

# Case Study

## Wells Cathedral

### Roof conservation and repair



Craftsmen in the Conservation of Historic Buildings

An impressive 12<sup>th</sup> Cathedral in the heart of the City of Wells. The western half of the north nave aisle roof is laid with lead and had suffered from severe water ingress. Between March and Oct 2015 Ellis and Co repaired the roofs under the instruction of Nick Cox Architects.



*Nave roof before and during works.*

We erected scaffolding internally and externally to create a temporary roof.

The roofing timbers repaired dated between the post-medieval period and mid-eighteenth century with some additional repairs identified as mid 1930s or earlier. Each timber was assessed and the repairs made to the substrate and roof structure aimed to conserve and support the original timbers wherever possible with fitted oak inserts, diamond oak pellets, and wedges. We also added firings to aid water drainage.





*Further timber repair details*

We stripped, recast and relaid the lead roof including bays, flashings, guttering, and details including a lead step detail and ornamental features. We unblocked the chutes from the main north nave roof to discharge water.



*Before, during and after the repairs.*

Masonry repairs were made to surrounding stonework. Samples of materials used were approved by the Architects, and with advice from the Cathedral Archaeologist Jerry Sampson.



*Leadwork details*

*"I am writing on behalf of the Clerk of Wells Cathedral to thank you whole heartedly for the splendid work you and your team did on the North Nave Aisle Roof. Our Clerk of works thought very highly of George Lansdown the Site Manager who did a very good job."*

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Works took place between March to Oct 2015 contract value of approximately £186k.