

How '*Conserving our Places Conserves our Planet*'

An [IHBC@COP26 Conservation Helpdesk+](#) briefing

- Historic buildings and places, including historic gardens and landscapes, constitute non-renewable resources, and their conservation is a key component of our sustainable future.
- Conserving buildings and structures – which includes their care and maintenance – controls the carbon already captured in their construction and minimises the climate-unfriendly waste of demolition and landfill.
- Repairing, caring for and adapting existing buildings encourages low-carbon traditional construction practices, skills and materials, reducing the need for carbon-heavy concrete, steel and new-build materials and their associated transport and production impacts.
- As with caring for gardens and landscapes, traditional design and materials – from eaves overhanging walls that encourage nesting birds to earth construction – support the natural environment and encourage biodiversity.
- Historic and traditional places are inherently sustainable, being designed to facilitate pedestrian and other low-carbon traffic, all of which also brings health, well-being, social and community benefits.
- Adapting existing structures to suitable new uses typically is the best way to offer low-carbon, climate and environment-friendly new facilities and places, as many construction awards testify.

All it takes to work is a little imagination, and a little incentive

See more at:

Sustainability and Conservation of the Historic Built Environment - an [IHBC Position Statement](#)

See also the joint [Conservation Professional Practice Principles](#) or [download HERE](#)