

**NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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*Images: Brodie Playful Garden photography*

## **TRUST REOPENS PLAYPARKS, CAFES AND VISITOR CENTRES**

- Playparks, visitor centres and cafes at certain Trust properties are now open to the public
- The Playful Garden at Brodie Castle welcomed a weekend of visitors
- Booking system in place for Culloden Visitor Centre

Conservation charity, the National Trust for Scotland has reopened playparks, cafés and visitor centres at several properties across the country.

The Playful Garden at Brodie Castle in Moray is now open to the public and welcomed a weekend of visitors for the first time since it closed in March due to the coronavirus emergency. Featuring Scotland's biggest bunny sculpture, the play park is home to host of fun characters, musical instruments and sensory areas to inspire children of all ages.

Entry to Culloden Visitor Centre, Inverness will be by booked timeslots. This is in place to manage visitor numbers and maintain safe, social distancing and bookings can be made on the property's website. The battlefield at Culloden can be accessed without pre-booking.

The Culloden Battlefield Visitor Centre was recently shortlisted for the prestige Museums and Heritage award, under the "Shop of the Year" category. The retail space at Culloden will take on New York's MoMA museum, the Science Museum Group and Bletchley Park Trust at the virtual award ceremony on 22 September.

Phil Long OBE, the new Chief Executive of the National Trust for Scotland said: "Many of our gardens and estates have been open since the start of July and it's fantastic that we're now able to reopen playparks such as the Brodie Playful Garden and our brilliant visitor centres at more properties, including the Culloden Visitor Centre.

"At this time of year, our visitor centres are usually packed with tourists learning about Scotland's fascinating history and while we won't be expecting many international visitors, we do hope to see people from across the country discovering our places and learning about the work we do to care for them.

"With the threat of Covid-19 still very much at the forefront of our opening strategy, our teams have worked extremely hard to make the necessary adjustments at properties to keep visitors and staff safe. We ask anyone visiting to please stick to the latest guidance on hand hygiene and social distancing.

“It’s a late start to the summer holidays for many, but we’re really looking forward to welcoming back visitors of all ages. We hope to be making further announcements on our built places reopening as soon as we are able to open them safely and would like to thank all our members and donors who have continued to support us during this crisis.”

The National Trust for Scotland has been badly hit by the coronavirus pandemic, creating a £28 million loss in essential income. The charity is running the Save Our Scotland appeal to raise £2.5 million to help the Trust continue its vital work to protect Scotland’s built and natural heritage.

Check [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk) for latest information on all properties and to donate to the SOS appeal, go to [www.nts.org.uk/campaigns/emergency-appeal](http://www.nts.org.uk/campaigns/emergency-appeal).

**ENDS**

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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](http://www.nts.org.uk).

