



NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA STATEMENT

27 January 2022

BATTLE OF BANNOCKBURN CENTRE

Conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland has confirmed its commitment to solve technical issues that have recently been affecting the Battle of Bannockburn centre in Stirling.

The centre was opened in 2014, on the 700th anniversary of the battle, and made use of innovative technology to heat the building and to cool the IT equipment that provides the core of the 'battle experience' for visitors.

The ground source heating system used was selected due to its carbon neutrality but has failed on a number of occasions and is now past the point of repair. This has caused the Trust to limit the opening hours of the centre in order to accommodate pre-booked school visits only.

Replacement of the system is unavoidable but will be technically and logistically difficult and, as a result, may require the centre to remain closed for a period, albeit with limited opening for educational bookings.

The National Trust for Scotland's General Manager for Edinburgh & East, Stuart Maxwell said:

"This is disappointing for everyone at the Trust, our visitors and for the local community – but I want to emphasise our commitment to Bannockburn and our determination to resolve these issues as quickly as we can.

"Replacing the system will be challenging and may require us to open up walls and roof space in order to remove the existing system and install its replacement. If there is any upside to this, environmentally-friendly ground source heating has come on leaps and bounds since 2014 and the new system will undoubtedly be much more reliable and economical.

"We remain committed to investing in the visitor experience and historical interpretation at this iconic national site and are working on plans now for the future to offer something that far surpasses current provision.

"Due to current supply problems experienced by the country as a whole it may be a few months before we are able to take delivery of the new system, and then we will need time after that to complete the complex process of installation. Once underway, we can redeploy staff to other duties until the works are finished.

"However, in the interim we will look to temporary arrangements that will allow us to heat the building and cool the electronic systems. These will enable us to offer continued educational access

to the centre and we will liaise with education authorities around this. And, of course, access to the wider parkland of the battlefield will remain open as always.”

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Editor's Notes:

About National Trust for Scotland

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.