

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

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **Aberdeenshire Trust Properties Ready To Reopen**

Conservation charity the National Trust for Scotland has confirmed that most of its countryside, estates and gardens across Aberdeenshire will be open for local visitors from 2 April, in line with the easing of lockdown rules.

Many outdoor locations, like Mar Lodge Estate have been accessible for exercise all through the winter and the grounds of some of Scotland's most loved castles have also remained open, including Castle Fraser, Craigievar Castle, Crathes Castle, Drum Castle and Fyvie Castle.

Set to open on 2 April are the catering take away outlets and play parks at Drum Castle, Crathes Castle and Haddo House.

The charity has also shared plans for opening built heritage, which includes Aberdeenshire's castles and houses, from 30 April onwards, providing Scotland continues to progress out of lockdown as planned.

Chief Executive Philip Long OBE said: "Everyone at the Trust is looking forward to welcoming our visitors back to the beautiful places we protect. Across Aberdeenshire, our teams are hard at work preparing for reopening and giving everyone a warm, and of course, safe welcome.

"Our charity is very grateful to the Scottish Government, our members and donors whose support and generosity means we can re-open more properties than we'd thought would have been possible this year. So many people love these places and after such a difficult year, all of us at the Trust are pleased to be able to share this positive news, and so many of our special places once again."

The Trust is urging anyone planning to visit to check the latest opening information on [www.nts.org.uk](http://www.nts.org.uk) before travelling, as some properties have different opening patterns this summer.

The website also contains information for visitors on the safety measure that will be in place for visits - <https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/what-to-expect-when-visiting-our-places> , as well as sharing its top tips for visiting responsibly - <https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/top-10-tips-for-visiting-our-countryside-places>.

Caring for countryside costs the charity millions each year. Supporters are being asked to donate to help the Trust help nature, now and in the future. Find out more at: [www.nts.org.uk/help-nature](http://www.nts.org.uk/help-nature).

**ENDS**

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**Editor's Notes:**

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](http://www.nts.org.uk).

We would be grateful if, when referring to the National Trust for Scotland that our name is not shortened to 'the National Trust'. We are an independent organisation, separate from the National Trust. The National Trust for Scotland is commonly shortened to NTS or 'the Trust'.

