through technology, using Clandon as a case study.

Engaging audiences



Embedded across the Trust

The *RENEW* bid to NERC: to improve how we engage people with nature, and explore the barriers to making nature conservation more accessible

National Priority Topics	Key Strategic Questions
People, Heritage, & Place	How can we deliver public benefit by helping people engage with cultural & natural heritage?
Heritage Understanding & Significance	How does our understanding of heritage significance shape decisions about conservation?
Heritage & Environmental Practices	How can we develop heritage & environmental practice to make our operations more effective & more sustainable?
Responding to Environmental Change	What do changes to climate & environment mean for heritage, culture & biodiversity?
Land Based Economies including Sustainable Production	How do we balance the sustainable delivery of food, timber & other benefits from our land with nature-based solutions that tackle climate change, integrate heritage value & promote wildlife recovery?
Ecosystem planning, monitoring & evaluation	How do we plan natural environment interventions to deliver public benefit & how do we know that they work?
Lived Experiences & Social Histories	How can we increase our understanding of multiple perspectives on history including less-explored histories?
Artistic & cultural production & reception	Who made & influenced built & cultural heritage in England, Wales & Northern Ireland & why?
Global & National Connections	How important are global connections in understanding cultural heritage in England, Wales & Northern Ireland?

Priority Topics	Key Questions : Northern Ireland
People, Heritage, & Place	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audience insights: What prevents people visiting NT places? Transport? Cost? Perceived religious or political affiliation? Are NT places seen as being white, upper class, British? 2. What stories are we failing to tell? How can we make our places more welcoming and inclusive to all?
Heritage Understanding & Significance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does our understanding of heritage significance shape decisions about conservation? 2. Castle Ward: Judge Michael Ward's early 18th century landscaping and the underlying 17th century landscape
Heritage & Environmental Practices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How can we develop heritage & environmental practice to make our operations more effective & more sustainable? 2. From secondary glazing to solar panels: what is the best way to achieve sustainability in historic buildings?
Lived Experiences & Social Histories	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What's the best way to share multiple perspectives on history, including less-explored histories? 2. Investigate a thematic information resource for social history subjects at NT Places. For curators, researchers and public.
Artistic & cultural production & reception	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who made & influenced built & cultural heritage in Northern Ireland & why? 2. Castle Coole: John and Nathaniel Preston: suppliers of the finest furniture and furnishings in Ireland in the Regency period- but hardly known: what is their story? 3. Castle Ward: Bernard and Anne Ward: what were their architectural sources & inspiration?
Global & National Connections	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How important are global connections in understanding cultural heritage in Northern Ireland? 2. What is story of each of our NT places in relation to colonial and Irish political, marginalised or less-explored histories? 3. Mount Stewart: 1822-2022: the 200th anniversary of the death of Viscount Castlereagh.

Follow up questions if time allows

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