

A photograph of a person standing in a sunlit conservatory. The conservatory has large arched windows on both sides, through which bright sunlight streams in, creating lens flare and long shadows on the stone floor. The person is seen from behind, looking out through the windows. The interior is filled with various plants, including large green leaves and red flowers. The overall atmosphere is warm and peaceful.

Historic
Environment
Forum

Heritage responds -
Taking positive action
on climate change

Case study

Hazard mapping

National Trust

The National Trust has developed a "game changing" map that illustrates the threat climate change poses to some of its most iconic and culturally significant sites – and offers some solutions on how to tackle it. It is the first map of its kind that plots data in this way and will help the charity identify the hazard level facing its countryside locations, monuments, coastlines and historical sites in England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Background

By plotting its places alongside existing data on climate change related events, the Trust can understand how, at a local scale, potential risk factors (extreme heat and humidity, flooding, landslides, coastal erosion, soil heave and high winds) could change by 2060.

The data will be used by the Trust to look at risks to the landscape, with landowners working together to

Working to a worst-case model of no intervention on emissions, the map is intended to be used as a "flagging tool" to highlight potential hazards to the locality of a site.

By identifying areas at risk, the charity can pinpoint locations that may need interventions like tree planting to slow water run-off, peat bog restoration to hold back water, river restoration or areas that need more shade due to extreme heat.

engage local communities to volunteer in their area. The map will also support the Trust's ambition to plant the right tree in the right place and to establish 20 million trees by 2030.

What's next?

The next phase of the project will build on work already undertaken to identify and act in areas in which homes for wildlife are at risk and where species reintroduction may help the environment. It could also see government bodies from England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland plot the heritage locations they care for to illustrate the threat to the whole UK historic environment. Coastal areas at risk of collapse or sand dune movements due to rising sea levels will also be highlighted in the future, which will also enable more informed solutions.

Image:

National Trust/John Miller

