INTRODUCTION

The Newry Conservation Area was originally designated in May 1983. Encompassing an area to the north of the town centre, the initial boundary, containing the majority of Newry’s listed buildings, included Kildare Street, Sugar Island, Sugarhouse Quay, Basin Walk, Basin Quay, Trevor Hill, Sandy’s Street and part of Downshire Road.

In December 1992 the boundary was extended southwards to incorporate:

- The historic commercial spine of Hill Street/John Mitchel Place;
- The original 12th Century settlement incorporating the higher land at High Street/Abbey Way;
- The areas abutting the canal/river at Canal Quay and the Mall/Mary Street.

The Department has now designated a further extension to the Conservation Area comprising an area to the northwest of the existing boundary to include Canal Quay, New Street, the lower part of Canal Street and part of Merchants Quay.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The historical significance of the area included within the Conservation Area extension can be dated back to the opening of the Newry Canal in 1741. The John Rocque map of 1760 and the Matthew Wren map of 1761 show the river, canal, Canal Street, Canal Quay and what was later to become New Street. The area also contains a nucleus of 19th Century canal bank warehousing, industrial and commercial buildings, merchant’s houses and property in the ownership of the Convent of Mercy.

The area contains a substantial number of buildings of great townscape character including two buildings listed for their special architectural or historic significance - Clancy Mill at New Street and No.10 Canal Street.

The Department considers that Conservation Area status recognises the unique contribution of the built heritage of this area and will help ensure that this will be sensitively managed in the future, particularly in the face of the increased development pressures evident within Newry town centre.

This boundary revision also removes an anomaly whereby the canal and those buildings on its north bank at Canal Quay previously lay outside the Conservation Area. The special historic and aesthetic importance of this area in its entirety has now been given due recognition.

POLICY GUIDELINES

Conservation Area status introduces control over the demolition of unlisted property in the area and the prime consideration of the Department in assessing development proposals in future will be the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character and appearance of the area.

Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 6 “Planning, Archaeology and the Built Heritage” contains the Department’s current regional planning policies for Conservation Areas and other features of the built heritage.

As the area within the extended Conservation Area is similar in character to parts of the existing Conservation Area, the Department considers that the guidance set out in the Newry Conservation Area booklet published in December 1992 is relevant and would therefore expect development proposals to have regard to this guidance.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

In May 2000, Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) approved an application for funding submitted by the Canal Street Area Heritage Partnership under the Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI). It is intended that an enhancement strategy will be prepared for the area covered by the THI scheme and that a rolling programme of financial support for the restoration of historic elements and conservation-led regeneration will be implemented over a 5-year time frame.

The majority of the buildings included within this extension to the Conservation Area are also within the boundary of the area covered by the THI scheme.

Grant aid to eligible properties within the THI area will be available from HLF and from the Department’s Conservation Area Grant. Other grant sources may also be available as partnership funding for specific schemes approved as part of the THI enhancement strategy.

Anyone requiring further information on financial assistance or any other matter in relation to the Newry Conservation Area should contact the Development Plan/Regeneration section at:

Craigavon Divisional Planning Office,
Marlborough House
Central Way
CRAGAVON BT64 1AD

Telephone: (028) 3834 1144
e-mail: divisional.planning.office.craigavon@nics.gov.uk

Conservation Area Extension

March 2001
Notice is hereby given that the Department of the Environment, in pursuance of the powers conferred on it by Article 50 of the Planning (NI) Order 1991, has varied the boundary of the Newry Conservation Area to include an additional area comprising Canal Quay, New Street, the lower part of Canal Street and part of Merchants Quay as indicated on the map. This area is considered to be of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

The Department has formally consulted with Newry & Mourne District Council and the Historic Buildings Council and has obtained their agreement to this Conservation Area boundary extension. The Department also invited comments from the public and no objections were received.