



## **NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE**

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**IMAGES: Trust staff and contractors onsite at Corrieshalloch**  
- <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/h1E77R>

### **WORK BEGINS ON TRUST'S CORRIESHALLOCH GORGE GATEWAY**

Site preparation has begun on the National Trust for Scotland's project to improve visitor facilities at Corrieshalloch Gorge National Nature Reserve, one of the most picturesque and popular sites in the Highlands.

The Corrieshalloch Gorge Gateway will create sensitively designed new visitor facilities on the site of the historical suspension bridge enabling visitors to enjoy an enhanced experience. Developments will include an outdoor coffee stop, covered outdoor seating area, toilets, Wi-Fi, a blue loo for camper vans, improved parking facilities and charging points for electric vehicles. A larger network of paths will be created, with wayfinding and interpretation around the National Nature Reserve.

National Trust for Scotland General Manager for the Highlands and Islands Clea Warner said: "It is really exciting to start the new year with this fantastic project which will make such a positive impact on the area, for the community, for conservation of this important site, and for visitors too. Corrieshalloch Gorge is beautiful and an important place for nature and people; this project will give people a gateway to enjoy all that makes this much-loved place so special."

Work to clear the site is now underway, preparing for new foundations to be laid thereafter and the new buildings are planned for construction throughout the summer.

The main contractors on the project are Simpson Builders, a Beaulieu-based firm who are excited to be working on this important project. Gordon Simpson, Managing Director at Simpson Builders said: "We are absolutely delighted to have been awarded this exciting contract by the National Trust for Scotland. The new Corrieshalloch Gorge facilities will, no doubt, be a welcome addition to this beautiful part of the Highlands, and we are very proud to be the main contractor."

Simpson Builders will be supported by a range of sub-contractors, many who are locally based including Pat Munro Ltd from Alness, and R&I Cruden based in Muir of Ord. The design team for the project is Oberlanders Architects led by Catriona Hill, David Narro (Civil & Structural Engineers), Rybka (Mechanical and Electrical Engineers) and Horner & MacLennan (Landscape Architects) to provide design team services for the Corrieshalloch Gorge Visitor Centre project. Gardiner and Theobald are providing Project Management, Quantity Surveying and Health and Safety Services.

With the advice and support of Trust conservation experts, the works have been designed and programmed to take account of the sensitive needs of the site, for example planned new pathways

will include boardwalks to protect tree roots, and any landscaping around the buildings will focus on featuring native, and ideally, local plant species. In addition, the shape and scale of buildings has been kept to a minimum and sustainable features including rainwater harvesting, mechanical ventilation and heat recovery have been built in too.

The £2.3 million project has secured £923,277 funding from the Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund which is led by NatureScot and funded through the European Regional Development Fund. It is part of an almost £9 million Scottish programme of projects to invest in the Highlands and Islands, to provide more and better quality opportunities for visitors to enjoy natural and cultural heritage assets.

“Corrieshalloch Gorge is already a wonderful place to enjoy a walk and soak in the amazing sights, with the lovely woodlands and the Falls of Measach plummeting into the gorge. We’re pleased to support this ambitious project through our ERDF Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund, making Corrieshalloch Gorge an even better, more accessible, experience for visitors.” Eleanor Carlisle, Project and Funding Officer, NatureScot.

An online community event, updating on the project will take place at 6.30pm on Tuesday 1 February. There will be an opportunity to hear more about the building programme and to ask questions. Join online at [Corrieshalloch Community Update](#) or visit [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk) for more information.

#### **Editor’s Notes:**

The National Trust for Scotland is the conservation charity that over 90 years has saved, maintained and shared many of the country’s most loved places, rich with history, heritage, nature and culture. The charity celebrates Scotland’s heritage and with more than 100 places in its care, there’s a place for everyone to love.

The National Trust for Scotland relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work of caring for the natural and built heritage that people from Scotland and across the world all love, ensuring its future for everyone to enjoy.

Support the National Trust for Scotland and help them protect the places we all love. Become a member at [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk).

The Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund is funded through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with an almost £9 million investment in the Highlands and Islands. The Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund will invest in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland to: provide more and better quality opportunities for visitors to enjoy natural and cultural heritage assets; encourage people to visit some of the more remote and rural areas; and create and sustain jobs, businesses and services in local communities. The purpose of the Fund is to promote and develop the outstanding natural and cultural heritage of the Highlands and Islands in a way that conserves and protects them.

The Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund (NCHF) is part of the Scottish Government’s current European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) programme, which runs through to 2023.

The natural heritage includes natural habitats and wildlife, geology and landscapes. Cultural heritage includes history, language, architecture, ancient monuments, historical sites and cultural landscapes and the sectors of theatre, arts and literature. There is a close link between these two and interests often overlap. They are important locally, and on a national and international scale. They provide opportunities for the cultural and creative industries, environmental and tourism sectors.

The Scottish Government is the Managing Authority for the European Structural Funds 2014-20 Programme. For further information, visit their [website](#) or follow [@scotgovESIF](#).

NatureScot is Scotland's nature agency. We work to enhance our natural environment in Scotland and inspire everyone to care more about it. Our priority is a nature-rich future for Scotland and an effective response to the climate emergency. For more information, visit our website at [www.nature.scot](http://www.nature.scot) or follow us on Twitter at [https://twitter.com/nature\\_scot](https://twitter.com/nature_scot)

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