

**More people have engaged with indoor heritage and the gap with natural heritage has decreased.**

82% have visited indoor heritage which is higher than Panel 1 (73%).

85 locations were visited with the highest being Ulster Museum, Castle Ward, Mount Stewart and Hillsborough Castle.

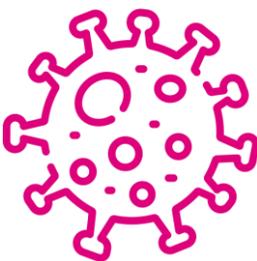


*"I love visiting heritage buildings and spaces and am starting to feel more relaxed."*

*"Enjoyable and good to soak in some history and culture again."*

*"It was exciting and a fun day out. It was nice to explore and see new things/ things we hadn't seen in a while."*

**18% had not visited indoor heritage. Covid anxiety or Covid measures were the main reasons.**



*"Restrictions were a reason ..wearing masks indoors etc off putting and waiting for something exciting to visit."*

*"Covid restrictions. Not wanting to be indoors with people not from my household."*

*"As a vulnerable person I avoid inside attractions where possible."*

**Half of people had visited a museum which is growth from the first panel (32%). People need incentives and reminders to return.**

*"I just need to get back to doing it. It is strange how we have all got used to going less places and spending more of our free time at home."*

*"General nervousness about using public transport, accessing and navigating an indoor environment. Uncertainty of what is required of me in advance of arrival and what is expected of me when I get there."*

*"There isn't many museums in NI and they don't change their exhibitions that often so there isn't the draw to keep revisiting them if you have already been."*

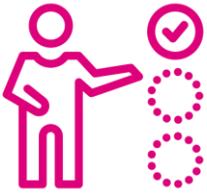
**Despite more people returning to built heritage, frequency is lower than pre-Covid with 67% visiting less often. Limiting indoor social mixing was a key factor with other changes to people's lifestyles also impacting on leisure time.**

*"I spend more time at home. I feel life has become very much work and home. Need to change my habits."*

*"Don't have visitors coming to stay so not taking them out as much."*

*"Visiting everywhere less than before covid. Still being careful."*

*"Only pop inside for brief period as I do not wish to meet too many people."*



*"Covid definitely alternated my time and what is more possible to do these days. Covid changed my lifestyle and leisure time, I have taken on other commitments and this had dramatically reduced what I can do for leisure."*

*"Assumed everywhere was closed."*

**45% of people who had visited indoor heritage felt completely safe which is lower than Panel 1 (58%). 7% said they felt completely unsafe. Implementing safety measures was important.**



*"A bit nervous at first, but I could see what measures were in place and what parts of the museum were not available- touchscreens- so I felt better."*

*"Didn't even get as far as paying entrance fee, some people had no masks."*

*"Visitor numbers were capacity controlled and staggered entry. Never felt crowded or unsafe. If another group was too close for comfort, we were able to easily hang back or step to the side to ensure we had our own space."*

*"Frustrated as while guidance was visible few people followed it and little enforcement occurred."*

Over 90% had visited natural heritage with 1 in 4 visiting more often than before Covid.



*"Much more necessary. I didn't realise how much there was available. I really enjoy getting to see all the places."*

*"I value it even more than before as it became - almost literally! - a lifeline during Covid and at least some of that has remained with me since."*

*"I love natural heritage as I appreciate the importance of outdoor space and feeling safe."*

However there was also an increase in people saying they were visiting natural heritage less often than before Covid (35%)

Average frequency was down from 8.3 (Panel 1) to 6.4 times per month.

The number of people visiting their local park or garden was 56% which is lower than Panel 1 (69%).



*"I don't feel differently about natural heritage sites but I have been able to visit them. It has been difficult to know what indoor sites are open."*

The Heritage Panel is funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund to collect regular evidence of attitudes to heritage in response to Covid. The third panel survey ran from 1 February to 1 March 2022. There were 101 responses to the survey which focused on qualitative responses to attending and the reasons for not attending.