

4 September 2024

## **DINGWALL MUSEUM DONATES FOSSIL SPECIMENS TO THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND**

- **Hugh Miller's Birthplace Cottage & Museum received a donation of fossil specimens from Dingwall Museum.**
- **The collection contains twenty-four fossils from the Devonian and Jurassic periods.**
- **The collection is available to view from Wednesday 3 September to Sunday 13 October and is included in the museum admission fee.**

Hugh Miller's Birthplace Cottage & Museum has welcomed a donation of fossils from Dingwall Museum that is set to delight visitors to the former home of the renowned Scottish geologist, in Cromarty, near Inverness.

The National Trust for Scotland will share the fossil specimens found on the Cromarty foreshore and around the Black Isle with visitors when they go on display for both the Scottish Geology Festival and Hugh Miller's 222<sup>nd</sup> birthday from Wednesday 3 September to Sunday 13 October, with access to the small exhibition included in the museum admission fee.

The collection of twenty-four fossils spanning two historical worlds, from Lake Orcadie of the Devonian period to the coastal lagoon of the Jurassic period, will be on display alongside the other artefacts and objects from Hugh Miller's life. The donation includes an example of a *Pterichthyodes Milleri*; named after Hugh Miller who first discovered the fish on the Cromarty foreshore. This ancient fish had a head and body that was covered with bony armour and lived at the bottom of lakes scavenging food from the lake floor.

Debbie Reid, National Trust for Scotland Visitor Services Manager at Hugh Miller's Birthplace Cottage and Museum, said: "We are thrilled to receive these fossils from Dingwall Museum. The fossils will form part of our celebrations for the Scottish Geology Festival and will be a very welcome addition to our handling collection. The team at the museum is busy cataloguing the donated fossils and ensuring they're in display condition as they make their debut at the museum in September.

"The fossils will be used as a handling collection allowing visitors to get up close with the fossils and see intricate details from tiny fish scales to delicate coral. We hope the new collection will encourage the community to explore Hugh Miller's

story and discover more of the Black Isle and its story of incredible geodiversity.”

Stonemason, geologist, writer, and social justice campaigner, Hugh Miller was born inside a thatched cottage in Cromarty in the early 19th century. Starting from humble beginnings, he became one of Victorian Britain’s greatest minds and a leading voice of the Scottish people.

Donations like this help support the National Trust for Scotland’s vision to care for, share and protect Scotland’s natural and cultural heritage, as outlined in its strategy launched in 2022, and contributes to its engagement objectives to provide access and enjoyment for everyone.

Further information about Hugh Miller’s Birthplace Cottage and Museum, as well as other events taking place over the Scottish Geology Festival, is available on the National Trust for Scotland’s [website](#).

## **ENDS**

### **Editor’s Notes:**

**Images** - <https://www.flickr.com/gp/133918740@N04/ef043aq502>

### **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](http://www.nts.org.uk). The National Trust for Scotland is a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC 007410.

