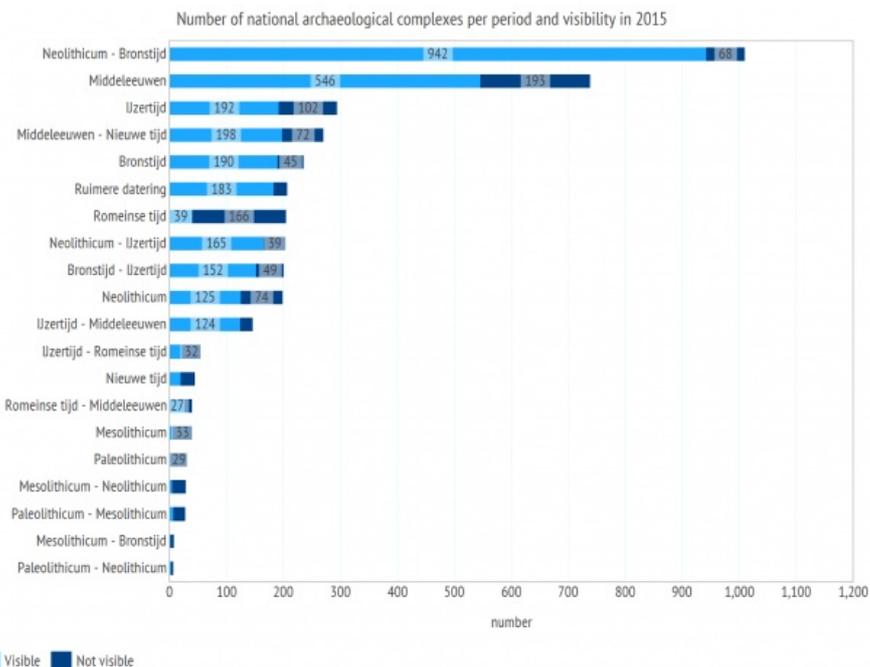Home > Indicators > Archaeological sites - complexes per period

Archaeological sites - complexes per period

Publication date: 22 March 2019

Generally speaking, most newly listed archaeological complexes are from more recent periods. The Neolithic-Bronze Age (1,010) is an exception, with a large number of protected barrows from this period.

The bar chart above show the number of archaeological complexes in the Netherlands for each period by total number and visibility in 2015.

From 2015 on the archaeological complexes and terrains were not registered anymore. The count of complexes and terrains is therefore 'frozen' at the end of 2015. So, eventhough since 2015 the count of archaeological monuments has gone up, that of the of complexes and terrains has not. Therefore in this indicator is shown the count of 2015.

Few Stone Age complexes

The Stone Age is not well represented among the protected complexes. This is particularly true of the Palaeolithic (Early Stone Age) and Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age). The 142 complexes from this period cover some 300,000 years of our occupation history.

Large number of complexes from the Neolithic-Iron Age

The relatively large number of protected complexes dating from the Neolithic to the Iron Age is mainly the result of the large number of barrows from these periods.

Most archaeological complexes visible

Despite the fact that more and more complexes that are not visible at the surface are being awarded protected status, some 75% of the list still consists of visible archaeological complexes.

Small rise in number of old and recent complexes

In recent years policy has focused on working towards a representative list of monuments. This is reflected mainly in a small increase in the number of very old and recent complexes. Only a small number of complexes from the most recent period, the Early Modern Period, have protected status.

Sources:

Register of Monuments and Historic Buildings, Cultural Heritage Agency of the Netherlands (RCE)

31 December 2015

Monitoring frequency: not anymore

Responsibility:

The primary information on archaeological monuments is based on data from the Register of Monuments and Historic Buildings and the annotated description.

Read more about this topic here.