

Heritage responds -  
**Taking positive action  
on climate change**

## Case study

# Nature Based Solutions – Heritage and Nature for Climate Resilience

English Heritage and the University of Oxford are working in collaboration to develop a new research agenda to inform more sustainable approaches to historic monument and building conservation. One of the key areas of focus is the interaction and inter-dependency of nature and monuments, exploring the further application of Nature Based Solutions to build climate resilience.

The purpose of this project was to bring together the expertise of the University of Oxford Resilient Buildings and Landscape Lab (OxRBL) with key staff from English Heritage.

Together, we explored the issues faced in addressing conservation in a changing environment – vulnerability, deterioration, vegetation growth, sea level rise – and the need for more environmentally and financially sustainable approaches to maintenance. This built on earlier work by English Heritage in piloting ‘soft capping’ to wall tops and remains to better protect them from water ingress and frost damage at places such as Hailes Abbey (Gloucestershire).

The science and practice are now evolving into a wider areas of application of ‘nature based solutions’ to both enhance biodiversity and help vulnerable exposed buildings and monuments become more resilient to climate change.

Read more on nature-based solutions here: [www.ox.ac.uk/news/2021-06-10-enhancing-urban-life-and-heritage-nature-based-solutions-city](http://www.ox.ac.uk/news/2021-06-10-enhancing-urban-life-and-heritage-nature-based-solutions-city)

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Image:

*University of Oxford*