

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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Enormous Ailsa Craig onion originated at Culzean Castle

The walled garden at the National Trust for Scotland's [Culzean Castle](#) holds an interesting past. In 1874, David Murray took on the role of head gardener to Archibald Kennedy, third Marquess of Ailsa and was instrumental in enabling Culzean Castle to grow a collection of rare and exotic plants from across the globe.

David Murray's greatest legacy is that in 1887 he bred the first *Ailsa Craig* onion, named after the island visible from Culzean Castle. These onions are still regarded as the most successful all-purpose onions and are one of the best-loved exhibition onions.

The stunning clifftop castle is now cared for by conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland and a team of gardeners work hard to maintain the grounds for visitors. All National Trust for Scotland properties are currently closed to stop the spread of the coronavirus. The charity is asking people to stay home and stay safe. For more news, sign up for email updates at www.nts.org.uk.

To find out more about Culzean Castle, visit <https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/culzean>.

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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.

