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## **National Trust for Scotland calling for Scotland's support** Charity launches Save our Scotland appeal

The National Trust for Scotland is launching a new Save our Scotland campaign as it calls for its members, donors and the general public to help it safeguard the future of its properties, natural heritage sites, designed landscapes and conservation projects.

Earlier this week the Trust revealed its proposals to begin re-opening properties as and when allowed by the Scottish Government's 'route-map.'

However lockdown measures, caused by the Covid 19 pandemic has created a £28million shortfall in the charity's income for 2020. This means that only a fraction of its locations will be able to open in 2020 and into 2021, either due to lack of resources or because they cannot be adequately adapted to on-going social distancing restrictions.

The National Trust for Scotland cares for and protects some of Scotland's most significant places and spaces such as Crathes Castle in Aberdeenshire, Inverewe Garden in Wester Ross, Mar Lodge Estate in Braemar and Culzean Castle in Ayrshire.

The impact of losses on the Trust means that it is having to take urgent actions to save costs and raise cash. This includes an SOS to all who love Scotland's heritage – an emergency fundraising appeal to raise at least £2.5million. Together with other measures, this will ensure the continued protection of the properties and cultural heritage in its care. The charity relies on memberships and donations to ensure the long term preservation of its sites and a drop in income will see sites mothballed or worse still sold to private owners.

In normal circumstances, the Trust spends £1million every week to ensure the places in its care are protected. During lockdown, it has continued essential services such as feeding livestock, ensuring collections remain in the correct environmental conditions and that irreplaceable plant collections are tended. Its places may be closed, but the cost of caring for them continues. While it has built up reserves to cover operational costs for 6 months, they will not last long with no money coming in to replace them.

The organisation also makes a valuable contribution to the Scottish economy. In a normal year the National Trust for Scotland's purchasing and that of its members and visitors injects nearly £300million in the economy.

Every year the National Trust for Scotland undertakes major conservation and restoration projects. The current pandemic has meant that all projects for 2020 have been put on hold. This includes the recreation of an 17th century turf house at Glencoe, which has already

been years in the planning and the revamping of the visitor centre and curation of a new exhibition of previously unseen folk artefacts at the House of Dun in Angus.

The work that takes place to protect National Trust for Scotland properties and spaces is endless. Without its care places such as Culzean Castle, Burns Cottage or Charles Rennie Mackintosh's masterpiece, the Hill House, could quickly fall into disrepair, they would not be accessible and their stories would not be told.

Other historic buildings and heritage sites would also be at risk from developers. The Battle of Culloden is probably one of the best-known events in Scottish history and the National Trust for Scotland cares for a large portion of the battlefield. Without the Trust, sites like Culloden could be sold.

The Trust also looks after 76,000 hectares of countryside – that's the size of around 100,000 football pitches. This includes 46 Munros, over 400 islands and islets and 8 National Nature Reserves, including iconic sites such as Glencoe. The on-going work of staff and volunteers ensure the glen's natural beauty can be enjoyed by visitors while they leave only the smallest mark on the landscape.

Stuart Brooks, head of conservation at the National Trust for Scotland said:

"The Trust touches millions of lives every year and we plan to go on doing that well past our centenary in 2031 and beyond. We exist to benefit everyone in Scotland, whether they are visiting a property and learning about Scotland's history, gaining valuable experience through volunteering on a work camp or climbing a mountain and feeling awesome. Many of the places we care for would continue to exist but that doesn't guarantee people will continue to access, learn and enjoy them in the way they do now. That's the value and the purpose of the Trust and why Scotland would be a poorer place without the work we do."

**ENDS**

**Issued on behalf of National Trust for Scotland by Frame PR. For media enquiries contact: Alison Downs, 07917678061**

**Editor's Notes:**

The National Trust for Scotland is the charity that celebrates and protects Scotland's heritage. It relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage of Scotland for everyone to enjoy.

From coastlines to castles, art to architecture, wildlife to wildernesses, the National Trust for Scotland exists to protect the national and natural treasures we all love. To plan your visit today, enter your postcode at [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk).

