

30 September 2025

DIGGING DEEPER INTO CULLODEN: ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK RETURNS THIS OCTOBER

- **Culloden Battlefield plans a week-long excavation from Monday 13 to Sunday 19 October.**
- **Head of Archaeology, Derek Alexander and Professor Tony Pollard will lead the excavation, hoping to uncover more about the Battle of Culloden.**
- **Public are invited to attend events over the weekend where they can view the excavation and attend immersive talks and demonstrations.**

Culloden Battlefield's much anticipated Archaeology Week is back this October, inviting history lovers, archaeology enthusiasts, and curious minds to discover what lies beneath one of Scotland's most iconic and poignant historical sites.

Running from **Monday 13 to Sunday 19 October**, the week brings together an expert team led by **Derek Alexander**, Head of Archaeology for the National Trust for Scotland, alongside **Professor Tony Pollard**, specialist in Conflict History and Archaeology and well-known TV personality. They'll be joined by experienced volunteers and military history groups who have worked with the site for several years.

From **Monday to Saturday**, excavation work will be carried out exclusively by the archaeological teams. While there's no public participation on these days, visitors are warmly invited to walk around the site, observe the dig in action, and chat with members of the team when appropriate. It's a fantastic opportunity to witness real archaeological work taking place on a battlefield that shaped British and world history.

The real excitement for the public kicks off on **Friday and Saturday**, when a series of engaging, ticketed events present opportunities to get involved, learn, and explore the latest finds from the site.

On **Friday evening**, the spotlight turns to the artefacts unearthed over the years with **"Beneath the Battlefield: What Lies Under Culloden?"** — a special talk and exhibition hosted by Tony Pollard and Derek Alexander. This insightful session, starting at 6pm, will showcase previous discoveries and delve into what they tell us about the battle, the soldiers, and the landscape.

Then, on **Saturday**, the battlefield comes alive with a full day of immersive activities. Throughout the day, visitors can join one of four **"Walk the Dig"** guided tours (at 10am, 12pm, 2pm and 4pm), where members of the Culloden Engagement Team will lead small groups around the active excavation site and explain the latest findings.

At **11am**, things take a dramatic turn with **"Barrel & Ball – A Blast from the Past"**, a dynamic live musket firing demonstration on the events field, with an in-depth talk on 18th-century weaponry, hosted by Tony Pollard and Ian Deveney. This is a rare chance

to hear the sound and see the firepower of the muskets used at the Battle of Culloden in the landscape.

The day concludes with a unique **Battlefield Tour and Talk** at **3pm**, led by Tony Pollard himself. With his decades of experience and personal connection to the site, Tony offers an interpretation of Culloden few others can match — a highlight not to be missed.

Tickets for each event are limited and available through **Eventbrite**. Early booking is strongly recommended to avoid disappointment.

“We’re thrilled to welcome back Tony Pollard and Derek Alexander, whose expertise and passion continue to bring new discoveries to Culloden,” said Valerie Whistler, the National Trust for Scotland’s Estates & Conservation Manager at Culloden. “Every year, Archaeology Week deepens our understanding of the site, and these public events are a fantastic way for people to connect with history in a hands-on and meaningful way.”

Whether interested in archaeology, fascinated by Jacobite history, or just looking for something a little different this October, **Culloden’s Archaeology Week 2025** offers an unforgettable experience.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

Link to Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/culloden-33778937903>

Images: <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/C73yXjWj1v>

About the National Trust for Scotland

Established in 1931, the National Trust for Scotland is Scotland’s largest conservation charity and cares for, shares and speaks up for Scotland’s magnificent heritage.

Over the last 90 years the Trust has pioneered public access to and shared ownership of some of the most magnificent buildings, collections and landscapes in Scotland. It cares for more than 100 sites, from ancient houses to battlefields, castles, mills, gardens, coastlines, islands, mountain ranges and the plants and animals which depend upon them.

In March 2022 the National Trust for Scotland launched *Nature, Beauty & Heritage for Everyone*, its ten-year strategy which sets out the ambitions of the charity over the coming decade. From speaking up for Scotland’s heritage which doesn’t have a voice, to improving the lives and wellbeing of people across the country, and responding to the climate and biodiversity crisis, the Trust will build on its work in recent years to grow its impact and conserve and restore more of Scotland’s heritage, as it moves towards its centenary in 2031.

Scotland’s largest membership organisation, the National Trust for Scotland relies on the support of its members and donors to carry out its important work.

For more information on the National Trust for Scotland visit www.nts.org.uk.

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