Defence Heritage Project



Monday 4th August 2014

100 years since Britain joined forces in WW1 the then Minister for the Environment Mark H. Durkan launched phase two of the Defence Heritage Project (DHP) at Grey Point Fort, with the firing of the Vickers 6inch gun.





Background

- Phase one of the DHP started in 1997
 running until 2001. It was part of the wider
 Defence of Britain Project launched by the
 Council for British Archaeology (CBA)
- A small number of dedicated volunteers identified and recorded many aspects of our defence heritage.
- Over 600 sites were identified and 300 sites of interest have been recorded so far.





Original volunteers



Defence Heritage Features

There are many defence heritage features throughout Northern Ireland. These include:

- Training trenches
- Gun and searchlight emplacements
- Pillboxes
- Observation posts
- Airfields
- Harbours
- Naval and flying boat bases
- Air raid shelters

And many more.

The majority are derelict, some have been reused or others are in a state of decay or have been demolished.



Slit trench, Castle Archdale Flying Boat Station



Coastal Battery. Grey Point Fort, Helens Bay



Scheduled Pill Box Gilford Co. Down



Outreach

Throughout 2014-18 DFC has organised a range of events across Northern Ireland.

Volunteers in the project participated were able to participate in NI's first WW1 archaeological excavation which took place at Grey Point Fort in 2014, this was followed by a community excavation in 2016 of a First World War training trench system at Ballykinler Co. Down, as well as many other living history events.



Greypoint fort excavation

Living
History
event
Grey Point
Fort









Volunteer recruitment



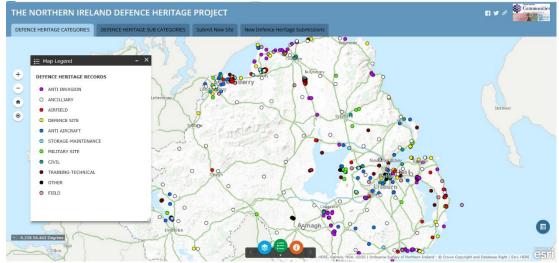


Recording Defence Heritage Sites

Do you know of a defence heritage structure near your home?

We do not only want to record what survives today, but also as much as possible of what had been built and is long since destroyed.

Traditions on stories and photographs also from part of the record.



The user friendly map based web application features, an interactive map of previously recorded defence heritage sites throughout Northern Ireland.

It also features an online tool kit to facilitate the input and collection of further sites.



Information gathered

Information gathered will be made accessible to the public and become part of the National Monuments and Buildings Record for Northern Ireland.

This will help DFC to safeguard Northern Irelands defence heritage through policy and legislation.

The most appropriate form of protection is identified on an individual site basis.





Protection

A number of sites have been Scheduled for protection under the Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995.

These include a fighter pilot dome trainer unique to Northern Ireland and a variety of pill boxes.

Other sites have been Listed for Protection under the Planning Act (NI) 2011.

DFC also work with the local planning authorities to ensure defence heritage sites are given due consideration when dealing with new development applications.



Aghanloo Airfield Training dome.



WW11 Pill box, Castlerock Beach



Contact us

To find out more, to volunteer, or to inform us of a defence heritage structure please contact us:

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