

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

Case study

Fountains Abbey, Skell Valley, North Yorkshire

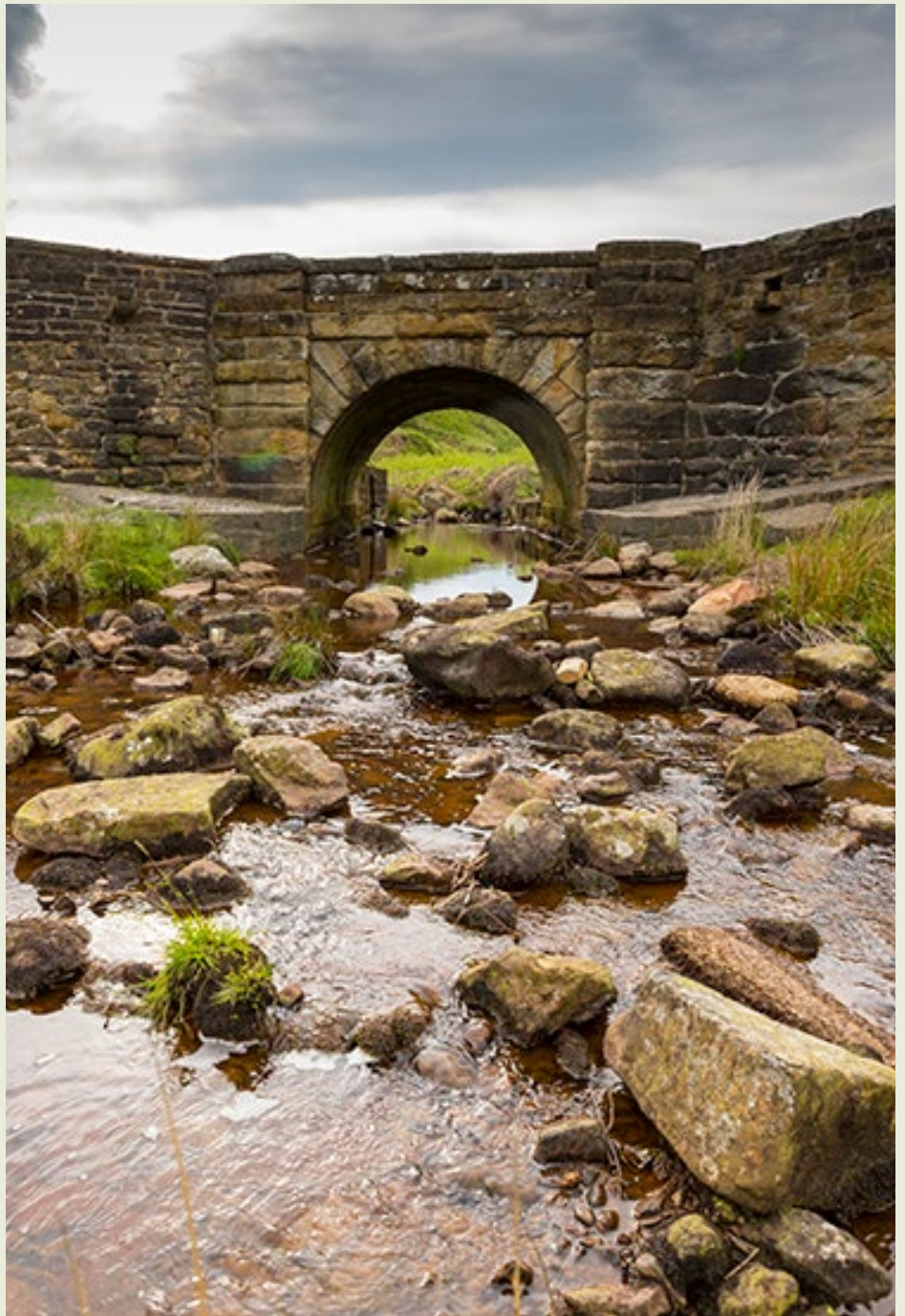
The National Trust and Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

A £2.5m National Trust project – aided by a £1.4m grant from National Lottery Heritage Fund – will implement nature-based solutions to improve the resilience of Skell Valley's resilience to changing weather.

The UK's largest monastic ruins, Fountains Abbey, near Ripon in North Yorkshire have stood in the Skell Valley for 800 years. The valley has been flooded several times in recent years, raising fears that the ruins are at risk of irreparable damage.

The Skell Valley scheme began in March 2021 and aims to rejuvenate 12 miles of the River Skell, beginning at Dallowgill Moor and ending in the city of Ripon. The National Trust alongside the Nidderdale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), will plant six hectares (15 acres) of trees, create eight ponds and revive a nature reserve to reduce soil runoff and slow the flow of water. Flooding in the north of England has worsened in the past 50 years, and the risk is high in the Skell area.

The scheme also hopes to attract new visitors by tackling some of the barriers people face in accessing the countryside, creating new walking trails and improving signs and information. The project also hopes to support local health and well-being by providing better access to the outdoors.



Read more about the project here: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/fountains-abbey-and-studley-royal-water-garden/projects/the-skell-valley-project.

Image:

National Trust/Chris Lacey

The scheme will partner with 16 local farmers and landowners across the Skell Valley, who will be rewarded for implementing nature-based solutions to reduce flooding and improve biodiversity in and around the river.