Northern Ireland is rich in archaeological sites, monuments, and historic buildings. There are approximately 18,000 known sites and monuments that date before the eighteenth century, as well as industrial era mills, railways, and canals. Over 1,700 historic monuments are officially protected, or "scheduled."

The Built Heritage staff of the Northern Ireland Department of Environment and Heritage Service is responsible for identifying, documenting, and protecting the "built, buried, and underwater remains of human activity from prehistoric times to the present." In addition to historic buildings, Built Heritage is responsible for archaeological, industrial, and maritime sites, as well as historic gardens and designed landscapes.

Northern Ireland's listed buildings, scheduled monuments, and other historic structures range from prehistoric megaliths to humble dwellings and large industrial sites. The first monuments were acquired by the state in 1869; there are now 181 protected properties. Some sites are staffed for visitors, while others are unstaffed and in remote locations. There is an ongoing program to carry out repairs and conservation work. Some of the preservation skills involved are demonstrated in this display.

For more information on Northern Ireland's built heritage, visit www.ehsni.gov.uk/built.htm.

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