

NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA RELEASE

9 May 2019

National Trust for Scotland discovers 17th century door at Craigievar Castle

The National Trust for Scotland has discovered what is thought to be the oldest door in any of its properties. Over 400 years old, the door at Craigievar Castle in Aberdeenshire was unveiled at an event last night (Thursday 9 May).

The heavy, studded oak door is thought to have been the original front door to Craigievar Castle when it was completed in 1626 and was then replaced in 1825. Up until earlier this year, the door was considered lost, but was located in one of the castle's barmkin buildings by a National Trust Scotland volunteer.

Made from timber from the 1500s, the door had suffered significant damage and deterioration. National Trust for Scotland conservators carefully restored it using dendrochronological investigation – a scientific method of dating tree rings to the exact year that they were formed – revealing that the oak trees used to build the door were felled in the Eastern Baltic in 1510 and 1554.

Visitors can see the ancient door in a bespoke case in the castle as it's brought to life through 3D and unique augmented reality elements, showcasing life from hundreds of years ago.

Lauren Jackson, Conservator at the National Trust for Scotland has been leading the project. She said: "We are thrilled to have made this discovery and reunite the door with Craigievar Castle. It now allows visitors an even better experience at the property, giving them the chance to witness the finer details of life hundreds of years ago.

"The castle is brimming with history and the new digital elements we've introduced help visitors explore the door, making it even easier for us to share our love for Scotland and help people experience history like never before."

An exclusive event took place at the castle on Thursday 9 May where National Trust for Scotland Chairman, Sir Moir Lockhead and trustee Kevin McCormick joined castle staff and volunteers to officially unveil the door.

To find out more information about the castle, please visit:

<https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/craigievar>.

