



NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

IMAGES: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/54gDq5>

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Building history with Glencoe turf house

Conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland is offering an unusual holiday experience for 2020 – the chance to help build a replica 17th century turf house at Glencoe Visitor Centre. Informed by archaeological discoveries, it will help give a glimpse of how people once lived in Scotland’s most famous glen.

Those with an interest in Scottish history, traditional crafts, or simply outdoor enthusiasts looking for a holiday with a difference will be able to take part in the project by signing up for one of a special series of working holidays taking place in the glen from April to September. There will be the chance to get involved in a wide variety of tasks, from whittling wooden pegs to weaving wattle walls, archaeological excavation to mud daubing. Around 70 places will be available on these Glencoe Thistle Camps – booking is now open at www.nts.org.uk/thistlecamps.

Glencoe Operations Manager Emily Bryce said: “It’s nearly a year since we revamped our Glencoe visitor centre and this project, with the support of public donations, is our next step in sharing the story of this incredible landscape which we are so proud to protect.

“It’s very exciting that we’ll be able to involve the public and visitors in such a hands-on way. We’ll also be working with our local community and schools too, and are keen to make sure that the whole area benefits from this project.”

The Trust has recruited a team of Scotland’s most experienced traditional building craftspeople to work with their archaeologists on the building design. This follows a series of archaeological digs investigating long-lost historic dwellings at the heart of the glen at Achtriachtan.

These specialists in turf-building, heather thatching, wattle and daub, timber creel and cruck frame structures, will lead trainees and volunteers over the course of the year in this unique experiment in historical reconstruction. The building will be located in the grounds of Glencoe Visitor Centre, offering access for over 300,000 visitors every year.

The project is being made possible thanks to members of the public from around the world who donated to a fundraising appeal last year. As Valentine's Day approaches, the charity is launching its [Hugs of Heather](#) campaign which will give supporters the chance to show their love for the glen and support the project too.

In 2019, the conservation charity that protects Scotland's national and natural treasures invested over £1m at Glencoe Visitor Centre, transforming the existing eco-friendly buildings into a more modern, immersive and welcoming 'gateway' to this world-renowned glen.

The visitor centre has a 50 seat film screening space showing a specially-commissioned film which takes viewers on a 10 minute journey from the glen's volcanic origins, towards the tragic events of the 1692 Glencoe Massacre, and on to its popularity today. A large 3D map and knowledgeable staff in the Info Hub help visitors planning their adventures and share advice on how to explore responsibly.

With a new café and shop too, the Glencoe Visitor Centre also plays an essential part in generating income to support the National Trust for Scotland's conservation work in Glencoe National Nature Reserve, where it cares for over 14,000 acres, including 60km of footpaths and eight Munros.

To find out more about Glencoe, visit www.nts.org.uk/glencoe

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Editor's Notes:

Images: Arc Architect's drawings of the turf house design + archaeological dig pics - <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/54gDq5>

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.

