



NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND MEDIA RELEASE

10 September 2021

Corrieshalloch Gorge Closed For Safety

Conservation charity, the National Trust for Scotland has closed its Corrieshalloch Gorge National Nature Reserve site for safety reasons.

The suspension bridge at the Wester Ross site is currently closed as a precautionary measure, after a routine inspection indicated a potential issue that needs further inspection. No public access is possible while this is underway.

However, staff from the charity report that signs and barriers preventing access have been removed and ignored. As a result, to ensure people's safety the whole Corrieshalloch Gorge site has been closed.

General Manager for the Highlands and Islands, Clea Warner said: "We know that people love this place and the views from the bridge and it is disappointing that it's had to be closed. We need to put safety first and not only are we reminding all visitors to please heed the signs and stay off the bridge, but we have decided it is necessary to close the wider site for now.

"We're investigating the issue and will release information on reopening plans as soon as possible."

The charity has published advice for visitors on how to get the most from their visits to the countryside on their website - <https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/top-10-tips-for-visiting-our-countryside-places> .

Designs to improve visitor facilities at the National Trust for Scotland Corrieshalloch site in Wester Ross which welcomes more than 100,000 visitors per year were submitted for planning approval with Highland Council in May this year.

The charity has created plans for sensitively-designed new visitor facilities at the Gorge, to help with the safe and sustainable management of visitors to the National Nature Reserve, ensuring that Corrieshalloch's built and natural heritage is well-cared for now and in the future. This will include toilets, wifi, a blue loo for camper vans, improved

parking facilities and paths, wayfinding and interpretation around the National Nature Reserve, enabling visitors to enjoy an enhanced experience.

With its beautiful location and impressive scenery, Corrieshalloch Gorge has seen an increase in visitor numbers since 2012, to more than 100,000 annually.

The £2.3 million project has secured £923,277 funding from the Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund. It's part of a new 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. The Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund is led by NatureScot is part funded through the European Development Fund.

The Natural and Cultural Heritage Fund will 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.

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.

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 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 or follow us on Twitter at https://twitter.com/nature_scot

'S e NatureScot buidheann nàdair na h-Alba. Bidh sinn a' neartachadh àrainneachd na h-Alba agus a' brosnachadh dhaoine gu barrachd suim a chur ann an nàdar. Tha e mar phrìomhachas againn gum bi nàdar na h-Alba beairteach agus gun dèilig sinn gu h-èifeachdach le èiginn na gnàth-shìde. Tha an tuilleadh fiosrachaidh aig www.nature.scot no air Twitter aig https://twitter.com/nature_scot