

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

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### **Arran Red Admiral arrives early**

The National Trust for Scotland is reporting its first butterfly sighting of the year, and it is an unusual one - a Red Admiral was spotted in the gardens at Brodick Castle on Arran a few days ago.

Gardener George Inglis made the discovery on 9 March and managed to catch a photograph last week while at work at the historic estate which has been in the care of the charity that conserves and promotes Scotland's heritage since 1958.

Although Red Admirals are common across the UK, they are not usually seen so early in spring, usually migrating from Europe and North Africa once temperatures here start to rise.

Brodick senior ranger Kate Sampson said:

"It is quite unusual to see a Red Admiral as our first butterfly of the year. This could suggest that it over-wintered here, rather than migrating. Let's hope this heralds a big year for butterflies at Brodick."

The National Trust for Scotland collects information about wildlife sightings on its land, which it then feeds into the National Biodiversity Network, providing comprehensive information on Scotland's amazing wildlife.

Visitors are encouraged to submit sightings at [www.nts.org.uk/wildlifesurvey](http://www.nts.org.uk/wildlifesurvey).

2017 is all about the outdoors at Brodick Castle and Country Park. While the castle is closed for vital fire safety work, the team are putting on plenty of events out in the garden and country park for the visitor season – watch out for the monthly events listings.

As the gardens burst into bloom once again, there will be a series of tours focusing on the impressive castle exterior, sharing a long and fascinating history that stretches back to medieval times.

One of the highlights of the year is the opening of an amazing new adventure play area. The experience is inspired by Arran's stunning nature and countryside opens for summer, and is sure to be a big hit with younger visitors.

Discover even more out in the beautiful grounds with new trails and features appearing throughout the year.

The rangers will be running a popular and varied programme of events too, with bushcraft and badger watching. They are also planning a torchlit procession up Goat Fell for the first time with the Arran Mountain Rescue team, and a Burning the circle bronze age festival lined up in September to celebrate the Year of Heritage, History & Archaeology.

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**Editor's Notes:**

**Images:**

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.

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