

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

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Charity's sadness as vandalism blights historic mill

Staff from the conservation charity, the National Trust for Scotland, have expressed horror at deliberate damage caused to the historic Preston Mill in East Lothian.

The property is closed to the public until April and, at some point over 13 and 14 January, vandals caused around £1000 worth of damage by smashing 200-year-old roof tiles and attempting to kick in the mill's timber door.

Preston Mill, which dates back to the 16th century, is one of East Lothian's most popular heritage attractions, having appeared in numerous film and TV productions, most recently *Outlander*.

Last year it was the subject of a highly successful fundraising appeal by the charity, which generated £12,000-worth of donations to repair the mill's water wheel and which prompted a video thank-you message from *Outlander* star Sam Heughan.

Fraser MacDonald, the National Trust for Scotland's Visitor Services Supervisor for the property said:

"It's absolutely disgusting – what purpose can this utter stupidity serve?"

"This is a building that's much-loved by the people of East Lothian and by those around the world who have come to recognise it from television. This is an insult to all of them.

"Our charity will do what we always do and find a way to make good the damage.

"In the meantime, if anyone may have seen something, or has any helpful information, please let the police know."

Anyone wishing to help can make a donation to Preston Mill's repair costs via www.nts.org.uk/donate

- ENDS -

For further information contact Jim Whyteside – 0131 458 0241/ 07889 456779.

IMAGES: attached are images of the damage to Preston Mill's roof tiles and door.

Editor's Notes:

Preston Mill is one of the oldest water-driven meal mills in Scotland. There has been a mill on this site for centuries, and it was last in operation commercially as late as 1959. A century ago, there were many mills operating along the River Tyne, serving the farmlands of East Lothian, but most have disappeared.

The Preston Mill site comprises two pan-tiled buildings: the conical-roofed kiln for drying the corn and the mill containing the machinery for grinding the corn. The water system is still in place. A large iron waterwheel (believed to have been produced by Alex Mathers & Son in 1910) powers the machinery. There is an exhibition on milling, with archive images and recordings, in the visitor centre.

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.

